

EXPERT OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Yovcho Petkov Yovchev, PhD

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In modern academic surgery, the development of young lecturers and researchers is essential for the sustainable development of university clinics and the introduction of new technologies in medical practice. In this context, competitions for the academic position of "Associate Professor" are an important mechanism for assessing the scientific and professional potential of university lecturers.

Within the framework of the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Surgery", announced in the State Gazette, No. 102/28.11.2025, according to report No. 102/09.01.2026 and decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine (Minutes No. 52/12.01.2026), for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna and the University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna, the candidate for participation is Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, PhD. 1

The competition materials submitted allow for a comprehensive assessment of the candidate's professional development, scientific activity and teaching activity.

The documentation submitted is complete and complies with the regulatory requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations of the Medical University – Varna.

A review of the biographical data shows that the candidate's professional development is consistently and logically linked to the academic and clinical environment of the Medical University of Varna.

Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, PhD is a graduate of the same university, where he completed his medical degree in 2017. After graduation, he began specialising in surgery at the University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna, which he successfully completed in 2022, when he also acquired a specialisation in "Surgery". In the same year, he defended his dissertation and received the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor".

Since 2020, he has been working as an assistant at the Department of General and operative surgery at the Medical University of Varna, and subsequently held the position of senior assistant. His clinical work focuses on the treatment of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, the hepatobiliary system and the pancreas.

His clinical activity is focused on the treatment of diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, the hepatobiliary system and the pancreas. The data presented shows that the candidate

actively participates in the clinic's surgical activities, applying both classical surgical techniques and modern minimally invasive approaches, including laparoscopic and robot-assisted surgery.

Dr Kalinov's scientific activity is focused on current issues in modern surgery. His publications cover several main thematic areas, among which minimally invasive surgery, robotic surgical technologies, colorectal cancer surgery and pancreatic surgery stand out.

Some of his scientific work examines the results of the application of robotic surgical techniques and analyses the potential of these technologies in modern surgical practice. Other publications focus on experimental and morphological studies of tumour tissue, demonstrating an interest in gaining a deeper understanding of the biological processes associated with cancer.

His scientific work in the field of surgical training deserves special attention. His dissertation on *"The Application of Virtual Reality Simulators in Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery Training"* examines a contemporary and extremely relevant issue – the training of young surgeons in the context of rapidly developing technological methods in surgery. In this sense, the work is important both for the development of surgical education and for the faster and safer integration of young specialists into surgical practice.

As his main work for participation in the competition, the candidate presents the monograph "Complex modern treatment and surgical approaches to pancreatic cancer". The monograph is devoted to one of the most challenging diseases in modern oncological surgery – pancreatic carcinoma. The work systematically examines the main aspects of the disease, including epidemiology, diagnostic approaches and modern therapeutic strategies.

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Particular attention is paid to diagnostic algorithms, which include modern imaging methods, as well as to the role of surgical treatment at different stages of the disease.

The monograph analyses the main surgical techniques used in the treatment of pancreatic carcinoma, as well as the factors that influence oncological outcomes. Significant emphasis is placed on the multidisciplinary approach to patient treatment, which includes surgical treatment, systemic therapy and modern technological solutions.

The monograph is a well-structured scientific analysis of the current literature and summarises the latest concepts in the treatment of this complex disease.

The candidate's scientific contributions can be summarised in several main areas. Of particular note are his studies in the field of robotic surgery, which analyse the results of robot-assisted operations and contribute to a better understanding of the role of these technologies in modern surgical practice. His scientific work in the field of colorectal surgery examines various aspects of surgical treatment in patients with colorectal cancer. His scientific research on the morphological features of tumour tissue and the use of modern imaging methods is important for the development of an interdisciplinary approach between surgery and biomedical sciences. His research in the field of minimally invasive and robotic surgery training, which examines the possibilities of simulation technologies for improving surgical skills, also represents a significant contribution.

The materials presented also show that the candidate actively participates in international scientific forums and specialised training programmes dedicated to modern surgery. Of particular importance are his participations in practical courses on minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic surgery, as well as training in international centres with experience in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. These participations demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional development and the implementation of modern surgical technologies in clinical practice.

In summary, it can be noted that the Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov scientific and clinical activity is focused on modern and dynamically developing areas of surgery, including minimally invasive and robotic surgery. His scientific interest in the implementation of new technologies in surgical training and clinical practice is particularly valuable in the context of the development of modern university medicine.

I believe that Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, MD, possesses the necessary professional qualities, scientific activity and teaching potential to hold the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In view of the above, I give a positive opinion and support the awarding of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in surgery to Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, MD.

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Stara Zagora

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