

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury

Appointed by Order № P -109-104/29.01.2025

To the Rector of MU- Varna

## **Statement**

From Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Milchev Chernopolsky, PhD - Head of the Board "Abdominal Surgery", Department of Surgical Diseases, MU-Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov; University Hospital "St. Marina EAD", Varna, Bulgaria. Varna - internal member of the Scientific Jury, according to the order № P -109- 109/ 29.01. 2025.

**Subject:** procedure for acquiring the academic position of " Professor" in the specialty "Surgery", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and Sport – one, 1 full-time post for the Scientific Sector "Abdominal Surgery", Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine and 0,5 post for the Second Department of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna.

### **Information about the procedure:**

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

The necessary materials for the competition have been deposited on paper and electronic media according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of MU-Varna by the only candidate - Associate Professor Vassil Markov Bozhkov, DSc, from the Department of Surgical Diseases, MU-Varna and the Second Department of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna.

My statement complies with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna.

**Professional data of the candidate:**

Associate Professor Dr. Vassil Markov Bozhkov, DSc was born on 13.07.1973; 1992 - 1998. Higher education - Master's degree, specialty "Medicine"; 1999 - 2004 - Doctor specializing in Surgery, Second Department of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina", Medical University of Varna. 2007/2011. Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases - MU-Varna; 2011/2013 - Senior Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgical Diseases - MU-Varna, 2005 - acquired a specialty in Surgery; 2013 - defended a dissertation on "Diagnostic and therapeutic strategy in patients with cholangitis" and acquired a PhD; 2024 - defended a dissertation on Postcholecystectomy syndrome-an up-to-date view on an "old" problem. Diagnosis and modern therapeutic strategy - and obtained the stage "Doctor of Sciences"; since 2015 he is "Associate Professor" in the specialty surgery. 2016-2023 Head of the Board of Abdominal Surgery - Department of Surgical Diseases; Since March 2024 Head of the Department of Surgical Diseases

**Description of the materials submitted for the competition**

The preparation of the opinion on the materials submitted to the competition is based on the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, for the Academic Position of Professor.

**Evaluation of the scientific works submitted to the competition**

The scientific production of the candidate complies with the minimum national requirements under Article 26, paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

A reference for fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of the Medical University -Varna is presented, prepared by the Library of the Medical University - Varna. It is based on information provided by the applicant and automated information from international scientific databases. The publication activity of Associate Professor Vassil Markov Bozhkov, DSc meets the scientific requirements for the academic position of "professor" and includes a dissertation for the award of PhD, a dissertation for the

award of DSc, a monograph, scientific publications in publications, which are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals, a full-text publication in a scientific journal (beyond the minimum scientific metric requirements for the position of AD "Professor") and 31 citations.

In the competition Assoc. professor Bozhkov participated with 34 publications, of which 14 in Bulgaria and 20 abroad, distributed as follows: first author - 9, as second author - 11 and as third and subsequent author - 14, 2 dissertations and 1 monographic work.

According to the data from the Academic Reference prepared by the library of MU - Varna / № 25 of 20.01.2025/ and the compliance with the minimum national criteria in Area 7. Health and Sport, Professional field 7.1 Medicine - Medical-clinical field, it is established that: the total number of points in indicators D5-D9 is 480,47 points (with a mandatory minimum - 200 points). The total number of points for indicator D7 is 353,57 points (with a mandatory minimum for clinical specialties - 60 points).

The main directions in the diagnostic-treatment and scientific research work of Assoc. professor Bozhkov are related to diseases of the biliary system, gallstone disease and its complications, postcholecystectomy syndrome, liver abscess and echinococcosis of the liver, acute pancreatitis and its complications, benign and malignant diseases of the small and large intestine, postoperative hernias and their complications, acute peritonitis. The researches and publications are directly related to the medical-diagnostic clinical activity of Assoc. professor Vassil Bozhkov and are devoted to the study and analysis of various aspects of abdominal surgery with a particular interest in oncosurgery, hepatobiliary surgery and colorectal surgery. The candidate's scientific works include clinical cases, monocentric retrospective or prospective studies and publications resulting from participation in large international multicentric studies.

The majority of publications reflect original results. The presented habilitation thesis is developed according to the requirements of MU - Varna.

The submitted scientific production is sufficient in volume for participation in the competition and meets the criteria accepted at MU - Varna.

The results of the candidate's scientific research have been reported at 50 scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad.

The citations reflecting the candidate's scientific activity for the position of "Professor" according to the reference from the Medical Library at MU-Varna (indicator E 10-12 - with the submitted list of citations of the works of Assoc. professor Vassil Bozhkov are 31(330pt).

The author's report on compliance and fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for a professor was prepared on the basis of Article 26 of the Law on Research and Development and Article 65 and Article 67 of the PRAS of MU - Varna).

Indicators	Content	Professor (Number of points)	Points
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3	100	100
C	Sum of indicators 5 до 9	200	480.47
D	Sum of indicators 10 до 12	50	330
	Total score		960,47 p.

It is evident from the competition submission that the science metrics significantly exceed the minimum requirements for the position of AD "Professor"

#### **Teaching activity**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov actively participates in the teaching activity of the Department of Surgical Diseases, which includes training of students in the discipline "Surgical Diseases" for students of the specialty "Medicine", Bulgarian and English language training. The average teaching load of Assoc. Vacsil Bozhkov significantly exceeds the required teaching load of 220 hours.

#### **Medical diagnostic activity**

Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov is a highly qualified surgeon with excellent training and a marked interest in new developments in medicine and, respectively, in surgery. This is evidenced by both the scientific papers presented, cutting off his own experience, and the attached reference of the candidate on his surgical activity.

In the medical and diagnostic plan Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov actively participates in the surgical activity of the Second Department of Surgery - emergency and elective. According to the report on surgical interventions for the period 2022-2024, Assoc. Bozhkov was involved in a large number of operative interventions in 2022 - 339; 2023 - 332 and 2024 - 346, a significant part of them were of large and very large volume and complexity.

### **Conclusion**

The professional qualification, scientific research and teaching activities of Associate Professor Dr. Vassil Markov Bozhkov meet the requirements of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for holding the academic position of "Professor" at Medical University Varna. His scientific activity and teaching activities fully meet and exceed the required criteria for the present competition.

On the basis of the above, I give a positive evaluation for the award of the academic position of "PROFESSOR" to Associate Professor Dr. Vassil Markov Bozhkov, and I propose the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Surgery" for the Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Sofia. Varna and for the Second Department of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna. Varna.

31.03.2025.

Varna

Sincerely:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Chernopolsky, D.Sc.

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