

STANDPOINT

by prof. d-r Nikolay Jordanov Kolev, DMS

Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by order № P-109-574/04.12.2020 r.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" in professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and the scientific specialty "Surgery", announced in SG no. 86 of 06.10.2020

The competition is held in compliance with the requirements of The Academic Staff Development Law in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDLRB), the regulations for application of the Academic Staff Development Law (RAASDL), and Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University - Varna.

The standpoint was prepared on the basis of Order № P-109-574 / 04.12.2020 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna and Minutes № 1 / 14.12.2020 of a meeting of the scientific jury. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the ASDLRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna. No procedural violations were found.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by one candidate - Dr. Mihail Stefanov Tabakov, MD, surgeon at the Clinic of General and Endoscopic Surgery of UMHAT "St. Ivan Rilski" EAD - Sofia.

In connection with my participation as a member of the scientific jury, I declare that:

- I have no conflict of interest;
- The documents meet the minimum requirements set by ASDLRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna.;
- I do not find plagiarism in the scientific materials with which Dr. Tabakov participates in the competition;
- I have not found any violations in the course of the competition so far and I have no remarks on the materials provided to me for opinion.

Presentation of the candidate.

Dr. Mihail Stefanov Tabakov graduated in medicine at the Medical University, Sofia in 2003. He began his professional career as a physician at the Clinic of Emergency Surgery of the Military Medical Academy - Sofia in 2004, where he worked until 2011. In 2011 he started working in the IV surgical clinic of the specialized surgical complex of UMHAT "NI Pirogov". A year later, after a competition, he was appointed an assistant at the clinic. Dr. Tabakov held this position until 2017 when he changed his job and was appointed a surgeon at the Clinic of General and Endoscopic Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" - Sofia. He holds an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in "General Surgery" since 2017.

Dr. Tabakov has a serious professional qualification and academic experience gained through active participation in national and international scientific forums, international projects and publications related to them. He has specializations in Germany, Italy, Turkey, France, the Netherlands, Great Britain. He is a member of the Bulgarian Surgical Society, European hernia society and EDS.

The candidate in the competition has extensive professional and scientific experience in the field of Surgery.

Evaluation of research activity.

In the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery", Dr. Tabakov applied with a dissertation for the acquisition of ESD "Doctor", twelve publications in journals, referenced in world databases - Scopus and Web of science, 27 articles and reports published in unreferred journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes, included in the national reference list and one chapter of a collective monograph. Outside the competition, Dr. Tabakov is the author and co-author of 26 additional publications and reports. According to the Google Scholar platform, he is cited 30 times with h-index -3 and i10 index - 1. In the competition, 4 citations are presented, all of which are in international journals, indexed in world

databases. The total impact factor (IF) of the publications participating in the competition is 10,979.

The presented scientific production is sufficient in volume and quality to participate in the competition.

Scientific areas of publications and contributions from them.

The scientific interests of the candidate are in the field of modern methods of surgical treatment, profiled in:

- ✓ **laparoscopic treatment of abdominal wall hernias - inguinal, umbilical, postoperative**
- ✓ **laparoscopic interventions through one incision**
- ✓ **laparoscopic surgery for diaphragmatic defects and GERD**
- ✓ **laparoscopic surgery for emergencies - peritonitis, trauma, intestinal obstruction**
- ✓ **laparoscopic colorectal surgery for benign and malignant diseases**
- ✓ **treatment with "open" abdomen**
- ✓ **treatment with negative pressure in surgical practice**

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Dr. Tabakov presents a defended dissertation for the acquisition of EDS "Doctor" on the topic: "Study of the possibilities for treatment of ventral hernias with endoscopic techniques." The dissertation shows through a comparative analysis between endoscopic techniques and open methods for ventral hernia repair, the indisputable advantages of minimally invasive techniques. This scientific work is a useful practical guide to the laparoscopic approach for correction of ventral hernias, taking into account the importance of an individual approach to each patient, including accurate diagnosis, selection of optimal access, localization of all defects, selection of optimal technique for correction of defects, precise standardized surgical technique.

The scientific activity of Dr. Tabakov, according to its contributions is distributed as follows:

Contributions of scientific and theoretical nature:

Colorectal cancer

A review of the knowledge available so far in the world literature on total mesorectal excision in rectal cancer has been made. The frequency of local recurrences, survival and basic technical principles are analyzed.

Abdominal wall hernias

The learning curve for the introduction of total extraperitoneal hernioplasty was analyzed, indicating the need for at least 50 operations to overcome it. The features of laparoscopic ventral hernioplasty in overweight patients and the quality of life after laparoscopic ventral hernia were studied. Some severe complications after inguinal hernioplasty have been analyzed, e.g. life-threatening bleeding from an intraoperatively unrecognized lower epigastric artery lesion.

Emergency surgery

A large number of publications are devoted to the injuries of explosive and gunshot wounds, the behavior of mass casualties and the differences in such incidents in military and civilian conditions. In the field of damage control surgery, the work sheds light on the indications, tactics, technique, complications and long-term results. They emphasize that the observance of accurate indications and timely application leads to saving the lives of the hitherto considered "inescapable" victims. An overview of the techniques for temporary abdominal closure is presented, emphasizing the challenges facing the surgeon despite the accumulated significant experience, as well as critically reviewing the results of modern studies. A systematic review and meta-analysis of studies comparing techniques with and without negative pressure is presented. The analysis found significantly lower mortality in negative pressure techniques, as well as a short stay in an intensive care unit against the background of a comparable frequency of postoperative complications, which supports the safety of the methodology.

Contributions of scientific and applied nature:

A method for laparoscopic cholecystectomy through an incision is developed and introduced in the surgical practice of the Clinic of Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski".

Early results were followed. The effectiveness of the method was compared with conventional three-port laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

Developed and introduced in the surgical practice of the Clinic of Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" are methods for:

- ✓ laparoscopic approach in small bowel obstruction;
- ✓ laparoscopic treatment of perforated ulcer;
- ✓ laparoscopic surgical method for treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the colon;
- ✓ An original method for fixing the hernial prosthesis in laparoscopic ventral hernioplasty - type "starry sky" is proposed.
- ✓ An algorithm for application of laparoscopic techniques for treatment of ventral hernias depending on the characteristics of the hernial defect is proposed.

Evaluation of research and teaching activities

The scientific and teaching activity of Dr. Tabakov is diverse and sufficient in volume. It can be divided into the following areas:

1. 138 hours of classroom and 520 hours of teaching and methodological activities at the Department of Emergency Medicine of the Medical University of Sofia, in the form of lectures and practical exercises in surgery for graduates and students.
2. Development of the publishing activity and elaboration of a plan for development of the scientific activity of the specialists and doctoral students with planned participations in international scientific forums.
3. Carrying out editorial activity related to the publishing activity of the Clinic of General and Endoscopic Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" "EAD in the journal" "Emergency Medicine", as well as in a number of international journals with high reference value.

4. Development of a training program for doctoral students in the scientific specialty "Surgery" of the Clinic of General and Endoscopic Surgery of the University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski" EAD.

Conclusion

Based on the above, I believe that Dr. Mihail Stefanov Tabakov, MD, fully covers the mandatory quantitative science metric indicators and criteria set out in ASDLRB, as well as the Rules for the development of the academic staff of MU - Varna

For the stated reasons, I confidently give a positive assessment and suggest to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the election of Dr. Mihail Stefanov Tabakov, MD. to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery".

28.01.2021 Г.

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