

REVIEW

By **Prof. Dr. Radoslav Nenkov Gaidarski DSc.** - consultant at Tokuda Hospital, Sofia, elected as a reviewer by decision of the Faculty Council dated 10/09/2025, protocol No. 45. The competition was announced in the State Gazette, issue 64 dated 05/08/2025 - regarding the filling of the academic position "Professor", with a single candidate - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesselin Marinov Marinov DSc., in the field of higher education 7.1 "Medicine".

Assoc. Prof. Marinov was born in Sofia in 1973. He graduated from secondary education at the First Sofia High School with excellent grades. In 1997, after successfully passing the state exams, he completed his medical degree with excellent grades at the Medical University of Sofia. The same year he started working at the 3rd Surgical Clinic of the Pirogov Hospital Sofia. After receiving his specialty in 2003, he worked at the Lozenets University Hospital. He specialized in hepatobiliary, pancreatic and transplant surgery in Essen, Germany. After returning from Germany, in 2006 He started working at Tokuda Hospital, Sofia, where he currently works. He successfully defended his dissertation in 2012 on the topic "Study on the surgical treatment of chronic pancreatitis and its complications". Subsequently, he held the position of "Chief Assistant". After a successfully defended doctoral dissertation in 2024, on the topic "Effectiveness and safety of laparoscopic colorectal resections - a comparative analysis of the results with open surgery. Risk assessment and methods for reducing perioperative complications", he obtained the scientific degree "DSc." He is the author of two monographic papers and over 100 publications in the scientific medical specialized literature, which are the subject of subsequent analysis in the review.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The research activity of Assoc. Prof. Marinov can be considered in separate sections, submitted for review scientific material: dissertation for the degree "DSc.", cited above; habilitation work - monograph, on

t
h
e

t
o

in connection with the minimum national requirements for the position of "Professor", at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, candidate Assoc. Prof. Marinov has submitted a personal statement with the following data:

- For indicators from group A - 50 points - out of the required 50 points;
- For indicators from group B - 100 points;
- For indicators from group C - 100 points - out of the required 100 points;
- For indicators from group D - 254 points - out of the required 200 points;
- For indicators from group D - 150 points - out of the required 100 points;
- For indicators from group E - 150 points - out of the required 100 points.

i

From the cited data it is evident that for the most part the individual indicators, especially the last three, are significantly exceeded by the required minimum.

l

t
r
e
a

From the presented scientific production of the candidate, the areas in which Assoc. Prof. Marinov has focused his efforts in practical and especially in scientific activity, which is mainly focused on minimally invasive and robotic colorectal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, are clearly defined. Gastric surgery, hiatal hernias and GERD are also the subject of practical and scientific research. The main place in the scientific research activity

for the minimally invasive approach to the treatment of colorectal benign and malignant diseases.

Using data from the surgical literature and his personal experience, Assoc. Prof. Marin presented and described the methods of the dissection laparoscopic method in the treatment of colorectal cancer, the levels of lymphadenectomy, with the main attention being paid to the ligation of the lower mesenteric vessels in the techniques for the definition of different localizations of left-sided colon and rectal cancer.

Methods for enhanced recovery of patients after laparoscopic colorectal resections are presented. A comparative analysis of the results with open surgery and those with the minimally invasive approach is made.

Contemporary treatment of GERD.

The second topic for minimally invasive surgery is surgical hiatal hernia and GERD. In the monographs, surgical approaches to the treatment of hiatal hernias are described. Some of the publications present personal experience in robotic and laparoscopic surgery for benign and malignant diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. In addition to publications in our and foreign journals, Assoc. Prof. Marinov has also presented a list of 918 operations performed by himself, for a period of two years, which provides the basis for the reliability of the statements and scientific publications presented, based on his vast practical experience in this field of surgery.

Methods for enhanced recovery of patients after laparoscopic colorectal resections are presented. A comparative analysis of the results with open surgery and those with the minimally invasive approach is made.

Contemporary treatment of GERD.

The second topic for minimally invasive surgery is surgical hiatal hernia and GERD. In his monograph on surgical approaches, in addition to the scientific publications presented and sharing his personal operational experience in the field of minimally invasive surgery, Assoc. Prof. Marinov presents and describes in detail his scientific contributions that are the subject of his scientific activity: publications, dissertations, etc.

1. A single-center study was conducted, based on personal experience, covering 285 patients with colorectal resections, compared in groups with open laparoscopic surgery and those with laparoscopic surgery;

2. An effective method for preparing patients for laparoscopic colorectal resections is proposed in practice.

3. The combination of mechanical, intestinal preparation and prolonged intravenous broad-spectrum antibiotic prophylaxis;

The rules for enhanced recovery of laparoscopic colorectal resections are established in practice;

4. Criteria for preoperative assessment of the risk of developing complications and conversion are presented;

5. A selective method for positioning the trocar wound prior to right-sided colon resections has been developed, depending on the anatomical characteristics of the patient and the location of the pathological process;

6. Methods for reducing the insufficiency of the anastomosis following parascopic resection and localization of rectal carcinoma in the proximal and middle third, ensuring a protective ileostomy, have been introduced into practice;

7. Recommendations for a lateral dissection approach for CRC localized in the distal transversus and left flexure of the colon;

8. Of the scientific publications submitted for review, Assoc. Prof. Marinov describes in detail individual contributions in the published monograph, explicitly emphasizing that it can serve as a guide for the preparation and training of surgical residents. Since the contributions are well defined in the monograph and their assessment has been given in previous reviews, we will not dwell on them in detail here.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

After taking up the position of “Chief Assistant” in 2016, Assoc. Prof. Marinov actively participates in the training of 3rd, 4th and 5th year medical students, as well as interns, with a total workload for the last 5 years – 580 hours. After his election as “Associate Professor” at the Medical University of Varna, he conducts a lecture course with a total workload of – 20 hours per year. He is the head of the training of two specialists in surgery, with a total workload of – 1620 hours. In addition, he is the supervisor of two doctoral students, one of whom – Dr. Stoyan Mihaylov, has successfully defended his dissertation, and the other – Dr. Lyubomir El Tal, is in the process of defending it. Member of the state examination commission for acquiring a specialty in “Surgery”.

From the presented academic record it is evident that Assoc. Prof. Marinov regularly participates in scientific forums on surgery. A list of 13 participations in congresses and conferences on topics of general surgery is presented. In most of them, Assoc. Prof. Marinov personally participates with his scientific reports. In this competition, 26 certificates for 4 personal participation in seminars and training certification courses were presented, as follows:

- Certification course in laparoscopic surgery;
- Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery;
- Robotic surgery – Da Vinci;

He has completed training abroad in the fields of laparoscopic colorectal surgery, laparoscopic pancreatic surgery, minimally invasive liver surgery, thyroid surgery, laparoscopic ventral hernia surgery, bariatric and metabolic surgery.

CONCLUSION

The presented scientific material, including a huge practical experience with 918 operations performed in a short period of time - two years, is proof of the fact that the conclusions and contributions in scientific publications are backed up by the huge personal operational experience. Assoc. Prof.

Marinov, whom I have known for more than 20 years, is a surgeon of the new generation, worthy of taking the scientific title "Professor" in Surgery, which I warmly recommend to the members of the esteemed jury, elected by the Rectors' Council of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna. Prof. Dr. Radoslav Nenkov Gaidarski DSc.