

**ВОЕННОМЕДИЦИНСКА  
АКАДЕМИЯ**

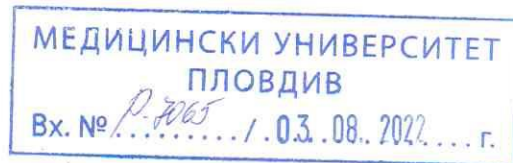
София 1606, бул. "Г. Софийски" №3,  
Република България  
Тел.: (+359 2) 92 25 711, 92 25 200



**MILITARY MEDICAL  
ACADEMY**

№3, G. Sofiisky Str., 1606 Sofia,  
Bulgaria  
Tel.: (+359 2) 92 25 711, 92 25 200

1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022



To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
determined by Order P-1319/06.06.2022  
of the Rector of the MU-Plovdiv

**REVIEW**

Associate Professor Dr. Ivelin Takorov, MD, PhD

*Head of First Clinic of Abdominal Surgery, Military Medical Academy - Sofia*

*Subject: Contest for the academic position "Associate professor" in direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "General and Operative Surgery", section "General Surgery" in the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases at the Medical University of Plovdiv, announced in the State Gazette number 20, issued on 11.03.2022.*

One candidate participated in the contest - Dr. Boyko Chavdarov Atanasov, MD. He submitted all the necessary documents in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the ZRASRB.

Dr. Boyko Atanasov was born in 1978 in the city of Plovdiv. He completed his medical education at the Medical University of Sofia in 2001. He started working in the First Clinic of General Surgery at UMHAT "St. George" immediately after graduation. He acquired MD in "General Surgery" in 2008. Dr. Atanasov is an important member of the surgical team in UMHAT "Eurohospital" - one of the leading units of modern abdominal surgery in Bulgaria from 2012 up to now. His academic development started in 2010 as a part-time assistant professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, and in 2011 he was elected as an "assistant professor" in the same department. He obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD " with a dissertation on the topic: "Modern treatment of distal rectal cancer with conventional and laparoscopic operations after neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy" in 2017. Dr. Atanasov is a "chief assistant professor" at the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases of the Medical University of Plovdiv from 2018, and he became a chief administrative assistant professor in 2022 . He successfully completed the Master's degree in "Health Management" at VUARR-Plovdiv in 2019. Dr. Atanasov's passed numerous specializations, mainly concerning laparoscopic, hepato-biliary-pancreatic, gastric and colon surgery, ultrasound diagnostics and treatment of intra-abdominal infections at the Military Medical Academy - Sofia, Medical University of Plovdiv, IRCAD - Strasbourg (France), which are of importance for this position. He successfully completed two laparoscopic surgery courses for teachers and has a high level of computer literacy. Dr. Atanasov's main interests are in the field of innovative technologies, experimental, minimally invasive and robotic surgery. He is an experienced academic surgeon and consultant, proficient in modern techniques and methods for the treatment of benign and oncological abdominal pathologies. Dr. Atanasov speaks English and Russian. He is a member of the International Association of Biliary-Hepatic and Pancreatic Surgery (IHPBA), the International Association of Surgeons-Gastroenterologists and Oncologists (IASGO), the World Society of Emergency Surgery (WSES), the European Society of Coloproctology (ESCP), the Bulgarian Surgical Society (BSS), and the Bulgarian Medical Union (BMA). He participates in expert working research groups of WSES and ESCP in the field of emergency surgery (acute appendicitis, open abdomen and intra-abdominal sepsis) and colorectal cancer.

Dr. Atanasov presents 128 scientific works in the current contest. Of these, 111 real publications: 1 dissertation and abstract, 1 habilitation thesis - monograph , 20 full-text publications and reports published in scientific books, referred and indexed in world-famous databases and 88 publications

and reports published in non-referred journals or in edited collective volumes, as well as 6 reports on international congresses and conferences and 11 reports from national and regional congresses and conferences. He published in high indexed journals like: The Lancet, World Journal of Surgery, British Journal of Surgery, World Journal of Emergency Surgery, International Journal of Surgery, Anesthesia, Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology, etc. The overall Impact Factor of the above-mentioned publications is 165.25, and the individual Impact Factor of Dr. Boyko Atanasov is 2.07.

The analysis of Dr. Atanasov 's scientific output shows steady progress over the years. The candidate is first author in 38 of the articles, second author in 11, third and consecutive author in 59 papers. The scientific articles and reports concern modern treatment approaches, but they cover the entire spectrum of abdominal surgery and can be grouped in the following areas: 1. Coloproctology – laparoscopic treatment of colorectal carcinoma, diverticulitis, transanal surgery, treatment of iatrogenic colon injuries; 2. Mini-invasive gastric surgery; 3. Liver surgery - echinococcosis and colorectal cancer liver metastases; 4. Mini-invasive pancreatic surgery; 5. Bile ducts and gall bladder; 6. Cytoreductive surgery and intraabdominal chemotherapy; 7. Surgical treatment of inguinal and ventral hernias; 8. EREAS programs; 9. Acute appendicitis; 10. Peritonitis; 11. Open abdomen; 12. Intra-abdominal infections and sepsis; 13. COVID – infection; Dr Atanasov outlines the indications, effectiveness, and rationality of laparoscopic low anterior resection with total mesorectal excision in the treatment of distal rectal cancer in the context of modern complex treatment of distal rectal cancer in his dissertation " Modern treatment of distal rectal cancer with conventional and laparoscopic operations after neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy ". Essential contributions of his work are: 1. A comparative clinical study of standardized conventional and minimally invasive techniques in distal rectal carcinoma after neoadjuvant therapy; 2. Analysis of current conventional and minimally invasive operative approaches in II, III and IV stages of the disease; 3. Detailed consideration and critical analysis of the controversial and debatable topic of the indications and contraindications for performing a protective ileostomy; 4. Confirmation of the advantages of laparoscopic procedures in terms of postoperative and oncological results; 5. Introduction of a proven, modified standardized program for enhanced recovery after conventional and minimally invasive colorectal surgeries .



The candidate published a monograph on "Patient safety and therapeutic approaches in the treatment of colonoscopic iatrogenic perforations" in 2021. It discusses the main current trends in the treatment of iatrogenic colonoscopic perforations with an emphasis on the patients' safety. He presents also a study defining the frequency of iatrogenic perforations in "Eurohospital" UMBAL - 0.046% (11 cases out of 23687 fibrocolonoscopies performed). The important role of the endoscopist for early detection of lesions is indicated. A treatment strategy was implemented based on the clinical picture and patient characteristics, but also related to the experience of the medical team. The place of laparoscopic surgery in the treatment of these conditions has been confirmed, the data being similar to that from other world centers.

Another indisputable contribution to the national scientific literature represents the developments of Dr. Atanasov in the field of:

1. *Application of negative pressure in various surgical treatment methods* - a strategy developed for the prophylactic use of vacuum therapy in closing surgical wounds, the applicability of vacuum therapy in cases of necrotizing fasciitis of the anterior abdominal wall and inflammatory involvement of the perineum.

2. *Patient safety in elective laparoscopic colorectal surgery* – analyzed the learning curve in elective laparoscopic colorectal surgery, as well as possible iatrogenic injuries during laparoscopic operations.

3. *Patients' safety during emergency laparoscopic interventions* - defines criteria for the application of mini-invasive techniques in performing Hartmann operations and for restitution after Hartmann resection; analyzes the applicability of minimally invasive techniques in the treatment of complicated diverticulosis, as well as the possible treatment strategies in cases with the presence of perforation to the free abdominal cavity; defines the place of minimally invasive surgical techniques in the treatment of acute peritonitis; analyzes the applicability of laparoscopic surgery in the treatment of different forms of acute appendicitis.

4. *Treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis* - A project was successfully implemented to introduce a methodology for the treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis of various origins through cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, together with UMHAT-Eurohospital (2014-2015). Data from the treatment of nearly 70 patients was analyzed.

An objective indicator of the quality of Dr. Boyko Atanasov 's scientific output is the high level of citation of his works. The presented documentation shows more than 250 citations in scientific publications, referred and indexed in world-famous databases like SCOPUS and WEB OF SCIENCE and more than 50 citations in non-referred scientific publications with scientific review . The high number of citations could be explained with the candidate's participation in international scientific projects, which unequivocally confirms their usefulness and the need to centralize scientific data to obtain statistically reliable and practically applicable results.

The educational workload of Dr. Atanasov, including lectures, practical classes and exams of students, interns and specialists, in the last 3 years and exceeds the hourly workload requirements for the relevant academic position. Dr. Atanasov is the mentor of a resident in "General Surgery" and is included in the committee for conducting colloquiums for residents in Surgery with a base for practical training UMHAT "Eurohospital" -Plovdiv. There is an average auditor employment of 293 hours per year, as well as non-auditory – 80 hours, i.e. Dr. Atanasov devoted an average of more than 370 hours a year to educational and methodological work, in addition to performing his direct surgical work,.

The analysis of the scientometric indicators in detail confirms my observation and inner conviction that the candidate, Dr. Boyko Atanasov, meets and exceeds the criteria for the position of "associate professor" according to the current legal framework. In the self-assessment according to the mandatory minimum scientometric indicators of MU-Plovdiv for direction 7.1. Medicine, the applicant has provided the following reference:

Group A (Indicator 1): 50 points available (50 points required);

Group B (Indicator 3): 100 points available (100 points required);

Group D (Indicators 7 and 8): 732.35 points available (200 points required);

Group D (Indicators 10 and 12): 4080 points available (100 points required);

Group E (Indicators 15, 16, 17 and 22): 105 points available (60 points required);

Group G: 821 points (required 300 points);

In conclusion, I can state that the analysis of Dr. Boyko Atanasov 's scientific, teaching and diagnostic and treatment activities shows that the candidate fully meets the qualitative and quantitative criteria for the development of the academic staff specified in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Medical University-Plovdiv. Based on the excellent theoretical and practical training of Dr. Atanasov as an academic surgeon, his serious teaching activity, the expressed flair for novelties and the presented in-depth scientific developments, I support his candidacy with complete conviction, and suggest to the Honorable members of the Scientific Jury to give positive vote and elect Dr. Boyko Chavdarov Atanasov, PhD , to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty " General and operative surgery " for the needs of department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, section General surgery - Medical University - Plovdiv.

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

Jury member:



(Associate Prof. Ivelin Takorov , PhD)