

# **R E V I E W**

**By Prof. Dr. Elena DimitrovaDimitrakova, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, MU-Plovdiv**

**Head of the Maternity Ward, Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, St. George  
University Hospital - Plovdiv**

**Subject: procedure for acquiring the Academic Position of "DOCENT(Associated Professor)" in the specialty "Obstetrics and Gynecology" , field of higher education: 7. Health and Sport, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Faculty of Medicine of MU - Varna, according to the Order No. R- 109-236/26.07.2024 of the Rector of MU - Varna and the advertisement in State Gazette No. 45/28.05.2024.**

**Only one candidate participated in the competition - Senior Assistant Professor  
Dr. Zhivko Stoyanov Zhekov, M.D.,Ph.D.**

## **I. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND CAREER PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE**

**Dr. Zhivko Zhekov, M.D., Ph.D. was born in 1961. He graduated as a physician at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna in 1987. 1993 was the year in which he acquired the specialty "Obstetrics and Gynecology". In the period of 2017-2021 he was a Ph.D. student at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Medical University - Varna. After a successful defense of her dissertation on "Methods for termination of pregnancy in obstetric-gynecological practice" he obtained his Ph.D. in 2021. He is currently a senior assistant professor in the same department.**

Dr. Zhekov, M.D., Ph.D. shows interest in various fields of obstetrics and gynecology, which is evidenced by the additional qualification courses he held: he took part in a study program in the department of Gynecology at the Hadassah University Hospital, colposcopy, ultrasound diagnostics in obstetrics and gynecology, maternal-fetal medicine, gynecological laparoscopy and hysteroscopy.

He is a member of the BMA and the BDAG.

As an expert, he participates in the work of a number of committees and institutions - principal investigator in clinical studies, chairman of the Ethics Committee at SBAGAL - Varna, judicial witness expert at AC - Varna.

He speaks English and Russian.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBMITTED MATERIALS

Total publication activity - 26 scientific papers, of which 23 are presented as evidence in the report on the fulfilment of the minimum requirements for holding the position of Associate Professor under the Law on Research and Development. The candidate's scientific production includes: 1 abstract; 1 monograph: "Modern methods of artificial abortion in obstetric-gynecological practice"; 21 full-text publications, of which 5 in refereed and indexed in world databases (SCOPUS and Web of Science) and 15 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes; 1 additional, beyond the minimum scientific-metric requirements.

Dr. Zhekov, M.D., Ph.D. is an independent author in 2 of the publications; he is the first author in 8 of the scientific papers and second or subsequent author in 11 others.

He also certifies 6 participations in scientific forums at home and abroad.

## III. EVALUATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Dr. Zhekov's research activity is in several main areas:

- Organization, conditions and performance of abortion in hospital conditions
- Clinical evaluation of the procedure "Medical abortion"
- Obstetric management of established pathology of genital and extragenital origin
- Innovations in obstetrical practice

The extensive clinical experience of the candidate facilitates his contributions in most of the publications, and I would highlight some of them:

- The organization and conditions for performing abortion are studied and analyzed; etiological factors, types of methods for termination of pregnancy, possible complications are discussed in detail; Bulgarian and world experience is compared;
- I define as particularly valuable Dr. Zhekov's own results and his in-depth analysis of the guidelines of leading international organizations. The author proposes a scheme of administration of Mifepristone-Misoprostol in strict compliance with established regulatory requirements;
- An important contribution is the thorough study of complications after medical abortion with emphasis on prevention and control of the procedure itself;
- Equally original and important is also the candidate's research concerning the combination of pregnancy and infectious diseases. Those related to COVID-19 are particularly relevant;
- The research dedicated to innovations in OB practice is significant and has potential.

#### IV. TEACHING ACTIVITY

The teaching workload statement provided certifies the following: 2019/2020 - 261 teaching hours; 2020/2021 - 277 teaching hours; 2021/2022 - 269 teaching hours; 2022/2023 - 388 teaching hours; 2023/2024 - 345 teaching hours.

Dr. Zhekov M.D., Ph.D. conducts practical exercises for students of Medicine, Dentistry and Midwifery module.

#### V. CONCLUSION

Dr. Zhivko Zhekov M.D., Ph.D. is an established specialist with extensive clinical experience. He impresses with his dedication to the profession, but also his desire to introduce new, modern methods in obstetrics and gynecological practice in accordance with world practices.

The presented materials comply with the requirements of the Law on Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Regulations for its implementation and the relevant Regulations of the Medical University of Varna.

In view of the above, I give my positive evaluation and recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to also vote positively for the appointment of JSC "Associated Professor" to Dr. Zhivko Stoyanov Zhekovya, M.D., Ph.D.

15.09. 2024

Plovdiv

Review by:

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Prof. Dr. Elena Dimitrakova, M.D., Ph.D.