

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury  
As determined by Order № P- 109-104/29.01.2025  
Of the Rector of MU- Varna

## **Statement**

from Prof. D-r Rumen Nikolov Nenkov, MD, PhD

Head of ED of Thoracic Surgery at the Department of Surgery, Faculty of  
Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna

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

After a meeting of Faculty Council of Faculty of Medicine to MU-Varna in protocol №33/20.01.2025 and order of Rector of MU- Varna № P- 109-104/ 29.01.2025r I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury, with protocol № 1 from the first meeting of the Jury, I have been assigned to prepare a statement .

Only one candidate submitted documents for participation in the competition – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov, MD, PhD DSC from the Department of Surgery, Medical University of Varna and the Second Surgery Clinic at the University Hospital "St. Marina"- Varna.

I received all the necessary documents to prepare the statement. My statement is 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.

### **BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov was born on July 13, 1973. He graduated Medicine at the Medical University of Varna in 1998. During the period 1999-2004, he

specialized in Surgery at the Department of Surgery. He obtained a specialty in Surgery in 2004. Since 2007. he has been an assistant, and since 2011. he has been a chief assistant at the Department of Surgery. In 2013, he defended his dissertation "Diagnostic and therapeutic strategy in patients with cholangitis" and obtained the ESD "Doctor". Since 2015. he has been an associate professor. In the period 2016 - 2023. he was elected head of the Board of Abdominal Surgery - Department of Surgical Diseases.

In 2024. he defended his dissertation "Postcholecystectomy syndrome - a current view on an "old" problem. Diagnostics and modern therapeutic strategy." and acquired the National Academic Degree "Doctor of Sciences". He was elected head of the Department of Surgical Diseases. He published a monograph "Malignant tumors of the small intestine" ISBN 978-619-91772-6-6 2024.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Bozhkov, MD, PhD DSc has postgraduate qualifications and courses in leading Bulgarian and European centers. He is a member of: Bulgarian Surgical Society, Bulgarian University of Surgery - Varna, Bulgarian Medical Association. IASGO.

He is fluent in written and spoken English, French and Russian.

### **SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION**

The scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov complies with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, 2 and 3 of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. According to the data from the Academic Reference prepared by the library of MU - Varna / № 25 / 20.01.2025/ and compliance with the minimum national criteria in the Field 7. Healthcare and sport, *Professional direction 7.1 Medicine – Medico-clinical field* it is found that: the total number of points by indicators **G5-G9** e **480,47** т. (at a mandatory minimum - 200 p.). The total number of points per indicator **G7** e **353,57** т. (at a mandatory minimum for clinical specialties – 60p.)

Total of all indicators - **632,47p.**

The publications submitted for participation in the competition include: a dissertation for the award of the ESD "doctor", a monographic work, scientific publications in sources that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review, and two full-text publications in a scientific journal (beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for taking up Professor AP) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov participated in the contest with **37** real publications, **17** of them in Bulgaria and **20** abroad, distributed as follows: single author – **3** first author - **9**, second author - **11** и third and follows - **14**.

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

The citations reflecting the scientific activity of the candidate for the title of Professor according to the reference from the Medical Library at MU-Varna (indicators **D 10-12** - with a list of citations of the works of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov, MD PhD DSc, are presented **31/330p**.

The main directions in the diagnostic, therapeutic and scientific research work of Assoc. Prof. Dr. V. Bozhkov, MD, PhD DSc are related to diseases of the biliary-hepatic system, gallstone disease and its complications, postcholecystectomy syndrome, liver abscess and hydatid disease, acute pancreatitis and its complications, benign and malignant diseases of the small and large intestine, postoperative hernias and their complications, acute peritonitis. The presented scientific production is sufficient in volume to participate in the competition and meets the criteria adopted at MU - Varna.

### **MAIN DIRECTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **DIRECTION 1: (B4 From Academic Reference)**

The monography "Malignant Tumors of the Small Intestine" is dedicated to a serious problem in modern surgery, which has been neglected for a very long time at the expense of the more common, both benign and malignant diseases of other parts of the digestive system, especially the stomach and colon. The anatomy and physiology of the small intestine are discussed in detail. The most common neoplasias of the small intestine are presented in separate chapters, namely adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine tumors, GIST. Each chapter ends with an appendix, which presents the most current classifications of the individual types of small intestinal tumors and a rich modern literature review, reflecting the seriousness of the problem worldwide. The last part of the monograph presents the own experience of the Second Surgery Clinic of the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna, which indicates the number of patients with malignant tumors of the small intestine. The clinical picture, the reason for hospitalization, the methods of imaging diagnostics, the intraoperative finding and histological examinations are indicated. A wealth of photographic material is also presented.

#### **DIRECTION 2: ( G7-G8 From Academic Reference)**

Publications in G7 and G8 can be divided into 5 groups. The largest number of publications are in the field of hepatobiliary surgery – 7, two of which G7-5 and G7 -6 are directly related to the dissertation work "Postcholecystectomy syndrome - a current view on an "old" problem. Diagnostics and modern therapeutic strategy." and acquired the National

Academic Degree "Doctor of Sciences" Other publications are related to acute cholecystitis, complicated gallstone disease, cholangitis, liver abscesses, complicated echinococcosis. (G7-10, G7-13, G7-14, G7-16, G8-5, G8-6, G8-9, G8-15; Clinicak cases – 6 ( G7-1, G7-2, G7-3, G7-7, G7-8, G7-15, G8-1, G8-2, G8-3), include rare cases of surgical pathology, compared with sources from world literature; diseases of the small and large intestine – 6 ( G7-9, G7-11, G7-12, G8-7, G8-10, G8-11, G8-12; Cases have been studied which show the Clinic's experience regarding methods for diagnosis and treatment of: intestinal intussusceptions in adults; surgical complications of Crohn's disease; intestinal fistulas; complicated colonic diverticulosis; GIST; Neuroendocrine tumors of the colon and rectum; retroperitoneal soft tissue sarcomas; herniology – 2 (G8-13, G8-14)- Postoperative hernias, the causes of their occurrence, the choice of surgical treatment method and the recurrence of the disease were examined.

### **TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov actively participates in the educational activities of the Department of Surgical Diseases, which includes training of students in the discipline "Surgical Diseases" for students of the specialty "Medicine", Bulgarian-language and English-language training. The teaching experience of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov is 17 years, 11 months and 17 days. The educational engagement report shows that during the last four academic years from 2020 to 2024, the workload exceeded the workload norm by three to six times, which is 110 hours. In the period 2016 - 2024, Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov is the head of the Department of Abdominal Surgery at the Department of Surgery.

Study engagement 2020-2024:

- 2020/2021г. – **620** hours (50 BEO и 470 AEO)
- 2021/2022г. – **396** hours (66 BEO и 330 AEO)
- 2022/2023г. – **387** hours (12 BEO и 375 AEO)
- 2023/2024г. – **502** hours (94 BEO и 408 AEO)

### **TREATMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC ACTIVITIES**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bozhkov actively participates in the operational activities of the Second Surgery Clinic of University Hospital "Sveta Marina" - emergency and elective. Over the last three years, Assoc. Prof. Bozhkov has participated in 1017 surgical interventions - 426 emergency and 591 elective. He applies laparoscopic surgery as the preferred method for surgical treatment of diseases of the hepatobiliary system.

## CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Bozhkov, MD PhD Dsc, is an established lecturer with very good theoretical and practical training. He is characterized by high professionalism, ethics and organizational qualities. Based on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements specified in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna, the established contributions of the candidate's scientific activity and teaching and clinical experience give me grounds for **my positive vote** and I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote "**positively**" and to propose to the Rector of MU-Varna, the only candidate who submitted the necessary documentation under the announced competition (announced in the State Gazette, issue 101/29.11.2024) for the position of "Professor" in the Field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, specialty "Surgery" - one, 0.5 full-time position for the Educational Sector "Abdominal Surgery", Department of "Surgery", Faculty of Medicine and 1 full-time position for the Second Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina", to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vasil Markov Bozhkov, MD PhD, DSc.

21.03.2025г.

Varna

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