

****OFFICIAL STATEMENT ****

By Prof. Dr. Angel Petrov Uchikov, DMSc,

Scientific specialty: “Thoracic Surgery”

Medical University – Plovdiv

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Thoracic Surgery," announced in the State Gazette, issue 70 / 20.08.2024, for the needs of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

By Order No. RD-375/25.10.2024, issued by Rector Prof. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, DM, of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," Burgas, I have been appointed as a member of the academic jury for conducting the competition.

The documents submitted by the sole candidate, Chief Assistant Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov, DM, have been reviewed. I declare that I do not have any shared publications with the candidate.

I. Analysis of the Candidate's Career Profile

Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov was born in 1968 in Plovdiv. He graduated with a master's degree in Medicine in 1994 from VMI-Plovdiv (now the Medical University - Plovdiv).

In 2010, Dr. Stefanov earned a second master's degree in Health Management. He acquired a specialty in General Surgery in 2001 and a specialty in Thoracic Surgery in 2004.

In 2015, Dr. Tanyo Stefanov defended his doctoral thesis and obtained the academic degree "Doctor of Medicine."

In 2016, following a competition, he earned the academic title of Associate Professor at VUARR Plovdiv, Department of Management, Section of Health Management.

Dr. Stefanov's professional career began in 1995 at the Emergency Medical Center – Plovdiv, branch Kaloyanovo. Between 1995-2006, he worked as an attending physician at the First Surgery Department at MBAL Plovdiv. From 2006-2008, he was Head of the Thoracic Surgery Department, and from 2008 to 2016, he led the Second Surgical Department of Thoracoabdominal Surgery at MBAL Plovdiv. Since 2016, he has been the Head of the Thoracic Surgery Clinic at MBAL Burgasmed, Burgas. These professional credentials are particularly relevant given the competition's specifics.

Dr. Stefanov possesses extensive applied experience, which will benefit the teaching of "Thoracic Surgery."

II. General Overview of Submitted Materials

The set of materials and documents presented complies with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff and the regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor."

Chief Assistant Dr. Tanyo Stefanov submitted all required documents: scientific research and teaching activity reports, citation index summaries, author's references and abstracts of research contributions, publication lists for the competition, and copies of scientific works.

The candidate is participating in the competition with one co-authored monograph (with an attached distribution protocol for Dr. Stefanov's contribution of 165 pages), 15 full-text scientific publications, and 12 citations of his scientific works.

III. Evaluation of Scientific Works and Impact of Publications

The scientific works of Chief Assistant Dr. Tanyo Stefanov are entirely within the scope of the competition. They result from the candidate's scientific interests and his clinical activity spanning over 30 years.

The submitted scientific publications are distributed as follows: one in an international journal, twelve in peer-reviewed Bulgarian journals, one report at an international conference, and one report at a national conference.

Over 80% of the works, the candidate is either the first or sole author, demonstrating his personal contribution to formulating hypotheses, conducting research, analyzing results, and presenting conclusions.

Dr. Stefanov's research contributions are primarily applied in nature.

His studies on pulmonary pathology and preventive programs for socially significant diseases are notable. For example, he examines surgical approaches to esophageal cancer, identifying the most effective and safe techniques to improve surgical outcomes.

The monograph focuses on lung cancer prevention, analyzing factors such as smoking, radiation, industrial pollution, and others, alongside patient attitudes toward these factors. This work provides valuable insights for early diagnosis and successful treatment.

Dr. Stefanov also investigates the impact of passive smoking on children and adults, combined with health management strategies.

IV. Participation in Research Projects

Dr. Stefanov has presented evidence of participation in two international research projects.

V. Teaching Activities and Mentoring of Trainees

Dr. Stefanov has mentored six trainees in general surgery during his tenure at the Second Surgery Department at MBAL Plovdiv.

Currently, he teaches medical students at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," Burgas. With over six years of teaching experience as an assistant, chief assistant, and associate professor, he has significant pedagogical expertise.

VI. Short-Term Specializations and Qualification Courses

Dr. Stefanov has participated in and lectured at numerous national and international forums on general and thoracic surgery. He has completed courses in ultrasound, VATS, laparoscopic surgery, TEM (transanal endoscopic microsurgery), biliary-liver, pancreatic, oncologic surgery, and conventional bronchoscopy.

In 2007, he specialized in thoracic surgery at KSZ "Otto Wagner-Spital," Vienna. He has been a member of the European Association for Thoracic Surgery since 2008. He is also a member of the Bulgarian Associations for General and Thoracic Surgery.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Tanyo Penev Stefanov is a dedicated researcher with proven theoretical and practical contributions. His multidisciplinary preparation equips him to handle diverse challenges in daily work. He skillfully combines clinical, research, and creative activities and enjoys authority and trust among colleagues.

After reviewing the submitted scientific works and their significance, I conclude that he has achieved substantial scientific and applied accomplishments. No plagiarism has been identified in the submitted works.

I confirm that the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff and the regulations for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," Burgas, have been fully met.

Based on my positive evaluation of his teaching and scientific contributions, I believe Dr. Tanyo Stefanov possesses all the qualifications to acquire the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.1 Medicine, specialty "Thoracic Surgery."

Burgas, November 29, 2024

Prepared by:

(Prof. Dr. Angel Uchikov, DMSc)