

STATEMENT OF OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Vanya Aleksandrova Gerova – Nankova, PhD
Clinic of Gastroenterology “Academician Tasho Tashev”
UMHAT “Tsaritsa Yoanna – ISUL”

RE: Competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”, specialty “Gastroenterology”, for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT EOOD, as promulgated in the *State Gazette*, No. 2/05.01.2024.

By Order No. 11-07-27/18.04.2024 of the Executive Director and Procurator of “Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT” EOOD and Decision of the Scientific Board of “Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT” EOOD (Protocol No. 22/10.04.2024) I have been approved as member of the scientific jury. The only candidate is Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian, PhD.

The competition procedure has been followed correctly. At the first sitting of the Scientific Jury I have been appointed to prepare a statement of opinion. Dr. Ami Chavoushian has submitted all the documents required in compliance with the requirements of the announced competition.

Biographical summary and professional development

Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian, PhD graduated in medicine in 1994 at the MA, Sofia. Throughout the period 1995 - 1999 she specialized in internal diseases at the Department of Internal Medicine of the MA, Sofia. In the years to follow she worked consecutively as resident physician at the Clinic of Gastroenterology, 5-th MHAT (1999 - 2006); Department of Internal Medicine at Tokuda Hospital, Sofia (2006 - 2012); and as from December 2012 to the present – at the Clinic of Gastroenterology at Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT, Sofia.

Dr. Chavoushian has acquired specialties in internal medicine (1999) and gastroenterology (2003). She holds expert certificates of professional qualification in abdominal ultrasonography (levels 1 and 2), gastrointestinal endoscopy (levels 1 and 2) and in contrast-enhanced and interventional ultrasonography (level 3).

Her high qualifications are related to specialization courses, mostly abroad. She has excellent command of English and Russian.

Research activities and scientometric indicators

Dr. Ani Chavoushian has acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in after defence of dissertation thesis entitled “Diverticulosis and colonic diverticular disease – pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects”.

For the purpose of participation in this competition Dr. Chavoushian has submitted a monograph entitled “The Known and Unknown Diverticulosis and Colonic Diverticular Disease” and a list of 21 publications. The research papers presented for review are beyond

the referred to for acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". They are dedicated to important areas in gastroenterology, which is related to her immediate involvement in diagnostic, therapeutic and clinical activities.

The dissertation thesis and the monograph are dedicated to diverticulosis and colonic diverticular disease, some of the most common benign diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. They present detailed studies of the risk factors, the complex pathogenetic mechanisms, clinical, social and economic aspects of this pathology. The proposed diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm for diverticulosis and diverticular disease deserve high appreciation since they are based not only on published data but also on the professional experience of Dr. Chavoushian.

Ten of the publications (co-authored) are dedicated to some of the most significant chronic liver diseases – chronic viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and the complications thereof, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic cirrhosis, toxic hepatitis, porphyria and primary liver carcinoma. The intestinal endometriosis has been studied as the most common clinical manifestation of extragenital endometriosis; also the development of diverticulosis and diverticular disease in patients with ulcerative colitis; an assessment has been made of the importance of abdominal ultrasonography for diagnosis of diseases in the ileocecal area. Survey articles present the acute diverticulitis, the gluten enteropathy, as well as fistulas as complications of the diverticular disease. There are also descriptions of difficult and rare clinical cases of intestinal endometriosis of the ileum and the appendix, giant diverticulum of the colon, small mesenterial cyst, sepsis in case of diverticular disease. Two of the publications present data about the administration of Azathioprine and 6- Mercaptopurine to pregnant women with Crohn's disease and with ulcerative colitis, and the effects of Cynarix on patients with chronic liver diseases have been assessed, respectively.

In 9 (43%) of the publications Dr. Chavoushian is an independent or the first author. The publications are in Bulgarian scientific journals: Bulgarian Hepatogastroenterology (12), Diagnostic and therapeutic ultrasound (4), GP news (1), Bulgarian Medical Journal (1), General Medicine (1), Surgery (1), Medical magazine (1). The reference provided by the Central Medical Library at the Medical University – Sofia has identified a total of citations (other than self-citations) of scientific papers of Dr. Ani Chavoushian as follows: 1 in Bulgarian editions and in foreign databases: 37 (Scopus) and 45 (Web of Science).

Contributions of the scientific papers of Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian

The major contributions of Dr. Chavoushian are of scientific, applied research and applied nature and could be systematized in several major directions: 1. Diverticula and colonic diverticular disease and associated complications; 2. Other intestinal diseases - intestinal endometriosis, intestinal inflammatory diseases (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis), gluten enteropathy; 3. Key role of abdominal and intestinal ultrasonography for diagnosis and differential diagnosis, complications and possibilities for monitoring the effect of therapy in patients with acute and chronic intestinal diseases. 4. Chronic liver diseases.

Teaching and learning activities

Dr. Chavoushian has been a part-time lecturer in Propedeutics of Internal Medicine at the SU “Kl. Ohridski” Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT since 2019. The reference note issued by the DM of the SU “Kl. Ohridski” certifies that throughout the academic years 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 the total number of contact hours of Dr. Ani Chavoushian has been 180 hours, 135 hours, 90 hours and 180 hours, respectively, all of them as academic workload.

Dr. Chavoushian has participated as demonstrator of abdominal ultrasonography in the 10-th and the 11-th events of the National Student Academy in Surgery in 2021 and 2022. In 2023 she was a member of the training team in the practical part of Module 1 in Intestinal Ultrasonography of IBUS group at Lüneburg, Germany.

Treatment and diagnostic activities

Dr. Ani Chavoushian has a total length of work experience over 20 years. She is an established specialist in internal medicine and gastroenterology, with in-depth knowledge and extensive clinical experience. The acquired professional qualifications in diagnostic and interventional endoscopy and abdominal ultrasonography come to explain her comprehensive treatment and diagnostic activity in the specialties internal medicine and gastroenterology.

The reference provided for Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian PhD about compliance with the minimum national requirements (MNR) of “Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT” EOOD shows that the sum of points by individual indices exceeds the number of points required to acquire the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

Group of Indices	MNR	Reference data for the candidate
A	50	50
B	0	0
C	100	100
D	200	252.95
E	50	125
Total	400	527.95

Membership in professional and scientific organizations

Dr. Ani Chavoushian is a member of many Bulgarian and foreign professional and scientific organizations – Bulgarian Scientific Society of Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Ultrasonography, Bulgarian Association of Ultrasound in Medicine, Bulgarian Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists, Bulgarian

Medical Association, European Crohn Colitis Organization (ECCO), European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE), European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), International Bowel Ultrasound Group (IBUS GROUP).

CONCLUSION

Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian, PhD is a respected and established gastroenterologist with high professional competence, clinical experience and certified skills in gastrointestinal ultrasonography and endoscopy. She is intelligent, precise and responsible in her work and is a person of high authority both among the scientific community and the among patients with various chronic diseases.

The scientometric indices for Dr. Ani Chavoushian are in full compliance with the minimum requirements and criteria for acquiring the academic position of “Associate Professor” in compliance with the LDASRB and the Rules of procedure of “Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT” EOOD.

This gives me a reason to give with conviction my **positive assessment** and to recommend to the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for election of Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian, PhD for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Gastroenterology” for the needs of the Clinic of Gastroenterology at “Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT” EOOD.

16. 05. 2024

Prof. Dr. Vanya Gerova – Nankova, MD, PhD

