

REVIEW

by

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Surgical Clinic Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT „Tokuda“

Member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order No. R - 109 - 197 / 16.04.2025 issued by the Rector of Medical University – Varna

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor Field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.1. Medicine, Specialty “Pediatric Surgery” for the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and the First Clinic of Surgery at UMHAT “Sveta Marina” EAD; published in the State Gazette, issue 15, dated 21.02.2025.

Following decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine at Medical University – Varna under protocol No. 37 / 31.03.2025 and by Order No. P 109 - 197 / 16.04.2025 issued by the Rector of Medical University – Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury, and according to protocol No. 1 of the first meeting held on 30.04.2025 I have been assigned to prepare a review (in Bulgarian and English) for the procedure for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, specialty “Pediatric Surgery,” presented by the sole candidate – Dr. Petar Stamov, MD.

The candidate Dr. Petar Stamov has submitted in time all necessary documents for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", and presents the following set of scientific papers:

- Doctoral Dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” on the topic: “Method for Temporary Decompression of the Gastrointestinal Tract by Formation of an Enterostomy with T-shaped Drainage in Newborns with Low and Extremely Low Birth Weight.”
- Habilitation Work – monograph entitled: “Contemporary Approaches in Pediatric Endoscopy”, published in 2025, ISBN 978-619-221-546-0.
- A total of 11 real scientific publications
- 36 oral presentation on bulgarian and international scientific congresses

Biographical Data and Professional Development

Dr. Petar Stamov was born on January 10, 1983, in Tetovo, Republic of North Macedonia. He completed his secondary education in 2001, specializing in dental technology. In 2007, he graduated with a Master’s degree in Medicine from the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna. Dr. Stamov began his professional career in 2008, following successful completion of a competitive exam for specialization in pediatric surgery.

Initially he worked as a physician at the Emergency Medical Center – Varna and at the Pediatric Surgery Clinic - St. Anna University Hospital – Varna. In 2015, he becomes a specialist in Pediatric Surgery.

In 2021, Dr. Stamov enrolled as a doctoral candidate (independent study) at the Pediatric Surgery Clinic of UMHAT “N. I. Pirogov” – Sofia. Since 2022, he has been part of the team at the First Clinic of Surgery and the Pediatric Surgery Department at UMHAT “St. Marina” – Varna. After a successful competition in 2023, he was appointed to the academic position of Assistant Professor at the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Medical University – Varna.

In 2024, Dr. Stamov successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on the topic “A Method for Temporary Decompression of the Gastrointestinal Tract via the Formation of an Enterostomy with T-shaped Drainage in Newborns with Low and Extremely Low Birth Weight,” by dissertation supervision of Prof. Dr. Hristo Shivachev, thus awarded with the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”.

Dr. Stamov’s postgraduate training includes numerous specialized practical trainings which are directly related to his present thesis work, namely:

- Diagnostic video esophagogastroduodenoscopy and video colonoscopy;
- Therapeutic video esophagogastroduodenoscopy and video colonoscopy;
- Conventional abdominal ultrasonography in gastroenterology and superficial structures;
- Transanal endoscopic microsurgery;
- Training course in Minimally Invasive Surgery (Laparoscopic Surgery).

He is an active member of several scientific and professional organizations, including: Bulgarian Scientific Society of Pediatric Surgery; Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA); Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition; Bulgarian Pediatric Association.

Analysis of the scientific production

The candidate’s scientific production encompasses the period from 2019 to 2025. The works focus on contemporary and practically significant topics in the field of pediatric surgery, diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, minimally invasive techniques, as well as diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for urgent and chronic surgical conditions in childhood.

The candidate presents 11 real publications, as first author – in 10 and second co-author – in one. Two articles are published in journals with impact factor (IF), namely “J Ped Surgery Case Reports” and “Medicine and pharmacy reports”. Two publications are published in a refereed and indexed scientific journals and seven in national journals without impact factor, which are not indexed, but are accepted according to the criteria. There are 4 citations.

IF of the publications used for the competition is 0.3. IF- of citations is 2.8.

Teaching Activity

Dr. Petar Stamov, PhD, began his teaching engagement in 2023, when he was appointed to the academic position of Assistant at the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

Within his teaching duties, Dr. Stamov participates in the education of medical students enrolled in both the Bulgarian-language and English-language Medicine programs. He conducts practical sessions in the disciplines of General and Operative Surgery and Surgical Diseases, while actively contributing to the training and supervision of interns and resident physicians specializing in surgery.

Alongside his teaching activities, Dr. Stamov undertakes responsibilities related to participation in examination committees, assessment of practical skills, and support of the educational process within the department.

Over the course of the last two academic years, Dr. Stamov's total teaching workload amounts to 332 academic hours.

Evaluation of the Monograph

Dr. Stamov's habilitation thesis focuses on gastrointestinal tract (GIT) endoscopy in the pediatric population, approached from the perspective of a pediatric surgeon. The author traces the historical and technological development of endoscopy, emphasizing its crucial role in the accurate diagnosis and treatment of various GIT conditions in children.

The work presents both diagnostic and therapeutic applications, with particular attention to esophagogastrosopy, enteroscopy, colonoscopy, and polypectomy. It offers a detailed discussion of diseases such as gastroesophageal reflux, foreign bodies, corrosive injuries, achalasia, inflammatory disorders, and hepatobiliary diseases.

Contemporary techniques, including capsule endoscopy and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy, are also incorporated, reflecting the up-to-date nature of the study. The monograph is distinguished by its comprehensive literature review, clear and well-organized presentation, and practical guidance.

The author underscores the importance of specialized training and certification for practitioners in this field. Overall, the work holds significant practical value and will serve as a useful resource for pediatricians, pediatric surgeons, endoscopists, and general practitioners alike.

Evaluation of the Research Activity and Contributions of the Candidate

Dr. Petar Stamov's research encompasses a broad range of topics within the pediatric surgery, including neonatal surgery, abdominal inflammatory diseases, minimally invasive techniques, as well as the impact of global health challenges such as COVID-19 on surgical practice.

Dr. Stamov's primary research contributions focus on improving diagnostic and therapeutic protocols for emergency and congenital surgical conditions, implementing minimally invasive techniques, reducing surgical trauma, and adapting surgical practice to the demands of global health challenges.

The submitted scientific works can be categorized into the following four main areas:

1. *Surgical Interventions in Neonatal and Early Childhood*

This section includes articles addressing specific conditions and approaches in neonatal and early childhood surgery:

- ✓ An exceptionally rare clinical case is presented involving the simultaneous occurrence of Wilkie's syndrome and congenital hypertrophic pyloric stenosis, with emphasis on the diagnostic challenges posed by overlapping symptoms. An effective one-stage surgical approach—pyloromyotomy combined with duodeno-duodenal anastomosis—is proposed, demonstrating high clinical applicability in similar cases.
- ✓ A significant contribution is made toward a better understanding of neonatal appendicitis as a rare but clinically important condition. The necessity of including it in the differential diagnosis of intestinal obstruction in newborns.
- ✓ The importance of Doppler ultrasonography is emphasized as a primary non-invasive method for differentiating testicular torsion from inflammatory diseases in cases of acute scrotum.
- ✓ The need for rapid diagnosis and timely consultation with a pediatric surgeon in suspected cases of incarcerated inguinal hernia is stressed. Early surgical intervention is underlined as critical to prevent ischemic complications.

2. *Abdominal Surgery and Therapeutic Approaches for Inflammatory Diseases*

Four publications analyze current challenges in the field of abdominal surgery and the treatment of inflammatory diseases. Both surgical and conservative therapeutic methods are examined, with an assessment of their effectiveness and clinical applicability.

- ✓ The role of postoperative antibiotic therapy following appendectomy in cases of periappendiceal abscess is investigated. The findings support the possibility of successful treatment without routine use of systemic antibiotics.
- ✓ A comparative analysis of therapeutic approaches to intussusception in early childhood is performed, highlighting the high rate of surgical intervention. The need for early and accurate diagnosis, as well as optimization of diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms, is stressed to reduce the necessity for surgery in appropriate cases.
- ✓ Therapeutic options for cecal diverticulitis are evaluated, with a focus on the choice between conservative and surgical treatment.
- ✓ Surgical strategies for chronic pancreatitis are assessed according to morphological changes. The effectiveness of internal drainage is emphasized in cases with increased intraductal pressure, as well as resective methods in suspicion of neoplasia.

3. *Minimally Invasive Procedures and Surgical Innovations*

Two publications focus on minimally invasive surgical techniques and innovative approaches aimed at reducing operative trauma, accelerating recovery, and improving clinical outcomes (Refs. G.7.4, G.8.6).

- ✓ The safety and efficacy of percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) in pediatric patients are evaluated. The analysis provides guidelines for optimizing the technique and maintenance of the gastrostomy system in pediatric practice.
- ✓ The applicability of methylene blue as an adjunctive agent for precise visualization of sinus tracts during surgical treatment of sacrococcygeal pilonidal disease is demonstrated.

4. *Impact of COVID-19 on Surgical Practice*

Two publications focus on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgical activities, analyzing changes in the incidence, diagnosis, and treatment of surgical cases during this period.

- ✓ The impact of the pandemic on the frequency and complications of acute appendicitis in pediatric patients is examined.
- ✓ Recommendations for optimizing emergency surgery during health crises are provided.
- ✓ Changes in the organization of surgical practice during the pandemic are discussed, including restrictions on healthcare access, the need for rapid adaptation, and heightened infection control requirements.
- ✓ The role of minimally invasive techniques and remote training is highlighted, along with recommendations for future preparation of surgical teams to face global health challenges.

Participation in Scientific Forums and Projects

Dr. Stamov has participated actively in 36 scientific forums, both national and international, and has contributed to the implementation of the following projects under the Operational Programme "Science and Education for Smart Growth":

Conclusion

Based on the documents and scientific papers provided to me and the academic reference, I conclude that Dr. Petar Stamov, MD fully meets the minimum national requirements set out in the Academic Staff Development Act (ASDA) for holding the academic position of "associate professor", with a required minimum of 400 points. The candidate has provided documents certifying a total of 412 points. Regarding the internal criteria of the Medical University - Varna, the candidate for the academic position of "associate professor" achieves 202 points out of the required minimum of 200 scientometric points.

Considering the scientific, professional and teaching development of Dr Petar Stamov, I declare with confidence that he fully meets the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Taking into account all considerations, I give my positive assessment of the candidate in the competition and recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to award to Dr. Petar Stamov, Ph.D. the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatric Surgery" for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Sofia. Varna and for the First Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "Sveta Marina" EAD - Varna.

23.06.2025

Sofia

Reviewer

Prof. Dr. Ognyan Brankov, D.M.Sc.

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

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Table 1. Summary of Compliance with the Requirements for the Academic Position

Group of Indicators		Minimum National Requirements (ADAS) – Total Points	Minimum Requirements of MU–Varna – Total Points	Dr. Petar Stamov, MD, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-	-
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100		100
D	Sum of Indicators 5 to 9	200	200 (≥ 60 pts from Indicator 7 for clinical specialties)	202 pts (92 pts from Indicator 7)
E	Sum of Indicators 10 to 12	50	50	60
F	Sum of Indicators 13 onwards	-	-	-
Total Score		400	400 (≥ 60 pts from Indicator 7 for clinical specialties)	412 (92 pts from Indicator 7)