

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. Toma Pozharliev, MD, PhD

ABOUT: Competition for academic degree “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.

The only applicant to the above competition is **Associate Professor Anthony Tonchev Philipov, MD, PhD.**, currently heading the clinic of General and Endoscopy surgery at university Hospital “St. Ivan Rilsky” Ltd. Sofia.

1. CV and professional career of the applicant:

Associate Professor Anthony Tonchev Philipov, MD, PhD, was born on 15th of March, 1961 in Sofia, Bulgaria. He graduated from the University of Medicine in Sofia in 1987, specialty – medicine. In 1993 he achieved specialty in General surgery. Since 1987 until 1990 Dr Philipov took 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 2017. Dr Philipov consecutively held there the positions of intern, head of reception room,

chief administrative physician and head of surgery clinic. In 2014 r. he was awarded the academic degree PhD of General surgery for his dissertation on „RESEARCH WORK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENDOSCOPIC TREATMENT OF INGUINAL HERNIA “. Later the same year he was awarded the degree „Associate professor“ of the Surgery Section of the University emergency hospital “N. I. Pyrogov” - Sofia.

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

Associate professor, MD Anthony Philipov had passed trainings in France, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia and the USA. Speaks English and Russian.

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

2. Teaching and training activities/Academic career

The academic work of Associate Prof., MD Anthony Philipov includes more than 230 auditorium lectures. As a tutor he had had practical and theoretical training sessions for a huge number of surgeons at the *Aesculap Academy* of the University emergency hospital “N. I. Pyrogov” – Sofia, as part of their postgraduate qualifications in laparoscopy.

Auditorium meetings and practical exercises in Emergency medicine and Emergency surgery for medical students and interns are among his activities together with individual sessions in the operating theatre. Ass.prof. Anthony Philipov mastered the individual training of a number of postgraduate students, and was academic adviser to a successful PhD research work. He had conducted more than 200 modules of the internship programs for specialty in surgery, emergency surgery, urology, orthopaedics and traumatology. Out of the lecture hall activities, as well as methodical training provided by him for the medical students and interns are numerous and various in character.

3. Academic and research work

In this competition Ass.Prof. Philipov applies by a monograph and 46 publicized works and reports divided as follows: 26 prior to the academic degree Associate professor and the rest 20, will be reviewed in the course of the current procedure. Ten (10) of these articles and reports are publicisedn in collections and magazines, included in the national consulting list, and 10 publications are in magazines reporting to world data bases (Scopus, Web of Science,Google Scholar).

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

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

In 2014 r., for his dissertation on „RESEARCH WORK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENDOSCOPIC TREATMENT OF INGUINAL HERNIA ” – associate professor Philipov was awarded the academic degree PhD of General surgery.

Monograph: In 2019 was published „Minimum invasive ventral hernioplastics“ edited by Associate Professor, MD Anthony Tonchev Philipov, Ciela Publishing House, ISBN - 978-954-28-3018-4; 192 pages plus bibliography of 116 titles. The monograph is an important part of the academic work of associate professor Philipov and is a valuable manual to the experts in the sphere of Minimum invasive ventral hernioplastics. Numerous figures and photographs are presented in the book from reality surgery, thus allowing reproduction of the different techniques of endoscopic ventral hernioplastics after different indications. The author summarizes the data he had collected and present them in a concise way, in the light of a critical view, a contemporary and rich source of knowledge on the topic minimum invasive ventral hernioplastics.

The monograph starts with a detailed anatomy of the abdominal wall, goes through the pathogenesis of the ventral hernia and presents the contemporary classifications of the disease, which assures its systematic examination. The different types of prosthesis nets are presented with their special features and usage indications. The greatest contribution

of the monograph is in the thorough examination of of the different techniques for endoscopic ventral hernioplastics. The separate stages of each of the approaches are very well presented and visualized.

Publications in periodicals and published presentations at academic forums: The publications of Associate professor Philipov cover almost all sections of emergency and plan surgery. He is a pioneer in Bulgaria as regards to the development of minimum invasive surgery of the abdomen and the use of laparoscopy in the treatment of a wide range of urgent surgery diseases. Here are the spheres of contribution of his publications:

1. Acute appendicitis (No 9,13, of the list reviewed for Associate Professor'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 training curve of the total extraperitoneal hernioplastics had been analyzed and the necessity of minimum 50 operations was pointed out in order to master the operative 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 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 treatment 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 usual advantages of laparoscopy in comparison to conventional open surgery, on the grounds of competitive longterm results related to the treatment of oncology diseases.

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.

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 endorsed formulating the required activities of the medical team in the course of the diagnostic and treatment 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.

4. CONCLUSION

All the presented documentation and evidences in the course of this competition cover the academic and metric indicators for the academic degree “Professor”, according to the Regulations for development of academic staff of the Varna Medical University and the regulations of the country as shown in the following table:

Group of indicators	Content	Professor Required	Professor Available
A	Indicator 1	50	50
Б	Indicator 2	-	
B	Sum of the indicators 2, 3 and 4	100	100
Г	Sum of the indicators from 5 to 9	200	252

Д	Sum of the indicators from 10 to 12	100	115
Е	Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end	100	130

In addition to all the above Associate professor Anthony Philipov, MD, PhD, had demonstrated distinctive capabilities in plan and emergency surgery – abdominal and thoracic. He is a master of all up-to-date minimum invasive surgery techniques, implementing them successfully on a day-to-day basis which is a proof of a steady, modern and reliable surgeon.

All the above is a good ground for me to vote positive and to recommend to the honorable board to award Associate professor Philipov, MD, PhD, the academic degree “Professor” in higher education field No 7. Health care and sport, Professional trend 7.1 Medicine, and field of science „Surgery” .

08.07.2020

Member of the Academic Board:



/Prof. MD Toma Pozharliev, PhD/