

OPINION

By Associate Professor Dr. Veselka Stoynova PhD

Head of the Diagnostic Imaging Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic Mladost, member of the Scientific Jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field "Medicine" for the needs of the Clinic of Surgery at Acibadem City Clinic Hospital, University Hospital announced in the State Gazette No. 25 of 10.03.2026

Subject: The application of Dr. Ivo Petrov Zhivkov, MD, specialist physician at the Clinic of Surgery at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital.

Professional development

Dr. Ivo Zhivkov after graduating in medicine in 2010 from the Medical University in Sofia until 2016 worked as a clinical resident at the Endoscopic and General Surgery Clinic of St. John the Baptist Hospital in Sofia. In 2016 he acquired a specialty in General Surgery. From 2015 to 2017 he was a PhD student at the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University in Pleven. In 2017 he defended his dissertation on "The place and role of laparoscopic revision of the bile ducts in the diagnosis and treatment of benign extrahepatic cholestasis" and acquired scientific and educational degree "Doctor".

From 2021-2025. is Deputy Head of the Clinic of Endoscopic and General Surgery at St. John the Baptist Hospital for Active Treatment and Surgery. Dr. Zhivkov enriches his knowledge and skills in a number of prestigious centers abroad, and we should highlight his trainings in Germany, Austria, Israel, Great Britain, etc.

His good training, along with his deep theoretical and clinical knowledge of laparoscopic techniques and capabilities, shape him as a competent and authoritative specialist in this field.

1. Research

Dr. Zhivkov participated in the competition with 40 publications and participation in congresses.

He has published 16 articles, in 5 of them he is the first author and 24 abstracts from participation in congresses and conferences. Of these, 13 articles are in refereed and indexed journals. Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer-review or published in edited collective volumes are 26. Citations or reviews in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes 1. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review 3.

Dr. Zhivkov provides a monograph "Technical Aspects of Laparoscopic Revision of the Bile Tract" and a dissertation "Place and Role of Laparoscopic Revision of the Bile Tract in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Benign Extrahepatic Cholestasis". In both works, he shows a profound and systematic approach to the problem of scientific and practical value.

Dr. Zhivkov demonstrates deep and diverse interests in the field of surgery. His focus is on the challenges of laparoscopic diagnosis and treatment of extrahepatic cholestasis. It is a good impression that the monograph, publications, as well as the dissertation of Dr. Zhivkov touch on current topics and have their real and significant scientific contributions.

2. Teaching activities

Dr. Zhivkov is a part-time lecturer at the Medical College "Yordanka Filaretova" at the Medical University. According to a reference from the Director of the Medical College, Professor Maya Vizeva, for the total classroom occupancy of students for the period 2023/2024 to 2024/2025, Dr. Zhivkov has a total of 195 teaching hours: for the academic year 2023/2024 there are 60 hours and in 2024/2025 -135 hours

CONCLUSION: Dr. Ivo Zhivkov MD is the only candidate in the competition for "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty Surgery at "Achibadem City Clinic" University Hospital

Based on the professional experience of Dr. Ivo Zhivkov as a thorough doctor and specialist in Surgery, a lecturer and scientist with multifaceted activity and in compliance with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT, I give a positive assessment and recommend to the members of the respected scientific jury to choose the candidate Dr. Ivo Zhivkov MD as Associate Professor.

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Prepared the opinion:.....

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