

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury

Determined by Order № P -109-109/29.01.2025

To the Rector of MU-Varna

Review

from prof. d-r Dimitar Zhivkov Stojkov, MD PhD DSc

Concerning: procedure for taking the academic position "**Professor**" in the specialty "**Surgery**" professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, - one position, 1 full-time position for the Educational Sector "Abdominal Surgery", Department of "Surgery", Faculty of Medicine - Medical University - Varna and 0.5 full-time position for the Second Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" -Varna,

Information about the procedure:

After a meeting of the Faculty of Medicine at MU-Varna protocol No. 33/20.01.2025 and by Order of the Rector of MU-Varna No. 109-104/29.01.2025, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury, and by protocol No. 1 of the first meeting, I was appointed to prepare a review.

The necessary materials for the contest have been deposited on paper and electronically by the only candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov, MD,

PhD DSc from the Department of Surgical Diseases, Medical University Varna and the Second Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna.

My review has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LAADRB), its Implementing Regulations and the Regulations of MU-Varna.

Candidate's professional data:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov was born on 13.07.1973. In 1998 graduates Medicine Diploma No. 002097. During the period 1999-2004 conducted specialization in Surgery. In 2004 he acquired a specialty in Surgery Diploma No. 0747. Since 2002. - works as a surgeon - resident in the Second Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital "Sveta Marina. Since 2007 after a contest he was appointed assistant at the Department of Surgery - MU-Varna. In 2011 he became chief assistant at the Department of Surgery - MU-Varna. In 2013, after defending a dissertation "Diagnostic - therapeutic strategy in patients with cholangitis." he acquired the ESD "Doctor". In 2015 he was elected as an associate professor, and since 2016 he has been the head of the Department of Abdominal Surgery - Department of Surgery. In 2024 after defending his dissertation "Postcholecystectomy syndrome - a current view on an "old" problem. Diagnostics and modern therapeutic strategy. He received the title of "Doctor of Sciences", he was elected as the head of the Department of Surgical Diseases and published a monograph "Malignant tumors of the small intestine" ISBN 978-619-91772-6-6 2024.

Membership: Bulgarian Medical Union, Bulgarian Surgical Society, USB – Varna, IASGO, Member of the editorial board of the journal "Surgery “; Deputy Chairman of BSS

Professional specialization courses:

1. 2001 - Hôpital Erasme Bruxelles Chirurgie digestive
2. 2017 - Chirurgia Generale e del Pancreas Policlinico “G.B. Rossi”
Verona Italy
3. 2017 – 11-th European digestive surgery postgraduate course Budapest
Hungary
4. 2017 – laparoscopic suturing course Herceghalom Hungary.
5. 2020 Departement of Colorectal Surgery, Beaujon Hospital, Clichy, and
University of Paris, FRANCE
6. 2023 Global Surgeon Summit Third Convention of Surgery Meril
Academy Gujarat India
7. 2023 IASGO Pre congress course – IOUS and ablations in liver tumors
Verona Italy
8. 2024г. Basic skills in laparoscopic surgery 23-25. 09. Surgical training
institute Bucharest, Romania.

Foreign languages

English – B2-level;

French- French language school;

Russian – written and oral.

Evaluation of the candidate's research activity

The candidate in this contest has presented scientific production, which includes: a dissertation for the award of the ESD "Doctor", a monography, scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review, two full-text publications in a scientific journal (beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the title of "Professor"), 31 citations.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov participated in the contest with 37 real publications, of which 17 in Bulgaria and 20 abroad, distributed as follows: as single author - 3, first author - 9, as second author - 11 and as third and subsequent - 14.

In recent years, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov has regularly participated in all Bulgarian and many foreign forums - 50 in total.

Scientific production

Scientific production for this competition, Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov presents 32 publications that meet the minimum requirements for acquiring the title of Professor and a monography "Malignant tumors of the small intestine" - 100 points by indicator B4.

Sixteen (50%) of the scientific publications to meet the minimum national requirements for AD "Professor" are indexed in global databases (Scopus, Web of Science) (G7.1-G7.16) - 353.57 points with a minimum requirement of 80 points for clinical disciplines, and 16 are in non-refereed journals with scientific review (G8.1-G8.16) 126.9 points with a total number of points of 480.47 points with a mandatory minimum for indicators G5-9 - 200 points.

Main directions

1. Monography
2. Clinical cases
3. Diseases of the hepatobiliary system
4. Diseases of the small and large intestine
5. Herniology

1. Monography

The monograph "Malignant Tumors of the Small Intestine" is dedicated to a serious problem in modern surgery, which for a very long time was underestimated at the expense of the more common, both benign and malignant diseases of other parts of the digestive system, such as the stomach and colon. It presents a particularly topical problem in abdominal surgery, presenting modern trends in the treatment of malignant tumors of the small intestine. The last part presents the own experience of the Second Clinic of Surgery in the treatment of small intestinal tumors. The clinical picture, the reason for hospitalization, the methods of imaging diagnostics, the intraoperative finding and histological studies are indicated. A wealth of photographic material is also presented. (B4)

2. Clinical cases

- **Solid pseudopapillary tumor of the pancreas - Frantz tumor (G7.1)**
- **Felinosiis of the spleen (G7.2)**
- **Malignant melanoma. Four cases of metastases from the GIT (G7.3)**
(G8.2)
- **Heterotopic pancreas (G7.7) (G8.1)**

- Small intestinal ileus (G7.8)
- Gastric actinomycosis. Clinical case and review of the literature. (G8.3)

This group of publications shows rare, isolated cases for the clinic. A review of the world literature was also performed.

3. Diseases of the hepatobiliary system

- Characteristics of acute cholecystitis and mortality after cholecystectomy in adult patients (G7.16)
- Modern diagnostic and therapeutic approach in patients with biliary-digestive fistulas and biliary ileus (G8.5).
- Postcholecystectomy syndrome – a new challenge for the general practitioner (G7.5) - Postcholecystectomy syndrome – diagnostic and therapeutic strategy (G7.6)

Both publications are directly related to the dissertation work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov, MD, PhD. "Postcholecystectomy syndrome - a current view on an "old" problem. Diagnostics and modern therapeutic strategy." This work provides a comprehensive analysis of the causes leading to the development of postcholecystectomy syndrome, the experience of the Second Surgery Clinic in the treatment of patients with this syndrome.

- Antimicrobial treatment of intra-abdominal abscesses. (G7.13)
- Treatment of patients with liver abscess (G7.14)
- Complicated hepatic echinococcosis - postoperative biliary dyskinesia. Behavior. (G8.9)

4. Diseases of the small and large intestine

- Intussusception in adults (G7.12)
- Neuroendocrine tumors of the colon and rectum (G7.4) and (G7.9)

- **Metastatic colorectal carcinoma associated with pyogenic liver abscess (G8.16)**
- **Intestinal fistulas. (G8.7)**
- **Complicated diverticulosis of the colon. Diagnostic and therapeutic strategy. (G8.10)**
- **Periappendicular abscesses (G8.11), (G8.12)**

5. Herniology

- **Choice of surgical method for treatment of patients with postoperative hernias (G8.12)**
- **Recurrent postoperative hernias (G8.12)**

Teaching and learning activities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov is an assistant professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases, since 2007. or teaching experience -17 years, 11 months and 17 days.

Teaching workload for the period 2020-2024. the workload is as follows - 620, 396, 387, 502 hours, which exceeds the workload norm by three to six times, which is 110 hours.

Medical and diagnostic activities

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov has 24 years and 10 months of experience in the specialty and actively participates in the operational activities of the Second Clinic of Surgery of UMHAT "Sveta Marina" - emergency and planned. For the last three years, Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov has participated in 1017 - surgical interventions - 426

emergency and 591 planned. He is proficient in both conventional and minimally invasive surgical techniques. He applies laparoscopic surgery as the preferred method for surgical treatment of diseases of the hepatobiliary system.

Conclusion:

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Bozhkov, MD, PhD DSc exceeds in volume and quality the National Minimum Requirements set for the academic position "Professor", reflected in the LDASRB and PRASMUV.

Based on the presented data and their analysis, I give my positive vote and recommend to the Honorable Members of the Scientific Jury for the announced competition to vote positively for awarding the academic position "Professor" to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov, MD, PhD.

25.03.2025г.

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Signature: 

/Prof. D-r Dimitar Stojkov MD, PhD, DSc./