

R E V I E W

by

Prof.Dr. Rosen Dimov, MD, FRCS, Head of the Surgery Clinic, UMBAL "Kaspela"-EOOD, Plovdiv, Department of "Special Surgery"-MU-Plovdiv, Vice-Rector –UBK,MU-Plovdiv.

This review is based on order R-109-418/03.10.2025.

On the basis of Art. 4, para. 1 and para. 2 and Art. 29 para. 1 of the Act on the Prevention and Control of the Diseases of the Republic of Bulgaria, Art. 6, para. 1, and Art. 139, para. 1 and para. 3, of the Scientific Committee for the Promotion of Scientific Research - MU-Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury with the status of "Reviewer" in a competition for the academic position of "Professor", specialty "Surgery", professional field "Medicine", one position, 0.25 full-time position for the Department of "General and Operative Surgery", Faculty of Medicine, MU-Varna.

Documents submitted by a single candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselin Marinov Marinov, MD

1.Autobiographical data:

Dr. Marinov graduated as a Master of Medicine in 1997 at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University - Sofia. His work experience began as a resident in the third surgery of the Pirogov Medical University Hospital, Sofia. From 2003-2005 he worked in the General Surgery and Urology Clinic at the Lozenets Medical University Hospital, Sofia. From 2006-2014 he was in the First Surgical Clinic of the Tokuda Hospital, Sofia. Since 2014 he has been the Head of the "Minimally Invasive and Laparoscopic Surgery" Department at the Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and General Surgery Clinic of Acibadem City Clinic, Tokuda Hospital - EAD. Since 01.03.21 he has been the Deputy Medical Director and Head of Operating Rooms of the Tokuda Hospital - EAD.

In 2012, he defended his dissertation on the topic "Study on the surgical treatment of chronic pancreatitis and its complications". Subsequently, he held the position of Chief Assistant.

Since 2019, he has been an Associate Professor at the Department of General and Operative Surgery of the Medical University of Varna. In 2024, he defended his dissertation on the topic "Effectiveness and safety of laparoscopic colorectal resections. Comparative analysis of results with open surgery. Risk assessment and methods for reducing perioperative complications" and acquired the title of Doctor of Sciences. Assoc. Prof. Marinov is the author of two monographs and over 100 publications in the specialized literature.

2. Scientific research activity

The scientific production with which Assoc. Prof. Marinov participates in this competition can be divided into the following sections depending on the evidence presented in accordance with the academic reference:

- Dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor"
- Habilitation work - monography on the topic: "Surgical treatment of hiatal hernias and GERD", published in 2025.
- Full-text publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in global databases with scientific information - 9 after awarding the ONS "Doctor of Sciences"
- Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective forums - 25
- Dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor of Sciences"
- List of citations - 15
- Personal impact factor - IF - 7.5 after taking the AD "Associate Professor".

Regarding the minimum national requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Professor" according to the Law on Academic Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and its regulations for application at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna, the candidate Assoc. Prof. Marinov has presented the following reference:

1. By indicators group A – 50p out of the required 50p
2. By indicators group B – 100p
3. By indicators group C – 100p out of the required 100p
4. By indicators group D - 254.14p out of the required 200p
5. By indicators group E – 150p out of the required 100p
6. By indicators group E – 150p out of the required 100p

The reference shows that the minimum scientometric requirements for acquiring the title of "Professor" according to the Law on Academic Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria have been met and exceeded. In this regard, the candidate has a defended dissertation for the acquisition of the academic title "Doctor of Sciences".

3. Educational and teaching activities.

- Assoc. Prof. Marinov has held the position of Chief Assistant since 2016.
- He supervises practical exercises of 3rd, 4th, 5th year medical students, intern doctors with a cumulative workload of 581 hours for the last 5 years.

- He has a lecture course at the Medical University - Varna with a workload of 20 hours per year.
- He is the head of the specialization of two surgical specialists with a workload of 1620 equivalent hours.
- He is the head of two doctoral students, one of whom has successfully defended a dissertation
- For 2 years he has been a member of the state examination committee for acquiring a specialty in surgery.

4. Continuing education.

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 surgery after 2019 is presented, after taking up the position of Associate Professor, in most of which he participated with lecture presentations. 26 certificates of participation in training seminars, training and certification courses were presented:

- Certification courses in laparoscopic surgery
- Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery
- Abdominal ultrasound
- Da Vinci robotic surgery

Trainings conducted abroad in the field of:

- Laparoscopic colorectal surgery
- Laparoscopic pancreatic surgery
- Minimally invasive liver surgery
- Thyroid surgery
- Laparoscopic surgery of abdominal wall hernias
- Bariatric and metabolic surgery

Member of BHD, BAHGO, BAMIRH, IFSO, EAES. Member of the Board of BABMH.

A diploma for a completed master's degree in the professional field "Public Administration, Health Management" was presented.

5. Analysis of scientific activity and contributions.

Analyzing the provided reference of the scientific production of Assoc. Prof. Marinov, it is evident that the interests of the candidate are in the field of minimally invasive and robotic, colorectal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, gastric surgery, hiatal hernias and GERD. The following directions in scientific research can be deduced:

1. Minimally invasive approach in colorectal surgery
2. Modern treatment of hiatal hernias and GERD
3. Surgery in oncological diseases of the pancreas and stomach

A key place in the scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Marinov is occupied by the topic of the minimally invasive approach in the treatment of colorectal surgical diseases. Based on evidence in the literature and personal experience, guidelines for dissection techniques in the laparoscopic approach in the treatment of colorectal cancer have been developed. The levels of lymphadenectomy have been defined. The main emphasis is on determining the level of ligation of the inferior mesenteric vessels in different locations of left-sided colon and rectal cancer, mobilization of the left flexure of the colon and protective ileostomy to reduce the level of insufficiency. Methods for accelerated recovery of patients after laparoscopic colorectal resections. A comparative analysis of the perioperative results with open surgery was performed and the benefits of the minimally invasive approach were proven. In addition to the dissertation work, the topic of minimally invasive colorectal surgery is also present in publications and reports from participation in recent scientific forums in Bulgaria.

Another direction in the candidate's research activity is the minimally invasive surgical treatment of hiatal hernias and GERD. The topic is particularly relevant in light of the increasing frequency of these diseases. The diagnostic algorithm is systematized, and modern achievements in the diagnosis of these diseases are reviewed. The monograph describes modern surgical approaches in the treatment of GERD and hiatal hernias. Stepwise dissection approaches and surgical techniques associated with obtaining the best results in the course of an individual approach to patients are described.

The presented publications highlight shared experience in the treatment of locally advanced gastric cancer, extremely rich experience in robotic and laparoscopic surgery for esophageal and cardia cancer, minimally invasive treatment of ventral hernias, and surgery for pancreatic cancer.

In addition to the mandatory documents for participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Marinov presents a list of 918 operations performed by him over a period of 2 years. The exceptional surgical activity in all areas of abdominal surgery and thyroid surgery is evident.

6. The following reference is presented for the candidate's scientific contributions:

Scientific contributions related to the dissertation for the award of the National Academy of Sciences "Doctor of Sciences"

- An ambispective, single-center study was conducted, based on personal experience, covering 285 patients with colorectal resections, comparing perioperative indicators and results in groups with open, laparoscopic operations and conversions.
- The frequency distribution of indicators related to the studied diseases by studied patient groups and a comparative analysis of clinical characteristics and results in the perioperative period are presented.
- The combination of mechanical bowel preparation and prolonged intravenous broad-spectrum antibiotic prophylaxis has been established in practice as an effective method for preparing patients for laparoscopic colorectal resections.

Rules for accelerated recovery after laparoscopic colorectal resections have been developed and validated in practice.

- Criteria for preoperative assessment of the risk of complications and conversion and recommendations for behavior based on them have been defined.
- The sensitivity and specificity of contrast-enhanced CT for assessing the local status of colorectal diseases with a view to planning the surgical approach have been studied.
- A selective method for positioning trocars in right-sided colon resections has been developed depending on anatomical features, localization of the pathological process and a hybrid medial approach in lymphatic dissection in regions 222r, i.
- Methods for reducing anastomotic leaks after left laparoscopic resections have been defined and implemented in practice – selective approach to DMA, TSME in cases of rectal carcinoma localized in the proximal and middle third, standard securing of the anastomosis, protective ileostomy in cases of TME, selective mobilization of the left flexure of the colon.
- Recommendations for a lateral dissection approach in CRC localized in the area of the distal transversum and left flexure of the colon and diverticulitis in the area of the sigmoid colon have been defined.
- Recommendations for a standard laparoscopic approach in performing palliative colon resections are introduced.
- The influence of the surgeon's experience on the perioperative results has been studied and the number of laparoscopic resections until reaching expertise has been defined.

Scientific contributions related to a monographic work on the topic "Surgical treatment of hiatal hernias and GERD"

- A monographic work has been published, which in a synthesized form examines the current guidelines and concepts in the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of hiatal hernias and gastroesophageal reflux disease.
- The monograph can be considered as a guide for the preparation and training of surgical residents

- The monograph contains an up-to-date bibliography of over 300 titles in the modern specialized literature
- The surgical approaches to the treatment of hiatal hernias and GERD are described using a step-by-step approach, supported by numerous photographs of surgical interventions performed by the author
- Methods of examination such as pH and manometry, which are poorly represented and known in the Bulgarian specialized literature, are discussed
- Guidelines and recommendations are provided for referring patients with morbid obesity, GERD and hiatal hernias to bariatric surgery with a view to performing gastric bypass as the most effective measure for managing the condition.

In addition to the documents for participation in the competition, the candidate submits 9 publications in refereed journals in world databases with a total impact factor of 7.5.

- Results of a study on patients with operations for locally advanced gastric cancer in a center with a large volume of activity are presented
- Perioperative results of laparoscopic operations for ventral primary and recurrent hernias are analyzed
- A rare case of a patient with MD IPMN requiring a two-stage surgical intervention is presented
- The experience in performing laparoscopic resections for locally advanced colorectal cancer is presented and analyzed.
- 3 clinical cases of patients with rare conditions requiring surgical treatment are reported
- Experience in minimally invasive surgery of epiphrenic diverticula of the esophagus is reported.

Scientific contributions related to publications in non-refereed journals – a total of 25.

- Experience in gastric resection surgery in cases of cardio-esophageal, gastric and pancreatic cancer using robotic, laparoscopic and open approaches was shared.
- Results of personal experience in minimally invasive surgery in patients with hiatal hernias and GERD were reported
- Experience in laparoscopic and robotic surgery of the colon and rectum was shared
- Evidence-based guidelines for perioperative management of patients with laparoscopic biliary tract surgery - a guide to good clinical practice.

7. Conclusion.

From the documents presented it is clear that the scientific and practical interests of Assoc. Prof. Marinov are in various fields, primarily in elective abdominal surgery. They mostly

concern the minimally invasive approach – laparoscopic and robotic in the treatment of colorectal diseases, stomach cancer, hiatal hernias and GERD, esophageal carcinoma, abdominal wall hernias, pancreatic and liver surgery.

The candidate is a proven specialist in the field of abdominal surgery and is recognizable in the Bulgarian surgical community. Meets all requirements for employment at JSC "Professor" IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION 7.1 MEDICINE, IN THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "GENERAL SURGERY" FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL AND OPERATIVE SURGERY AT HIS "PROF. DR. PARASKEV STOYANOV" VARNA.

Plovdiv

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Заличено на основание чл. 5,
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