

STATEMENT OF OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Svetoslav Dobrilov, MD, PhD,

Head of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University – Varna

By Order No. R-109-273/30.07.2026 of the Rector of Medical University – Varna, I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury and requested to prepare a **statement of opinion** in the procedure for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in higher education area 7. “Health and Sports”, professional field 7.1 “Medicine”, scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology” – a 0.5 full-time position at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Faculty of Medicine, and a full-time position at the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, UMHAT “St. Marina” EAD – Varna, in connection with the competition announced in the State Gazette, Issue No. 50/02.06.2026.

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna (amended 27.07.2026), Appendix No. 1 to these Regulations, and Order No. R-109-273/30.07.2026 of the Rector of Medical University – Varna.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by a single candidate – Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University – Varna.

Dr. Ivanov is 42 years old. He graduated in Medicine from Medical University – Sofia in 2009 and obtained his specialty in Orthopaedics and Traumatology in 2015. In 2020 he successfully defended his dissertation for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (PhD), entitled “Minimally Invasive Surgery for Displaced Intra-articular Calcaneal Fractures”. Since 2022 he has been Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. In addition to the candidate’s professional qualifications, his Master’s degree in Health Management (2018) should also be noted.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. S. Ivanov, PhD, has a total length of service of 15 years and 2 months, of which 10 years and 8 months as an orthopaedic and trauma surgeon. He began his career in Sofia as a resident at MHAT “St. Sofia” and UMHAT “N. I. Pirogov”. In 2010, following a competitive selection, he was enrolled as a resident at MHAT “St. Anna” – Varna, where he worked until March 2022. Since then, Dr. Ivanov’s professional career has continued at UMHAT “St. Marina”.

The candidate's academic career began in 2017 as a full-time PhD student, during which period he also served as a part-time assistant at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. Since 2020 Dr. Ivanov has been a full-time Assistant Professor at the Department.

Dr. Ivanov, PhD, has completed numerous fellowships at prestigious university centres in Bulgaria and Europe, among which I would single out his extended fellowship at the AO Research Institute, Davos, Switzerland. The candidate has submitted a short list of certificates from completed courses and fellowships, predominantly in pelvic and acetabular surgery, most of them held under the auspices of the AO Research Institute. He holds certification for highly specialised activities, including joint arthroplasty and arthroscopy, among others. Dr. Ivanov is a member of prestigious professional organisations: BOTA, EHS, EFORT, EFAS and the AO Foundation. He is fluent in English and German.

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

In the present competition, Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, PhD, participates with his dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD), entitled "Minimally Invasive Surgery for Displaced Intra-articular Calcaneal Fractures" (**indicator group A1 of the Academic Reference (AR)**); 10 full-text publications in peer-reviewed journals indexed in WoS and Scopus (9 of them with an impact factor), equivalent to a monograph (**indicator C4 of the AR**); 9 scientific publications in specialised journals, peer-reviewed and indexed in internationally recognised databases (**indicator D7 of the AR**); and a further 7 articles in non-refereed journals (**indicator D8 of the AR**). In addition, the candidate has submitted 3 titles beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor". The total number of articles, papers and presentations at international and national conferences, symposia and congresses is 73 (17 with an impact factor).

The candidate has submitted a list of 9 citations meeting the requirements for participation in the competition (**indicators E10–12 of the AR**) – Reference No. 379/17.06.2026 issued by the Library of Medical University – Varna. Profiles in the scientific databases WoS, Scopus, Google Scholar and ORCID have been provided, listing his publications together with the corresponding citations (Academic Reference).

Analysis of the scientific activity according to Art. 126 and Appendix 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna of 21.11.2022

Scientific works	Sole author	First author	Second or subsequent author	Last author	Total
Dissertations	1	0	0	0	1
Habilitation thesis	1	0	0	0	1
Publications and papers in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	0	3	7	0	10
Publications and papers in scientific journals, peer-reviewed and indexed in internationally recognised databases	0	5	14	3	22
Total	2	8	21	3	34

The total score is 121.86 points for indicator C4, 220 points for indicators D5–9 and 120 points for indicators E10–12, whereby the candidate meets the scientometric requirements for participation in the competition.

Indicator group	Content	Minimum requirements for “Associate Professor”	Evidence submitted by the candidate for “Associate Professor” at the Faculty of Medicine, MU – Varna	POINTS	% FULFILMENT

A	Indicator 1	50	Dissertation	50		100%
C	Indicator 3	100 Habilitation thesis	Habilitation thesis – Peer-reviewed – 10 (9 IF)	100		100%
D	Sum of indicators 5– 9	200	Peer-reviewed – 12 (8 IF) Non-refereed – 7 ·	D7	173.57	117,8%
				D8	62	
				Total	235.57	
E	Sum of indicators 10–12	80	International databases – 8	120		150%

Dr. Ivanov has also documented his participation in 2 research projects: principal investigator of Science Fund project No. 22015 (2022 Competition Session), and participant in project No. BG-RRP-2.004-0009 MUVE-TEAM (MUVE-TEAM) “Personalised Implants for Bone Regeneration Therapy (PERSIM)”.

The candidate has also demonstrated a high level of scientific activity at international and national congresses – 34 in total – most of them with international participation of the leading European and world associations.

Qualitative analysis of the works of Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, PhD

All scientific works (100%) address diseases and injuries of the musculoskeletal system. The 29 publications accepted by me for evaluation can be classified into the following groups:

	Topic	Number
1	Clinical studies in orthopaedics and traumatology	11
2.	Experimental studies in orthopaedics and traumatology	5

3.	Digital medicine and innovative technologies in the normal and pathological musculoskeletal system	4
4	Other – antibacterial and osseointegrative implant coatings, bone substitutes in regenerative medicine, biological treatment (PRP) and postoperative physiotherapy	9

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr. Ivanov's scientific contributions fall into several main areas, as outlined in the self-assessment report attached to the competition documents. The candidate's contribution to key fields such as pelvic surgery, arthroplasty of the large joints and calcaneal surgery is indisputable.

The candidate's work on implant configuration in calcaneal fractures is of considerable scientific and practical value. His cadaveric studies carry strong evidential weight, as they bring the author's results as close as possible to real clinical practice. I venture to state that Dr. Ivanov has set a standard for the minimally invasive treatment of calcaneal fractures, which is now widely applied in leading hospitals across the country. Another focus of the candidate's research is PMMA augmentation techniques in osteoporotic proximal humerus fractures, which offer an alternative to autologous bone grafting in elderly patients and thus avoid donor-site morbidity in this specific patient population. Studies on proximal tibial fractures, pilon fractures and other injuries are also presented.

The second area of Dr. Ivanov's scientific interests is hip and knee arthroplasty. His contributions here relate to preoperative analysis of pathological bone loss in revision hip arthroplasty using 3D-printed models. I consider it appropriate to highlight Dr. Ivanov's multidisciplinary collaboration in the application of these models, which is in itself of great practical value. Periprosthetic infections constitute the next chapter of the candidate's scientific contributions. The potential of sonication as a method for diagnosing implant-associated infections has been analysed, with a focus on their accurate diagnosis and a well-defined treatment algorithm.

The third area comprises work on preoperative computer planning, navigation as a technique in arthroplasty and in the management of fractures with difficult surgical access, and

methods for minimising surgical trauma, shortening hospital stay and reducing the financial burden on the healthcare system.

Finally, the practical orientation of the candidate's interests in regenerative medicine should be noted. Studies are presented on the effects of platelet-rich plasma in the treatment of conditions commonly encountered in practice, such as insertional tendinopathies and rotator cuff pathology. There are also studies on the effect of bioactive glass as a bone substitute with high regenerative capacity and simultaneous antibacterial properties.

TEACHING ACTIVITY

The teaching activity of Dr. Stoyan Ivanov, PhD, dates back to 2017, when he started as a part-time assistant at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. From 2021 onwards he progressed successively through the positions of Assistant Professor (2021–2022) and Chief Assistant Professor (from 25.11.2022 to date).

He teaches students of the Faculty of Medicine, conducting practical classes in Bulgarian and English, with a predominance of English-language teaching. He also teaches students of the Kinesitherapy and Rehabilitation Therapist programmes. Dr. Ivanov's total teaching load for the period 2021/2022 – 2025/2026 amounts to 1,224 academic hours (Reference No. 112-129/09.06.2026, MU – Varna). Averaged over the last 5 years, **the candidate's annual teaching load is 244.8 academic hours**, which fully meets the requirement of Art. 125(3) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov is also actively involved in the training of intern physicians (6th-year medical students in the Bulgarian- and English-language programmes) and in summer clinical placements for students from foreign universities under bilateral agreements. I would like to emphasise his active involvement in the training of residents and PhD students and in sharing his own experience and innovations. This is directly linked to the numerous postgraduate qualifications he has acquired over the course of his professional career.

He is a co-author of two teaching aids for medical students “ –Test Questions in Traumatology for 5th-Year Students”, ed. Prof. Raykov, ISBN: 978-619-221-570-5, 2025, 172 pp., and “Traumatology Test Questions for Students”, 2025, ISBN: 978-619-221-569-9.

Dr. Ivanov is a regular faculty member at courses organised by AO Bulgaria: the Principles of Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty courses in 2024–2025, and the AO Trauma Courses – Basic Principles of Fracture Management (2021) and Pelvic and Acetabular Fracture Management (2023).

DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITY

Dr. Stoyan Ivanov, PhD, is a versatile surgeon in the fields of traumatology, reconstructive surgery and joint-preserving techniques. He holds recognised certification in the following highly specialised activities: "Joint Arthroplasty", "Arthroscopy", "Ultrasonography of the Infant Hip", "Pelvic and Acetabular Surgery" and "Hand Surgery". The candidate's surgical volume in recent years exceeds that required by the medical standard for Orthopaedics and Traumatology. According to the attached report, in the period 2024–2026 he performed 1,449 operations on the extremities and pelvis, of which more than 40% (589) were major and extensive surgical procedures (GAMA report, 06.2026). Dr. Stoyan Ivanov is a surgeon with versatile skills, a well-developed ability to work in a team and a progressive way of thinking.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of all information provided to me, including the candidate's impressive scientific output and qualifications, as well as the statutory requirements of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna and the Higher Education Act, give me grounds to vote "**positive**" and to propose to the honourable Scientific Jury, as well as to the members of the Academic Council of MU – Varna, that the candidate in the announced competition (State Gazette, Issue No. 50/02.06.2026) for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in higher education area 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine", scientific specialty "Orthopaedics and Traumatology" at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, UMHAT "St. Marina" EAD – Varna, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, PhD, **be elected Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.**

25.09.2026
PhD

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