

EXPERT OPINION

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Competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Surgery", announced in the State Gazette, No. 102/28.11.2025, according to report No. 102-54/09.01.2026 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 Faculty of Medicine of MU – Varna and the First Clinic of Surgery at UMHAT "Sv. Marina" – Varna.

Within the framework of the announced competition procedure, one candidate has submitted an application – Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Turgay Turgay Kalinov, PhD. The submitted documentation shows that the candidate meets all the regulatory requirements for participation in the procedure for filling the academic position of "Associate professor" in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

Dr. Turgay Kalinov was born on 16 January 1992 in Nikopol. He graduated from Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov Medical University – Varna in 2017, after which he began his professional career in the field of surgery. In 2022, he obtained a recognised medical specialisation in "Surgery". In 2022, he obtained a recognised medical specialisation in Surgery. He currently has a total of nine years of medical experience.

His academic career began in 2018 when he was enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at the Department of General and Operative Surgery in the scientific specialty of Surgery. In 2020, he was appointed assistant professor, and since 2023 he has held the position of senior assistant professor at the same department. In 2022, he successfully defended his dissertation on "The Importance of Virtual Reality Simulators in Laparoscopic

and Robotic Surgery Training," earning him the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor."

In the course of his professional development, Dr Kalinov has participated in numerous qualification courses and specialisations both in Bulgaria and abroad, conducted at established medical centres. He is fluent in English and Turkish, which supports both his scientific and teaching activities.

As part of the competition materials, the candidate presents a habilitation monograph and a total of 16 scientific publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals. In 2025, his monograph "A Comprehensive Modern Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer" was published in a print run of 200 copies. The work received positive reviews from leading specialists in the field of surgery in the country.

The monographic study was developed in accordance with contemporary scientific standards and fully meets the scientometric criteria set out in the regulations for academic development at MU-Varna. It presents a systematic analysis of contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to pancreatic cancer, with an emphasis on the integration of surgical treatment, systemic therapy and modern imaging diagnostics.

The work summarises both the accumulated clinical experience and the current scientific achievements in the field and proposes a model for the application of a personalised surgical approach, tailored to the specifics of Bulgarian medical practice. At the same time, it contributes to the harmonisation and standardisation of clinical practice in the treatment of pancreatic cancer on a national scale.

The candidate's scientific publications cover a variety of topics and reflect the interdisciplinary nature of modern surgery. The total individual impact factor of his scientific output is 11.7.

Dr Kalinov has eight years of teaching experience in training medical students. His teaching activities are characterised by a high level of commitment and activity. His excellent communication skills in English are particularly valuable when working with foreign students, whose number at the Medical University of Varna is constantly growing.

His teaching activity fully meets the requirements for the academic position of "associate professor".

CONCLUSION: Based on the materials presented and the analysis of the candidate's scientific, teaching and clinical activities, I believe that Dr. Turgay Kalinov, MD, fully meets the criteria for the academic position of "associate professor" in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

I am convinced that the candidate possesses the necessary scientific achievements, professional experience and teaching capacity to occupy the academic position of "associate professor" at the Medical University – Varna.

Varna

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