

REVIEW REPORT

by Prof. Dr. Krasimir Antonov Antonov, MD–PhD, Clinic of Gastroenterology, Internal Diseases Dept. of Sveti Ivan Rilski University Hospital, Medical Faculty of Medical Academy Sofia, regarding: 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 lecturing, training, research and scientific activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev have been assessed according to the requirements of Section IV of the Regulations for the terms and procedure for acquiring of academic position, the minimal national requirements and the requirements under art.2, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev graduated with Medicine in 1978 in the Medical Academy in Sofia and started working as a general troops doctor, Slivnitsa Garrison (1980 – 1981). He was appointed clinical ordinator in Internal Diseases in Military Field Therapy Department of the Higher Military Medical Institute in Sofia (1981 - 1982), and from 1982 to 1989, after a competitive exam, we worked as an Assistant, Chief Assistant, Head Assistant in the Gastroenterology and Hematology in HMMI, Sofia.

Between 1989 and 1992, Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev was Head of the Internal Diseases Clinic in the Lozenetz Clinical Base of the Military Medical Academy, and between 1992 and 1995 he was Deputy Head of the Clinic of Gastroenterology of MMA, Sofia. Between 2000 and 2016 he was Head of II Department, Clinic of Gastroenterology, MMA, Sofia. Since 2016 until present (2021), Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is head of the Gastroenterology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Mladost.

Since 1984, Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev has a degree in Internal Diseases, and since 1987 – a degree in Gastroenterology and Dietetics. In 2013 he acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” after defending a Dissertation on the subject of “Diagnostic and therapeutic percutaneous procedures upon some diseases of abdominal and retroperitoneal organs of the gastrointestinal tract”. In 2015, he received the academic position “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty of Gastroenterology. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has numerous specializations in Bulgaria and abroad – Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, France.

He is a certified specialist in: conventional and interventional upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy (I, II and III Level); conventional, Doppler and interventional



abdominal ultrasonography (I, II and III Level); contrast-enhanced ultrasonography; high-frequency thermal therapy (mono- and bipolar); IV qualification level for use of nuclear energy – X-ray (scopic and contrast-enhanced mode)

He is fluent in English, German and Russian. He has excellent computer skills and utilizes the most innovative communication technologies.

For the present competition, Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev has presented 90 scientific publications, elaborations and participations in national and international forums.

He the author of 48 actual scientific publications, out of which – 10 original articles in scientific journals abroad with IF, where he is a first author in 4. The total IF of the publications is 108,524. The remaining 38 articles are in Bulgarian referenced journals, one of which is with Internal IF, and he is a first author in 24 of those articles.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has presented 42 participations with reports and posters in scientific congresses and conferences (23 national), published in Bulgarian and foreign journals and compendiums.

Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is the author of one Monograph and co-author of two textbooks. He has been positively cited in a total of 173 occasions, with 42 citations in Bulgarian scientific journals and between 111 and 113 citations are in foreign scientific journals, according to the reference sources used (Web of Knowledge and Scopus, resp.), which in part overlap.

Under the system for minimal group indications requirements, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev received 840 points (with a minimum required 200) under Section I; 340 points (with a minimum required 100) under Section II; and 175 points (with a minimum required 100) under Section III.

The main scientific research and contributions of Assoc. Prof .Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev are related to all percutaneous and interventional procedures with ultrasonography and X-ray assistance in diagnostic and therapeutic aspect. He elaborates a Fiche for performance of percutaneous diagnostic and therapeutic gastroenterological procedures. He proposes an algorithm for application of percutaneous procedures in liver abscess, cholestasis, biloma disease, hepatic and extrahepatic hematoma.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev actively participates in the clinical practice introduction of intraductal contrast-enhanced percutaneous cholangiography upon contraindications for X-ray assisted procedures. For the first time in Bulgaria, he makes an analysis of the complications after performance of percutaneous biopsies under ultrasound control. He makes a detailed description and analysis of the predictive factors of biloma disease. He



analyses the relation between survival rate and decrease of bilirubin level in cases of cholestasis following pre-operative percutaneous drainage.

A pioneering elaboration is the introduction of peritoneal re-infusion of ascites fluid (PRAF) upon refractory ascites with use of low-debit pump system for ascites evacuation, in which Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev takes part within an international multicenter study. He participates in joint research with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, related to the elaboration of a computer model for the process of radiofrequency liver tumor ablation and has a significant contribution to the analysis of the computer stimulation results under different work modes.

The primary hepatocellular carcinoma and the cholangiocellular carcinoma are another significant zone of scientific interest, which is evident from the the performed analysis on 5383 autopsies where 95 cases of primary liver cancer have been established. This huge material helps clarify the sensitivity and specificity of contrast-enhanced ultrasonography and the biopsy under ultrasound control as methods for confirming of HCC in which their position as an arbiter in the modern diagnostic process is defined. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev presents the imaging echographic equivalents of the different forms of acute pancreatitis in the conditions of conventional and contrast-enhanced echography. He has multiple contributions related to the oncologic practice as a member of oncologic committees.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev is a long-standing lecturer in internal diseases and gastroenterology, with 348 hours of practical teaching in English for the past 4 years with Bulgarian and foreign IV and V year Medicine students of the St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University Medical Faculty. Between 1984 and 1995, he is a part-time lecturer in Internal Diseases in the Medical School for nurses in Sofia. Between 1982 and 2000, he is assistant-lecturer in Military Field Therapy for the Higher Military Medical Institute (Military Medical Academy) in Sofia.

Since 2000, he has theoretical and practical teaching activity with post-graduate doctors and specialists in gastroenterology I, II, III Level ultrasonography for the MMA. Between 2002 and 2013, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev is a member of a Committee for licensing of doctors for performing of ultrasound procedures I and II level for the Medical University, Sofia, and he participates in the elaboration of the actual ultrasound training programs I, II and III Level.

Since 2000, he heads a practical training course for liver biopsy for post-graduate doctors in gastroenterology. Since 2013, he participates in the elaboration of training programs for echography I, II, III level, as well as for liver biopsy for the needs of MMA within the Medical Faculty of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. During 2014 and 2016, he is a member of a Committee for evaluation of post-graduate candidates for Gastroenterology to the Medical Faculty of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.



Between 2014 and 2016, he is a member of a Committee for practical exam for acquiring of Gastroenterology degree.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev has a total of 42 years of work experience, 32 years of work in the field of gastroenterology and 38 years as a lecturer.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev is a PhD Supervisor for an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of:

1. Dr. Ani Agop Chavushian on the subject of: "Diverticulosis and diverticulitis disease of the colon – pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects"

2. Dr. Gergina Manolova Stoyanova on the subject of: "Heredity, precancerosis and monitoring of patients with colorectal carcinoma"

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev is a member of the Bulgarian Scientific Fellowship for Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Echography; The Bulgarian Association of Gastroenterologists and Surgeons; The Bulgarian Association for Ultrasound in Medicine, EFSUMB, EASL, AASLD.

I consider that Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Handzhiev fully meets the obligatory and specific conditions under art. 29 of the Act on Development of the Academic in the Republic of Bulgaria as well as the quality and quantity criteria for development (appendix 3 and 4) of the Procedures for the conditions rules for taking the academy position of "Professor" in the Medical University of Sofia.

27.04.2021

Prof. Dr. Krasimir Antonov Antonov, MD-PhD



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