**OPINION**

**by Prof. Dr. Deyan Tonev Zhelev, DSc,**

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**Department of Internal Medicine, Medical Faculty, Medical University - Sofia**

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports" in professional field 7.1 "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda EAD , announced in SG no. 17 from 01.03. 2022

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Radin Tsonev Tsonev, PhD, Chief Assistant at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD. A complete set of documents for the preparation of the opinion was presented, in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Public Opinions and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

**I. Professional development**

Dr. Radin Tsonev graduated in medicine from the Medical Academy - Sofia in 1988. He worked as an aviator in Graf Ignatievo (1988 - 1990) and a resident doctor in the Internal Medicine Department, MHAT - Lom (1990 - 1994). In the period 1994 - 2007 he was a gastroenterologist at the 5th MHAT - Sofia, and since 2007 has been working at Tokuda University Hospital, where he has been the Head of the Department of Gastroenterology since 2008 and chief assistant from 2020. There are two recognized clinical specialties - internal medicine (1995) and gastroenterology (1998). In 2019 has acquired PhD "Doctor" after successfully defending a dissertation on "Assessment of liver fibrosis and quality of life in patients with chronic viral C-hepatitis and cirrhosis." Dr. Tsonev has implemented courses and specializations in gastroenterology in prestigious clinical centers and institutions in Austria, the Netherlands, Italy and France. He is constantly upgrading his clinical skills. Consecutively acquires qualification and qualification to perform abdominal ultrasound I level, Doppler ultrasound and the highest III level - interventional abdominal ultrasound. He has completed a course in health management.

Dr. Radin Tsonev is a respected physician and an established specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal and liver diseases. He has extensive clinical experience in performing abdominal ultrasound, as well as liver biopsy and invasive procedures under ultrasound control. He is a pioneer in the introduction of transient elastography with Fibroscan in Bulgaria and has an indisputable contribution to the establishment of this method in our country for non-invasive assessment of liver damage. Dr. Tsonev is an active participant in the development and updating of national consensus for the diagnosis and treatment of a large number of gastrointestinal and liver diseases. He is a member of the Board of the National Program for Screening, Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Viral Hepatitis at the Ministry of Health. He is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Ultrasound; Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine; European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL); European Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB). He speaks English and Russian.

**II. Research activity**

Dr. Radin Tsonev participated in the competition with a total of 38 publications, of which 1 monograph (habilitation thesis); 30 articles in Bulgarian editions; 3 publications in English in international journals (2 of them - in journals with impact factor); 2 participations in monographs (other than the habilitation thesis) and 2 publications - in textbooks.

The candidate is a solo author in 13, first author in 4 and second author in 9 of the 38 publications discussed, i.e. he is the lead author in 26/38 (68%) of the titles, which shows his leading contribution to the development of the presented scientific papers and related contributions. Dr. Tsonev's research activity includes 23 more appearances from scientific forums with posters and oral presentations: 19 of them were presented at national congresses and conferences, 2 were participations abroad and 2 were presented at forums in Bulgaria with international participation. In 21 of the 23 participations considered (91%) Dr. Tsonev is the first or second author.

The reference from the Central Medical Library of MU - Sofia shows that 115 citations of the scientific works of Dr. Tsonev have been found in the Scopus database. There are 102 citations in the Web of Science, and 3 citations in other foreign databases. Attached is a list of 17 quotations in Cyrillic, established in Bulgarian scientific journals.

From the attached references it is evident that the total impact factor (IF) from the scientific works of Dr. Tsonev is 29,109. The candidate has h-index 3 (Scopus and Web of Science).

The scientific production of Dr. Radin Tsonev is dedicated to current issues of modern gastroenterology and hepatology.

Of great clinical importance are the results of the measurement of liver density by transient elastography using Fibroscan. The candidate is a pioneer in the introduction of this non-invasive method for assessing the severity of liver damage in Bulgaria and has an indisputable contribution to its establishment in the country. The results of these studies are part of the dissertation developed by Dr. Tsonev. They are original for our country and have contributed to the imposition of new rules in our country to assess the severity of liver fibrosis, especially in chronic hepatitis C and to update the national consensus on diagnosis and treatment.

Of particular importance are data from antiviral therapy in people with HCV infection receiving methadone and revia substitution therapy. Interesting are the developments related to the quality of life of patients with chronic hepatitis C, as well as those dealing with somatopsychic problems in people with chronic viral hepatitis and psychosomatic problems in gastroenterology.

The author described several interesting and rare clinical cases of cholestatic hepatitis induced by darunavir treatment in an HIV-infected patient who is in the 3rd year of initiating combination antiretroviral therapy; an atypical case of familial Mediterranean fever with initial suspicion of Crohn's disease; presence of atypical metastasis to the mammary gland from primary gastric cancer.

Special attention should be paid to the results of a study of a procedure for the treatment of ascites refractory to diuretic treatment in patients with malignant diseases, using medical devices and equipment developed abroad. The method was introduced for the first time in our country. The results in 92 patients were followed, which is the largest described series in Bulgaria.

In his habilitation work (monograph) Dr. Tsonev has performed an in-depth analysis of immunomediated gastrointestinal and liver complications from immunotherapy with checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of malignancies, presenting the classical algorithm for diagnosis, treatment of complex clinical assessment and . Of particular interest are the described clinical cases, illustrating the accumulated rich practical clinical experience of the author in this interesting and relatively new pathology.

Dr. Tsonev's scientific developments are in-depth. They enrich and expand our modern knowledge. Significant contributions to medical science and practice stand out.

**III. Teaching activities**

Dr. Radin Tsonev is an established lecturer. Participates in the training of medical students as a part-time lecturer at the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Infectious and Skin Diseases of the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ”. The presented report shows that his total study load for the last 2 academic years is 227 and 89 hours, respectively (average 158 teaching hours per year), of which 137 and 44 hours are from classroom employment, respectively (average 90.5 hours per year). The candidate participated in the writing of 2 textbooks: Abdominal ultrasound, ed. N. Grigorov, 2021 and Gastroenterology 2020, ed. Z. Krastev and R. Nikolov, 2020 Dr. Tsonev daily transfers his knowledge and practical skills to specialists and young doctors from the Clinic of Gastroenterology at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

**IV. Compliance with the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"**

The attached self-assessment report for the implementation of the minimum National Indicators shows that Dr. Radin Tsonev has a total of 2559.7 points, which many times exceeds the required 400 points.

**V. Conclusion**

I believe that with his high professional qualification, rich clinical experience, scientific production, significant contributions and teaching skills, Dr. Radin Tsonev, PhD fully meets all the requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" laid down in the Law development of the academic staff of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD.

I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Radin Tsonev Tsonev, PhD. the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology".

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