

OPINION

**FROM PROF. MILENA STANEVA STANEVA, D.M., PhD
HEAD OF ANGIOLOGY CLINIC
ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAL TOKUDA EAD SOFIA**

**RE: 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 CLINIC OF
CARDIOLOGY "ACIBADEM CITY CLINIC UMHAL TOKUDA" EAD**

1. 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 Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD was announced in SG, issue 27 / 02.04.2021 By order № 245 / 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 - Valeri Lyubenov Gelev, 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

Valeri Gelev, MD graduated with a degree in medicine in 1990 at the Medical University - Sofia. He has acquired specialties in Internal Medicine in 1995 and Cardiology - 2000. Since 2003 he has obtained a certificate for HSA - Interventional Cardiology, and since 2009 he holds a Master's degree in Health Management from the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2021 Gelev MD was awarded the educational and scientific degree "PhD" on the basis of a defended dissertation on "Retrograde access in recanalization of chronic occlusions of coronary arteries."

Gelev MD began his career in 1990 as a district physician in Kyustendil. He has been working consecutively from 1991 to 2001 as a doctor at the Clinic of Cardiology at the University Hospital "N.I Pirogov", from 2001 to 2009 - Department of Invasive Cardiology at the National Hospital of Cardiology in Sofia, from 2009 to 2013 he was Head of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at the University Hospital "NI Pirogov". From March

2013 until now he has been working as Deputy Head of the Cardiology Clinic in Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD. In 12.1992, after a competition at the University Hospital "NI Pirogov", Gelev MD was elected a research associate III degree and was successively promoted research associate II - I degree until 20.08.2001. Research associate III - I degree is 8 years and 9 months. 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 ".

Gelev MD has completed a number of qualification courses and training in interventional cardiology in Paris, Columbia University, New York, USA, Novosibirsk, Russia.

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

Gelev MD presented himself at the competition with a **total of 90 scientific papers**: one dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "PhD", 68 scientific publications, co-authorship in 2 monographs and 1 textbook and 17 scientific papers with published abstracts. Of the published scientific articles, 32 are in Bulgarian and 36 in international scientific journals, of which 31 are with IF. In 48.24% of the publications he is the first or second author. The **total impact factor** amounts to **536,350**. The scientific activity of the candidate includes 17 scientific reports and announcements with printed abstracts, presented at Bulgarian and international scientific forums, and in 32 a lecturer was invited. In the citation made by CML, a total of **over 3000 citations** were registered, of which 4 are in Bulgarian, Scopus - 1024, Web of Knowledge - 2721, (as a database Scopus and Web of Knowledge partially overlap).

The table presents correspondences with Minimum National Required Points and Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Tokuda EAD

| Group of indicators | Contents | Required | Presented |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| A | Indicator 1 | 50 | 50 |
| B | Indicator 2 | - | - |
| B | Indicators 3 or 4 | 100 | 142.07 |
| Г | Sum of indicators from 5 to 9 | 200 | 444.69 |
| Д | Sum of indicators from 10 to 12 | 50 | 990 |
| E | Sum of indicators from 13 to the end | - | - |
| Total | | 400 | 1 626.76 |

The comparison of Gelev's MD data with the scientometric national criteria and the Hospital for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" shows that he covers them, and in a number of points significantly exceeds them.

4. Basic scientific contributions

Gelev's research interests are diverse and affect different areas of cardiovascular disease. He pays special attention to **chronic coronary occlusions**, their epidemiology, anatomical features, as well as indications and techniques for interventional revascularization. The place and importance of the retrograde approach for the successful recanalization of CTO, as well as various aspects and tendencies in recanalization of chronic occlusions are considered. Based on the accumulated data and experience, an algorithm for the indications and the manner of application of the retrograde approach in recanalizations of CTO has been developed and tested. (1-7.9)

Other areas of research of Gelev, MD are: **Percutaneous interventions in left main stenoses** (25,46,60,64, 67,68,73,76,80,81); **Transradial access in invasive coronary procedures** (8,10,11,50, 52,53,54); **Complex coronary interventions** (12,26,56, 65,70,112,118,119); **Miscellaneous**: Publications sharing the experience of endovascular treatment of upper and lower limb lesions (33,47,69), visceral organs in life-threatening conditions in gastroenterology (34) and urology (40). The review examines the occurrence of arrhythmias in patients with COVID-19 and provides practical guidelines for the prevention of proarrhythmia with antiviral drugs (86). A number of reviews have addressed the issues of modern treatment for acute coronary syndrome (58), heart failure (83,84), arterial hypertension (79).

Gelev's MD 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 optimizing the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

5. Teaching activity

The study load of Valeri Gelev MD for the period 01.01.2016 - 31.05.2021 is well presented. In ACC UMHAL Tokuda EAD has realized a **total of 2751 eq. hours**, which includes active participation in the training of specialists in cardiology - 2549 eq. hours, HSA training - Interventional Cardiology - 74 eq. hours and continuing education - 128 eq.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. Expert activity and research activity

Gelev MD is a member of several scientific societies and organizations: Member of SCB - member of the Board since 2020, the European Society of Cardiology, the European Club of Chronic Occlusions, the Bulgarian Society of Invasive Cardiology - 2 terms chairman-2015-2019, director of BBK.

Member of the expert council on cardiology at the Ministry of Health.

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

CONCLUSION

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

V. Gelev, MD, PhD is an established doctor - internist, cardiologist and interventional cardiologist, with extensive clinical experience, with sufficient volume, with high quality indicators and real theoretical and practical contributions to scientific activity.

Gelev, MD also has managerial experience as Head of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at University Hospital "NI Pirogov" and Deputy Head of the Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

Given the above, I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote in favor of the election of Valeri Lyubenov Gelev, MD, PhD for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

30.07.2021 г.

Sofia

Prepared the opinion:

(Prof. Milena Staneva, MD, PhD)

