

STATEMENT

by

ASSOC. PROF. DANIEL GEORGIEV VULCHEV, PhD



I. Candidate's career profile

For the occupation of the academic position "professor" in "thoracic surgery", for the needs of the Department of "Special Surgery" of the Medical University - Plovdiv, documents were submitted by Assoc. Dr. Ivan Petkov Novakov, DS.

Candidate's career profile was made on the basis of the following: certificate of internship, reference to the occupied academic positions, copies of diplomas. Assoc. prof. I. Novakov graduated Medicine with honors in 1991 at the Higher Medical Institute- Plovdiv. Since 1995, he has been an academic teacher (assistant) in the Department of "Special Surgery" at the same educational institution. Associate Professor I. Novakov developed his academic career, and since 2024 he is "Head of the Department".

In addition to the Medical University Plovdiv, Associate Professor Novakov is also a clinician at UMHAT "St. George"- Plovdiv (thoracic surgeon at the Second Clinic of Surgery).

During his career, Assoc. prof. Novakov acquired four medical specialties: "Surgery", "Oncology", "Thoracic Surgery", "Public Health and Health Management".

II. Presented materials for the competition

For the sake of the competition, the following materials and documents have been presented:

- assoc. prof. Novakov's CV

- notarized copies of diplomas: for completed higher education, recognized specialties, educational and scientific degrees "PhD", "doctor of science" and academic position "associate professor".
- a certificate of seniority and a reference for the academic positions held to date, with an academic reference for the study load for the last three and a copy of the last attestation sheet;
- a list of the full text scientific works of Assoc. prof. Novakov and their summaries in Bulgarian and English;
- documents certifying training of interns, specialists and PhD students as well as for participation of assoc. prof. Novakov in scientific and educational projects;
- self-assessment for the fulfillment of the specific scientometric requirements.

The documents and materials are in accordance with the requirements of the law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the regulations of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works submitted for participation in the competition.

Two abstracts are included in the list of scientific publications. They present the main aspects of the two dissertations of assoc. prof. Novakov: for the educational and scientific degree "PhD" on the topic "Progression of pleural empyema, determining its surgical treatment - experimental and clinical studies" and for awarding of "Doctor of sciences" on the topic "Pulmonary injury in blunt chest trauma: clinical and experimental studies". The abstracts contain all the mandatory elements and are 61 and 91 pages long. Ninety-five are the publications of Assoc. prof. Novakov in the periodical medical press (from groups "B" and "D" according to the presented list). All of them are presented by the candidate both in full text (in four appendices) and summaries in Bulgarian and English.

Thirty-two of the publications have been published in peer-reviewed and indexed publications in Scopus and Web of Science. Proof of the publications in Scopus and Web of Science are the attached official references from the Central Medical Library of the Medical University of Sofia and from the Library and Information Center of the Medical University of Plovdiv. Twenty-five of these publications are in the field of "thoracic surgery". Various issues are addressed: thoracic trauma, pleural pathology, lung tumors, mediastinal pathology, diaphragmatic hernias, thoracic complications of COVID-19. Of six of the publications from these two databases, Associate Professor I. Novakov is the sole author, and in another thirteen he is the first author. Twelve (12) of the publications were published in sources with a corresponding "impact factor".

Sixty-three (63) of the publications of Assoc. Prof. I. Novakov were published in editions of other databases. Thirty-eight of them were published in English, and the other twenty-five in Bulgarian. In twelve of the publications he is the first author and in nineteen publications he is the sole author.

Nine of the publications from all databases were in the field of experimental surgery. They are related to the two theses of the candidate. These publications are on the topic of pleural empyema, pleurodesis potential of some sclerosing agents, resorptive capabilities of the pleura, and blunt chest trauma. Two of the candidate's independent monographs: "Acute Abdomen" (2020 / volume of 160 pages) and "Blunt Chest Trauma" (2019 / volume of 148 pages) are also presented. The volume of the two monographs meets the requirements for "independent scientific work". Upon their review, I found that they are a very good source for theoretical and practical training of interns in "Thoracic Surgery" and "Surgery". Two textbooks, published in English, were also submitted to the competition materials: "Selected Lectures in Special Surgery" (2017) - self-authored and "Questions&Answers in Special Surgery" (2018) co-authored. Four teaching manuals are also presented, with a scientific team, in which assoc. prof. Novakov is the lead author: «Experimental models for the

study of the pleura» (2009), «Basic Clinical Procedures» (2009), «Guide for Practical Exercises in Surgery» (2011), «Guide to the Practice of Surgery – Second Updated and Revised Edition» (2015). I reckon that the presented textbooks and study are proof of the active teaching and academic activity of assoc. prof. Novakov.

The list of scientific works also includes two chapters of collective monographs, in which assoc. prof. Novakov is a co-author.

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

Assoc. prof. I. Novakov presented original citation references from the Central Medical Library - Medical University of Sofia and from the Library and Information Center of the Medical University of Plovdiv, as well as from the Internet platform "Researchgate".

According to the citation references, the scientific works of Associate Professor I. Novakov have 103 citations. Seventy-two of the citations are in publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Scienc database. Twenty-eight are the citations in sources from other refereed databases, with peer review, and three citations are in non-refereed publications. Eighty-eight of the sources citing the works of assoc. prof. Novakov are in English journals and the remaining fifteen are in Cyrillic (twelve of which are in national editions). The citation index (h-Index) of Assoc. Prof. I. Novakov's scientific works in "Web of Science" is "4", and in the "Scopus" platform it is "3".

V. Evaluation of the teaching activities, incl. scientific supervision of students, PhD students, interns.

The report on the academic workload of Assoc. Prof. I. Novakov shows that he has an hourly workload (lectures, practical exercises, pre-diploma internship and exams) of more than 150%. Assoc. prof. I. Novakov has four PhD students who

have defended their dissertations in the scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery". He was part of the team of two successfully implemented international scientific and educational projects and one national one (OMNIA project). He conducts training for interns in the specialties "Surgery" and "Thoracic Surgery", as well as thematic courses for specialist doctors.

VI. Contributions of Prof. I. Novakov.

First of all, I would like to point out the experimental model of pleural empyema created by Associate Professor I. Novakov. To date, this is the only experimental development of this kind in our country. Through this model, he studied the progression of pleural empyema and successfully linked the results to clinical studies on this animal.

Another significant scientific contribution of assoc. prof. I. Novakov is his creation of a blunt chest trauma model in small experimental animals. Through this model, he managed to experimentally study the mechanisms of inducing tissue and organ damage in blunt chest trauma. Up to date, there is no analogue in this experimental direction in Bulgaria. Assoc. prof. I. Novakov's contribution to the educational activity is also significant. This is evident by the textbooks and study aids he published, the supervision of PhD students and the training of interns.

VII. Evaluation of the compliance of assoc. prof. Novakov for occupying the academic position of "professor" at MU-Plovdiv.

From the submitted materials and documents regarding the competition, I found that there is compliance with the criteria and scientometric indicators of the MU Plovdiv for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" by Associate Professor I. Novakov:

- He holds the scientific and educational degree "Doctor of Sciences".

- He is the scientific supervisor of four PhD students.
- Has the highest final attestation grade - "very good".
- He published monographs and the required number of publications in Scopus and Web of science, incl. those with Impact factor.
- His publications have a citation index of "3" in "Scopus" and "4" in "Web of Science" h-Index.

IX. Conclusion.

The materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Ivan Petkov Novakov in the competition documentation cover the criteria laid down in the Development of the Academic Staff Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Implementation and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University - Plovdiv, for acquiring the academic position of a "Professor".

This allows me to confidently give my positive assessment of the candidate, as well as to recommend the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for awarding of the academic position of a "Professor" in "Thoracic Surgery" specialty the Associate Professor Dr. Ivan Petkov Novakov .

Reviewer:

Assoc. prof. Daniel Vulchev, PhD

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