

To

The Chair of the Scientific Jury,
appointed by Order of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna
No. R-109-273/30.07.2026
and by decision of the Faculty Council (Protocol No. 62/27.07.2026)

Enclosed please find: Academic Opinion

**regarding the competition for appointment to the academic position of ASSOCIATE
PROFESSOR**

in the scientific specialty ORTHOPAEDICS AND TRAUMATOLOGY

announced for the needs of the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University
“Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, in the State Gazette, issue No. 50 of 02.06.2026.

Reviewer: Prof. Nikolay Dimitrov, MD, PhD

Scientific specialty: Orthopaedics and Traumatology

Institution: Medical University – Sofia

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This Academic Opinion has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and Section III / Section IV of the Regulations for its Implementation – Terms and procedure for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor” / “Professor”.

ACADEMIC OPINION

by Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Dimitrov, MD, PhD
Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology,

Faculty of Medicine,

Medical University – Sofia,

University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment in Orthopaedics “Prof. B.
Boychev” – Sofia

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

By Order No. R-109-273/30.07.2026 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna and by decision of the Faculty Council (Protocol No. 62/27.07.2026), I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury. By decision of the Chair of the Scientific Jury, recorded in Protocol No. 1/10.08.2026, I was assigned, as an external member, to prepare an Academic Opinion in the procedure for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, Higher Education Area 7. Health Care and Sports, at the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

Only one candidate, Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD, has applied for the competition and has been admitted by the document-admission committee. The candidate has submitted all documents required for the competition in accordance with the Development of Academic

Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna for its implementation. He is a Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University of Varna, and works at the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna.

The candidate graduated from Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna in 2009 and acquired a specialty in Orthopaedics and Traumatology in 2020. In 2020, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) in the scientific specialty Orthopaedics and Traumatology at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University – Varna, following the successful defence of a dissertation entitled "Minimally Invasive Surgery for Displaced Intra-articular Fractures of the Calcaneus".

Dr Ivanov began his medical career as an orthopaedic physician at St. Sofia Hospital, Sofia, from 2009 to 2010. He subsequently worked at University Emergency Hospital "Pirogov", Sofia; St. Anna Hospital, Varna; and University Hospital "St. Marina", Varna, where he continues to work as an orthopaedic trauma surgeon.

Since 2022, Dr Ivanov has held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University of Varna. He has more than 9 years of teaching experience and participates in teaching the discipline "Orthopaedics and Traumatology" to students in the Medicine programme in both Bulgarian and English. He is proficient in English and German. Dr Ivanov is a member of the Bulgarian Orthopaedics and Traumatology Association (BOTA), the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA), EHS, EFAS, the AO Foundation, the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT), and ESSKA.

The candidate holds certificates of qualification in highly specialized medical activities, including Arthroscopy and Joint Arthroplasty, Pelvic and Acetabular Surgery, Hand Surgery, and Ultrasonography of the Paediatric Hip Joint.

In 2018, Dr Ivanov completed a Master's degree in Health Management.

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

In the present competition, Stoyan Ivanov, MD, PhD, has submitted for participation, in accordance with the Act and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, a list and electronic copies of scientific publications in Bulgarian and international journals, reports, and communications from participation in international and national conferences, symposia, and congresses – a total of 40 titles (forty scientific works). Of these, one is an abstract of a doctoral dissertation.

The submitted total of 31 publications includes one doctoral dissertation and 29 publications in journals and scientific proceedings, most of them in English. Scientific publications in journals with SJR and/or Impact Factor (indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science) – 9; scientific publications referenced in Web of Science – 9; scientific publications in non-referenced journals – 8. The candidate is sole author of 15 publications and co-author of 15 publications, of which he is first author in 8. The total number of citations is 8, predominantly in referenced periodical journals.

The submitted works, publications, citations, and other scientific activities fully meet the current requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act for Higher Education Area 7 “Health Care and Sports”. Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”, as well as the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

The candidate’s scientific interests and innovative contributions cover several areas of orthopaedics, but primarily concern the surgical treatment and fixation stability of complex joint-depression fractures of the calcaneus and proximal humerus; refinement of the diagnostic algorithm for periprosthetic infections; computer navigation; and 3D-printed physical models.

Other topics are related to experimental and clinical traumatology, biological treatment, biocompatible coatings, and specialized rehabilitation.

All of the candidate’s works contain original scientific research and scientific-practical conclusions.

As scientific contributions of particular value and original character in the scientific output of Stoyan Ivanov, MD, PhD, I would highlight:

1. Analysis of load distribution in the fixation of calcaneal fractures demonstrated increased stability and minimization of plantar displacement of the posterior facet when longitudinal screws are inserted through a superior approach;
2. Implementation of a methodology for generating and 3D-printing patient-specific plastic (PLA) models from CT data in patients with complex acetabular fractures.

The author's scientific contributions of relevance to Bulgarian Orthopaedics and Traumatology, which are confirmatory in character, include:

1. Introduction of a clinical protocol for reducing early aseptic loosening and polyethylene wear in knee arthroplasty, based on analysis of the leading identified technical errors;
2. Following investigation of the physicochemical properties of electrochemically deposited copper coatings on medical-grade steel and nickel alloys, a complete antibacterial effect (100% bacteriostasis) against the major pathogens associated with implant-related infections – *S. aureus* and *E. coli* – was demonstrated.

Almost all of these innovative treatment methods have been applied systematically, with a high degree of selectivity and analytical rigor.

I consider that, in accordance with the terms and procedures for the acquisition of scientific degrees and appointment to academic positions under the Development of Academic Staff legislation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, pursuant to which the competition is being conducted, Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD, fully meets the stipulated minimum scientometric requirements for appointment to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

In conclusion:

The analysis of all administratively required documentation, based on the submitted works, their quantitative and qualitative evaluation as scientific output, and their compliance with the requirements of 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, gives me grounds to vote “in favour” and to recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury, as well as to the Rector of the Medical University of Varna, that the sole candidate who submitted the required documentation for the announced competition for appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Higher Education Area 7. Health Care and Sports, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty “Orthopaedics and Traumatology”, for the needs of the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, Stoyan Ivanov Ivanov, MD, PhD, be elected Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679

15.09.2026

Prof. Nikolay Dimitrov, MD, PhD