

REPORT

By: **Prof. Dr. Ivo Spasov Petrov, MD**

Head Clinic of cardiology, Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL, Member of the Scientific Jury for a 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.

Regarding: The candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Stefanov Handzhiev, MD, Head Clinic of Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL

1. Professional Development

Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev graduated from the English Language High School in Burgas, and Medicine – in the Medical Academy in Sofia in 1978. The same year, he started an Internship in Internal Diseases in the Higher Military Medical Institute in Sofia and then was consecutively: Clinical Ordinator in Internal Diseases, Assistant, Head Assistant and Chief Assistant in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hematology of the Military Medical Academy, Head of Department in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and, since 2016 until present – Head of the Clinic of Gastroenterology of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL.

Assoc. Prof. St. Handzhiev has three specialties – Internal Diseases /1984/, Military Field Therapy /1987/ and Gastroenterology and dietetics /1988/. He defended a Dissertation on “Diagnostic and Therapeutic percutaneous procedures upon some diseases of the gastrointestinal tract” in 2013. He received the academic position “Associate Professor” in 2015.

As an expert and specialist, he participated in Committees and courses for percutaneous and interventional procedures under ultrasound or X-ray control in diagnostics and therapeutics, which is also his main scientific and professional interest. He participated in the introduction, for the first time in Bulgaria, of Peritoneal re-infusion of ascitic fluid upon refractory ascites, as well as of the low-debit pump system for evacuation of ascites, resistant to treatment. He introduced in clinical practice the intraductal contrast enhanced percutaneous cholangiography for patients with counter-indications for performance of X-ray assisted procedures.

The candidate has participated in national courses and has specialized in many leading centers of his specialty – in Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands and Denmark. He is one of the leading specialists in Bulgaria in upper and lower endoscopy, conventional and Doppler abdominal

ultrasound, interventional percutaneous procedures under ultrasound and X-ray control, a licensed expert in high-frequency thermal ablation.

Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is a member of all Bulgarian organizations in gastroenterology and ultrasound diagnostics, as well as of the leading European associations for abdominal ultrasound and liver.

2. Research and Scientific Activities

After receiving the academic position "Associate Professor", he has a total of 48 scientific publications and messages, out of which – 1 published Monograph on a subject, elaborated in detail for the first time in Bulgaria – "Locoregional therapies in primary and metastatic tumors of the liver". The Monograph elaborates on a very topical issue – the primary and metastatic tumors of the liver and the modern minimally invasive treatment methods like the locoregional therapeutic methods. It has been illustrated with many practical examples from his own experience, and is an excellent demonstration of the rich and extensive experience of Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev in the field of modern treatment methods of primary and metastatic tumors of the liver. The described material presents an impressive illustration of the competence of Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev and his broad knowledge and practical experience in the field of interdisciplinary effective practices. The scientific work presents a real practical clinical handbook for application of the methodic and describes in detail both the equipment and medications and materials, used in the different techniques.

The candidate has a total of 40 participations in Bulgarian and foreign prestigious congresses, conferences and symposia and is a first author in a total of 62% of them. In his overall scientific activities, he has 10 published articles as a co-author in prestigious European periodicals, with a very high total Impact Factor of 108.524. The Scopus Base shows 131 citations.

The most significant methodical diagnostic and therapeutic contributions of Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev are the following:

1. Elaborated and introduced in Bulgaria, with a contribution to the European practice, of original methods for application of percutaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in the gastroenterological practice
2. Proposed and introduced in the routine clinical practice of multitude of diagnostic procedures:

on the big accumulated own experience and after a thorough analysis, the possibilities, limitations, survival rate results and possible complications after LRT after performance of liver biopsy and decision of the tumor board, are presented. The relative results on patients with mono- and combined with target therapy have been proven.

4. Teaching and lecturing activity

During the past 5 years, Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev has led 348 hours of exercises in propaedeutic of Internal Diseases and in Gastroenterology with Bulgarian and foreign III

and IV year Medicine students from the Sofia University. He is leading the specialization of seven post-graduate doctors.

Under his supervision, two Dissertations for receiving the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" have been defended:

- Dr. Ani Chavoushian, on the subject – "Diverticulosis and diverticulosis disease of the colon with pathogenetic mechanisms and clinical aspects"
- Dr. Gergina Stoyanova on the subject: Heredity, pre-cancerosis and monitoring of patients with colorectal carcinoma"

CONCLUSION: Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is the sole candidate in the competition for an academic position "Professor" for the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" for the needs of the Gastroenterology Department of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL.

Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is one of the leading specialists and experts in Bulgaria in the field of gastroenterology, and more specific – in hepatology and use of minimally-invasive avant-garde methods for treatment of versatile and complex gastroenterological pathology.

Based on his distinguished scientific interests, lecturing experience, professional expertise, with acknowledged in Bulgaria, and some of his scientific achievements – acknowledged abroad, an initiator and participant of many scientific events, both home and abroad, in the field of the conventional and minimally-invasive therapeutic gastroenterology and taking into account the Rules of Rules of procedure for development of academic staff, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev covers the requirements and I convincingly recommend to the Scientific Jury to elect for "Professor" the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Stefanov Handzhiev MD.

Prepared by:


By: Prof. Dr. Ivo Spasov Petrov, MD