

**OPINION**  
from



Prof. Dr. Nikoleta Ivanova Traykova, PhD

to prepare an opinion according the **Order No. R-2240/28.06.2024**

Scientific specialty: Diagnostic Imaging

Institution: UMBAL "St. George" Plovdiv; Medical University Plovdiv

**Subject:** participation in a concourse for the academic position "PROFESSOR"

In the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine: scientific specialty "Image diagnostics", "Neurosurgery", announced in the SG № 35/19.04.2024.

One candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition: associate professor Dr. Ivo Inkov Kehayov, MD, PhD.

**I. Analysis of the candidate's career development**

Assoc. Prof. I. Kehayov was born on 09/08/1980. In 2005, he graduated as a master's doctor in Medicine at the MU - Plovdiv with excellent evaluation. From 2006 to 2011, he was a resident in the Clinic of Neurosurgery in the University Hospital "St. George" - Plovdiv and acquired a neurosurgery specialty in 2011. The candidate has completed specializations in various areas of neurosurgery in countries such as Japan, France, the Netherlands, Croatia, Austria, Germany, etc. according to the presented Cambridge University certificates - FCE (level B2) and CAE (level C1), he is fluent in spoken and written English.

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 occupied the

position of academic position "Assistant professor", in 2014 - "Chief Assistant Professor". Since 2018, he has held the position of Associate Professor at the Department of Neurosurgery at the Medical University of Plovdiv. 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: Bulgarian Medical Association; The Board of Directors of the Bulgarian Neurosurgery Society; individual member of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies /EANS/ and AO-Spine.

Since 2021, he has been a member of the Expert Council on Neurosurgery at the Ministry of Health as well as the state examination committee for the acquisition of a specialty in neurosurgery.

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

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents, in accordance with the requirements of ZRASRB, the Regulations for its application and Section V: Conditions and procedure for occupying the academic position "Professor" from the Regulations for the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in Medical University Plovdiv.

## **III. Evaluation of scientific works and publications of the candidate for the overall academic development**

Assoc. Prof. Kehayov is the author or co-author of a total of 49 publications indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 24 of which have an impact factor; 13 publications in scientific collections; 15 publications in non-refereed journals; he is the author and editor of 1 university textbook; author of 5 chapters of the national neurosurgery and a member of the editorial board; author and co-author of more than 20 scientific reports and presentations at national and international neurosurgery conferences.

In the current contest, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov participates with 1 dissertation work, 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 (under his editorship) and 5 chapters in

collective books. 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 presented publications have a good citation index in numerous elite scientific journals, which is an unequivocal proof of their scientific value.

The scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has been cited in the literature 68 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 over 47 and the total impact factor from citations is over 134. According to Scopus, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has h-index = 5, and according to Google Scholar: h-index = 6, which is above the minimum requirement of Medical University - Plovdiv (h-index = 3) for occupying the academic position. Assoc. Prof. Kehayov is a part of the research team of two university projects, being the head of Project No. NO-1/2023, 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."

#### **IV. Complex evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity**

Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has over 12 years of teaching experience in Medical University - Plovdiv. According to the provided academic references for the previous three academic years, Assoc. Prof. Kehayov has a total average annual teaching activity of 1,560 hours and fully covers the requirements of MU-Plovdiv for the academic position. He conducts a lecture course, tutorials and semester exams in neurosurgery for IV and V year medical students in MU-Plovdiv in Bulgarian and English as part of the Specialized Surgery training course.

As a habilitated teacher and Head of Department, he participates in the training of medical interns, specialists and doctoral students in neurosurgery. Under his guidance, Georgi Apostolov, MD, PhD and Mihail Kalnev, MD, PhD had successfully defended their dissertations, and Maria Gicheva, MD acquired a specialty in neurosurgery.

**V. Critical notes and recommendations:**

I have no critical notes and recommendations.

**Conclusion**

Due to the above mentioned reasons, I find it fully justified to give my positive opinion and propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the preparation of a Report-proposal to the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Medicine of MU - Plovdiv for the election of Assoc. Prof. Ivo Inkov Kehayov, MD, PhD, for the academic position "Professor" in a scientific specialty Neurosurgery, for the needs of the Neurosurgery department, Medical University - Plovdiv.

July 29, 2023

Plovdiv

Signature:

Prof. Dr. Nikoleta Iv. Traykova, PhD

Заличено на основание  
Чл.5 §1, 6, "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

