

STATEMENT

**on a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
in the scientific specialty of Surgery for the needs of the Clinic of Surgery at Acibadem City
Clinic UMBAL**

Reviewer:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavel Hristov Bochev,

Internal Member of the Scientific Jury as by order №11-07-75/28.05.2026

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty of "Surgery"—within Higher Education Area 7 ("Healthcare and Sport") and Professional Field 7.1 ("Medicine")—for the Department of Surgery at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital, announced in the *State Gazette* (DV), Issue No. 25/10.03.2026

Candidate:

Dr. Ivo Petrov Zhivkov, PhD (only candidate)

Technical compliance with the regulations governing the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital Ltd:

1. The procedural documentation complies with the requirements of Articles 57 and 58 of the Regulations on the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital EOOD (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations").
2. The candidate meets the conditions set forth in Article 55(1), (2b), and (3).
3. The documentation submitted by the candidate satisfies the requirements of Article 58(3).

Dr. Ivo Zhivkov's candidacy is eligible for participation and review.



Biographical & Professional Development

Dr. Ivo Petrov Zhivkov, MD, graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 2010. In 2016 he acquired a specialty in "General Surgery". In 2016 he graduated with a Master's degree in Health Management. In 2017 he defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic "Place and role of laparoscopic revision of the bile ducts in the diagnosis and treatment of benign extrahepatic cholangitis", with which he acquired the ONS Doctor. He has undergone additional training and specializations in bariatric surgery, reconstruction of the anterior abdominal wall, variants of laparoscopic surgery and transanal endoscopic surgery, etc. From 2021 to the present he holds the position of Head of the Department of General Surgery at the Clinic of Endoscopic, Visceral and Bariatric Surgery of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAL Vitosha. Member of the Bulgarian Surgical Society, ESSO, European Association of Endoscopic Surgery.

Scientific & Research Activity

The candidate participates with a total of 40 scientific works

2 journal publications **11** full-text publications in conference proceedings **18** published conference abstracts (5 national, 13 international in impact-factor journals) **2** chapters in a collective monograph **1** doctoral thesis and **1** independent monograph

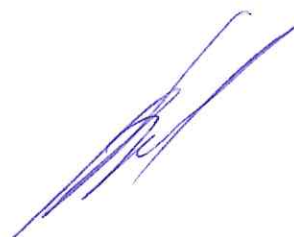
Scientometric indicators according to the unified state requirements for holding academic positions, ZRAS and the regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions in SBALO - EAD

Criteria A1:

Dr. Ivo Zhikov has acquired the doctors degree with a dissertation on the topic "Place and role of laparoscopic revision of the bile ducts in the diagnosis and treatment of benign extrahepatic cholestasis" with scientific supervisors: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sergey Iliev, MD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Georgi Garbev, MD, Pleven, 2017 and respectively with a diploma for an acquired doctoral degree from 2018, which satisfies the requirements of Art. 55 para. 1 of the Regulations and Procedure for Holding Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL EOOD (hereinafter referred to as the "Regulations").

Criteria B3:

Habilitation work-monograph.



The candidate presents a certificate for scientific work under the seal "Technical aspects of laparoscopic revision of the bile ducts" from the publishing house "Direct Services"-Sofia with the indicated ISBN 978-954-90617-9-6. The same is presented as evidence according to the requirements of item 3 of art.55. In addition to the certificate, the monographic work itself is presented, in an electronic version, suitable for evaluation/review.

Criteria B4:

Replaced by the scoring by indicator B3. The scientific works presented by the candidate in category B4 do not have the weight of equivalent publications and if the criteria under B3 are met, the need to fill in category B4 automatically disappears. I evaluate the same to category Г7 as publications and reports in indexed/refereed journals.

Criteria Г7

After correcting the position of papers 1-15, Criteria Г7 takes on the following form:

The candidate submits a total of 12 reports with published abstracts, referenced and indexed in global databases (Scopus/WebOS). In 2 of the publications, Dr. Zhivkov is the first author, in 4 – second. Two of the submitted publications have identical titles – I leave and score only one for referencing

According to criteria G8, a total of 26 publications and reports are submitted, published in abstract or full text and with a point equivalent exceeding the required one. I do not find publications 18-24 in the submitted ISSN 2603-4034 2021 (although they appear in the congress program). Position 16 has no presented source – upon additional verification, I identify it to ISSN 2603-4034 2018 and score it.

Criteria Д9:

Two titles are presented – one chapter in co-authorship in a practical guide and one in a consensus opinion.

According to criteria group Д, the candidate presents a total of 9 citations with a point equivalent of 80 points. The candidate presents an official reference with citations, where two citations are reported under Д10 - one in Scopus and one in WebOS. The citation from Scopus is by another author with the same name and the candidate has not submitted it in the academic



reference for good reason. The citations actually submitted by the candidate are verifiable and correspond to the scoring

Metric Scores vs. Requirements

Indicator Group	Required Points	Candidate Points
A (Dissertation)	50	50
B (Monograph)	100	100
G (Publications & Abstracts)	200	308.5
D (Citations)	50	80

Key Research Areas & Contributions

Based on the scientific papers presented by the candidate, including a dissertation, monograph, full-text publications and abstracts from participation in scientific forums, it is evident that the author works and builds his professional development focused on endoscopic and minimally invasive surgery, as well as specifically in bariatric surgery and surgery for obese patients.

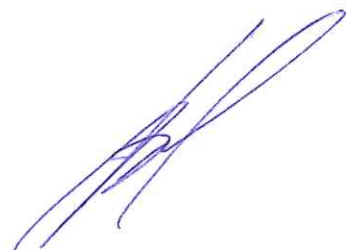
Biliary tract surgery

The presented publications and scientific papers of the candidate show in-depth and detailed knowledge in the field of bile duct surgery and, especially interestingly, rehabilitation after such surgery (the scientific work is presented mainly by reports with published abstracts in high-impact journals, which emphasizes the relevance of the topic both in theoretical and practical aspects)

Bariatric surgery and surgery for obese patients

Scientific papers presented as reports from significant international congresses are also presented on this topic. It is again striking that attention is paid to the specific nursing and general care of this contingent, as part of the comprehensive approach to them

TEM in early rectal carcinoma



Several scientific papers are presented, specifically focused on the niche application of TEM to T2 tumors

Other

Original techniques and niche applications of laparoscopic methods in biliodigestive fistulas, appendicitis, achalasia, lymph dissections in gastric carcinoma, acute pancreatitis, etc. are presented, which shows a thorough knowledge of the techniques and a desire to study new directions and opportunities

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The candidate presents an academic certificate from the Medical College - Sofia for teaching experience as a part-time lecturer 2023-2025, which satisfies the requirements of Art. 55, para 2b of the Regulations.

In conclusion, the candidacy of Dr. Ivo Petrov Zhivkov meets the state and institutional requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". His scientometric indicators cover the mandatory requirements under the ZRASRB and the Regulations. The candidate's scientific activity is diverse, but specific directions are evident in which expertise is sought, mainly in laparoscopic and minimally invasive techniques. The scientific and practical work of Dr. Ivo Zhivkov makes him a recognizable and reliable specialist in the specialty of Surgery and a narrow expert in specific endoscopic techniques

This opinion should be considered a POSITIVE vote in favor of Dr. Ivo Petrov Zhivkov in the announced competition for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor"

10/7/2026 Assoc.Prof.Pavel Bochev

