

OPINION

**FROM PROF. MILENA STANEVA STANEVA, D.M., PhD
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ABOUT: PROCEDURE FOR ACADEMIC POSITIONS "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE AREA OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL FIELD 7.1 MEDICINE AND THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALITY "CARDIOLOGY" FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVASIVE ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY, CLINIC OF CARDIOLOGY, "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAL TOKUDA" EAD

1. Information about the procedure

The competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field, 7.1 Medicine, and the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Department of invasive electrophysiology, Clinic of Cardiology of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD was announced in SG, issue 27 / 02.04.2021 By order № 243 / 01.06.2021 of the Executive Director and the procurator of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD I was appointed a member of the Scientific Jury and the decision of the first absentee meeting was to present an opinion.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Vassil Borislavov Traykov, MD, PhD who meets all the requirements of the Law for development of academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its application and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and employment to academic positions in Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD.

In connection with the materials provided to me for the preparation of an opinion, I declare that I do not establish evidence of plagiarism and I have no conflict of interest.

2. Professional data of the candidate

Vasil Traikov, MD, graduated in medicine at the Medical University - Sofia in 2000. He acquired a degree in Cardiology at the University of Szeged in 2010, which is recognized in Bulgaria. In 2011 he obtained certificates in "Interventional Electrophysiology of the Heart" (EHRA), in "Electrocardiography" (EHRA) and "Invasive Cardiology" - MU Sofia. Acquires HSA "Pacemaking - basic and expert level" in 2013 and "Invasive Electrophysiology - Basic and Expert level" in 2014, and since 2016. He holds a Master's degree in Public Health and Health Management from the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2021, Traikov, MD, was awarded the educational and scientific degree "PhD" on the basis of a defended dissertation on "Catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation: procedural characteristics and role of structures exhibiting trigger activity in the fibrillation process".

From 2002 to 2008 Dr. Traikov worked at the National Cardiac Hospital in Sofia, successively at the Clinic of Cardiology and the Laboratory of Electrophysiology. From 04.2011 - 11.11.2012 is the head Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Clinic of Cardiology of Tokuda Hospital. From 11.2012 - April 2013 is the head Department of Invasive Electrophysiology and Pacemaking at the Clinic of Cardiology Acibadem City Clinic

Cardiovascular Center, and from 04.2013 he is again head Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Clinic of Cardiology of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital.

3. Evaluation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate

Dr. Traikov presented himself at the competition with a total of **90 scientific papers**: one dissertation for the acquisition of ESD "PhD", 72 scientific publications (4 of them related to the dissertation) and 17 scientific papers (2 of them related to the dissertation). Of the 54 scientific articles unrelated to the dissertation, 38 have been published in international scientific journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases, 15 are in Bulgarian journals by the NRL and 1 - abroad. 14 participations as an independent author or co-author in collective monographs are presented. 8 of them are in books published in Bulgaria and 6 in publications abroad.

In more than half (52.8%) of the publications and scientific participations Dr. Traikov is an independent or first author. **The total impact factor is 84.55**. The calculated h-index is 10. In the official citation report submitted by CML, 20 citations were registered in Bulgarian journals, in the Scopus database - 315 and in the Web of Knowledge database - 690. As the Scopus database and the Web of Knowledge database partially overlap, Dr. Traikov indicates only the number of international citations found in the Web of Knowledge. Thus, the **total number of citations is 710**, of which in Bulgarian scientific journals - 20, in foreign scientific journals - 690.

The table presents correspondences with minimum national and required points of Acibadem City Clinic UMNAT Tokuda EAD.

| Group of indicators | Contents | Minimum national and Required Points | Presented |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| A | Indicator 1 | 50 | 50 |
| Б | Indicator 2 | - | - |
| B | Indicators 3 or 4 | 100 | 151,28 |
| Г | Sum of indicators from 5 to 9 | 200 | 520,2 |
| Д | Sum of indicators from 10 to 12 | 50 | 165 |
| Total | | 400 | 886,48 |

The data (a total of 886.48 points) presented by Dr. Traikov cover, and in a number of indicators significantly exceeds the national and the Hospital scientometric criteria (a total of 400 points) for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4. Basic scientific contributions

Dr. Traikov's research interests concern various areas of modern clinical electrophysiology. They can be grouped into several sections:

- Study of the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation and catheter ablation as a therapeutic approach.
- Study of electrophysiological findings in supraventricular tachycardia.

- Study of electrophysiological findings and results of catheter ablation in atrial fibrillation
- Study of infections in implantable electronic heart rate monitors.
- Treatment of ventricular tachyarrhythmias and prevention of sudden cardiac death.
- Participation in the development of 3 consensus documents and documents expressing the position of leading organizations - European Heart Rhythm Association, 1 of which is jointly with the Heart Failure Association and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging

Dr. Traikov's scientific works have proven scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions, have been published in renowned specialized medical journals and the results have been reported at authoritative international congresses. They contribute to the development of clinical electrophysiology.

5. Teaching activity

Dr. Traikov is a research associate III degree (equivalent of an assistant) in the Laboratory of Electrophysiology in "NCH" Sofia since July 2004. until 02.2008. He is a part-time assistant at the MF of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " for the academic year 2019/2020 and for 2020/2021 for medical students in Bulgarian language III course "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine ".

The study load of Dr. V. Traikov for the period 01.01.2016 - 31.05.2021 is well presented. In ACC UMHAT Tokuda EAD has realized a total of **4515 eq. hours**, which includes active participation in the training of specialists in cardiology - 3945 eq. hours, HSA training - "Pacemaking" and "Electrophysiology" - 482 eq. hours and continuing education - 88 equivalent hours. As a part-time assistant at the MF of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for the academic years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 has conducted a total of **60 studies hours** of medical students in Bulgarian language III course "Propaedeutics of internal medicine".

6. Medical-diagnostic activity

The medical-diagnostic activity of Dr. Traikov includes complex diagnostics and treatment of the rhythm-conduction disorders of the heart. He masters and applies invasive electrophysiological methods. Of particular interest is catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation and flutter.

7. Expert activity and research activity

Dr. V. Traikov is a member of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria, the Professional Association of Cardiac Stimulation and Electrophysiology in Bulgaria, the Hungarian Society of Cardiology, the European Society of Cardiology - FESC, the European Heart Rhythm Association - FEHRA. Holds a number of elective positions in national and international scientific societies and organizations: Member of the EHRA Scientific Documents Committee - 2017-2020; Member of the EHRA National Societies Committee 2020-2022; Chairman of the Professional Association for Pacemaking and Electrophysiology in Bulgaria - 2 terms 2016-2022; Future chairman of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria - term 2022-2024.

Member of the Expert Council on Cardiology at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Traikov actively participated in the creation of 3 consensus documents initiated by EHRA.

He is a member of the editorial board of the journal Bulgarian Cardiology.

CONCLUSION

The candidate Vassil Traykov, MD, PhD fully meets the requirements of LDASRB, the Regulations for application of LDASRB and the Regulations of Acibadem City Clinic MHAT Tokuda EAD for holding the academic position "Associate Professor".

Dr. V. Traikov is a built doctor - cardiologist and electrophysiologist, with extensive clinical experience, with sufficient volume, with high quality indicators and theoretical and practical contributions to scientific activity.

Dr. Traikov also has managerial experience as head Department of Invasive Electrophysiology and Stimulation at the Clinic of Cardiology "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD.

Based on the above, I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of Vassil Borislavov Traykov, MD, PhD, for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Department of Invasive Electrophysiology at the Clinic of Cardiology of "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD.

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Sofia

Prepared the opinion:


(Prof. Milena Staneva, MD, PhD)