

REVIEW

By: Professor Nikola Vladov, MD PhD, Head of Clinic of liver-pancreatic surgery and transplantology, Military 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.

Candidate: Associate Professor Stoyan Stefanov Handzhiev, Head. Dept. Gastroenterology, Acibadem City Clinic Mladost

1. Biographic data

Assoc. Prof Stoyan Stefanov Handzhiev was born in Sredetz, Burgas region, on 13.01.1951. He graduated with Medicine in 1978 in the Medical Faculty of Medical Academy Sofia, received extensive training in internal diseases, starting from Internship to Head of medical service, general troops doctor in Slivnitsa garrison, clinical ordinator in internal disease in the field military therapy department of the Higher Military Medical Institute, assistant, head assistant, chief assistant in the Clinic of Gastroenterology and Hematology in the Higher Military Medical Institute.

Head Department of Gastroenterology Clinic in Clinical Hospital Lozenetz, a part of the Military Medical Academy; Head of Department in the Clinic of Gastroenterology of MMA, currently he heads the Clinic of Gastroenterology of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Mladost.

Assoc. Prof Stoyan Handzhiev has certified degrees in Internal Medicine, Military Field Therapy, and Gastroenterology. He specialized Internal Diseases in the Medical Academy of Sofia and Gastroenterology in ISUL. He has specialized abroad in the fields of Medical Management, gallstone disease, endoscopic ultrasound, interventional ultrasound, radiofrequency ablation, liver transplantation in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and France. Licensed expert in conventional gastrointestinal endoscopy, conventional and interventional ultrasound, high-frequency thermal therapy, X-ray in scopic and contrast-graphic mode

2. Scientific research

Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev presents himself with 48 scientific works after he received the Associate Professor position, 33 of them in Bulgarian periodicals in the field of Gastroenterology, one own Monograph and three co-works – one Monograph and two medical textbooks.

The candidate has presented reports in 23 Bulgarian Scientific meetings and 28 abroad.

The Bulgarian publications are in: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Ultrasound, Bulgarian Hepatogastroenterology, Medic Art, Medinfo, Bulgarian Oncologic Fellowship Journal, MediCall, Studia Oncologia.

The publications in foreign journals are in: Journal of Hepatology (1), New England Journal of Medicine (1), Hepatology (2), European Journal of Ultrasound (5), Molecular Imaging and Radionuclide Therapy (1); with a total Impact Factor 108,524. The Bulgarian Diagnostic and Therapeutic Ultrasound Journal has an internal Impact Factor.

The attached SCOPUS Base report from the Central Medical Library shows 131 citations.

- Elaborates an Algorithm for action upon liver abscess (11,31)
- An original contribution of Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is the introduced for the first time in Bulgaria by him intraductal percutaneous contrast-enhanced echography, in some of the cases – with a simultaneous venous contrast-enhanced echography and target biopsy under ultrasound navigation and biliary drainage. (4,31,38).
- The publication, related to the complications from the applied percutaneous diagnostic and therapeutic procedures with ultrasound assistance have an original accent – a result of deep analysis, based on own experience with foreign literature (5,22,31).
- Of contribution for the oncologic practice are the publications, related to the cooperation with teams from the Military Medical Academy Sofia and several other big oncologic hospitals with regard to the gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GIST), colorectal carcinoma and pancreatic cancer (32,35,26,43)
- The extensive research and analysis on biloma disease with an accent on cause and effect, the predictive factors, defining and timely staging of the drainage treatment are in the basis of therapeutic algorithm elaboration. (11,31).
- The position of Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev takes in a Tumor Board in a big Oncologic center, defines his role as an expert in applying locoregional methods for treatment of primary and metastatic tumors of the liver under the rules and guidelines of the Bulgarian and International oncologic institutions. (12,13,14).
- The complex approach with application of radiofrequency ablation /RFA/, transarterial choemoembolization (TACE), target chemotherapy and Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) upon Intermediate HCC has scientific and practical accent in cases, unsuitable for radical treatment and with terminal cases with advanced stage of disease (13,34,37,40, Monograph – p.110, Oncology Textbook II Part).
- Of practical application are also the publications and shared experience for the complications, related to the application of TACE and RFA, their early recognition and counter-action (43,44).

- The elaborated Pilot Project in cooperation with nuclear medicine experts is an original starting point for clarification of the indications "for" and monitoring of the effect of locoregional therapies in primary and metastatic liver tumors (32,41).

3. Lecturing Activities

Assoc. Prof Stoyan Handzhiev is an established lecturer for the Medical Faculty of the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. During the last 5 years, he has 348 hours of lecturing, including practical exercises for third-year medicine students in the discipline "Propaedeutic of Internal Diseases"; and Internal Diseases - Gastroenterology for fourth-year students. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, he has led 60 hours of practice in Internal Diseases – Gastroenterology and 30 hours of Gastroenterology practice for fourth-year students in English.

During the last 5 years, Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev has been a Scientific Supervisor of four postgraduates and of two already received Gastroenterology Degree.

He is a PhD Supervisor for two "Doctor" degree specialists.

4. Scientific Membership

Assoc. Prof. Handzhiev is a member of:

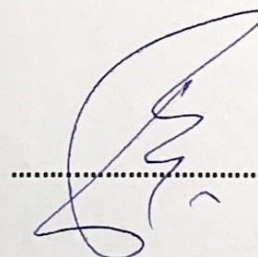
- Bulgarian Gastroenterology Fellowship
- Bulgarian Association of Gastroenterologists and surgeons
- Bulgarian Association for Ultrasound in Medicine
- Bulgarian Association for Study of the Liver
- A Regular Consultant for the Bulgarian Oncologic Scientific Fellowship Magazine
- European Association of Ultrasound (EUROSON)
- European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine (EFSUMB)
- European Association for Study of the Liver (EASL)
- American Association for study of the Liver (AASLD)

In conclusion, I deem that Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev has the necessary scientific and teaching activities in order to receive the academic position "Professor" pursuant to the Act on Development of the Academic in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules of Procedure for taking academic positions of Acibadem City Clinic UMBAL Mladost.

I hereby give my approval and recommend to the Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Handzhiev with the academic position "Professor".

04.05.2021

Professor Nikola Vladov



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