

## **OPINION**

by

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### **REGARDING:**

Competition announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 15 of February 21, 2025, pursuant to a report with reference No.102-849/28.03.2025 from Prof. Nikola Kolev – Head of the Department of General and Operative Surgery, and a decision recorded in Protocol No. 37/31.03.2025 of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine, for the academic position of Associate Professor in Higher Education Field 7. Health and Sports, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, in the specialty Pediatric Surgery, for the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and for the First Surgery Clinic at University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD.

The competition has a single applicant – Dr. Petar Stamov, MD, PhD, who fulfills all the necessary requirements for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, as outlined in the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

Dr. Petar Stamov was born on January 10, 1983, in Tetovo, Republic of North Macedonia. He graduated from the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna in 2007. He acquired a medical specialty in Pediatric Surgery in 2015 and has 15 years of medical experience.

The candidate's academic career began in 2023, when he was appointed as an Assistant at the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University – Varna. In 2024, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled: "A Method for Temporary Decompression of the Gastrointestinal Tract

via Enterostomy with T-shaped Drainage in Newborns with Low and Extremely Low Birth Weight.”

He began his professional career as a physician at the Emergency Medical Services Center (EMSC) – Varna and at the Pediatric Surgery Clinic of “St. Anna” University Hospital – Varna. In 2015, he obtained a medical specialty in Pediatric Surgery. Since 2022, he has been working at the Department of Pediatric Surgery within the First Surgery Clinic at University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna. It is worth noting his participation in both national and international scientific forums, as well as the valuable experience gained through various training courses, all of which have contributed significantly to his professional development and have laid a solid foundation for future academic and clinical advancement. He holds several postgraduate qualification certificates, including: Diagnostic Video Esophagogastroduodenoscopy and Videocolonoscopy, Therapeutic Video Esophagogastroduodenoscopy and Videocolonoscopy, Conventional Abdominal Ultrasonography in Gastroenterology and Superficial Structures, Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery, Training Course in Minimally Invasive Surgery (Laparoscopic Surgery)

For the purposes of the competition, the candidate has submitted one doctoral dissertation, one monographic (habilitation) work, and 11 scientific publications, of which: 2 are published in journals with Impact Factor (IF), 2 in peer-reviewed and indexed journals, 7 in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals, and 1 full-text publication in scientific journals and collections that falls outside the minimum scientometric criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor. According to authorship position, Dr. Petar Stamov is listed as sole or first author in 12 publications (92.3%) and as second author in one (7.7%), which demonstrates his active role in the conceptualization and execution of the scientific work. Dr. Stamov’s research interests are closely aligned with his daily clinical practice in pediatric surgery. His approach is interdisciplinary, seeking a balance between established surgical techniques and innovations aimed at lower invasiveness, shorter postoperative recovery, and improved patient quality of life. The topics of his work are carefully selected, with a clear focus on current and clinically relevant issues in pediatric surgery—such as surgical methods in neonates, diagnosis and treatment of inflammatory diseases in childhood, and the implementation of minimally invasive techniques. Some of his studies also address changes in surgical practice resulting from the COVID-

19 pandemic, reflecting both adaptability and strong analytical thinking. The monographic work submitted as a habilitation thesis is devoted to contemporary trends in pediatric endoscopy. It is current, well-structured, application-oriented, and written in accordance with modern academic standards. It meets all scientometric criteria outlined in the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University – Varna.

The candidate consistently fulfills his teaching responsibilities within the Department of General and Operative Surgery, engaging with both Bulgarian and English-language medical students. He also participates in the training of medical interns and residents, thereby broadening the scope of his pedagogical activity. Over the past two academic years, his documented teaching workload amounts to a total of 332 hours.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on a thorough analysis of the submitted documents and my personal impressions of Dr. Petar Stamov's professional performance, I consider that the candidate fully meets all the criteria for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty Pediatric Surgery.

I fully support his candidacy and vote in favor of his election to the aforementioned position within the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and the First Department of Surgery at University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna.

Varna

June 22, 2025

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Zlatarov, MD

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