To

The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,

appointed by order №15-05-72 / 04.04.2022

of the Executive Director of ASK UMBAL Tokuda EAD

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Kiril Vassilev Draganov, DSc

Clinic of Liver, Bile, Pancreatic and General Surgery

Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD, Sofia

Subject: Participation in a competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", Professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Cardiovascular Surgery" for the needs of the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD, published in the State Gazette no. №1 / 04.01.2022

By order №15-05-72 / 04.04.2022 of the Executive Director of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda EAD I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition. At the first absentee meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was appointed to prepare an opinion. The opinion complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (PPZRASRB) and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions (PURPNSZAD) in ASK UMBAL Tokuda "EAD - Sofia.

The only candidate is allowed to participate in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Petrov Nikolov, PhD, Head of the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda" EAD. The documents of Assoc. Prof. Nikolov were submitted on time. The deadlines for conducting the competition have been met and the procedure for it fully meets the requirements of the legal regulatory framework.

Brief biographical data. Professional and academic development.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Nikolov graduated from the Medical Institute - Sofia in 1987. Initially he worked as an intern at the Clinic of Surgery of the Military Medical Academy, Sofia. From 1990 to 2007 he was part of the team of the University Hospital "St. Catherine. He acquired a degree in General Surgery in 1996 and in Cardiac Surgery in 2000, during which time he achieved academic development, holding the positions of "Assistant", "Senior Assistant" and "Chief Assistant". Since May 2007, he has been managing the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery at Tokuda Hospital Sofia (now ASK Tokuda Hospital).

In 2010 Assoc. Prof. Nikolov graduated with a Master's degree in Health Management from the Faculty of Health, MU-Sofia.

In 2012, Assoc. Prof. Nikolov successfully defended his dissertation on "Surgical treatment of native infectious endocarditis" for the acquisition of PhD "Doctor" in "Cardiovascular Surgery".

In 2015, after a competition, he held the academic position of Associate Professor.

Postgraduate qualification - courses, specializations

The candidate's aspiration in the current competition for continuous professional development and improvement is evidenced by his numerous courses for postgraduate training and specialization in cardiac surgery in a number of leading world centers and schools in Japan, USA, Germany, France, Denmark.

Thanks to all this, as well as to his qualities, perseverance and hard work in the operating room, Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov, MD has managed to win a place among the leading cardiac surgeons in the country.

Scientific production. Yields.

In addition to the above dissertation and the abstract to it, in this competition the candidate submits for review another 67 scientific papers, distributed as follows:

1. Until taking the academic position of "Associate Professor" - a total of 40:

 Related to the dissertation - 2;

 Not related to the dissertation - 38;

2. After holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" - a total of 27:

 Monograph - 1;

 Participation in writing chapters from textbooks and manuals - 6;

 Publications in international peer-reviewed publications - 2;

 Publications in Bulgarian refereed editions - 18.

Additionally, Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov presents abstracts of reports from participation in national and international scientific forums.

The scientific production of the candidate is of original character, has the necessary qualities and contributions in scientific-theoretical and in scientific-applied aspect, which depending on the period of publication can be presented in two stages:

1. Until holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"

A number of studies concern the surgery of terminal heart failure, and many of these methods are innovative for Bulgarian cardiac surgery. Cases of orthotopic heart transplantation have been reported in patients with end-stage heart failure and the possibilities for other treatments have been exhausted (11). The Berlin Heart INCOR system after Bentall / De Bono surgery is the subject of two scientific papers describing its implantation and the successful fibrinolysis in thrombosis (24, 25, 26).

Innovative endovascular methods of treatment for dissecting thoracic aneurysms and abdominal aortic aneurysms, as well as brain protection methods for surgical treatment of thoracic aortic arch aneurysms have been used (26, 28, 31, 32, 33, 42).

2. After holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"

The monograph "Surgical treatment of native and prosthetic endocarditis" (42) examines the main aspects of etiopathogenesis, diagnosis, surgical treatment and results in this pathology. The monograph is an extremely in-depth work and is a logical summary of the long-standing scientific interest of Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov in infectious endocarditis, reflected in many previous publications (4, 5, 6, 14, 15). Valuable for the practice are the proposed algorithm for different types of surgical interventions, shared personal experience and discussion of unresolved issues.

A significant contribution of the candidate is the implementation of a surgical method for minimally invasive surgical treatment in mitral valve prosthesis and mitral valve plasticity, in diseases of the tricuspid valve and in aortic valve prosthesis.

In this area of ​​cardiac surgery is the technique of placing seamless valves PERCEVAL in high-grade aortic stenosis, as well as in patients with severe calcification, with evidence of porcelain aorta, reoperation, elderly and comorbid patients, etc.

Topics of scientific interest and research by Assoc. Prof. Nikolov are improving the results of reoperations in cardiac surgery, the use of Bental de Bono surgery for aneurysmal aortic arch, behavior in covered rupture of the left ventricle after acute myocardial infarction, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy in cardiac surgical resuscitation, etc.

Citation. IMPACT-FACTOR

A reference from the CMB of the Medical University of Sofia with Issue 147 / 14.03.2022 certifies the open citations of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD. In Bulgarian sources they are 59, and in international sources in the Scopus database 160 citations have been found, and in the Web of Science database - 150 citations, and they partially overlap.

The total impact factor of the publications of Assoc. Prof. Nikolov is 33,483, and IF after holding the academic position of Associate Professor is 20,573.

The large number of citations both at home and abroad, as well as the high IF are an excellent attestation and proof of the high value of the candidate's scientific output.

Teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD is the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students in the professional field 7.1. Medicine, doctoral program "Cardiovascular Surgery" - Dr. Ivilin Todorov and Dr. Asen Kelchev.

His teaching activities include PG courses, training of trainees and membership in examination commissions. For the period 2017-2022 he has realized a study load of 1405 equivalent hours (Certificate № 19-170 / 07.03.2022, published by ASK UMBAL Tokuda).

CONCLUSION

I know Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD from the time when he was a member of the team of the University Hospital "St. Catherine. My closer observations and professional contacts date sinse 2007, when he established the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery, ASK UMHAT Tokuda. Thanks to his excellent theoretical training and technical skills, ability to work and dedication to the profession, in a short time the clinic he headed has become and continues to be one of the leaders in the country.

The Certificate of Compliance with the Minimum National Criteria for Occupying the Academic Position "Professor" submitted by the candidate shows that the total number of points exceeds the minimum ones.

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD is of an original nature. No recurrences or evidence of plagiarism were identified.

Due to all the above, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD is one of the leading and most authoritative cardiac surgeons in the country, a distinguished scientist and lecturer.

Therefore, I invite the members of the esteemed scientific jury to deservedly award the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Cardiovascular Surgery" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dimitar Nikolov, PhD, for which I strongly vote "For".

Prepared the opinion: ........................

/ prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov, DSc /

04/26/2022

Sofia