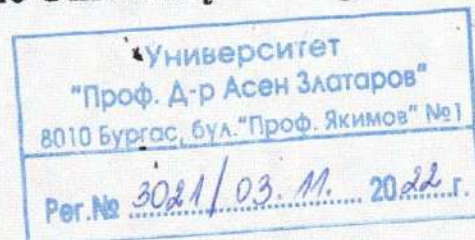


To The chairman of the scientific jury,  
determined by order  
No. RD-269/15.09.2022  
of the Rector of the University – Burgas



## REVIEW

By  
Prof. Valentin Hristoforov Ikonov, MD, PhD, DSc

Regarding competition for the academic position "Associate professor" one place in the field of higher education 7. "Health and sport", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine" and in the scientific specialty "Gastroenterology", for the needs of the Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University - Burgas, announced in SG no. 45/17.06.2022

The scientific jury was appointed by order of the Chancellor of the University - Burgas No. RD-269/15.09.2022.

With the decision of the Scientific Jury (SJ) determined by order of the Chancellor of the University - Burgas No. RD-269/15.09.2022, which is reflected in protocol No. 1/0.2022. from a meeting of the National Assembly, I am appointed to prepare an opinion.

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, Department of Gastroenterology, "Heart and Brain" Hospital - Burgas, was admitted to the competition.

I submit the following opinion to the scientific community:

### 1. Biographical data:

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev was born on October 4, 1977 in the city of Varna. He completed his secondary education at the First Language High School, Varna in 1996. He completed his higher education at the MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - the city of Varna in 2002. He acquired a specialty in gastroenterology from 01.06.2014. He has been appointed as an Assistant in the Second Department of

Internal Medicine in 2011/2012. Afterwards, he was elected Chief Assistant in the II Department of Internal Medicine in 2013, and since 2014 he is an associate professor at the same department. On 20.02.2012 he obtained a PhD scientific degree in Gastroenterology after successfully defending his thesis.

*Additional qualifications:*

- Abdominal ultrasound - I level - 2014;
- Abdominal ultrasound - II level - 2020
- Abdominal ultrasound - III level - 2021
- Gastrointestinal endoscopy - Level I - 2014
- Gastrointestinal endoscopy - II level - 2015

*Proficiency in foreign languages:*

- English – level C1;
- German - level B2.

**2. Scientific research activity:**

Research papers for participation in the competition "Associate professor":

- Monograph – 1
- Contributions to textbooks – 1
- Articles /total/ – 21
  - Articles in refereed publications – 21
- Articles in Scientific Collections – 3
- Articles in publications with IF – 9

Total number of citations – 25

- Cited by foreign authors – 25

Participation in scientific forums at home and abroad

Total participation in scientific forums – 3

- Participation in international scientific forums - 3
- Printed abstracts in international journals with IF – 3

Publications in journals and textbooks

First author – 11

- In articles - 11
- Second author – 5
- In articles – 5
- Third or subsequent author – 5

Memberships in scientific societies:

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology
- Member of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE)
- Member of the European Crohn's and Colitis Organization (ECCO)
- Member of the BLS

With this, mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Regulation on the occupation of JSC at the University - Burgas, Regulations for the organization and activities of the University are satisfied.

Most of the publications are published in local and foreign journals. The research activity of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD focuses on molecular biology of colorectal carcinoma and its clinical significance, risk and protective factors of gastrointestinal neoplastic diseases, treatment of H. pylori-infections with probiotics, complications of therapeutic upper endoscopy, opportunistic infections in patients with Crohn's disease treated with biological therapy, small intestinal tumors, etc. In relation to the above mentioned, I believe that the scientific contribution is of national importance, and some results have international value.

Suma summarum the scientific research of Dr. Milko Mirchev, MD and the presented publications in journals, monographs and teaching aids fully meet the requirements for acquiring the Academic Degree "Associate professor".

### **3. Educational and teaching activities:**

According to the presented Reference for educational and teaching activities, Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, as an associate professor at the Medical University of Varna, led seminars and lectures in gastroenterology for foreign medical students and a lecture course in gastroenterology for Bulgarian medical students. He has participated in the delivery of lectures for the Gastroenterology Training Course for residents in Gastroenterology.

Dr. Mirchev is training two PhD students in "Gastroenterology" at UMBAL "St. Marina" Varna.

In conclusion, the presented data on the educational and teaching activity of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev fully meet the requirements for acquiring the title of associate professor.

#### **4. Diagnostic and therapeutic activity:**

Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD has obtained a specialty in Gastroenterology in 2014. He is proficient in highly specialized activities in the field of imaging diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic techniques.

He possesses the required skills regarding the diagnosis, treatment and long-term follow-up of patients with diseases of the gastrointestinal system.

#### **In conclusion:**

Bearing in mind the scientific, research, teaching, diagnostic and treatment contributions of Dr. Milko Bozhidarov Mirchev, MD, I believe that he fully meets the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "associate professor" in scientific specialty "Gastroenterology" and I propose to the scientific jury to support his candidacy.

28.10.2022  
Varna

Prof. V. ~~Z~~konomov, MD, PhD, BSc