

**TO THE CHAIRMAN  
OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY**

determined by Order No. 11-07-27/18.04.2024 of the Executive Director and Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT EAD, Sofia

**STATEMENT OF OPINION**

By Prof. Dr. Assen Doudov, MD, FASCO,  
Medical Director and Head of Clinic of Medical Oncology,  
Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT EAD

**RE:** Competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of scientific specialty “Gastroenterology”, for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT EOOD.

There is one candidate in the competition – Dr. Ani Chavoushian, who works at the Clinic of Gastroenterology of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT EAD.

Dr. Ani Chavoushian was born on 02.12.1967. She graduated in medicine in 1994 at the Medical Academy, Sofia. She specialized in “Internal Medicine” during 1995 – 1999, also at the MA, Sofia. In 1999 she acquired the specialty of “Internal Medicine”.

During the period 1999 — 2003 she specialized in “Gastroenterology” and worked at the Clinic of Gastroenterology at 5-th MHAT, Sofia. In 2003 she acquired specialty in Gastroenterology. During the period 2007 — 2019 she met all qualification requirements by attending several courses at UMHAT “Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL” and after passing successfully the examinations she acquired all qualification levels in the field of abdominal and interventional ultrasonography. She also attended qualification courses in gastrointestinal endoscopy during the same period and acquired first and second level in “Diagnostic and therapeutic upper and lower endoscopy”.

In 2020 Dr. Ani Chavoushian was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Internal Medicine after the successful defence of a dissertation thesis entitled “Diverticulosis and colonic diverticular disease – pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects”.

During the period 1999-2006 Dr. Ani Chavoushian worked as resident physician at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, 5-th MHAT, Sofia. During 2006-2012 she worked at the Department of Internal Medicine, MHAT “Tokuda”, Sofia.

The candidate has acquired unique qualifications at leading clinics in Western Europe – during the period 2019-2023 and has completed successively three modules of training in transabdominal intestinal ultrasonography at leading centers in Germany and Denmark, and she has become the first trainer in intestinal

ultrasonography in this country. This is an innovative methodology and it comes to supplement her high expertise in the field of intestinal pathology and chronic inflammatory intestinal diseases.

She is a leading expert in the field of diagnosis and therapy of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease and to best of my knowledge Dr. Chavoushian is the first certified trainer in transabdominal intestinal ultrasonography in this country. Dr. Chavoushian has undertaken a one-month specialization in gastroenterology in the Netherlands in 2001.

Dr. Chavoushian passes on her expertise and qualifications by teaching to medical students. She is a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and has conducted exercises in Propedeutics and Internal Medicine since 2019. The reference for academic workload makes it clear that in the academic year 2019/2020 the candidate had 180 contact hours, in 2020/2021 – 135 contact hours, in 2021/2022 – 90 contact hours and in the 2022/2023 academic year – 180 contact hours.

Dr. Chavoushian is fluent in English, Armenian and Russian, and she is a member of a number of national and international prestigious professional organizations – ECCO, ESGE, EFSUMB, IBUS group, BAUM, BASGO, Bulgarian Scientific Society of Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Ultrasonography.

The candidate partakes in the competition with 21 full-text publications and 29 abstracts from contributions to conferences and congresses and presents a monograph and a dissertation thesis with the respective abstract. Dr. Ani Chavoushian is the first author in some 50% of these papers. Of the 21 full-text publications, 2 have been published in scientific journals, and have been referred to and indexed in [world-renowned](#) databases of scientific information. Also, 9 quotations have been presented – all of them in journals in English.

*Dr. Chavoushian has presented a monograph entitled:*

**“The Known and Unknown Diverticulosis and Colonic Diverticular Disease”.**

I familiarized myself and took careful note of this paper and I believe it provides a medical and academic analysis of exceptional importance of the colonic diverticular disease.

Dr. Chavoushian provides clear medical facts, definitions and guidelines for diagnosis and treatment and at the same time attention is paid to more rare conditions and the appropriate behaviour in this respect. Dr. Chavoushian provides even a detailed analysis of the social and economic burden of diverticulosis, as well as of the costs for treatment, absence on sick leave, etc.

The presented dissertation thesis entitled “Diverticulosis and colonic diverticular disease – pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects” is of high scientific value. It presents a retrospective study of 453 patients, who have been diagnosed and treated by the candidate throughout the period 2013-2018.

The dissertation thesis reveals the vast clinical experience of the author, defines clearly and precisely the importance of the diseases, the risk factors, and also offers information about genetic mutations, as well as the above mentioned social and economic analysis.

## C O N C L U S I O N

Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian has met all legal and academic requirements for acquiring the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

Further to my fully positive opinion, *I highly recommend the distinguished scientific jury to elect Dr. Chavoushian to the scientific position “Associate Professor”*, because apart from meeting all the requirements she is also a brilliant clinician and in her capacity of associate professor she would be able to work even more beneficially both on the above subject and to transfer in the future her knowledge to younger colleagues.

Having such a brilliant colleague at an academic position will undoubtedly enhance the standing of the clinic and of the entire hospital.

17.05.2024

Prof. Dr. Assen Dudov

