**OPINION**

**FROM**

**PROF. DR. MARIO DRAGANOV STANKEV, PhD**

**Subject:** Participation in a competition for holding an academic position „Associate Professor ” in higher education 7. „Health and Sports ”, Professional Field 7.1. „ Medicine ”, scientific specialty „ Cardiovascular surgery ” for the needs of the Clinic of Cadio Surgery in „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda ” EAD.

**CANDIDATE: DR. IVILIN PLAMENOV TODOROV, PhD.**

**I.GENERAL REFERENCE**

The competition for holding the academic position „ Associate Professor "in the field of Higher Education 7. „Health and sports “, Professional field 7.1 „ Medicine “, in the scientific specialty “ Cardiovascular surgery ”, for the needs of the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery „ Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Tokuda“ EAD, has been announced in the State Gazette № 37/25.04.2023. By order № 15-03-123 # 2 / 15.06.2023 the Executive Director and the Prosecutor of „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda” EAD, I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury for the indicated competition. At the first non-attendance meeting of the Scientific Jury, it was decided to prepare an opinion.

Dr. Ivilin Plamenov Todorov, PhD, cardiac surgeon at the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda ” EAD, is the only candidate who submitted documents and allowed to participate in the competition from a commission, determined by an order of the hospital management. The candidate meets the requirements of ZRASRB, Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda ” EAD.

According to the submitted documents, he was a part-time teacher for over 2 years at the MF at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski “, presented the relevant references incl. and the obligatory reference for fulfillment of the minimum requirements, he presented the necessary set of documents and copies of scientific papers, etc. documents.

**II. CANDIDATE DATA**

Dr. Ivilin Plamenov Todorov was born on July 30, 1982 in the town of. Sofia. He graduated with honors in his secondary education in 2001. at the National Nature-Mathematical High School, gr. Sofia. Graduated in medicine in 2007 at the Medical University – Sofia. In 2007 was appointed as a resident doctor in the Department of Cardiac Surgery at MHAT „ Tokuda Hospital “, Sofia, where he currently works. Acquired a specialty in cardiac surgery in 2014. Since 2019 and so far he has been a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine at Sofia University „ St. Kliment Ohridski “. In 2021 he successfully defended his dissertation on "Surgical treatment in patients with prosthetic valve endocarditis" for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty „ Cardiovascular surgery".

**III. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

Dr. Todorov presents for participation in the competition 25 published scientific papers, incl. dissertation. After the exclusion of the dissertation, 24 scientific papers remain for review, including 2 monographs, one independent, the other in co-authorship.

6 of the publications are in magazines with an impact factor, the total impact factor is 10.473. In the cited quotation from the Medical Library of MU – Sofia ( Exx.N 245 / 12.05.2023 ) 11 citations found - Bulgarian 9, and in the database of Scopus - 2 quotes, in Web of Science - 1 citation.

The main part of the publications is dedicated to valve prosthetics in patients with valve endocarditis and in particular - to the factors leading to an increase in the effectiveness of surgical treatment. They reflect scientific papers related to surgical behavior and treatment in patients with early and late prosthetic valve endocarditis. Based on an in-depth study and comparative analysis of the results in deceased and discharged patients and a prognostic model for the factors was created, predicting an increased risk of death in patients with prosthetic valve endocarditis.

Innovative approaches introduced by the author have been reported in a number of publications, leading to a reduction in complications and an improvement in postoperative results in re-operations in cardiac surgery.

Monograph "PROSTHETIC VALVE ENDOCARDITIS - CLINIC, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT", is a significant scientific work, noting the real scientific and applied value of the conclusions and recommendations made for the daily practical activity of cardiac surgeons in making the right specific solutions for diagnosis and treatment in accordance with the latest and effective therapeutic approaches and the latest strategic and practical algorithms in the treatment of the disease.

For the first time in Bulgaria a method for angiographic balloon LIMA occlusion is proposed in order to optimal myocardial protection, as well as to improve the operational results and survival of patients, which is reported in one of the publications.

Particular attention in the submitted publications is paid to the surgical treatment of the native valve endocarditis, which is considered a significant disease with a poor prognosis and without adequate treatment. In this regard, issues important for cardiac surgeons about the impact of the type of valve prosthesis used to develop early PKE are considered, the degree of correlation between the ultrasound and operatively established data in the diagnosis of the infectious valve endocarditis and its complications, as well as the optimal moment for surgery.

Dr.Todorov's scientific activity was realized with participation in scientific forums, where he presented his experience in the field of reperations and surgical treatment of many rare complications, associated with invasive treatment methods and rare heart abnormalities.

In the report on the implementation of the national minimum requirements, Dr. Todorov indicates a performance of 542.5 points with a required minimum number of 400, which I accept as credible. There is no proven plagiarism in scientific papers and, as I pointed out, they go beyond the minimum national requirements for holding an academic position “Associate Professor ”.

An official report on the teaching and teaching activities of Dr. Todorov as a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Medicine at Sofia University „ Kliment Ohridski ” is presented, which is expressed in „Surgical Diseases ” of 3-6 year medical students.

**CONCLUSION**

Dr. Todorov is one of the leading young cardiac surgeons in the country. He mastered the most modern methods of diagnosis and treatment in the field of cardiac surgery. The scientific papers presented and their scientific contributions give me reason to believe that it meets the requirements of the ZRASRB, as well as the requirements, listed as criteria in the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda ”, for holding an academic position “Associate Professor ”.

I convincingly give my positive assessment and recommend to the other distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the loan from Dr. Ivilin Plamenov Todorov, PhD of the academic position “ Associate Professor ” in the scientific specialty “Cardiovascular surgery ” for the needs of the Clinic of Cardiac Surgery in „ Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda ”.

29.08.2023 PREPARED THE OPINION:

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( PROF. DR. MARIO STANKEV, PhD )