

To  
Prof. Dr. Kiril Draganov, MD  
Chairman of the Scientific Jury,  
appointed by order of the Executive  
Director and the Procurator of Acibadem  
City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD  
№318 from 23.06.2021

## **REVIEW**

### **FROM**

**PROF. DR. LYUBEN DIMITROV STOKOV, DM,**

under the announced competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1.

Medicine, scientific specialty "Orthopedics and Traumatology" for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology of "Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda", announced in SG No. 33 / 20.04.2021

I have been appointed a member of the scientific jury by order №318 from 23.06.2021. At the first absentee meeting of the scientific jury I was chosen as a reviewer, for which I have an official letter.

Documents for participation in the competition have been submitted by one candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Tsankov Yablanski, MD, Head of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology of Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda.

The documents submitted by the candidate are in accordance with the requirements of the regulations for the academic position "Professor" and the Regulations of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital EAD.

I do not find any gaps in the submitted documentation.

## **1. Brief biographical data**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Tsankov Yablanski, MD, graduated in 1996 from the Medical University - Stara Zagora. In 2001 he acquired the specialty "Orthopedics and Traumatology".

He has worked successively in the Clinics of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the University Hospital - Stara Zagora and the University Hospital "Queen Joanna" Sofia, as Head of the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Tokuda Hospital, where he continues to work as Head of the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology. Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda.

He holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Hebrew, Jerusalem, Israel. In 2011 he completed a three-year master's degree in health management at SWU - Blagoevgrad.

Successfully defended a dissertation on "The possibilities of arthroscopy of the hip joint for diagnosis and determination of stages in osteonecrosis of the femoral head" for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor", awarded in 2014, according to diploma № 247-D, issued on 08.12.2014 by MU - Sofia. In 2016, after a competition, he held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific organization "Acibadem City Clinic MHAT Tokuda" EAD.

## **2. Research and teaching activities. Main contributions**

Assoc. Prof. Yablanski has presented a total of 62 papers: one dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", 1 monograph, 2 chapters in textbooks and monographs, 23 publications in scientific journals in Bulgaria and 18 - in international scientific journals. 8 of the publications abroad are in magazines with impact factor. Participations in scientific forums are 17, of which 7 are in international forums.

Of the total number of publications presented, 23 are after the acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor", including a separate monograph on „ Challenges for the surgical treatment of scoliosis in childhood “ with two scientific reviews, two chapters in textbooks and monographs, 14 real publications in scientific journals (4 of them in international journals, 2 of which have an impact factor) and 6 participations in scientific forums (4 of which are international).

In 37% of the publications Assoc. Prof. Yablanski is an independent and first author, as a second author is represented in 45% of the publications.

The total number of citations is 72, 28 in Bulgaria and 44 abroad.

The impact factor is 13,797.

The profile of the research, practical and applied activity is in full compliance with the profile of the scientific work in the Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda, to which the competition for professor has been announced. Assoc. Prof. Yablanski has 20 years of practical experience in the field of orthopedics and traumatology.

The thematic areas and contributions reflected in the scientific papers are in the field of orthopedic surgery and can be grouped as follows:

*2.1. Introduction and development of the surgical technique of arthroscopy in the area of the hip joint. Determining the stage of the disease in patients with osteonecrosis of the femoral head, as a fundamental factor for success in choosing organ-preserving techniques. Creation of an author's algorithm for selection of surgical technique in organ-preserving operations of patients with osteonecrosis of the femoral head.*

Contributions include the given detailed recommendations for the necessary equipment and the specifics for conducting arthroscopy in the area of the hip joint, with indicated risk moments and anatomical variations observed during its implementation. The surgical technique presented in detail allows the arthroscopy of the hip joint to be performed in more and more centers with good success. The understanding of the pathomorphological changes occurring in osteonecrosis of the femoral head has been improved and a classification system has been established for their determination. The classification system correlates with the groups observed

"In vivo" and the results of diagnostic imaging, through the established relationship with the results of pathohistological and pathomorphological stage changes. Results are presented, contributing to a detailed follow-up of the stages through which the damaged bone passes. An algorithm has been created that gives recommendations for the selection of specific organ-preserving techniques in the various stages, based on a classification system proposed by the author.

*2.2. Improvement of the surgical technique in the treatment of patients with spinal deformities in childhood. Surgical treatment of scoliosis in childhood in children with rare diseases and high-risk interventions. Introduction of intraoperative neuromonitoring in surgical treatment of scoliosis in children. In-depth study and analysis of possible causes of idiopathic scoliosis in children with advanced deformities.*

Based on scientific research and practical experience, the treatment of children with spinal deformities and rare diseases is a routine practice in the work of the clinic of Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Tokuda. The clinic is a leading center for treatment of such patients in Bulgaria. Intraoperative neuromonitoring has been introduced and is routinely used in the surgical treatment of children with spinal deformities.

*2.2. Analysis of the influence of correction of spinal deformities on the function of other organs and systems. Introduction and validation in practice of new techniques in the treatment of early scoliosis. Development of the treatment of idiopathic scoliosis with the methods of kinesitherapy and their combination with dynamic implants, allowing active distraction with exercises. Use of innovative approaches in surgical treatment of complex spinal deformities in childhood.*

Mandatory pre- and postoperative FID in children with severe scoliosis has been introduced, as an assessment of the impact of surgical correction of the spine on the child's respiratory function. Some of the previous publications are the result of close collaboration with pediatric pulmonologists.

Systematic use of innovative systems, such as magnetically controlled growing rods and other methods for achieving growth modulation in children with early scoliosis has also been introduced. The cooperation with specialists conducting conservative treatment of scoliosis has been improved and a new type of implant has been introduced for dynamic correction without reaching vertebrodesis.

A modern contribution is the introduction of printing an individual three-dimensional model of the spine in children with complex deformities as a modern tool for improving the quality and reducing the risks of surgical treatment.

*The teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Yablanski is characterized by high activity - training of medical students at the Thracian University, Faculty of Medicine - 90 teaching hours for three academic years, 18 teaching hours at the Ministry of Finance - Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski " and 1856 eq. training hours for specialists in orthopedics and traumatology for the period 2016-2021*

According to the attached reference for fulfillment of the minimum required scientometric criteria, Assoc. Prof. Yablanski exceeds the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities and with the required 550 points, he indicates 700.75 points.

## 2. Conclusion

Based on the above data for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Yablanski, MD, he can be characterized as an established specialist in orthopedics and traumatology, who has recognized scientific and applied contributions on a national scale in the field of surgical treatment of scoliosis in childhood, an active researcher, performing independent creative scientific work not only in his specialty, but also in interdisciplinary fields, having important points of contact with the surgical methods applied in orthopedics.

This gives me reason to believe that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Jablanski fully meets the requirements of the ACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA, REGULATIONS FOR APPLICATION OF THE ACT ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA and the Regulations of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda EAD for holding the academic position "Professor", which is why I confidently give my positive assessment.

I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to vote for the award of the academic position "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Tsankov Yablanski, MD in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, and scientific specialty "Orthopedics and traumatology. "

30.07.2021

**Prepared the review:**  
**(Prof. Dr. Lyuben Stokov, MD)**

