

To: Department: Career Development Department

Medical University - Varna

### STATEMENT

from Prof. Dr. Theophil Angelov Sedloev, MD, PhD

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External member for MU - Varna, appointed by Order No. R-109-196/16.04.2025 of the Rector of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna,

Subject: Competition for the academic position of 'Professor' in the specialty "Surgery", professional field 7.1. 7. Healthcare and Sport, with candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, DSc in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Research and Development and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at MU - Varna.

The candidate's documents have been submitted on time, have been reviewed by the Admissions Committee and have been assessed by the Committee as meeting the requirements set by the Law on Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at the Medical University of Varna.

I have no conflict of interest in this competition.

#### **Biographical data and professional development:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky was born on 17.01.1980 in Vidin. In 2005 he graduated from the Medical University - Varna. In 2006 he started working as a doctor in Varna. Since 2008 he has been a honorary assistant, assistant professor - 2009, regular doctoral student at the Department of Surgical Diseases of Medical University - Varna. In 2016 became associate professor at the same department. Since November 2023 - Head of the Second Department of Surgery and since March 2024 - Head of the Board of Abdominal Surgery, Department of Surgical Diseases, MU - Varna. In 2015. he obtained the degree of after defending his

dissertation on "Palliative interventions in malignant icterus" and dissertation on "Intra-abdominal abscesses" for the degree of Doctor of Science - 2023. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky has acquired a specialty "Surgery" in 2011 and an additional qualification: "Health Management" - 2012. He speaks and writes English and French. Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky completed numerous specializations and additional qualification courses in the field of:

1. Biliary and pancreatic surgery and liver transplantation in - Chirurgia Generale e del Pancreas - Istituto del Pancreas - Verona, Italy - 2017 r.; Laparoscopic Suturing Course - Herceghalom, Hungary - 2017 r.; 11<sup>th</sup> European Digestive Surgery (EDS) Postgraduate Course - Budapest, Hungary - 2017 r.; ESSO-EYSAC Hands on Course on Liver Surgery in Innsbruck, Austria - 2019 r.; Klinikum StadtSoest, Klinik für Allgemein-, Viszeral- und Endokrine Chirurgie - 2019 r.; IASGO Pre-Congress Course "IOUS and ablations in liver tumors"- Verona, Italy - 2023 r.; International postgraduate course: "Hepatocellular carcinoma - multidisciplinary approach" - Military Medical Academy - Sofia, Bulgaria, 2023 r.; New perspectives in Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic surgery advanced course - IRCAD, Strasbourg - 2024 r. etc.

2. Laparoscopic surgery - Miniinvasive (laparoscopic) surgery - 2014r; „Basic Laparoscopic Skills Course“, Vienna, Austria - 2018 r.; „½ day Hands - on Course on TEO/TEM - Vienna, Austria - 2018 r.; Core Skills in Laparoscopic Surgery course - Surgical Skill Center, Ninewell Hospital, Dundee, Scotland - 30.04 - 01.05.2024 r. etc.

3. Abdominal ultrasonography and gastrointestinal endoscopy - Highly Specialized Activity: diagnostic upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy - first level 2022, Highly Specialized Activity: Conventional Abdominal Ultrasonography in Gastroenterology and Surface Structures, Specialization: Conventional and Intraoperative Ultrasonography in Surgery - Varna, 2011; THD Endo-Anal, Endo-Rectal & Pelvic Floor Ultrasound Course Webinar - Rome, 2024, etc.

**Research activity: Evaluation of quantitative and qualitative scientific indicators:**

A total of 42 scientific publications are submitted in this competition to meet the minimum requirements for the title "Professor". As a substitute for a habilitation monograph, 10 full-text scientific publications in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned

databases data with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) recognized by the NACID of the Ministry of Education and Science. These are included in the academic transcript under indicator B4. "Publications equivalent to a monographic work" - 255 points with a minimum requirement of 100 points.

Thirteen of the remaining scientific publications are indexed in world databases (Scopus, Web of Science) (G7.1-G7.13) - 272.00 points with a minimum requirement of 80 points for clinical disciplines, and 19 are in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals (G8.1-G8.19) -103.54 points with a total of 375.54 points. Some of the presented publications are in world leading medical journals such as Surgery, Gastroenterology and Oncology; Journal of IMAB - Annual Proceeding (Scientific Papers); British Journal of Surgery; International Clinical and Medical Case Reports Journal, etc.

The list of theses includes a dissertation on "Intra-abdominal abscesses" for the degree of Doctor of Science - 2023. The dissertation has been evaluated on merit by the official reviewers and is of a distinct scientific and applied character.

Scientific Forums. In the present research, Assoc. Prof. Chernopolsky presented 50 contributions to national and international congresses and conferences held in the country and abroad.

Citations: the citations reflecting the scientific activity of the candidate are 22 in total according to the reference prepared by the Library of MU-Varna (133/ 04.2025).

The submitted scientific production is absolutely sufficient in volume for participation in the competition and meets the accepted criteria of MU - Varna. The following topics from the field of surgery are predominant: clinical cases, including rare pathologies in the abdominal cavity, diseases of the hepatobiliary system, diseases of the small and large intestine, herniology, etc., which corresponds to the main activity in the clinic where the candidate works.

#### **Evaluation of contributions in scientific and applied activities:**

*Habilitation thesis:*

Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky presents ten equivalent publications of habilitation thesis. These are the full-text scientific publications listed in the academic transcript section B4 in journals that are cited in refereed and indexed in the world database of scientific information - Web of Science and Scopus. In 30% (№ 4, 5, 6) of these publications Assoc. Prof. Chernopolsky is the first author. In the remaining 70% he is the second author (№1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10). All publications are contemporary and up-to-date. Eight of the publications were published in the last 2 years, and two of them in 2019. These facts convincingly reveal the personal involvement of Assoc. prof. Chernopolsky in the publications presented, as well as his enduring interests in certain areas of publication activity. All of the submitted publications contain original work, and a literature review is included in 4 articles (№2, 4, 7, 9). The submitted extended habilitation abstract is well structured and in accordance with the requirements of MU - Varna, describing the personal contributions of the candidate. The publications presented in the section equivalent to a habilitation thesis reveal the diversity of scientific fields in which Assoc. prof Chernopolsky, identifying the lasting interests and further research in the respective fields:

The main contributions in the diverse research activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky can be divided into several areas:

1. Rare cases of abdominal pathology (B4-1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10);
2. Abscesses in the abdominal cavity (B4- 5, 6);
3. Postcholecystectomy syndrome (B4- 7, 9);

These publications can be interpreted as having a practical-applied character (B4-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Some have an original character and present innovative approaches in a given field (B4- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9), and others can be considered as publications with theoretical contribution and contain original results that are published for the first time in Bulgaria (B4-1, 2, 3, 4, 10).

In the section "Rare cases of abdominal pathology" six articles are presented (B 4.1, B 4.2, B 4.7, B 4.3, B 4.8 and B4.10):

B 4.1 presents a rare case of splenic felinosis of a patient operated on for splenic abscess. Contribution of a scientific and practical nature, due to the rare pathology.

B 4.2 we present three cases of Frantz's tumour - operated in the clinic A review of the world literature was performed - an extremely rare type of pancreatic neoplasm. Recommendations for the treatment of this type of pathology are given.

B4.3 - Concerned patients admitted with clinical presentation of small bowel ileus, or GIT bleeding, history of melanoma present - treated, operated, resection performed with subsequent anastomosis. Histological result - metastasis from melanoma.

B 4.4 - a case report of abdominal pathology - abdominal actinomycosis is presented. Intramural gastric actinomycosis is an extremely rare clinical nosological entity and the initial source of infection is usually unknown. Contribution of practical-applied nature - proposed diagnostic-treatment algorithm.

B 4.8 - a retrospective cohort study of patients diagnosed with NETs who underwent surgical interventions between 2010 and 2022 in 32 patients (19 women and 13 men) is presented. The best outcomes in the treatment of NETs are achieved in highly specialized centers, with the involvement of endoscopists and surgeons.

B 4.10 - we present a clinical case of ileus caused by "insertion" of a small bowel loop at the site of a trocar from laparoscopic removal of a myomatous node performed a few days before. The world literature is reviewed and attention is focused on a different type of pathology resulting from the massive introduction of laparoscopic surgery into surgical practice and the consequent risks.

Two articles (B4.5, B4.6) are presented in the Abdominal Abscesses section:

B 4.5 antimicrobial treatment of intra-abdominal abscesses is presented- the social and economic importance of intra-abdominal abscesses is measured by the significant burden of health resources they require in terms of the need for emergency care, hospital admission, imaging and laboratory diagnostics, and surgery (both initial and repeat interventions). The article has an original contribution, but it also has a practical-applied value, since a diagnostic-treatment algorithm for this type of pathology is indicated.

B 4.6 the management of patients with liver abscess is presented. Liver abscess and its complications are one of the common problems in surgical practice. During the period 2019-

2021, 26 patients with liver abscess were treated. Three types of drainage techniques were used: percutaneous drainage under ultrasound or CT guidance (with or without catheter placement) (9 patients), surgical drainage (16 patients), and drainage by ERCP (1 patient). Early diagnosis and treatment is a crucial step in the management of these patients. The article has an original contribution, but it also has a practical-applied value, since a diagnostic-treatment algorithm for this type of pathology is indicated.

Two articles (B4.7, B4.9) are presented in the "Postcholecystectomy syndrome" section:

In B 4.7 and B 4.9 we present diagnostic and therapeutic strategies and treatment modalities in patients with PCS and their role in optimizing outcomes and reducing complications and mortality in these patients. This presents the general practitioner with the challenge of knowing the underlying diseases that can lead to the development of PCS.

#### **Teaching and learning activities:**

Assoc. Prof. P. Chernopolsky has been a tutor at MU- Varna since 2009.

He participates in conducting lectures and practical exercises in surgery for medical students and trainee doctors in Bulgarian and English, as well as in the examination committees in surgery at MU- Varna. The candidate is a scientific supervisor of four PhD students. According to the attached reference from the Rector's Office of MU - Varna (112-45/28.02.2025), the teaching activity of Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky for the last 4 years amounts to 1556 teaching hours, which exceeds the accepted norm of 99 teaching hours per year many times.

Academic year	Lectures		Seminars		Academic practice	prediploma experience	total hours for the academic year
	BEO	AEO	BEO	AEO			
2020/2021	6	2	94	389	0	0	491
2021/2022	14	2	38	306	0	0	360
2022/2023	6	0	0	344	0	0	350
2023/2024	6	0	0	349	0	0	355

#### **Medical-diagnostic and operative activity:**

Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky has active medical-diagnostic, expert and consultative activity at the Second Department of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina", where he is currently the Head of the Clinic. His work experience is over 18 years. He is an accomplished surgeon with a vast experience, polyvalent, performing conventional and minimally invasive surgical interventions, both emergency and elective in nature. From the attached tender reference, it is clear that he is involved in and performs surgical interventions from the entire domain of general and abdominal surgery. For the last three years, Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky has an impressive operative activity. Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky has participated in 1383 surgical interventions. He was an operator in 1029 of them and an assistant in 354 operations with a predominant number of surgical interventions of high and very high complexity.

#### **Other activities:**

Assoc. prof P. Chernopolsky is a member of: Bulgarian Medical Association, Governing Council of the Bulgarian Surgical Society, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, IASGO, European Digestive surgery, European Association for Endoscopic Surgery, Editorial Board of the journal "Surgery".

Assoc. prof. P. Chernopolsky, DSc is a surgeon and lecturer with extensive experience in elective and emergency surgery. From his scientific writings important practical and scientific contributions are derived based on long studied material of patients diagnosed and treated by him personally, surgical methods introduced, diagnostic algorithms and therapeutic management developed. As Head of the Department of Surgery and Head of Clinic, he is experienced in medical management, research and teaching.

**CONCLUSION:** Assoc. Prof. Plamen Chernopolsky, DSc possesses the necessary qualities and meets all the mandatory and specific conditions, significantly exceeding the minimum requirements for scientific research and teaching activity for the academic position "Professor". The total sum of points from all scientific-metric indicators, the facts from the professional biography, scientific production, diagnostic-treatment and teaching activity of Assoc. prof. Chernopolsky, DSc fully complying with the legal requirements in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its

implementation, as well as the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna, are sufficient grounds to confidently give a positive assessment to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, DSc and to recommend the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the Academic position "Professor of Surgery" for the needs of the Department of Surgery of the Medical University - Varna, on the basis of the Clinic of Surgery at St. Marina University Hospital.

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

10.06.2025

/Prof. Dr. Theophil Sedloev, PhD/