

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Raycho Ivanov Kehayov, MD**

Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Sofia Head of the Department of Paediatric Orthopaedics, Second Clinic, University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Orthopaedics “Prof. Boycho Boychev” – Sofia

Subject: Procedure for awarding the academic position *Associate Professor* in Higher Education Area 7 “Healthcare and Sports”, Professional Field 7.1 “Medicine”, Scientific Specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology” – 0.5 FTE for the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Faculty of Medicine, and 1 FTE for the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology at University Hospital “St. Marina” EAD – Varna, announced in the State Gazette, issue 50 / 02.06.2026.

This scientific statement has been prepared in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, and Rector’s Order No. R 109-273 / 30.07.2026 appointing the Scientific Jury.

The sole candidate in the announced competition is **Chief Assistant Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD** – Chief Assistant at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University – Varna, and orthopaedic trauma surgeon at the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, University Hospital “St. Marina” EAD – Varna.

1. Analysis of Biographical Data, Professional Development and Qualifications

Dr. Stoyan Ivanov was born on 29 June 1984. He obtained his medical degree in 2009 from the Medical University – Sofia. His postgraduate clinical training was carried out consecutively at MBAL “Sveta Sofia” and University Hospital “N. I. Pirogov”, followed by specialization at MBAL “St. Anna” – Varna, where he acquired his specialty in Orthopaedics and Traumatology in 2015.

In 2020, after successfully defending his dissertation, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree *Doctor*. In 2018, he completed a second Master’s degree in *Health Management* at the University of National and World Economy – Sofia.

His total professional experience exceeds 15 years. His academic career began in 2017 as a part-time assistant, and since November 2022 he has held the academic position *Chief Assistant*.

Dr. Ivanov’s professional qualification is strengthened by numerous specializations in leading international centres, including the AO Research Institute (ARI) in Davos, Switzerland. He holds officially recognised competence in five highly specialised medical activities:

- Joint arthroplasty
- Arthroscopy
- Pelvic and acetabular surgery

- Hand surgery
- Paediatric hip ultrasonography

2. Evaluation of Scientific Output and Scientometric Indicators

For the present competition, Dr. Ivanov submitted a total of 73 scientific works. Thirty-four real publications and one habilitation work were accepted for evaluation. The candidate demonstrates substantial authorship involvement – in more than 38% of the works he is sole, first, or senior author.

Scientometric Indicators

Indicator Group Description		Required Points	Achieved Points
Group A	Dissertation (PhD)	50	50
Group B	Habilitation work	100	100
Group C	Publications and scientific works	200	235.57
Group D	Citations	80	120

The scientometric profiles (WoS, Scopus, Google Scholar) show more than 50 citations in international journals, demonstrating strong international visibility and recognition. The candidate has participated in two research projects, serving as principal investigator in one of them.

3. Qualitative Analysis of Scientific Contributions

Dr. Ivanov's scientific interests are focused on several key domains:

A. Biomechanics and Minimally Invasive Foot Surgery

Through experimental studies conducted in Davos, Dr. Ivanov identified optimal load distribution patterns in the fixation of intra-articular calcaneal fractures. He introduced a structured algorithm for minimally invasive treatment via the sinus tarsi approach (STA).

B. Digital Medicine and 3D Surgical Planning

The candidate is a pioneer in implementing 3D-printed patient-specific anatomical models for preoperative planning of complex acetabular fractures. His studies demonstrate significant reductions in operative time and intraoperative blood loss.

C. Knee Arthroplasty and Periprosthetic Joint Infection (PJI)

He identified technical errors in unicompartmental knee arthroplasty and proposed a protocol to reduce early aseptic loosening. His investigations into implant sonication provide highly sensitive diagnostic criteria for periprosthetic infections.

D. Biomaterials and Regenerative Medicine

He conducted studies on antibacterial copper coatings for medical alloys and evaluated the clinical effectiveness of PRP therapy in tendinopathies.

4. Teaching and Academic Activities

Between 2021 and 2026, Dr. Ivanov accumulated a total of **1224 academic teaching hours** (average 244.8 hours per academic year), exceeding the regulatory requirements. He is co-author of two new teaching manuals published in 2025, designed for Bulgarian and English-language medical students.

5. Diagnostic, Therapeutic and Surgical Activity

Dr. Ivanov is a highly skilled surgeon with exceptional operative technique. Between 2024 and 2026, he performed **1449 surgical interventions**, of which **589 were major or highly complex procedures**. This volume fully meets and exceeds the standards for the specialty.

CONCLUSION

The comprehensive analysis of the administrative documentation, scientometric indicators, scientific output, academic engagement, and clinical activity of the candidate demonstrates that:

Chief Assistant Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD fully satisfies—and in several key areas exceeds—the quantitative and qualitative criteria stipulated in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff, its implementing regulations, and the Rules of the Medical University – Varna for awarding the academic position “Associate Professor”.

His habilitation work and publication portfolio demonstrate scientific maturity, methodological rigor, and strong orientation toward practical applicability in orthopaedics and traumatology. The substantial number of publications in internationally indexed journals with high impact factors, along with significant citation metrics, attest to the international recognition of his research.

His teaching activity is systematic, professionally executed, and supported by high instructional workload, participation as lecturer in prestigious international courses, and authorship of contemporary educational materials.

As an orthopaedic trauma surgeon, Dr. Ivanov possesses exceptional operative competence, a wide range of reconstructive and minimally invasive surgical skills, and an impressive volume of complex surgical interventions.

Based on all the above, I give my unequivocal POSITIVE ASSESSMENT of the candidate and confidently propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury and the Academic Council of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna that Chief Assistant Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD be elected to the academic position “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR” in Higher Education Area 7 “Healthcare and Sports”, Professional Field 7.1 “Medicine”, Scientific Specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”.

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Prepared by: **Assoc. Prof. Raycho Kehayov, MD**