

To the
Chairperson of the Scientific Committee,
appointed by Order No. P-109-197/16.04.2025

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Nikola Nikolov Vladov, DMSc
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Regarding: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the 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 Surgical Clinic at UMHAT “St. Marina” EAD, announced in State Gazette No. 15 of 21.02.2025.

The present opinion has been prepared in accordance with Protocol No. 1 from the first meeting of the scientific jury and complies with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), its Implementing Regulations (IR-LDASRB), and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Academic Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

Esteemed Members of the Scientific Committee,

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Petar Stamov graduated in Medicine from the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna in 2007, earning a Master’s degree in Medicine. In 2008, after a competitive selection, he was enrolled as a resident in Pediatric Surgery. His professional career began as a physician at the Emergency Medical Care Center in Varna and in the Department of Pediatric Surgery at MHAT “St. Anna” – Varna. In 2015, he successfully obtained a specialty in Pediatric Surgery. In 2021, he was enrolled as a doctoral student in an individual form at the “Clinic of Pediatric Surgery” in the Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment and Emergency Medicine “N.I. Pirogov” in Sofia. In 2023, after winning a competitive selection, he assumed the position of “Assistant Professor” in the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University – Varna. In 2024, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic “A Method for Temporary Decompression of the Gastrointestinal Tract by Forming an Enterostomy with a T-shaped Drain in Neonates with Low and Extremely Low Birth Weight” for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Hristo Shivachev.

Over the years, Dr. Stamov has undertaken a number of important and practically oriented postgraduate courses and trainings, including:

- Diagnostic video esophagogastroduodenoscopy and video colonoscopy;
- Therapeutic video esophagogastroduodenoscopy and video colonoscopy;
- Conventional abdominal ultrasonography in gastroenterology and of superficial structures;
- Transanal endoscopic microsurgery;
- Training course in minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopic surgery).

Dr. Stamov's **scientific output** includes his dissertation and abstract, 1 monograph, 4 full-text publications in Bulgarian, and 9 full-text articles in foreign journals. He has participated in over 35 national and international forums in Bulgaria and abroad. The documents submitted for the competition show that he is the first author in 92.3% of his publications and second author in 7.7%, reflecting consistent publication activity. A significant aspect of his scientific evaluation is the report from the Library of the Medical University – Varna (No. 117/19.03.2025), indicating that his works have been cited four times in scientific journals indexed in internationally recognized databases freely accessible online.

Dr. Stamov's scientific work covers a broad thematic spectrum, focusing on pediatric surgery, gastrointestinal diseases, minimally invasive procedures, and the prevention and treatment of various surgical conditions. His main **scientific contributions** are directly linked to his clinical diagnostic and therapeutic practice. The presented publications are characterized by their applied nature, investigating diagnostic and therapeutic approaches for urgent and congenital surgical conditions in children, with an emphasis on optimizing surgical techniques and long-term outcomes. They also address topics in abdominal surgery and the management of inflammatory diseases, analyzing both surgical and conservative approaches. Several studies highlight minimally invasive procedures and surgical innovations aimed at reducing operative trauma, accelerating recovery, and achieving better clinical outcomes. Among the subjects discussed is an analysis of the significant social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgical practice, including changes in the frequency of operations and the implications for the organization and access to surgical care. These studies expand the knowledge base in pediatric surgery and provide valuable insights for optimizing therapeutic strategies. They introduce novel diagnostic and therapeutic methods that have the potential to improve patient care and recovery.

Dr. Stamov is the author of the monograph "Modern Approaches in Pediatric Endoscopy," published in 2025 (ISBN 978-619-221-546-0) and reviewed by two external experts. The submitted habilitation work addresses one of the most dynamically developing areas in contemporary pediatric surgery – endoscopic diagnosis and therapy of gastrointestinal diseases. The author demonstrates a high level of scientific competence and in-depth knowledge not only of standard endoscopic techniques but also of innovative approaches. The

collected and presented data are structured in a coherent and logical manner, and the modern significance of the topic is analyzed in a detailed, critical, and thorough way.

Dr. Petar Stamov is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, The Scientific Society of Pediatric Surgery, The Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, and The Bulgarian Pediatric Association.

According to the report from the Medical University – Varna. Dr. Stamov's **teaching activity** comprises a total of 332 hours of academic (classroom and extracurricular) work. This includes leading practical exercises in surgery for medical students and residents, as well as participating in examination boards.

Compliance with regulatory requirements: The documents submitted for participation in the competition are exceptionally well-organized and systematic. The candidate meets the requirements in line with the competition's focus. According to the submitted report, Dr. Stamov participates in the competition with 4 scientific works for Indicator G7 and 7 scientific works for Indicator G8, with a total of 202 points, exceeding the required minimum of 200 points. His citations, reflecting his scientific activity, amount to 4 in Indicator D10 – 60 points. The provided scientometric data comply with the statutory requirements. Based on these quantitative indicators, Dr. Petar Stamov meets the minimum national requirements for scientific and teaching activity necessary for appointment as "Associate Professor."

Conclusion: I am convinced that Dr. Petar Stamov is an accomplished physician and pediatric surgeon, with proven professionalism, teaching experience, and a keen sense for innovation. He is the author of a substantial body of scientific work, with significant contributions as outlined above. All these achievements and the fulfilled attestation requirements give me complete confidence to recommend to the esteemed Scientific Committee that Dr. Petar Stamov be appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Pediatric Surgery for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery and the First Surgical Clinic at UMHAT "St. Marina" EAD – Varna.

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Sofia

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