

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury
appointed by Order No. P-109-109/29.01.2025
of the Rector of MU-Varna Prof. Dr. Dimitar Raykov, PhD, DSc

REVIEW

Of

Prof. Dr. Sergey Dimitrov Iliev MD, PhD

Dean of the Faculty of "Medicine", Medical University - Pleven

Head of the Department of " Propedeutics of surgical diseases"

Subject: Competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery" in the Department of "Surgical Diseases", Education sector "Abdominal Surgery" of the Faculty of "Medicine" MU-Varna

Information about the procedure:

The competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in "Surgery" in professional field 7.1. "Medicine", Department of Surgical Diseases, Education sector Abdominal Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, was announced in the State Gazette No. 101/29.11.2024. At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury held on 11.02.2025 and by the decision of the Chairman of the SJ on the basis of Article 127, paragraph 1, p.2, p.3 and p.4 of the law on the Devepopment of the Academic Staff of the University of MU-Varna, I am appointed to prepare a review. For participation in the competition has submitted documents of only one candidate – "Chief assistant" Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD. I have received from the scientific department and reviewed all the materials necessary for the preparation of this review, which is in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of Medical University - Varna.

Candidate's CV:

Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD was born on 18.09.1985. He graduated from the First Language School – Varna in 2004r. Graduated in Medicine from Medical University - Varna in 2010 - Diploma № 001012/26.11.2010.

The candidate's academic career began in 2013 as an “Assistant” specializing in Surgery, Second Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina” EAD – Varna after winning a competition.

2016 - 2017 PhD student in independent form of education at the Department of Surgical Diseases, specialty "Surgery", Medical University – Varna.

Acquired specialty "Surgery" in 2018 and held the position of Doctor “Assistant” of Surgery, Second Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna.

In 2017 he defended his dissertation thesis on "Diagnosis and treatment of acute cholecystitis in patients in advanced and elderly age" and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Since 2019 until now he is a doctor “Chief assistant” of Surgery, Second Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna.

Dr. Chaushev's desire for improvement and professional growth is evident from the courses and specializations he has taken:

1. 2021 - MU - Varna - Certificate of Professional Qualification for "Laparoscopic cholecystectomy and laparoscopic operations in emergency surgery".
2. 2024 - MU - Varna - Certificate of professional qualification for "Conventional abdominal ultrasonography in gastroenterology and superficial structures - first level".
3. 2024 - Surgical skills centre Ninewells hospital and medical school Dundee Scotland - "Core skills in Laparoscopic Surgery course".
4. 2024 - Specialization in Surgery - IRCAD Strasbourg France - "New perspectives in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery advanced core.

Memberships: Bulgarian Medical Union, Bulgarian Surgical Society, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - Varna.

Languages of communication: English; German; Russian.

What has been described so far reflects only one side of the academic growth of Dr. Dilyan Chaushev, PhD. The candidate's creative pursuits are evident in his research activities.

The scientific orientation of Dr. Dilyan Chaushev, Ph.D. is in the following scientific areas:

- I. Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery.*
- II. Colorectal surgery*
- III. Anterior abdominal wall surgery*
- IV. Emergency surgery*
- V. Surgical treatment of patients in advanced and elderly age*

Contributions of Dr. Dilyan Chaushev, PhD, related to the main directions of scientific work:

Direction I. Contributions of the defended dissertation thesis on "Diagnosis and treatment of acute cholecystitis in patients in advanced and elderly age".

- A detailed analysis of the literature and comparison of different treatment methods used in patients with acute cholecystitis in advanced and elderly age was performed.
- A retrospective and prospective study was performed over a ten-year period on 495 patients over 60 years of age with acute cholecystitis treated at Second Clinic of Surgery, "St. Marina", allowing statistically reliable conclusions.
- Analysis and comparison of imaging methods was performed.
- Analysis of isolated bacterial causative agents was performed.
- The place and role of conservative and operative treatment of patients in advanced and elderly age with acute cholecystitis were specified.
- The possibilities of preoperative selection of the most appropriate surgical intervention were analyzed.

- A diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm was developed for the treatment of patients with acute cholecystitis over 60 years of age, applied in practice.
- Modern and accurate criteria for surgical management of patients with acute cholecystitis over 60 years of age have been established and implemented in the practice of the clinic.
- Preoperative risk assessment, comorbidities and postoperative complications in patients with acute cholecystitis over 60 years of age were evaluated to objectify surgical management.

Direction II. Contributions of habilitation thesis/monograph on "Complications of acute cholecystitis".

- A detailed systematic analysis of acute cholecystitis has been performed, addressing various aspects from anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology to diagnosis and treatment.
- Historical aspects in the treatment of diseases of the hepatobiliary system are observed in details.
- The opinions of many leading world, European and Bulgarian authors and schools in publications of the last 10 - 15 years are reviewed and analyzed.
- An important place in the monograph is occupied by the classifications of AC and the exact clinical assessment of the severity of the disease, which is extremely important for the correct treatment strategy in order to optimize the final results.
- Various complications are observed in details: empyema, perforation, biliary peritonitis, cholangitis, fistulas, biliary ileus.
- Individual complications are illustrated qualitatively with original images of patients treated in Second Clinic of Surgery.

Direction III. Contributions of scientific publications:

- A major part of his scientific works is devoted to the surgical treatment of gallbladder diseases and its complications (G8-4; G8-11; G8-12; G8-14; G8-20). Separate scientific works present the experience in the diagnosis

and treatment of acute pancreatitis; acute cholecystitis and acute abdominal pain in the most at-risk group of elderly and elderly patients (G7-1; G7-2; G8-5). Current standards in laparoscopic surgical management of the diseases of the gallbladder and biliary system are reflected in a chapter of a collective work, the BSS Consensus Statement 2022 (G8-18). The indications for surgical treatment of acute pancreatitis are presented in a chapter of a collective work - BSS Consensus Statement 2022 (G8-17). The experience of a multidisciplinary team in the management of pyogenic liver abscess and complicated hepatic echinococcosis is presented in a series of publications (G8-2; G8-3; G8-10; G8-16).

- In the area of colorectal surgery, a series of in-depth studies have been carried out by the team of the Second Clinic of Surgery, published in reputable foreign and Bulgarian scientific journals, on the methods of diagnosis and treatment of the following diseases: Intestinal intussusceptions in adults; Surgical complications of Crohn's disease; Intestinal fistulas; Complicated colonic diverticulosis; GIST; Neuroendocrine tumors of colon and rectum; Retroperitoneal soft tissue sarcomas (G7-6; G8-9; G8-6; G8-19; G8-15; G7-3; G7-4; G7-5).
- In the area of herniology are presented two scientific works on postoperative hernias, their causes, choice of surgical treatment and recurrence of the disease (G8-7; G8-8). In the field of emergency surgery, current aspects in the treatment of peritonitis and methods of treatment are discussed in detail in a chapter of a collective work, BSC Consensus Statement 2021 (G8-13).

Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative scientific activity:

Naucometric indicators:

The submitted scientific works, 29 in total, reflect the research activities in the period 2016-2024.

The candidate participate in the competition with a dissertation thesis for the degree "Doctor" of Education and Science on the topic "Diagnosis and treatment of acute cholecystitis in patients in advanced and elderly age";

Habilitation thesis - monograph on "Complications of acute cholecystitis" – published by "Steno" Varna. 2023 ISBN 978-619-241-272-2.

A total of 6 publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 20 publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited collective volumes, providing him 206.63 points at the minimum required - 200 points.

In terms of citations, reflecting the candidate's scientific activity, Dr. Chaushev, PhD has 9 citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes providing him 90 points.

The candidate also submitted 1 full-text publication in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientific requirements for the AD "Associate Professor" - "Pyogenic liver abscess in a patient with pre-existing biliary tract carcinoma - a case from practice". Varna Medical Forum, vol. 6, no. 2, 2017, pp. 26-30. ISSN 1314-8338, carrying him 2,3 points.

There are 12 scientific works in the Google Scholar database under the name Dilyan Chaushev.

The scientific production of Dr. Chaushev, PhD. consists of 1 monograph with a total volume of 183pp; Articles: 55 issues with a total volume of 475 pp; Reports: 8 issues with a total volume of 85pp.

Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD has participated in 15 scientific forums in the country and abroad. He was a mentor in the project "Student Practices" - Phase 1 of the Ministry of Education and Science for training organization University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna 2016-2018.

The scientific production of the candidate is absolutely sufficient in volume and quality for participation in the competition and meets the national requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor".

Medical - diagnostic and operative activity:

➤ Surgical activity for the period 2022-2024.

2022 - A total of 254 surgical interventions performed, of which 153 elective and 101 by emergency. Operator - 97; Assistant - 157.

- Very high volume and complexity - 26 (operator - 6 and assistant - 20)
- High volume and complexity - 80 (operator - 27 and assistant - 53)

- Medium volume and complexity - 142 (operator - 61 and assistant - 81)
- Low volume and complexity - 6 (operator - 3 and assistant - 3)

2023 - A total of 269 surgical interventions performed, of which 187 elective and 82 by emergency. Operator - 134; Assistant - 135.

- Very high volume and complexity - 21 (operator - 6 and assistant - 15)
- High volume and complexity - 82 (operator - 39 and assistant - 43)
- Medium volume and complexity - 163 (operator - 87 and assistant - 76)
- Low volume and complexity - 3 (operator - 2 and assistant - 1)

2024 - A total of 272 surgical interventions performed, of which 172 were elective and 100 by emergency. Operator - 147; Assistant - 125.

- Very high volume and complexity - 28 (operator - 10 and assistant - 18)
- High volume and complexity - 92 (operator - 49 and assistant - 43)
- Medium volume and complexity - 143 (operator - 80 and assistant - 63)
- Low volume and complexity - 9 (operator - 8 and assistant - 1)

Study and teaching activity:

Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD has a significant teaching activity. The teaching workload includes practical seminars and lectures on "General and Operative Surgery" for Bulgarian- and English-speaking students of Medicine, III year; "Surgical Diseases" - for Bulgarian- and English-speaking students of Medicine, IV and V year. Predominant is the teaching workload with students of English-language education.

Teaching workload for the period 2019-2024.

- 2019/2020 - 546 teaching hours (28 Bulgarian language education and 518 English language education)
- 2020/2021 - 577 teaching hours (26 Bulgarian language education and 551 English language education)
- 2021/2022 - 474 teaching hours (17 Bulgarian language education and 457 English language education)
- 2022/2023 - 464 teaching hours (8 Bulgarian language education and 456 English language education)
- 2023/2024 - 465 teaching hours (8 Bulgarian language education and 457 English language education)

Conclusion:

I don't have the pleasure to know personally Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD but from the materials provided to me it is evident that he is a young man with diverse interests in surgical science and practice, a taste for innovation and an ambition for career development in Bulgarian surgical science. I believe that Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD will be a valuable asset to the Bulgarian medical society. All of the above mentioned facts from the professional biography, scientific production, diagnostic-treatment and teaching activities of Dr. Dilyan Svilenov Chaushev, PhD fully comply with and exceed the legal requirements and the regulations of the Medical University - Varna. The aforementioned give me a strong reason to recommend the Scientific Jury to vote positively and to award the Academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery" at the Department of "Surgical Diseases" Education sector of Abdominal Surgery of the Faculty of Medicine MU-Varna.

16.03.2025г.

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Sincerely:

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

Prof. Dr. Sergey Hiev MD, PhD