

REPORT

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For the Competition for an academic position “Professor” in the field: Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sport and in the professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty “Gastroenterology” for the needs of the Gastroenterology Department of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Mladost, announced in the State Gazette, issue 6 from 28.03.2021.

The Members of the Scientific Jury for the competition have been approved with Ordinance №11-07-32/01.04.2021 of the Manager and Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL, based on art.4, paragraph 2 and art. 25 for the Act on development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria; on art. 57, paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure for the conditions and order for achieving of science degrees and taking academic positions in Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL and a Decision by the Scientific committee of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL (Protocol №7/26.03.2021)

The sole candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev

Professional Development

Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev graduated with Medicine from the Medical Academy in Sofia in 1978 with honors. His professional biography includes: 1978 – 1980- Internship on Internal Diseases in the Higher Military Medical Institute /HMMI/ in Sofia; 1980 – 1981- Head Military Service (general troops doctor), Slivnitsa Garrison; 1981 – 1982- Clinical Ordinator for Internal Diseases in the Military Field Therapy Department of HHMI, Sofia; 1982 – 1989- Assistant, Head Assistant, Chief Assistant in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hematology of HMMI; 1989 – 1992- Head Clinic for Internal Diseases in Clinical Base Lozenets; 1992 – 1995- Deputy Head Clinic of Gastroenterology in the Military Medical Academy /MMA/; 1995 – 2000- Chief Assistant, Clinic of Gastroenterology; 2000 – 2016- Head II Department in the Clinic of Gastroenterology of MMA; and as of 2016 – Head Clinic of Gastroenterology of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL.

Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has participated in many courses abroad – in gastroenterology, endoscopic ultrasound and retrograde endoscopic cholangiography, interventional ultrasound, high-frequency thermal therapy, treatment of gallstone disease, problems of liver transplant patients with Hepatitis C viral infection, as well as medical management courses.

He has recognized degrees in Internal Diseases /1985/, Military Field Therapy /1987/ and Gastroenterology and Dietetics /1989/.

Dr. Handzhiev has qualification for conventional and interventional upper and lower endoscopy (I, II, III Level), Conventional, Doppler and Interventional ultrasound (I, II, III Level), thermal tumor ablation; and a Certificate for Competency to perform diagnostic and therapeutic procedures under X-ray control.

Scientific Activity

Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" from the Military Medical Academy, Dept. Gastroenterology, liver-pancreatic surgery and transplantology for the science specialty "Gastroenterology" in professional field 7.1. Medicine for a defended PhD Thesis on the subject of: "Diagnostic and therapeutic percutaneous procedures upon some diseases of the abdominal and retroperitoneal organs of the gastrointestinal tract" in 2013.

He is a scientific supervisor for receiving the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Dr. Ani Agop Chavoushian on the subject: "Diverticulosis and diverticulosis disease of the colon – pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects" and of Dr. Girgina Manolova Stoyanova on the subject of "Heredity, precancerosis and monitoring in patients with colorectal carcinoma".

The candidate presents 48 publications, out of which – 10 in foreign periodicals and 33 – in Bulgarian; 42 participations in congresses, 23 – in Bulgaria; 1 own Monography; 1 collective Monography; 1 separate section in 2 oncology textbooks.

In a table with points system for the minimal requirements, based on group indicators, further to the Rules of Procedure for participation in the competition, in Section 1 he has 840 points /minimum required 200/, in Section 2 he has 340 points /minimum required 100/, and in section 3 – 175 points (minimum required 100).

The enquiry for his publications and contributions shows the versatile interests and activities of the author. He has elaborated a document for performance of percutaneous diagnostic and therapeutic methods in the gastroenterological practice, as for each procedure its indications, obligatory pre-operative tests, possible complications and actions for their prevention, have been specified. An algorithm with application of percutaneous procedures in liver abscess, cholestasis, biloma, liver and extrahepatic hematoma, has been elaborated by the candidate. He has studied the intraductal percutaneous contrast-enhanced echography with sensitivity and specificity, as an alternative to the X-ray-assisted cholangiography and the perspective of its introduction in daily practice has been discussed. An analysis on the complications from percutaneous biopsies under ultrasound guidance has been performed with relation to different factors. A detailed description and analysis of the predictive factors of biloma have been made. The correlation between survival rate and bilirubin level decrease in high-level cholestasis after performance of pre-operative drainage

has been studied. The activity of the author has significant impact on the popularization of the abovementioned activities in Bulgaria.

A large portion of the scientific activity of the candidate is the research on the epidemiology, etiology, diagnostics and therapy of primary liver tumors, with an accent on the interventional methods for treatment and multidisciplinary approach. During the 2011 – 2014 period, Dr. Handzhiev participated with specialists from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in a joint elaboration of a computer model of radiofrequency ablation in liver tumors, a certificate for which has been presented.

Another part of the scientific activity of the author covers study on the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic diseases, liver encephalopathy, as well as abdominal localization of Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

The candidate participated in an international multicentric study of an alternative method for treatment of refractory ascites with an automated low-debit pump system, with analysis of the methodology and safety, published in the Journal of Hepatology – the leading European journal in hepatology.

Of importance are the contributions of the author from the point of view of the gastroenterological participation in a Tumor Board with study of gastrointestinal stromal tumors, colorectal carcinoma, pancreatic cancer, occurrence of a second neoplasm, protocol for preventive gastric stoma, locoregional therapy in primary and metastatic tumors, early detection and action in local treatment complications, action upon recurrence and progression of metastatic tumors, HAI, application of ultrasound methods in oncology, action in some complications from oncologic treatment – hepatotoxicity, biliary obstruction, liver failure, as well as adaptation of activities with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.

An inquiry for the citations of the scientific works in Bulgarian and foreign sources from the Central Medical Library of the Medical University in Sofia shows 42 Bulgarian citations, 131 citations in the Scopus Base and 111 citations in the Web of Knowledge database.

Lecturing activity

Between 1982 and 2000, Dr. Handzhiev is an assistant-lecturer on Military Field therapy in HHMI /MMA/, Sofia; between 1984 and 1995 – a part-time lecturer in Internal Diseases in the Medical School for nurses in Sofia; since 2000 he leads theoretical and practical training with post-graduate doctors and specialists in gastroenterology I, II, III level echography in MMA, including theoretical and practical course for training of post-graduate doctors in liver biopsy /Menghini method/; between 2002 and 2013, he partakes in the elaboration of programs for echography courses I, II, III level, approved by the Rectorate of Medical Academy, Sofia and he is a member of a Committee for licensing of doctors for echography I and II level, appointed by the Rector of the Medical Academy; since 2013 – elaborates a training program for I, II, III level echography and “Blind liver biopsy” using Menghini Method for the needs of the MMA, Sofia in the composition of the Medical Faculty of Sofia University Sr. Kliment Ohridski; since 2013 he is a member of a Committee for acceptance of post-graduate doctors in gastroenterology to the Sofia University; in 2014 he is an instructor in a

Hands-on learning session on interventional ultrasound of EUROSON; in the 2014-2016 period, he is a member of a committee for practical exam for Gastroenterology specialty; and since 2016 – a regular lecturer in gastroenterology of students from the Medical Faculty of Sofia University (III and IV year).

Teaching activity

According to the enclosed note from the Medical Faculty of the Sofia University, Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has led 48 hours of lecturing with III year Medicine students during 2016/2017; 90 hours with III year Medicine students in 2018/2019; 120 hours with IV year Medicine students in 2019/2020; 90 hours with IV year Medicine students in 2020/2021, out of which – 30 in English.

Social and Scientific activity

Dr. Handzhiev declares membership in the Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology, the Bulgarian Association of gastroenterologists and surgeons, the Bulgarian Association for ultrasound in medicine (BAUM), the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB), the European Association for study of the liver (EASL), the American Association for Study of the Liver (AASLD). He is a regular lecturer and chairperson of sessions in the National congresses for ultrasound in medicine, National hepatology conferences, National congresses and conferences in gastroenterology.

Conclusion

Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev is a highly qualified doctor, lecturer, author of scientific works. His career is marked by devotion to serious, severe, socially significant diseases, expertise and acknowledgement. He has a dignified professional, scientific and lecturing career, and is among the most recognizable persons in Bulgarian Gastroenterology.

I give my positive position for the participation of Dr. Stoyan Stefanov Handzhiev in the competition.

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Prof. Dr. Jordan Genov, MD, PhD:

