

## REVIEW

Regarding the procedure for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education "Health and Sport" in the professional field "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Cardiology" for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of the University Hospital "Acibadem City Clinic" – Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury, who prepared the opinion – **Prof. Dr. Arman Shnork Postadzhian, MD**

**The competition for "Associate Professor" of Cardiology for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic of University Hospital "Acibadem City Clinic" – Sofia is announced in the State Gazette no. 60/29 July 2022**

**The scientific jury of the competition was appointed by Order No 11-03-956#2 of 11.11.2022 of the Executive Director and Procurator of Acibadem City Clinic, University Hospital.**

The opinion has been prepared in accordance with the Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for the Application of the Academic Staff Act and the Regulations on the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Occupying Academic Positions.

The presented set of materials on paper / electronic is in accordance with the procedure for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" and the rules of the University Hospital "Acibadem City Clinic" – Sofia

The only candidate is Dr. Zoran Jovan Stankov, MD, Head of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at the Cardiology Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic, University Hospital.

I declare the absence of any conflict of interest in the preparation of the opinion.

I have not found plagiarism in the peer-reviewed works submitted to me.

### **Biographical data**

Dr. Stankov is a physician with a very good theoretical background and extensive clinical practice in the field of interventional cardiology. He is an excellent interventional cardiologist with significant experience gained at Tokuda University

Hospital (2009 – 2012) and Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital EOOD – Sofia (2012 – present). Since 2020 he is Head of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at the Cardiology Clinic at Acibadem City Clinic University Hospital - Sofia. He is fluent and applies daily in practice the main invasive diagnostic and therapeutic methods in cardiology with **a strong interest in innovative approaches to endovascular treatment of:** aortic dissection type A by Stanford; malperfusion syndrome in AD; complex structural defects of the heart, **as well as modern methods of:** transcatheter implantation of the aortic and mitral valves; complex coronary and peripheral interventions.

He has acquired specialties in "Cardiology", "Angiology" and a certificate of professional qualification in "Interventional Cardiology" from the Medical University – Sofia. He has a Master's degree in Health Management from Medical University-Sofia.

**Dr. Stankov is a member of:** Bulgarian Society of Cardiology, the European Society of Cardiology, the Bulgarian Society of Interventional Cardiology and the Bulgarian Society of Endovascular Therapy.

He is a regular speaker at the annual events of a number of international scientific congresses and conferences: Balkan Endovascular Course (BEC); Paris Course of Revascularization (PCR); Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT); Top to Toe Transcatheter Solutions (4TS);

Dr. Stankov, together with prof. Ivo Petrov, is the winner of the Award for Excellence in the Health Sector in Bulgaria, awarded for an innovative method of implantation of stent in aortic dissection, a topic to which the doctoral thesis of the candidate is also dedicated.

Dr. Zoran Stankov has presented **a written reference** for compliance and fulfillment of the minimum national requirements (MNR) for "**Associate Professor**", including publications, citations and scientific research:

- Dissertation for the award of the PhD in Medicine
- „Endovascular treatment of aortic dissection type A and type B” **group. A = 50 points (MNR 50 points)**
- Habilitation — scientific publications (min. 10) in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE): **group B = 115 points (MNR 100 points)**

- Publications and reports in foreign and Bulgarian editions, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE): **group G7 = 203 points**
- Publications and reports in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes: **group G8 = 51.83 points**
- Published chapters from collective monographies: **group G9 = 34 points,**

**Total number of points in group G = 288.83 points (MNR - 200 points)**

- Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific reviews: **group D11 = 50 points.**

**Total number of points in group D = 50 points (MNR — 50 points)**

**Total number of points from indicators A, B, G and D = 503.83 points (MNR — 400 points)**

The number, nature and contribution of the materials are in accordance with and meet the minimum national requirements, as well as those of the basic organization and are sufficient to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor".

Dr. **Stankov's research activity** is up-to-date and diverse, including a wide range of diseases that determine high morbidity and mortality from cardiovascular incidences in our country. The strong affinity and professional expertise of the candidate in the field of endovascular treatment of structural heart diseases and the introduction into practice of new, minimally invasive methods of treatment in complex pathologies are impressive. The significant progress of interventional cardiology and Dr. Stankov is in line with the achievements in this field. The works are characterized by thoroughness and analytical, very good and adequate theoretical and practical production, which is evidenced by the fact that some of them are published in prestigious international journals. The theses and conclusions are original and definitely have serious scientifically applied potential, and many of the productions predispose to further development.

Some significant **contributions** to Dr. Stankov's research activities should be noted:

- Actively participated in the development and implementation of the innovative minimalist and precise approach to transcatheter implantation of aortic valve (TAVI) in Bulgaria; participated actively in the intervention team that performed the implantation of the first MitraClip in Bulgaria

- For the first time in Bulgaria, he explores endovascular therapeutic options in a large group of patients (70 in total) with AD type A and type B with clinical CT follow-up at 1st, 3rd, 6th and 12th months for the evolution of the true and false lumen, frequency of repeated interventions and mortality;
- For the first time in Bulgaria. studied the frequency and methods of endovascular treatment of malperfusion syndrome in AD caused by stenosis / thrombosis in different vascular territories (carotid, subclavian, visceral and peripheral arteries) and requiring secondary endovascular or hybrid revascularization;
- Analysis of methods for diagnosis and treatment of occlusion of the basilar artery with the development of a specific nosocomial protocol for behavior in this potentially life-threatening condition;
- Application of an innovative method for renal denervation of distal segments and branches of the renal artery with brachial access in patients with resistant hypertension;
- Analysis of the methods for treatment and follow-up of the early and late results of the endovascular treatment of patients with Takayasu's arteritis published for the first time in Bulgaria
- Analysis of the safety and effectiveness of polymer-free coronary stents in patients with stable angina and a high risk of bleeding when taking double antiplatelet therapy

**The total IF**, calculated on the basis of the official report submitted by the CML of MUSofia, is **113.28**.

Based on the above, as well as the complete lack of "publications for completeness" and without specific clinical and therapeutic significance, I highly appreciate the research and applied value of the scientific works of the candidate.

### **Teaching activities**

A reference for the teaching activities of Dr. Zoran Stankov is presented. He has been a part-time assistant at the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Epidemiology, Infectious and Skin Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Dr. Stankov's lecture with medical students' IV course in the cycle "Cardiology", field "Internal Medicine" were as follows:

- ✓ In the academic year 2019/2020 - 60 academic hours;

- ✓ In the academic year 2020/2021 - 150 academic hours;
- ✓ In the academic year 2021/2022 - 90 academic hours.

In "Acibadem City Clinic, University Hospital " - Sofia Dr. Stankov has, for the period 2019-2021, 150 hours per year teaching postgraduates in cardiology - a total of 300 equivalent hours of lectures and seminars.

**In conclusion**, Dr. Stankov presented himself as a complete specialist with extensive doctoral, research and teaching experience. He has a recognized specialty in cardiology and angiology, has defended a dissertation and is a doctor of medicine. He is proficient and applies practically all modern methods of invasive cardiology, showing an essential affinity for the treatment of structural heart diseases and complex therapeutic approaches. The scientific production of Dr. Stankov is quite sufficient in volume and content, and in its importance, degree of novelty and justification of scientific achievements meets the requirements of the Law on Combating Organized Crime and the rules of "Acibadem City Clinic, University Hospital " - Sofia for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor". The contribution of scientific production is substantial, as evidenced by positive citations in medical periodicals.

**This gives me grounds to vote with a positive vote and to propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to support the selection of Dr. Zoran Jovan Stankov, MD, for "Associate Professor" of Cardiology for the needs of the Cardiology Clinic, "Acibadem City Clinic, University Hospital" - Sofia.**



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**Sofia, Bulgaria**

**Prof. Arman Postadzhiyan, MD, PhD.**

**Medical University-Sofia**  
**Cardiology Clinic**  
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