

To

The chairman of a scientific jury,  
determined by Order No. R -  
2239/28.06.2024

To a Protocol of Yours №1/ from 02/07/2024

Attached I present: **Statement** regarding the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery", announced for the needs of the MU-Plovdiv in SN issue 35/19.04/2024 .

Reviewer: **PROF BOZHIDAR DIMITROV HADZHIEV, PHD**

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The statement has been made according to the requirements of the LDASRB (Law for the development of the academic staff in republic of Bulgaria) and Section III/Section IV of the PPLDASRB - Conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position of "professor".

# **STATEMENT**

**FROM**

**PROF. BOZHIDAR DIMITROV HADZHIEV, PHD**

**MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – PLOVDIV;**

**HEAD OF THE FIRST CLINIC OF SURGERY OF THE "ST. GEORGE" UMBAL - PLOVDIV**

**BY COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "PROFESSOR" IN "THORACIC  
SURGERY"**

**IN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV**

## **I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.**

According to the announced competition for the academic position of "professor" in "thoracic surgery" at the Medical University - Plovdiv, documents were submitted by one candidate: Associate Professor Ivan Petkov Novakov, DS. Assoc. prof I. Novakov is currently the Head of the Department of "Special Surgery". Before this position, assoc. prof. Novakov passed through: assistant, chief assistant, associate professor. In addition to being part of the academic staff of the "Special Surgery" Department, Assoc. prof Novakov works as a clinician in the Second Surgery Clinic of the "St. George" UMBAL - Plovdiv.

## **II. General presentation of the submitted materials for the competition.**

A set of documents and materials 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 are presented. They are as follows:

1. diplomas for 4 specialties acquired: Surgery", "Oncology", "Thoracic Surgery"; «Public health and health management»;
2. diploma for Doctor of Sciences as well as for Associate Professor in Thoracic Surgery
3. the latest attestation sheet, graded "very good";

4. academic reference for the study load for the last three academic years - over 150%;
5. documents for participation of Assoc. prof Novakov in two international scientific projects and one national project;
6. documents certifying the training of interns, specialists and PhD students - with the scientific guidance of four PhD students who successfully defended their thesis in the scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery";
7. a list of the scientific works of Associate Professor Novakov, with the relevant evidentiary material.

### **III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific work.**

Ninety-five (95) scientific publications are presented. Thirty-two (32) of them were published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases, and 63 were published, referenced and indexed in other databases. Sixty-nine of the articles were published in English, the remaining 26 in Cyrillic. In 25 of the publications, Associate Professor Novakov is an independent author, and in another 25 he is the first author. Eleven (11) of the publications referenced in the Scopus and Web of Science data base were published in impact factor journals:

What is more the following were also presented by the candidate:

- two chapters of collective monographs, co-authored by Prof. Novakov;
- two monographs in which he is an independent author ("Acute Abdomen" and "Blunt Chest Trauma");
- two textbooks published in English: one with group participation ("Questions&Answers in Special Surgery" and one with independent authorship ("Selected Lectures in Special Surgery");
- four university study guides, in which Associate Professor I. Novakov is a co-author;
- two abstracts: of his dissertation work for the educational and scientific degree "PhD" and of his dissertation work for "Doctor of Science".

#### **IV. Evaluation of monographic work and of submitted publications**

Sixty-four (64) of Assoc. Prof. I. Novakov's publications are in the field of thoracic surgery. There he addresses various aspects in the diagnosis and treatment of pleural empyema, pleural effusions (malignant and benign), lung malignancies, chest trauma, diaphragmatic hernias, pulmonary and pleural complications of COVID-19, and more. In the other publications, Assoc. prof. Novakov presents various problems in the field of emergency abdominal surgery and oncology. Nine (9) of Assoc. prof Novakov's publications are in the field of experimental medicine- on "pleural empyema" and "chest trauma". These publications are the result of two experimental-clinical dissertations by the candidate. In addition to publications in the periodical medical press, Assoc. prof Novakov's interest in experimental medicine is also manifested in his study guide "Experimental models for the study of the pleura". In 19 of the presented publications by Assoc. prof. Novakov, the author team includes students as well-proof of his active teaching activity.

Assoc. prof I. Novakov is the sole author of two monographs: "Blunt Chest Trauma" and "Acute Abdomen". By their volume, structure, scientific review and cited literature, they meet the requirements for independent monographic works. In my opinion, both monographs are of great practical use. They are a good source of information for the theoretical and practical training of medical students and surgical trainees.

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

The citations of Assoc prof. Novakov's scientific work are presented in three groups: those cited in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science databases (72 citations), citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (28 citations ) and citations in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (3 citations). 88 of the citations are in literary sources published in English, and 15 in Cyrillic. For the reliability of the cited scientific works, Assoc. Prof. I. Novakov consulted the

Central Medical Library - Medical University of Sofia, the library and information center of the Medical University of Plovdiv and the Internet platform "Researchgate". According to a reference from the Internet platform "Scopus", the citation index of the scientific works of Prof. I. Novakov (h-Index) is "3", and in the "Web of Science" platform the h-Index is "4".

**VI. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, specialists.**

As a teacher, Assoc prof I. Novakov has a study load of over 150% for each of the last three academic years. He is the supervisor of four PhD students who have successfully defended their dissertations. Assoc prof I. Novakov conducts theoretical and practical training of doctors specializing in "Surgery" and "Thoracic Surgery".

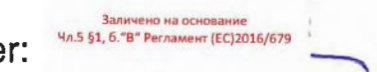
**VII. General assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators for assessment according to the regulation for occupying academic positions at MU-Plovdiv.**

Associate Professor I. Novakov fully meets the criteria for the academic position of "professor". He has the scientific and educational degree "Doctor of Sciences". There are 32 publications in publications referenced and indexed in the Scopus and Web of Science databases (of which eleven 11 with Impact factor and cited in these databases with h-Index 3 and 4 respectively. He has published two monographs. He was a supervisor of four PhD students.

**IX. Conclusion**

Assoc. prof. Ivan Petkov Novakov, PhD, meets all the requirements for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery", announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv.

Reviewer:



(Prof. B. Hadzhiev, PhD)