

OPINION

by

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(Internal member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. R-109-197/16.04.2025 of Prof. Dimitar Raykov, MD, DSc – Rector of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna)

Subject: Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor Field of Higher Education: 7. Healthcare and Sports Professional Field: 7.1. Medicine Scientific Specialty: Pediatric Surgery for the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and for the First Surgery Clinic at University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment “St. Marina” EAD, announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 15 of 21.02.2025.

One (1) candidate has applied for the announced competition – Dr. Petar Stamov, PhD.

The submitted set of documents is in full compliance with the legal requirements and Article 138 of the current Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna. The presented evidence does not duplicate materials previously submitted and evaluated during the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". All administrative deadlines for conducting the competition have been duly observed.

Evaluation of Research Activity

For the current competition, Dr. Petar Stamov has submitted a total of 13 scientific works, distributed as follows:

- Scientific publications in journals indexed and referenced in internationally recognized scientific databases (SCOPUS and/or Web of Science) – 4 items
- Scientific publications in non-indexed but peer-reviewed journals – 7 items
- Full-text publication in scientific journals or conference proceedings, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor – 1 item

- Monographic (habilitation) work – 1 item

Dr. Stamov's contribution to the publications is substantial. According to the summary report of the scientific works, he is the sole or first author in 12 of them (92.3%) and the second author in 1 publication (7.7%).

Thematically, the published articles are distributed across four main areas:

1. Surgical interventions in neonatal and early childhood age
2. Abdominal surgery and therapeutic approaches in inflammatory diseases
3. Minimally invasive procedures and surgical innovations
4. Impact of COVID-19 on surgical practice

The publications cover the period from 2019 to 2025, reflecting seven active years of research activity, during which the author produced works with a clearly defined scientific and applied character. A central focus of these publications is placed on diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to emergency and congenital surgical conditions in pediatric patients. Particular emphasis is given to the refinement of operative techniques and the achievement of improved long-term outcomes. The articles also address issues related to abdominal surgery and the treatment of inflammatory diseases, offering comparative analyses between surgical and conservative methods. A portion of the research highlights the application of minimally invasive procedures and innovative surgical solutions aimed at reducing surgical trauma, accelerating recovery, and optimizing clinical outcomes. Importantly, the body of work includes an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgical practice, examining changes in the frequency of surgical interventions as well as the implications for the organization of surgical services and access to care during a healthcare crisis.

Dr. Petar Stamov has participated in a total of 36 scientific forums and conferences, both national and international. In addition, he has taken part in 2 projects as a mentor, contributing to the practical training of students.

Citation Index

According to a review of scientific information databases, there are 4 citations of Dr. Stamov's articles in international publications.

Compliance with Minimum Requirements

Dr. Petar Stamov meets the minimum criteria for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the

Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna.

Group of Indicators		Minimum National Requirements (ADAS) – Total Points	Minimum Requirements of MU–Varna – Total Points	Dr. Petar Stamov, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100	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
Total Score		400	400 (≥ 60 pts from Indicator 7 for clinical specialties)	412 (92 pts from Indicator 7)

Dr. Stamov's scientometric indicators exceed the minimum national requirements specified in the Implementing Regulations of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (IR-ADASRB) and in Appendix No. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in Professional Field 7.1. Medicine. While the minimum required number of points is 400, the candidate has accumulated a total of 412 points.

Evaluation of Teaching Activity

Dr. Petar Stamov began his teaching career in 2023 as an Assistant at the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna. In 2024, he successfully defended a dissertation entitled "Method for Temporary Decompression of the Gastrointestinal Tract via Enterostomy with T-shaped Drainage in Newborns with Low and Extremely Low Birth Weight" in fulfillment of the requirements for the educational and scientific degree Doctor (PhD), under the supervision of Prof. Hristo Shivachev, MD.

Since 2015, he has held a recognized medical specialty in Pediatric Surgery. According to the official report on his teaching workload, his total teaching hours over the past two academic years amount to 332 hours. His academic duties include leading practical exercises in General and Operative Surgery and Surgical Diseases for both Bulgarian- and English-language medical students. In addition, he provides training for medical interns and residents, and participates as a member of examination committees.

Conclusion:

Dr. Petar Stamov has applied for the announced competition with a significant number of original peer-reviewed publications and a sufficient number of citations. His publications are thematically aligned with the subject of the competition – Pediatric Surgery, and the submitted scientific works contain substantial theoretical and applied contributions. The candidate has two years of teaching experience. His teaching workload in recent years exceeds the standard set by the university. With all the above achievements, Dr. Stamov fully meets the unified minimum requirements for holding the academic position of Associate Professor, in accordance with the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna.

All of the above gives me sufficient grounds to vote in favor and with full confidence to recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury that Dr. Petar Stamov, MD, PhD, be elected to the academic position of Associate Professor in the specialty Pediatric Surgery, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, in the Field of Higher Education 7 Healthcare and Sports, for the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and the First Surgery Clinic at University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment “St. Marina” EAD.

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Varna

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