

**To the Chairman
of the Scientific Jury,
determined by Order
№ P - 1319 / 06.06.2022.
of the Rector of MU Plovdiv**

On your Protocol №1 / from 17.06.2022

(date of the first meeting)

Attached I present: Statement

in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"

in the scientific specialty "General and operative surgery"

announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases,
Section of General Surgery

in SG, issue 20 / 11.03.2022

Reviewer: Prof. Dr. Ivan Zhechev Traikov, MD

Scientific specialty / s General Surgery; Plastic and reconstructive and aesthetic surgery

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**Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679**

STATEMENT

PROF. IVAN ZHECHEV TRAYKOV, MD PhD

Subject: Announced competition for AD "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "General Surgery" for the needs of the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, Section "General Surgery" at the Medical University of Plovdiv, announced in SG. No. 20 / 11.03.2022

I present this opinion in my capacity as a member of the Scientific Jury, approved by Order P-1319 / 06.06.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University of Plovdiv.

The only candidate in the announced competition is Dr. Boyko Chavdarov Atanasov, MD - Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, Medical University of Plovdiv.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile (short biographical data).

Dr. Boyko Chavdarov Atanasov was born in 1978 in the city of Plovdiv. He graduated from high school in Plovdiv in 1995, and in 2005 graduated with honors from the Medical University of Sofia. From 2001 to 2012, Dr. Atanasov worked as an ordinary surgeon at the Clinic of General Surgery with Coloproctology, where he began his specialization. On 31.01.2008, the candidate acquired a specialty in General Surgery. Since 2012 and currently, Dr. Boyko Atanasov is working in the Surgical Department of UMHAT "Eurohospital" in Plovdiv. The academic career of the candidate started as an AD Assistant Professor in 2011, while in 2018. He gained the AD "Chief Assistant Professor" in the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases in the General Surgery section. In 2017 he obtained an educational and scientific degree "PhD" after successfully defending his PhD dissertation named: " Contemporary treatment of distal rectal cancer with conventional and laparoscopic operations after neoadjuvant radiation and chemotherapy". In 2019, Dr. Atanasov completed a second master's degree in Health Management at VUARR - Plovdiv. Dr. Boyko Atanasov, MD, PhD speaks English and Russian in a very good command. He is a co-founder and member of the Bulgarian Emergency Surgery and Trauma Society/BESTS/. He is also a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association/BMA/; member of BSS / Bulgarian Surgical Society /; The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria ; member of WSES (World Society of Emergency Surgery); member of ESCP (European Society of Coloproctology); member of IASGO

(International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists); member of the IHPBA (International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association)

II. General description of the submitted materials in the competition Dr. Atanasov presents all the necessary documents for the election of the academic position of "Associate Professor", in accordance with the Law on Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its implementation and the Rules for Academic Development at MU Plovdiv .

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development Dr. Boyko Atanasov is the author of a dissertation for the acquisition of ONS "Doctor"/PhD/. He published a monograph on "Patient safety and therapeutic approaches in the treatment of colonoscopic iatrogenic perforations" in 2021. At present the candidate is an author and co-author of a total of 108 scientific papers. His dissertation on "Contemporary treatment of distal rectal cancer with conventional and laparoscopic surgery after neoadjuvant radiation and chemotherapy" is a current, critical analysis of the combination of conventional and minimally invasive surgical approaches, with neoadjuvant therapy for rectal cancer treatment.

Dr. Atanasov has 20 publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of science, 19 of which are in journals with Impact factor (Clarivate Analytics). The fields of scientific interest of the candidate are current problems in emergency and planned oncology surgery, colo-rectal surgery, abdominal sepsis with "Open abdomen" treatment. Outstanding publications of global interest are: "The role and impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the perioperative period"; " Prospective case study of acute appendicitis worldwide"; "Surgical treatment of hepatic echinococcosis".

After acquiring ONS "Doctor"/PhD/, the candidate presents 88 publications and reports in non-refereed journals with scientific review, concerning planned and emergency surgery, mostly in the fields of gastrointestinal, hepato-biliary and colorectal, mainly laparoscopic oncologic surgery. Dr. Atanasov participated in two projects, named: 1) National scientific or educational project: Project BG05M2OP001-2.013-0001 of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Internships - Phase 2" funded by OP NOIR and 2) International scientific or educational project: Project with CNR-Institute of Translational Pharmacology, Rome and Institute of Biomembranes and Bioenergetics, Bari, Italy, aimed at examining the link between colorectal cancer and microbiota.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work submitted for participation in the competition for "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" by the candidate

Dr Atanasov's habilitation paper, written on 140 pages is scientifically peer-reviewed one. The presented monograph is an extended overview of the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of iatrogenic trauma of the colon in endoscopic procedures based on original algorithms.

V. Citation of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature

Dr. Atanasov has provided a total of 310 citations, 253 of which are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of science. The candidate has h-index 10, according to Scopus data, which is considerably high for surgeons nationwide. These indicators exceed the requirements in PPZRASRB and the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University - Plovdiv.

VI. Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, postgraduates.

The academic activities of Dr. Atanasov in the last 3 years exceed the required minimum for the respective category of lecturers at the Medical University - Plovdiv. The candidate conducts practical classes, lectures in Bulgarian and participates in commissions for conducting semester exams in the discipline "General and Operative Surgery" at the Medical University – Plovdiv for third grade medical students. Since 2020 Dr. Atanasov has been the leading academic mentor, as well as an examiner for MD candidates at UMHAT Eurohospital-Plovdiv. He is responsible for the scientific affairs in the Chair and since 2022 he has been the Chief Administrative Assistant Professor in the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases. Since 2020 he became an active research associate at the Research Institute of MU-Plovdiv, with significant publishing activity in the field of "Patient Safety in Surgery". His current certification assessment from 2018-2020 is very good. Dr. Atanasov is extremely active in improving his professional competence, participating in various courses like "Laparoscopic surgery", "Teachers of "Laparoscopic Surgery" - "LAPCO TT TRAIN THE TRAINER LAPAROSCOPIC COLORECTAL SURGERY"; "Basics of ultrasound diagnostics", "Surgical treatment of diseases of the hepatobiliary system and pancreas", "Pancreatic cancer-multidisciplinary approach" - postgraduate course. This additional qualification has enabled the candidate to practice, teach and introduce new methods of modern advanced laparoscopic surgery.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations.

I have no critical remarks. I highly recommend to Dr. Boyko Atanasov to continue and develop his professional, scientific, and publishing activities.

VIII. General assessment of the compliance of the applicant with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of ZRASRB and the specific requirements for MU - Plovdiv by directions and for units with / without clinical activity, defined in the Regulations for academic development at the MU - Plovdiv. The evidence provided by the applicant on electronic media shows complete compliance, coverage, even exceeding the minimum required indicators. Dr. B. Atanasov meets the general conditions for completed Higher Medical Education, acquired specialty in Surgery/MD/, ONS "Doctor"/PhD/ in the relevant scientific specialty, meets the mandatory requirements for habilitation work and minimum requirements for the presence of at least 10 articles referred to in Scopus and Web of Science, including 3 with impact factor. For the current competition, the articles referenced in Scopus and Web of Science are 20, and 19 of them have an impact factor. The citations of scientific publications in publications included in world-famous databases are 253, which exceeds the set criterion of at least 7.

IX. Conclusion

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Boyko Atanasov, MD, PhD is a full-fledged surgeon, very good lecturer, and researcher. He has excellent theoretical training, demonstrates significant practical skills, and owes potential for future academic development. He enjoys authority among colleagues, students, interns, postgraduates, and patients.

In this competition the candidate participates with more than sufficient number of scientific papers, citations and projects exceeding the minimum requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for development of the academic staff at the Medical University - Plovdiv for the academic position "Associate Professor".

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I give a definite positive opinion and recommend to the colleagues of the esteemed jury to positively vote for Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Boyko Chavdarov Atanasov, MD, PhD in acquiring the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in General Surgery at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

July 08, 2022
Plovdiv

Opinion author
(Prof. Dr. Ivan Trajkov, PhD)

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