**OPINION**

**From Prof. Dr. Diana Vasileva Stefanova-Petrova, DSc,**

**gastroenterologist at KPVB "Prof. Stoyan Kirkovich ”, University Hospital“ Alexandrovska ”, Medical University, Sofia.**

Regarding a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" in professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Department of Gastroenterology, Hospital Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda, EAD, published in the State Gazette no. 17 of 01.03.2022, on the grounds of art. 4, para. 2 and Article 25 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria; Art. 2, para. 2; Article 57, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria; Art. 56 of the Regulations for development of the Academic staff in "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, EAD" - Sofia; decision of the Scientific Council of "Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, EAD" - Sofia from 24. 03.2022 (Minutes № 41/24 03 2022) and order № 15-05-85 / 28.04.2022 of the Executive Director and Procurator of "Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda, EAD",

 **Candidate: Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Radin Tsonev Tsonev, PhD**

**Biographical data and professional development**

 Dr. Radin Tsonev Tsonev began his professional career in 1988. In 2007 he was appointed as a gastroenterologist at the University Hospital Tokuda-Sofia. Since 2008 is the head of the Hepatology Center of Tokuda Hospital, and since 2013 of the Department of Gastroenterology of Tokuda Hospital. Dr. Tsonev has recognized specialties in Internal Medicine (1995) and Gastroenterology and Dietetics - (1997). He has specialized in Austria, the Netherlands, Italy and France. He has ultrasound skills of the highest 3rd level, certified by the KFOR.

**Research activity**

Dr. Tsonev presented for participation in the competition a list of 38 scientific papers, of which -13 independent; first author is in 4 of them; second author - at 9; referenced and indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science - 5; with IF-2. Three publications are in magazines and anthologies abroad, 35 - in Bulgarian journals and anthologies. He has two participations as an author of textbooks and study guides; 1 independent monograph and two - co-authored. He presented a list of 25 participations with posters and reports at scientific forums, of which 20 in Bulgaria; 3 abroad; 2 - with international participation in Bulgaria. He presented 115 citations in the Scopus database; 102 - in the Web of Science; 3- in other database. The citations in Bulgaria are 17. He defended his dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "PhDr" in 2019 on the topic: "Assessment of liver fibrosis and quality of life in patients with chronic viral C-hepatitis and cirrhosis"

**Main contributions to research**

The main theoretical and clinical-applied contributions of Dr. Tsonev are related to the study of psychosomatically conditioned problems in gastroenterology, especially in patients with hepatitis C; modern guidelines in the diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis C virus infection and alcoholic and non-alcoholic steatosis of the liver; immuno-mediated side effects of the gastrointestinal tract in the course of therapy in malignant diseases; the problems of acid-related diseases; of functional dyspepsia; of reflux disease; biliary dysfunction in some internal diseases; assessment of the individual microbiota; study of rare clinical cases, such as an atypical form of familial Mediterranean fever and a differential diagnosis of Crohn's disease.

**Applied (scientific and practical) contributions**

 Dr. Tsonev introduces a new method for the treatment of ascites refractory to diuretic treatment in patients with malignancies.

The main scientific and practical contributions of Dr. Tsonev are in the field of non-invasive diagnosis of liver diseases.

New non-invasive methods for the assessment of hepatic steatosis and fibrosis have been imposed and introduced at the hepatology center, which he manages, and are replacing liver biopsy.

With the introduction of transient elastography in the hepatology center of Tokuda Hospital, conditions have been created for the elimination of old consensus and the creation of new ones, reflecting the latest and modern achievements of medical practice related to evidence-based medicine.

**Teaching activity**

From 01.06.2021 Dr. Tsonev is Chief Assistant at the Clinic of Gastroenterology of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, EAD - Sofia

Dr. Tsonev actively participates in the training of medical students, interns, postgraduates and doctoral students (seminars and practical classes) at Sofia University. According to data from the academic report, his academic employment for 2019/2020 is 227 hours, of which 137 hours - classroom employment. For the academic year 2020/2021 the academic employment is 89 hours, of which 44 hours - classroom employment.

**Membership in scientific organizations and expert activity**

He is a member of EASL-European Association for the Study of the Liver, BASL-Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver, European Society of Ultrasound, BAU-Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine, Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Endoscopy and Ultrasound in Medicine. He is a member of the board of the Bulgarian Society of Hepatology; of the Management Board of the National Program for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis at the Ministry of Health. He has a certificate for health management from 2017.

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Tsonev has a significant role in the development of the Bulgarian School of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, especially in the field of non-invasive assessment of steatosis and fibrosis in chronic liver damage.

Dr. Tsonev introduces transient elastography in Bulgaria in the hepatology center of Tokuda Hospital, which he manages, which creates conditions for the introduction of modern international standards and principles of treatment of liver diseases in Bulgaria.

Based on the presented data, I believe that Dr. Radin Tsonev fully meets the qualitative and quantitative criteria for the development of the academic staff, referred to in Art. 4, para. 2 and Article 25 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria; Art. 2, para. 2; Article 57, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria; Art. 56 of the Regulations for development of the Academic staff in "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda, EAD" - Sofia "for the acquisition of the academic position" Associate Professor ".

This gives me reason to confidently confirm my positive opinion to propose to the esteemed members of the scientific jury to elect Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Radin Tsonev Tsonev PhD, to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Gastroenterology".

05/08/2022

Sofia Prepared the opinion:

Prof. Diana Stefanova-Petrova