

**TO: The Chairman of the Academic Board,
as per ordinance No P-109-169/03.06.2020
of the Chancellor of the Medical University
Varna**

REVIEW

By Prof. Geno Kirov, MD, PhD

ABOUT: Competition for academic degree of “Professor”, within higher education field No 7. Health care and sport, professional trend 7.1 Medicine, and field of science „general surgery“, according to the needs of the faculty of „Medicine“, Cathedra „General and operative surgery“ of the Medical University - Varna, publicized by State Gazette, 6p.8/28.01.2020.

In compliance with ordinance of the Chancellor of MU Varna No P-109-169/03.06.2020 and by a resolution of the first meeting of the Academic Board, I as an exterior member of the Academic Board of Medical University – Varna, had been assigned with the task to work out a formal “review”.

For the purpose I had been given a set of papers about: associate professor **Anthony Tonchev Philipov, MD, PhD**.

I received all papers needed to work out the review which is in compliance with the Law on development of the academic staff in the R of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application and the Regulations for development of the academic staff in the Varna Medical University.

1. CV and professional career of the applicant:

Anthony Tonchev Philipov, MD, was born on 15th of March, 1961 in Sofia, Bulgaria. He graduated from the University of Medicine in Sofia in 1987, specialty – medicine.

1987 - 1990 he takes the position of an intern at the surgical department of the hospital in the town of Radomir.

In 1990 he was appointed at the IVth Clinic of surgery in the University emergency hospital "N. I. Pyrogov" - Sofia, where he worked until February 2017r. In 2014 r. he was awarded the degree „Associate professor“ to the Surgery Section of the University emergency hospital "N. I. Pyrogov" - Sofia.

Since March 2017 and at present he has been heading the Clinic of General and Endoscopic surgery at the University hospital „St. Ivan Rilsky“ Ltd, Sofia.

1993 r. – got specialty in General surgery

2003 r. – achieved qualification in „Healthcare Management“ at the University of National and World Economy, Sofia

2014 r. – for his dissertation on „RESEARCH WORK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENDOSCOPIC TREATMENT OF INGUINAL HERNIA “ – he was awarded the academic degree PhD of General surgery.

Associate professor, MD Anthony Philipov had passed trainings in France, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia and the USA, for which he got certificates of qualifications in general and laparoscopic surgery. Speaks English and Russian.

He is a member of the Bulgarian Doctors' Union, Bulgarian surgical society, Bulgarian Association of cardiac and vascular surgery, EAES and the European Hernia society.

2. Teaching and training activities/Academic career

Associate Prof., MD Anthony Philipov had demonstrated a variety of auditorium meetings, as well as out of the lecture hall meetings and training sessions in the operating theatre. He is a trainer in Emergency medicine and Emergency surgery of students and interns of the Medical University – Sofia, as well as a trainer in laparoscopic surgery at the *Aesculap Academy* of the University emergency hospital "N. I. Pyrogov" - Sofia.

Associate Prof. Philipov conducts modules/individual trainings of the internship program for the surgery specialty, thoracic surgery and orthopedics and traumatology.

Associate Professor Anthony Philipov had proved more than 330 auditorium lectures and more than 450 out of the lecture hall classes which is in compliance with the requirements of the Varna Medical University for a teaching lecturer in the respective clinical subject.

3. Academic and research work

The applicant presented a total of 47 research works. In the publicized competition for academic degree of "Professor " in scientific branch „General Surgery", Associate Professor Philipov applies with a monographic work, 10 articles and reports in collections and magazines, included in the national consulting list, and 10 publications in magazines reporting in world data bases.

In 17 of the publications presented, the applicant is first creator, while in the rest he is a co-creator.

10 of the publications are in magazines of the national consulting list, and **10** are in magazines reporting in world data bases from which one is having impact factor (IF). The total impact factor (IF) of the applicant is **1,87**.

Monograph:

„Minimum invasive ventral hernioplastics“ – edited by Associate Professor, MD Anthony Tonchev Philipov, Ciela Publishing House – 2019, ISBN -978-954-28-3018-4

References:

The applicant presented information about **25** references, **22** of which are in Bulgarian publications and **3** are by foreign sources.

Participation in academic forums:

Associate Professor MD Anthony Philipov is a creator and co-creator of 12 reports presented at academic forums. In 6 of the reports he was leading creator.

The distribution of the publications through the years is consistent which indicates lack of end in itself related to his publishing activities. The results of the research work of Associate Professor Anthony Philipov have numerous important contributions in the following spheres:

1. Acute appendicitis (No 9,13, of the list reviewed for reader's degree)

Clinical and epidemiology examinations were conducted via presentation of contemporary data about the frequency, sexual and age features of the patients hospitalized for acute appendicitis at the IVth Surgery Clinic of the University hospital for emergency "N. I. Pyrogov" - Sofia in a 5-year term up to 2017. After 2017 the team moved to University hospital „St. Ivan Rilsky“, where the work on examination of this pathology and its treatment continued, the frequency of using antibiotic and the different options of surgery treatment were studied.

An innovative method of laparoscopic appendectomy with one port only had been created and introduced into practice. Its advantages and shortcomings were analyzed in comparison to the conventional three port laparoscopic appendectomy. The advantages of the new laparoscopic method were proved for some specific groups of patients with obesity and appendicular peritonitis. The reasons for complications and conversion were analysed. Comparative examination was conducted between different options for control of the appendicular chump while suffering acute appendicitis. Activities protocol had been worked out and proposed for the patients demonstrating acute appendicitis clinical data.

2. Hernia of the abdominal wall (No. 1,3,6,7,11,12,14,17)

Anatomic examination from laparoscopic perspective had been done of the inguinal area followed by a detailed description of the preperitoneal areas and fascia. Prospective examination of patients with inguinal hernia who were operated with

transabdominal preperitoneal technique was completed, analyzing the advantages and shortcomings of the method.

All stages of the transabdominal preperitoneal technique were analyzed and the critical points for complication were pointed out. The curve of the training for total extraperitoneal hernioplastics had been analyzed and the necessity of minimum 50 operations was pointed out in order to master the skills.

3. Gall-stone disease (No. 6,8,22 of the list reviewed for Associate Professor's degree)

Research was conducted for evaluation of the effectiveness of the laparoscopic cholecystectomy due to acute cholecystitis in patients older than 70. The advantages of the minimum invasive technique were proved, i.e. shorter stay at hospital and lower complication rate. An innovative method of laparoscopic cholecystectomy via one port had been developed and introduced in practice at the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital. The early results were followed up. The effectiveness of the method had been compared to the conventional threeport laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

4. Peritonitis and emergency conditions of the abdomen (No. 1,8,12,15,24 of the list reviewed for Associate Professor's degree)

Clinical and epidemiology examinations of patients having wounds in the thoracic and abdominal area were conducted. The complications and mortality factors were pointed out. The peculiarities of bullet wounds in the abdominal area and their surgical treatment were analyzed. For the first time in our country 2 cases of laparoscopic resection of Meckelov diverticuli were reported.

A large group of patients suffering peritonitis of different origin and passed laparoscopic operation had been analyzed.

The contemporary aspects of the intensive care of patients having intestinal impassability were also analyzed.

An innovative method for laparoscopic approach to impassability of the small intestine had been introduced in the work of the Surgery Clinic at the "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

Another innovative method for laparoscopic treatment of perforated ulcer had been developed and introduced in the Surgery Clinic at the "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

A laparoscopic method of treatment of appendicular peritonitis had also been introduced at the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

Well developed and introduced into the practice of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital is an algorithm for immunology monitoring of patients with acute peritonitis.

**5. Laparoscopic treatment of hiatal hernia and oesophagus diseases.
(No.1,3,6,7,11,12,14)**

A method of laparoscopic treatment of hiatal hernia is also well developed and smoothly introduced into the practice of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital. The results and complications had been analyzed.

A method of laparoscopic treatment of recurrent hiatal hernia is also well developed and smoothly introduced into the practice of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

An innovative method of thoracoscopic approach for correction of traumatic diaphragmal defects had been developed and introduced in the work of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

A method for minimum invasive oesophagectomy had been developed and introduced in the work of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

Analysis of the training curve had been accomplished.

An innovative method of laparoscopic and thoracoscopic treatment of non-malignant diseases of the oesophagus had been developed and introduced in the work of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital.

Well developed and introduced in the work of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital is a method for thoracoscopic treatment of achalasia of the cardia.

6. Colorectal carcinoma (No. 4,8,9,13)

A study had been conducted of all the available until now knowledge in world literature about total mesorectal excision in rectal carcinoma. The frequency of local recurrence was analyzed, as well as the survival rate and the basic technical principles. A laparoscopy method was accepted for treatment of non-malignant and malignant diseases of the colon.

Laparoscopy is being more and more applied in the surgical treatment of the colorectal carcinoma. This allows patients to benefit from the traditional advantages of laparoscopy in comparison to conventional open surgery, and competitive longterm results related to the treatment of the oncology disease.

A contemporary laparoscopy method was endorsed consisting of minimum invasive surgery interventions upon the colon which are accomplished via several small cuts (usually 4-5 with length between 5mm – 10mm) of the abdominal wall while the operative field is being observed at the screen. Depending on the type of operation the patients are able to leave hospital just several days after the intervention and come back to their daily routine much faster than after an open surgery intervention.

7. Laparoscopic resections of the rectum (No.9,10,18)

A study had been conducted over a 9-year period and more than 150 completed laparoscopic interventions about the experience of the Surgery Clinic at "Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital with radical laparoscopic resections of the rectum due to rectal carcinoma.

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8. Haemorrhoidectomy with ligasure and mechanic haemorrhoidopexy for IIIrd and IVth degree haemorrhoids. (No.5)

124 patients having haemorrhoids of IIIrd and IVth degree were distributed in two identical groups according to the planned intervention. The intervention accomplished to the patients of the first group was haemorrhoidectomy through Ligasure, while the patients of the other group had undergone haemorrhoidopexy using stapler according to the method of Longo. The demographic data were taken into account prospectively, as well as the clinical data, the duration of the intervention, the postoperative pain according to the visual analogue scale, the necessity of postoperative analgesia, duration of the stay at hospital, and the time required to recover ability to work. The postoperative complications and recurrence were also reported. For a period of 12 months the patients were regularly monitored.

9. New techniques in the laparoscopic surgery

Developed and introduced in the practice of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital were methods for laparoscopic cholecystectomy and appendectomy via one port only. A summary had been done of the available to the moment knowledge in world literature about laparoscopic techniques via one port only, analyzing the available commercial sets as well as the noncommercial methods.

The contemporary trends for development of the minimum invasive techniques were analyzed. The publications presented in all spheres of contemporary conventional and minimum invasive surgery are a result of the independent research and clinical work, as well as of the team work of the Surgery Clinic of "St. Ivan Rilsky" University Hospital Ltd. - Sofia.

The results of the academic work are implemented in the training of the interns who are being taught at the Clinic.

10. Treatment of abdominal trauma. (No2)

Clinical protocol had been established formulating the required activities of the medical team in the course of the diagnostic and treatment processes applied to patients having traumas in the abdominal area. Trauma or traumatic injury means a trauma which is a result of exterior actions of different physical character and strength of impact.

Conclusion: Associate Professor, MD Anthony Tonchev Philipov is a complete and outstanding surgeon, erudite and man of science учен, a talented lecturer, which allows me, according to the requirements of the ЗРАСРБ, the Regulations for application of the same Law and the Regulations for the conditions and order of achievement academic degrees, to recommend to the honorable Academic Board to award him the academic degree "Professor".

01.07.2020

Member of the Academic Board:

/Professor MD Geno Kirov, PhD/

