

To
The Chair of the Scientific Jury
appointed by Order No P-109-86/January 28, 2026,
of the Rector of the Medical University
“Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna

EXPERT OPINION

by

Prof. Ivelin Takorov, MD, PhD

Head of the First Clinic of Abdominal Surgery, Military Medical Academy – Sofia

Re: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty “Surgery,” announced in the State Gazette, No. 102/November 28, 2025, for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery at Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna and University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna.

One candidate has applied for the competition—Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, MD, who has submitted the required documentation in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Development of Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna. The submitted materials are comprehensive and provide a sufficient basis for an objective evaluation of the candidate’s scientific, teaching, and clinical activities.

Dr. Turgay Kalinov was born in 1992 in the city of Varna. He graduated from Medical University – Varna in 2017 with a master’s degree in medicine. His professional development has been entirely associated with Medical University – Varna and the University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna. From 2017 to 2022 he completed his specialization in surgery, and in 2022 he obtained the specialty “Surgery.” In the same year he was awarded the educational and

scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)” with a dissertation entitled “The Significance of Virtual Reality Simulators in the Training of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery.”

His academic career began in 2020 as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Surgery at Medical University – Varna. Since 2023 he has held the academic position of Senior Assistant Professor, and since the beginning of 2025 he has also served as an Administrative Assistant at the department. He is fluent in written and spoken English and Turkish and possesses advanced computer skills.

The candidate conducts his clinical practice at the First Clinic of Surgery at University Hospital “St. Marina” – Varna, where a wide spectrum of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, hepatobiliary system, and pancreas are treated. In his clinical practice, the candidate actively applies modern surgical approaches, including laparoscopic and robot-assisted techniques, demonstrating his commitment to implementing the technological advances of contemporary surgery. Dr. Kalinov is a member of the Bulgarian Surgical Society, the Bulgarian Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists and Oncologists, and the Bulgarian Medical Association.

For the purposes of this competition, Dr. Kalinov has submitted one monograph and 19 full-text scientific publications. Of these, 15 are published in peer-reviewed journals, nine of which have an impact factor. In 2026 Dr. Turgay Kalinov published a monograph entitled “Comprehensive Modern Treatment and Surgical Approaches for Pancreatic Cancer.” The monograph presents the main aspects of the disease, including epidemiology, pathogenesis, modern diagnostic methods, and therapeutic approaches. Particular attention is devoted to diagnostic algorithms and to the role of modern imaging techniques in disease staging and treatment planning. The major surgical techniques used in the treatment of pancreatic carcinoma are also discussed in detail, including pancreatoduodenectomy, distal pancreatectomy, and total pancreatectomy. A valuable aspect of the monograph is the emphasis on the multidisciplinary approach to the management of pancreatic cancer, as well as the integration of modern technological solutions, including minimally invasive and robotic surgical techniques.

The candidate's scientific activity is further complemented by reports and video presentations delivered at 10 national and 8 international congresses and conferences. Dr. Kalinov has published in reputable international journals such as *Journal of Minimal Access Surgery*, *Cureus*, *Applied Sciences*, *Chirurgia*, and others. The total impact factor (IF) of his publications amounts to 11,7.

An objective indicator of the quality of the candidate's scientific work is the citation rate of his publications. His works have been cited six times in international scientific databases. An analysis of Dr. Kalinov's scientific output demonstrates consistent and sustained research activity over the years. The candidate is first or sole author in 11 of the presented publications (55%). His scientific articles and conference reports are closely related to his daily clinical practice and cover a broad spectrum of abdominal surgery.

The scientific contributions of the works submitted by Dr. Kalinov can be summarized in several main directions.

First, particular attention should be given to the candidate's research in the field of minimally invasive and robotic surgery. Several publications analyze the results of applying robot-assisted surgical techniques, including assessments of surgical outcomes, operative safety, and the process of integrating these technologies into clinical practice. These studies contribute to a better understanding of the advantages and limitations of robotic surgery.

Second, the candidate has contributed to research in the field of colorectal oncological surgery, where the outcomes of different surgical approaches and factors influencing treatment results in patients with colorectal carcinoma are analyzed. These studies contribute to the refinement of surgical strategies for the management of colorectal cancer.

Third, another research direction includes morphological and experimental studies of tumor tissue, including the application of modern three-dimensional visualization techniques. These studies contribute to a better understanding of the biological characteristics of the tumor microenvironment and represent a successful interdisciplinary collaboration between surgery and biomedical sciences.

Fourth, the candidate's research related to training in minimally invasive and robotic surgery deserves special attention. In this regard, his doctoral dissertation represents a contemporary contribution to the development of surgical education. By examining the role of virtual reality

simulators in laparoscopic and robotic surgery training, the candidate demonstrates the possibility of faster and safer acquisition of surgical skills, which is important for the training of future surgeons and the effective integration of young physicians into clinical practice.

In summary, the candidate's scientific contributions are characterized by a contemporary thematic focus, an interdisciplinary approach, and a clear commitment to implementing modern technologies in clinical practice and surgical education.

Dr. Kalinov's teaching workload, which includes lectures and practical training for students at the Faculty of Medicine of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, significantly exceeds the required teaching hours for the academic position of Associate Professor (220 hours per year). According to the submitted report, the candidate's average annual teaching workload amounts to 421 hours.

A detailed review of the candidate's scientometric indicators confirms the above observations and my personal conviction that Dr. Turgay Kalinov meets the criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor in accordance with the current regulatory framework. The candidate reports the following results according to the mandatory minimum scientometric indicators:

Group A (Indicator 1): 50 points (required: 50)

Group B (Indicator 3): 100 points (required: 100)

Group D (Indicators 7 and 8): 200.59 points (required: 200)

Group E (Indicators 10 and 12): 80 points (required: 50)

Total: 430.59 points (required: 400 points).

In conclusion, the analysis of the scientific, teaching, and clinical activities of Dr. Turgay Kalinov clearly demonstrates that the candidate meets the qualitative and quantitative criteria defined in the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the internal regulations of Medical University – Varna. Dr. Kalinov presents himself as a young but already well-established specialist with active clinical, scientific, and teaching engagement. His scientific work addresses current trends in modern surgery, and his participation in national and international scientific forums and training programs demonstrates a clear commitment to continuous professional development. I

believe that the candidate possesses the necessary professional qualities, scientific potential, and academic maturity for further development as a university lecturer and researcher. For these reasons, I fully support his candidacy and propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to cast a positive vote and elect Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, MD to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Surgery" for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna and University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna.

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

March 13, 2026
Sofia

Member of the Scientific Jury:

Prof. Ivelin Takorov, MD, PhD