

STATEMENT

By

Prof. Dr. Spas Stefanov Konsulov, MD, PhD

Head of the Clinic of ENT-diseases, University multiprofile hospital for active treatment
"Sveti Georgi", Plovdiv

In connection to:

Competition for the academic position "Professor" in the Higher education area 7. Health care and sports, Professional domain 7.1. Medicine, Specialty „Ear, nose, throat diseases“, announced in State Gazette, issue 32/26.4.2022.

Candidate: Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD

Biography data

Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD was born on June 6, 1968 in Varna, Bulgaria. In 1995, he graduated as a master's doctor from the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna. In 2006, he obtained PhD-title after successfully defending his dissertation on the topic: "Creation of Bulgarian prostheses for ossicular reconstruction in case of defects of the auditory circuit". He acquired the specialty of Otorhinolaryngology in 2002 at MU-Varna. In the period 2012-2014, he acquired an additional qualification in the field of Business Administration and Health Management at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas and Medical University - Varna. Over the years, he has conducted specializations in: Würzburg, Germany; Edirne, Turkey; Bern, Switzerland; Bochum, Germany; Bergen, Norway; Tel Aviv, Israel; Beziers, France; Pittsburgh, USA, and others. In the period 2008-2013, he was holding the academic position of assistant professor at the Department of Prosthetic Dentistry and Orthodontics of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, MU-Varna. In 2013, he obtained his habilitation and took up the position of associate professor. From 2018 is the Head of the Department of Dental Materials Science and Propaedeutics of Prosthetic Dental medicine. Since 2018, he has been the Chairman of the "Alumni Club and Friends" at Medical University – Varna. He is the head of 3 ongoing projects under the Science Fund and the Scientific Research Fund. Author of monographs published in the country and

abroad, of numerous full-text scientific publications, participant in international symposia as an invited speaker. Permanent member of the editorial board of numerous international scientific journals. Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the International Bulletin of Otorhinolaryngology. He is a member of many international scientific and professional organizations in the field of otorhinolaryngology, head and neck surgery, neurotology, otoneurology, cochlear implantation, obstructive sleep apnea and others.

He speaks written and spoken German, English and Russian.

Assoc. prof. Milkov is married and has one child.

Teaching and learning activity

Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Milkov, MD, PhD has proven over the years that he has an innovative spirit and introduces new technologies and teaching methods into his teaching practice. He manages to combine his main specialty in otolaryngology, head and neck surgery with teaching biomaterials and various types of prostheses and materials used in the head, neck and oral cavity.

He has been teaching Dental materials science and biomaterials since 2008. Later, for the first time in the country, he introduced an elective training on OSA and snoring for dentists, in which dental students showed a definite great interest.

His students participate in many scientific forums under his guidance, as well as publish their articles in various scientific journals. Associate Professor Milkov is the supervisor of 9 PhD-students. Four of them have successfully defended the educational and scientific degree of "doctor". Collaborative work in interdisciplinary teams continues with them. Dr. Milkov has organized more than 20 courses, symposia and congresses in the country and abroad with specialists and doctoral students.

Research activity

Assoc. prof. Dr. M. Milkov, MD, PhD is distinguished with outstanding scientific and research activity in otorhinolaryngology and its subspecialties such as audiology, neurotology, vestibulology, obstructive sleep apnea and snoring. He also shows a great scientific interest in the study of biomaterials and creates experimental models of prostheses. For the first time in the country, an algorithm for testing an ossicular prosthesis, its biostability, biotolerability, physical and acoustic properties, was developed. His scientific interests and publications are

related to fellow otorhinolaryngologists from the country and abroad, with whom he actively works.

The scientific interdisciplinary approach to studying the causes of obstructive sleep apnea and snoring led to the founding of the Scientific Society for Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Snoring. With the help of his knowledge of biomaterials and specifically his work in a team with dental doctors, he leads to a thorough analysis of intraoral devices for mild forms of sleep apnea and their application. His activity in audio-vestibular medicine in recent years is also distinguished by a wide scientific research scope. Connections are found between using the knowledge of vestibulology and dental disorders and those in sleep medicine.

Characteristics of publication activity and scientific production

In the attached Academic report on the publication activity of the candidate for the competition, after the habilitation as an associate professor, the richness of the scientific works of Associate Professor Milkov and the additional development of the scientific areas in which he works, are clearly visible. A main monographic work on the topic: "Prevention of obstructive sleep apnea and snoring in professional drivers" is presented, as well as two additional monographs, 3 co-authorships of textbook chapters, 5 full-text publications in journals referenced in international databases and 23 full-text publications in non-referenced, but peer-reviewed journals. The necessary number of points from publication activity, as well as from citations, are fully fulfilled by Assoc. prof. Milkov. From the report on participation in symposia and congresses, it can be seen that Dr. Milkov participated in 70 congresses for the period 2014-2022. The candidate also presents a report on his contributions, which are detailed and systematized. Assoc. prof. Milkov has active and regularly updated profiles in the scientific databases Google Scholar, ORCID, ResearchGate. A reference to the IF of the journals in which he has published is also provided.

Therapeutic and diagnostic activity

Assoc. prof. Milkov's curiosity and interest in the new technologies and equipment make him seek new horizons in the fields of medicine where he works. Over the years, he was one of the first to use radiofrequency surgery in his practice. For studying the sleep, he introduced for the first time in the country the device Apnea graph - to study the exact localization of the

narrowing in obstructive sleep apnea cases. He introduces new algorithms in his daily work for patients with obstructive sleep apnea, tinnitus, vestibular and audiological problems.

The interdisciplinary approach that he brings to his research and scientific path for sleep apnea is markedly innovative and significant for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of this socially significant disease.

CONCLUSION

From what has been stated so far, I fully believe that the candidate for the competition has the teaching, scientific and research, diagnostic potential and qualities to occupy the Academic position "Professor".

I will vote "Yes" and will confidently recommend to the respected scientific jury to award the academic title of "Professor" to Assoc. prof. Dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD.

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Varna

Prepared the statement:

Prof. Dr. Spas Stefanov Konsulov, MD, PhD

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