

TO  
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY  
DETERMINED BY ORDER No. R-2240/28.06.2024

According to Protocol No. 1/ dated 07/05/2024 from the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, I present:

REVIEW

From

Prof. Yavor Enchev MD, DMSc, FRCS (Eng), IFAANS (USA)

Regarding a contest for the occupation of the academic position 'Professor' in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sport; professional area 7.1. Medicine, in a scientific specialty 'Neurosurgery', announced in the SG № 35/19.04.2024.

**Speciality:** Neurosurgery

**Institution:**

- Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital 'St. Marina' – Varna, Bulgaria
- Head of the Department of Neurosurgery and ENT Diseases, Medical University – Varna, Bulgaria
- Vice-President of the Bulgarian Society of Neurosurgery
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Southeast Europe Neurosurgical Society (SeENS)
- Representative of Bulgaria and chairman of the Pediatric Neurosurgery Committee of SeENS
- Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS)

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

nski" Blvd.

One candidate participates in the contest - **Assoc. Prof. Ivo Inkov Kehayov, MD, PhD.**

**Biographical data and academic development of the candidate:**

Assoc. Prof. I. Kehayov was born in 1980. In 2005, he graduated MU - Plovdiv with excellent evaluation and acquired the educational degree 'Master of Medicine'. He acquires a diploma for specialty in neurosurgery in 2012 in the clinic of Neurosurgery in University Hospital 'St. Georgi' - Plovdiv. The candidate has completed numerous specializations in Bulgaria and abroad in the field of image-guided spinal surgery, neuro-oncology, vascular neurosurgery, neuroendoscopic and minimally invasive treatment of

degenerative spinal diseases. He has an excellent command of written and spoken English language, which is evident from the presented Cambridge University certificates – FCE (B2 level) and CAE (C1 level). Has basic knowledge of German and Russian languages.

In 2013, he acquired the title 'Doctor' after successfully completing a dissertation on the topic: 'Monitoring of neurocognitive disorders and their impact on the quality of life in patients with supratentorial brain tumors'. Since 2012 he has been chosen to occupy the

position of academic position 'Assistant professor', in 2014 – 'Chief Assistant

Professor', and in 2018 – 'Associate professor'. Since 2020 he has been the Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, and from 2024 he was elected a member of the Academic Council of MU-Plovdiv.

The candidate is a member of the following organizations:

- Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA)
- Bulgarian Society of Neurosurgery (member of the Board of Directors of BSN)
- European Association of Neurological Surgeons (EANS)

- AO Spine
- The Expert Council on Neurosurgery at the Ministry of Health
- The State Examination Committee for obtaining a specialty in neurosurgery

In 2017, he was awarded the Medal of Honor of the regional Bulgarian Medical Association - Plovdiv.

**Scientific activity of the candidate:**

Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has a total of 49 publications in scientific journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 24 of which have an impact factor, 15 publications in non-refereed journals, 13 publications in scientific collections. He is the author of 1 university textbook under his editorship, is a member of the editorial board and the author of 5 chapters of the national textbook on neurosurgery; he is an author and co-author of more than 20 reports and presentations at national and international neurosurgery conferences. There is a marked scientific interest in spinal surgery (27 publications), neuro-oncology (20 publications) and neurotraumatology (16 publications). Some of the publications were developed due to cooperation with international scientific teams, and the results were published in prestigious international journals with an Impact Factor.

In the current contest, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov participates with 1 dissertation work, habilitation work in the form of 10 publications in Scopus and Web of Science, dealing with various aspects of spinal neuro-oncology, 31 publications in journals, indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, of which 22 with Impact Factor, 13 publications in non-refereed journals and scientific collections with scientific review, 1 neurosurgery textbook and 5 chapters in collective books.

With scientific and practical contribution are his studies on the use of image-guided instrumentation on the spine with an O-arm spinal navigation system, primary and secondary spontaneous spinal epidural abscesses, spontaneous chronic subdural hematomas, the possibilities of applying telemedicine in the field of neurosurgery in Bulgaria, as well as his studies on the follow-up of cognitive disorders following surgical treatment of brain tumors. The self-assessment of the candidate's scientific contributions is adequate, and I think that they enrich Bulgarian and global neurosurgical science.

Assoc. Prof. Kehayov is part of the scientific team in two university research projects as he is the head of one of them, entitled 'Long-term follow-up of the morphological changes in cerebral white matter in patients following traumatic brain injury by means of Diffusion Tensor Imaging and their correlation with neurological functioning and quality

of life'. The initial results of this project have been published in a specialized international neurotraumatology journal with impact factor.

### **Citation of publications in national and foreign literature**

A reference in international databases Scopus, Web of Science, Pubmed, Google Scholar, as well as in the provided documentation, shows that the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has been cited in the literature 69 times in journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 35 times in non-indexed journals and 24 times in monographs, dissertations and collective books. The candidate's total IF from publications is 47,83. The total impact factor from citations is 139,85. According to Scopus, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has h-index = 5, and according to Google Scholar: h-index = 6; i10-index = 3. At the moment, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov's scientific indicators exceed the requirements of MU-Plovdiv for the occupation of the academic position 'Professor'.

### **Evaluation of monograph or equivalent publications**

In the current contest, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov presents a habilitation thesis in the form of 10 publications in Scopus and Web of Science (Publications №: 12, 14, 19, 36, 38, 41, 42, 43, 46 and 48 of applications in the documentation list), concerning the clinical presentation, diagnosis, differential diagnosis and outcome of primary and secondary spinal cord tumors. The total impact factor of the presented publications is 4.84, and the total impact factor of their citations in world literature is 52.91, which corresponds to a good response in the international neurosurgical scientific field.

### **Assesment of educational and teaching activity**

Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has over 12 years of teaching in Medical University-Plovdiv. He is the Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at MU-Plovdiv since 2020. He conducts a lecture course, tutorials and semester exams in neurosurgery for medical students in MU-Plovdiv in Bulgarian and English and participates in the training of trainee doctors, specialists and doctoral students. According to the provided report, the academic and teaching workload of Assoc.Prof. Kehayov for the last three years fully meets the requirements of MU-Plovdiv for the academic position 'Professor'. Assoc. Prof. Kehayov

is the scientific supervisor of two successfully defended dissertations in the field of neurosurgery of Mihail Kalnev, MD, PhD and Georgi Apostolov, MD, PhD. Under his guidance, a third doctoral student is being prepared. He is the head of two residents, one of whom, Maria Gicheva, MD, has already acquired a specialty in neurosurgery.

The latest attestation grade of Assoc. Prof. Kehayov, presented by the committee for attestation of the academic staff at MU-Plovdiv, is 'Good'.

### **Assesment of the scientometric indicators of the candidate**

The presented scientometric indicators of Assoc. Prof. Ivo Kehaiov, MD, PhD, show that he fully meets the criteria by Medical University – Plodiv for acquiring the academic position 'Professor'. The candidate significantly exceeds the required 1240 points, and his scientometric indicators are evaluated with a total of 4014 points.


### **Conclusion**

The analysis of the scientific and teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Kehayov, Md, PhD shows that the candidate meets the conditions stated in the Law on the development of the academic staff and the criteria for acquisition of academic position "Professor" of MU - Plovdiv, as well as the specific requirements of Medical University - Plovdiv for units with clinical activity, defined in the Regulations for Academic Development of the

Medical University - Plovdiv. Due to the above-mentioned reasons, I give my positive review and recommend to the honorable members of the scientific jury to prepare a report with a proposal for approval of the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Ivo Kehaiov, MD, PhD for the position of academic position 'Professor' in the scientific specialty 'Neurosurgery' for the needs of the Department of Neurosurgery of the MU - Plovdiv.

05.08.2024

Varna

  
Prof. Yavor Enchev MD, DMSc

