



REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Mario Draganov Stankev, MD
Head of the Clinic of Vascular Surgery and Angiology
at MHAT-NKB-EAD, Sofia

external member of the Scientific Jury in a competition

with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev, MD

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", Professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Vascular Surgery"

This review has been prepared on the basis of documents received through a competition announced in the State Gazette, issue no. 105 / 11.12.2020 for the needs of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas by decision of the Academic Council (Minutes №20 / 19.11.2020) and Minutes 1 of the meeting of the scientific jury. The composition of the Scientific Jury is determined by Order №RD 27 / 05.02.2021 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas Prof. Dr. M. Mitkova.

The review complies with the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RASRB), Regulations for its implementation and Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov " - Burgas.

The only candidate in the procedure is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev, MD.

1. Information about the candidate

Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev was born on October 19, 1959 in the town of Kazanlak. He completed his higher medical education in 1985 at the Higher Medical Institute "I. P. Pavlov ", Plovdiv.

He began his career in 1985 as a resident in surgery at the Kazanlak Regional Hospital. In 2006 he acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the professional field 3.7. "Administration and management", scientific specialty under code 05.02.21, "Organization and management of production (by industries and sub-sectors)". Since 2000 he has been the head of the surgical department at MHAT-Kazanlak-EOOD, and since 2006 - the head of the vascular sector. Since 01.09.2010 he has been the Head of the Department of Vascular Surgery at MHAT - Burgas, and since 2016 until now - Head of the Clinic of Vascular Surgery at UMHAT Burgas AD. From December 2016 until now he is the Head of the Department of Preclinical and Clinical Disciplines at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

He has acquired two specialties - Surgery since 1990 and Vascular Surgery in 2004.

In 2010 he received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Medicine" in the scientific specialty "General Surgery".

Assoc. Prof. Vasilev holds diplomas in Business Administration and Health Management from the University Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov-Burgas since 2015 and endovascular surgery since 2016 from the National Cardiology Hospital in Sofia.

He specialized in lower endoscopies in 1988 (ISUL-Sofia), laparoscopic surgery in 2006 (DuPont Hospital Fort Wayne, USA) and vascular ultrasound Doppler diagnostics in 2016 (Thracian University of Stara Zagora).

Assoc. Prof. Vasilev is a member of the following scientific organizations:

- Member of the Bulgarian Surgical Society
- Member of the Bulgarian National Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Angiology
- Member of the National Society of Phlebology and Angiology
- Member of the Bulgarian Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgery
- Member of the Association of Thermal Trauma and Plastic Surgery - Varna
- Member of the Bulgarian Diabetes Association
- Member of the Association of Health Managers in Bulgaria

2. General description of the materials submitted for review in the competition

The documents submitted by the candidate are in accordance with the conditions for holding the academic position "Professor" in the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University in District 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. Medicine.

For participation in the competition, 41 publications were submitted for review, as follows:

№	Type of publications	Independent and first author	Co-authored	Total
1.	Monographic work	1	0	1
2.	Scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus; Web of Science)	6	11	17
3.	Publications and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review	9	12	21
4.	Textbooks, teaching aids and teaching aids	2	0	2
5.	Total number of publications	18	23	41

The scientific papers submitted for participation in the competition do not overlap with the publications that the candidate has submitted in defense of the dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

3. Fulfillment by the candidate of the conditions for holding the academic position of "professor"

The candidate fulfills all the conditions for holding the academic position of "professor" in accordance with Art. 73 of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas. The distribution of the required points by the candidate is as follows:

Group of indicators	Minimum requirements for "professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas"	Performed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev
A	50	50
B	-	0
C	100	100
D	250	586.54
E	150	350
F	120 (Min. Number of points per indicator: F14 = 60)	285 (F14 = 100)
Total	670	1371.54

4. Characteristics and assessment of the educational and pedagogical activity of the candidate

In 2012, Assoc. Prof. Vasilev became an assistant professor of surgery, and from 2013 to 2015 he was chief assistant professor of surgery at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "Burgas. In December 2015, he was habilitated as an "associate professor" in surgery at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov ".

The candidate is the author of three textbooks and 8 curricula in Surgery for different specialties at the university. Annually conducts specialized courses in vascular and surgical diseases.

Assoc. Prof. Vasilev is the supervisor of two doctoral students - one currently in defense at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora and one successfully defended at the Medical University - Sofia in 2016.

In the Clinic of Vascular Surgery at the University Hospital in Burgas he has managed three specialists, one current and two, who acquired the specialty "Vascular Surgery" in 2017 and 2019, respectively.

Thus, he has 100 points on Indicator F14 with a required 60 points according to the University Regulations.

5. General characteristics of the scientific, scientific-applied activity and assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Vasilev is fully in line with the issues of the announced competition.

To participate in the competition, the candidate submits 1 habilitation thesis - monograph "Peripheral atherosclerotic disease in diabetes mellitus", which receives 100 points on Indicator C3. A detailed description and analysis of the pre-diabetic condition as a clinical phenomenon closely related to progressive vascular atherosclerosis has been made. Diabetic constipation is presented as a separate clinical unit. The presented own algorithms for treatment, care and prevention in patients with neuroischemic and neuropathic diabetic foot have a contributing character. Noteworthy is the launched thesis for more aggressive and anticipatory endovascular treatment in diabetics with distal tibial lesions, as well as some intraprocedural tactical treatment solutions.

The presented scientific publications by Indicator Group D are 38:17 in referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus; Web of Science) and 21 in publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review. According to Group D, the candidate has 586.54 points compared to the required 250 points according to the University Regulations.

From the summarized publications presented by Assoc. Prof. Vasilev, the following more significant scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied contributions can be deduced:

- It has been established that there is a common pathokinetic mechanism between diabetes mellitus, DVT and CVD, which is expressed in the development of a subclinical inflammatory process due to the chronically high level of inflammatory mediators, and the appearance and development of endothelial dysfunction is observed , as well as in venous vessels;

- Creating original approaches to expand knowledge in vascular surgery by constructing mathematical models to simulate the processes of blood and lymph circulation in the vascular system and developing methods for assessing the blood supply in various vascular diseases;

- Presentation of original transluminal angioplasties for revascularization of the peripheral arteries with emphasis on the difficult knee surgery for open surgery, as in patients with diabetes mellitus and a first-time algorithm for early prevention of diabetic foot complications;

- An author's analysis of the problem with the late search for specialized medical care in patients with acute arterial diseases, especially in the elderly and senile age, has been made, and working tactical solutions have been proposed;

- Expansion of the tactical algorithm in the surgical treatment of multilevel thrombosis of the arteries of the lower extremities alone or in combination with endovascular procedures;

- Development of own concept on diabetes as an independent risk factor for the occurrence and development of venous thromboembolism, confirming the thesis about the proinflammatory nature of diabetes mellitus;

- Creation of innovative and unique chitosan-zeolite nanocomposite films for local treatment of infected wounds of vascular origin.

43 citations were noticed in the publications presented in the competition, of which 9 in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, 9 in monographs and 25 in non-refereed journals with scientific review. The candidate has 350 points in Group of indicators E with a minimum requirement of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" of 150 points.

Assoc. Prof. Vasilev has 285 points in Group of indicators F with a minimum requirement of the University of 120 points. He has led two research projects at the University - one on the topic "Study of the severity of atherosclerotic changes in peripheral blood vessels in diabetics" and one successfully completed on "Innovative approaches in the training and qualification of health professionals."

Recommendations

I believe that Assoc. Prof. Vasilev has enough scientific and clinical experience, and I would recommend him to focus his efforts on working with postgraduates and doctoral students.

Conclusion

The overall development of Assoc. Prof. Vasilev, reflected in his research and practical surgical activity, as well as the submitted documents prove his readiness to hold the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific specialty "Vascular Surgery" according to the Law on Academic Staff Development, its Application and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. It definitely satisfies, and in some respects even significantly exceeds the required points.

In conclusion, I highly appreciate the research and practical work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev, MD.

In connection with the above, I give my positive assessment and recommend to the Distinguished members of the scientific jury to vote Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Konstantinov Vasilev, MD to take the academic position of "Professor" in higher

education 7. Health and Sports, Professional 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Vascular Surgery" for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov ", Burgas.

Review prepared by:

Prof. Dr. Mario Stankev, MD

20.03.2021