

# ACADEMIC OPINION

by

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Regarding the competition for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, Higher Education Area 7. Health Care and Sports, at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, pursuant to the announcement published in the State Gazette, issue No. 50 of 02.06.2026.

**Candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD**

By Order No. R-109-273/30.07.2026 of the Rector of Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury. At its meeting, held in accordance with the Decision of the Scientific Jury recorded in Protocol No. 1/10.08.2026, I was assigned to prepare an academic opinion in the procedure for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, Higher Education Area 7. Health Care and Sports, at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

The candidate admitted to participate in the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University of Varna. The candidate has submitted all documents required for participation in the announced competition, in accordance with the provisions governing the procedure under the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University of Varna.

1. Biographical information: Chief Assistant Professor Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov was born on 29.06.1984 in Yambol, Bulgaria. In 2009, he completed his higher education in Medicine, obtaining a Master’s degree. In 2018, he completed a Master’s degree in Health Management. In 2020, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (PhD) in the scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology” following the successful defence of a doctoral dissertation entitled “Minimally Invasive Surgery for Displaced Intra-articular Fractures of the Calcaneus”.

His professional career as an orthopaedic trauma surgeon includes appointments at St. Sofia Hospital, Sofia (2009–2010), University Emergency Hospital “N. I. Pirogov”, Sofia (2010), and St. Anna Hospital – Varna (2010–2015 and 2017–2022). Since 2022, he has worked at University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna, where he continues to practice at present. The candidate began his academic career at the Medical University of Varna as a part-time Assistant Professor (2017–2019), subsequently served as a full-time Assistant Professor (2020–2021),

and, following a competitive procedure, has held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University of Varna, since 2022.

Dr Stoyan Ivanov is fluent in English and German. He holds certificates of advanced professional qualification in highly specialized medical activities, including Arthroscopy, Joint Arthroplasty, Pelvic and Acetabular Surgery, Hand Surgery, and Ultrasonography of Joints in Children. He is a member of BOTa, EHS, EFORT, EFAS, and the AO Foundation.

2. Research activity: The scientific works and publications representing the candidate's research activity are fully consistent with the Higher Education Area, Professional Field, and scientific specialty of the announced competition. They have been published in reputable peer-reviewed journals and comply with the applicable national and university regulatory framework.

2.1. Quantitative analysis of the scientific output: The scientific works submitted by the candidate reflect his research activity during the period 2012–2025. For participation in the present competition, Dr Ivanov has submitted a total of 29 scientific works (excluding the materials related to his doctoral dissertation), comprising:

- Abstract of a doctoral dissertation – 1 item
- Teaching aids – 2 items
- Publications in journals and scientific proceedings – 29 items (24 in English and 5 in Bulgarian).

The candidate demonstrates a high degree of personal contribution and independence in his scientific work: he is sole author of 5 publications, while the remaining 24 are co-authored (in 8 he is first author, in 9 second author, and in 6 third/fourth author). His scientific activity is further complemented by 8 scientific reports and communications presented at scientific forums, with a total volume of 56 pages. His scientometric indicators fully meet and exceed the requirements under groups "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", and "F" pursuant to the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna.

2.2. Qualitative analysis of the scientific output: The scientific interests and research activity of Chief Assistant Professor Stoyan Ivanov are focused on the following principal areas:

2.2.1. Experimental and clinical traumatology: Particularly noteworthy are the detailed biomechanical tests using human cadaveric models to assess fixation stability in calcaneal fractures and the introduction of superiorly placed longitudinal screws. The clinical advantage of the anterolateral locking plate and PMMA augmentation in osteoporotic proximal humeral fractures in elderly patients has been demonstrated.

2.2.2. Arthroplasty of major joints and revision surgery: A 6-year retrospective clinical analysis of 450 patients following unicompartamental knee arthroplasty is presented. The first Bulgarian experience with the implementation of a national arthroplasty registry using the OrthoWave™ digital platform has been documented. The superior role of ultrasonic processing (sonication) in disrupting biofilm in periprosthetic joint infections has also been demonstrated.

2.2.3. Digital medicine and innovative technologies: A methodology has been implemented for the 3D printing of patient-specific PLA models generated from CT data for

personalized preoperative planning, resulting in reduced operative time and intraoperative blood loss.

2.2.4. Biocompatible materials, bone regeneration, and pharmacology: A complete antibacterial effect (100% bacteriostasis) against major pathogens associated with implant-related infections has been demonstrated through the use of innovative copper coatings on implants.

3. Diagnostic and therapeutic activity and academic teaching: Dr Stoyan Ivanov is an established clinician and experienced surgeon with a pronounced aptitude for clinical innovation. He independently performs complex major and highly complex surgical procedures at University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna.

The candidate has extensive teaching experience. He regularly conducts classes, lectures, and practical sessions in Orthopaedics and Traumatology for medical students, residents, and doctoral students. His annual teaching workload fully meets the regulatory and statutory requirements for appointment to the academic position.

**In conclusion, based on the detailed analysis of the submitted scientific works; the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements laid down in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna; the established contributions of the candidate's scientific activity; and his teaching and clinical experience, I have every reason to express a POSITIVE ACADEMIC OPINION.**

I consider that the candidate satisfies all statutory criteria and recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favour and propose to the Rector of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna that Chief Assistant Professor Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD, be appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Orthopaedics and Traumatology", Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, Higher Education Area 7. Health Care and Sports.

17.09.2026

Stara Zagora

Academic Opinion prepared by:

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/ Assoc. Prof. Biser Aleksandrov Makelov, MD, PhD /