

R E V I E W

FROM Prof. Krasimir Ivanov MD, PhD, DSc.

**Head of the Department of General and Operative Surgery
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna**

SUBJECT

Announced competition for the academic position: "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine in the scientific specialty "General Surgery" for the needs of the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, published in the State Gazette, issue 14 / 18.02.2022.

Pursuant to Order № P-109-167 / 14.04.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna and the decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, held on 03.05.2022, I was appointed to prepare an official review as an internal member of the Medical University Varna.

The only candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of General and Operative Surgery is Dr. Alexander Zlatarov, PhD. Candidate has submitted all required documents specified in the regulations for the development of the academic staff of MU - Varna. All other mandatory documents are presented and meet the requirements.

1. BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Dr. Alexander Zlatarov was born on December 17, 1987 in the city of Varna. He graduated from the First Language High School with teaching of English and German in 2006. In the same year he was admitted to the specialty "Medicine", and in 2012 he graduated from the Medical University - Varna. According to the information presented in the specialty "Surgery", Dr. Zlatarov has a work experience of 9 years and 3 months. In 2012 he was appointed as a doctor at the First Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital "St. Marina", where he specialized and acquired the specialty "Surgery" in 2018. In 2018 he defended his dissertation on "New methods in the laparoscopic treatment of hiatal hernias. Since 2012, after a competition he held the academic position of "assistant" 2021 is a senior assistant at the Department of General and Operative Surgery at MU-Varna.

In addition to the mandatory documents for participation in the competition, Dr. Zlatarov has provided certificates of participation in postgraduate courses for continuing

education in Bulgaria and abroad - a total of 12. There is some interest in professional orientation in the field of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery. Declares skills to work with the highest technological surgical equipment. It is noteworthy that it is certified to work with the surgical robotic system Da Vinci Xi for abdominal surgery. Fluent in English and Russian. He speaks German.

2. SCIENTIFIC METRICS

Dr. A. Zlatarov, PhD presents photocopies, original abstracts and full-text publications as follows:

- Dissertation work - 1
- Chapter of a monograph (published abroad) - 7
- Chapter of a monograph (published in Bulgaria) - 1
- Publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information, of which:
 - issued abroad - 5
 - issued in Bulgaria - 9
- Publications in unrefereed journals, of which:
 - issued in Bulgaria - 30
 - issued abroad - 3
- Participation with reports at scientific forums in Bulgaria - 29
- Participation with reports at scientific forums abroad - 22

Of the presented full-text publications in Bulgarian are - 25, and in English - 31. Of the actual 55 publications is the first / independent author - 2 copies, 3.6%, second author - 5 copies, 9.1%, third and another author - 48 copies, 87.2%.

Official references from the Library of MU-Varna are presented, which shows the presence of 8 citations in the Scopus database.

3. SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

I acknowledge the following contributions of Dr. Alexander Zlatarov, MD, which are divided into three categories:

1. Contributions to the defended dissertation on "New methods in the laparoscopic treatment of hiatal hernias".

- A detailed literature analysis of laparoscopic methods for the treatment of hiatal hernia has been performed.
- A wide variety of laparoscopic surgical methods have been used in the treatment of hiatal hernias.
- An in-depth study of 260 operated patients with long-term follow-up over a period of 3 years was performed.

- A modern and statistically reliable study of the application of laparoscopic methods for the treatment of hiatal hernia has been performed.
- An analysis of the causes and anatomical variants of recurrence after laparoscopic surgery for hiatal hernia is presented.
- An analysis of the specific complications after laparoscopic fundoplication and behavior was performed.
- The principles for optimal operative approach in the laparoscopic treatment of hiatal hernia have been established.
- An algorithm for intraoperative behavior in esophageal shortening has been developed.

2. Contributions to scientific publications

The author's research interests are grouped in the fields of colorectal surgery, upper digestive tract surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, minimally invasive surgery for adrenal tumors, training in laparoscopic surgery and biotechnology.

The main part of the scientific works is devoted to the topic of surgical treatment of colorectal cancer (G7-4, G7-9, G8-1, G8-4, G8-5, G7-11, G8-21). A series of publications prepared by a multidisciplinary team focused on diagnostic methods for colorectal cancer (B4-2, B4-3, B4-10, G8-3, G8-6, G8-9, G8-13, G8-16, D8-18). Current standards in the diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer are reflected in chapters of collective monographs (B4-5, B4-6, B4-7, B4-8, B4-9).

The experience of laparoscopic fundoplication has been presented in a series of publications presented at national congresses (G8-23; related to the dissertation G8-2, G8-4, G8-6). Cases of practice describing rare diseases of the upper digestive tract and those in which an innovative minimally invasive method has been applied - B4-1, G8-2. A multidisciplinary team reviewed the application of radiation therapy for esophageal and gastric cancer (G7-5, G7-6, G8-23). Own experience in patients with acute non-varicose bleeding from the upper GIT was presented, and a comparison of the author's algorithms with the data from the literature was performed. In the field of hepatobiliary surgery, studies have been conducted on the methods of minimally invasive and endoscopic treatment of mechanical jaundice, current strategies for colorectal cancer metastases. The topic of postoperative follow-up, anesthesiology and resuscitation after liver surgery was also studied. (G7-2, G8-7, G8-8, G8-10, G8-14, G8-15, G8-17, G8-24, G8-25, G8-26, G8-27, G8-28, G8-29).

Dr. Zlatarov is actively involved in the study of minimally invasive surgery for tumors of the adrenal gland (G7-1, G7-3, G8-22), and a series of articles traces the experience of the clinic in laparoscopic adrenalectomy.

The candidate participates in innovative projects regarding the application of virtual reality simulators in surgery education, as well as techniques for 3D printing of tissues for X-ray imaging.

3. Contributions related to surgical practice.

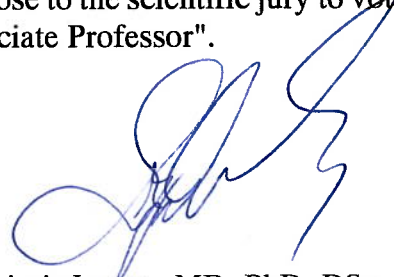
Participation in the first robotic cholecystectomy, fundoplication and resection of the rectum in the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna.

4. TEACHING AND TEACHING ACTIVITY

Dr. Alexander Zlatarov's training includes practical exercises in "General and Operative Surgery" - students of Medicine Bulgarian and English language training, III year, "Surgical Diseases" - students of Medicine Bulgarian and English language training, IV and V year "Surgery incl. Anesthesiology and Emergencies"- students of Dental Medicine - Bulgarian and English language training - III year, "Surgery" - students majoring in "Midwife", "Rehabilitator", "X-ray laboratory assistant". According to the report presented by MU-Varna, his study load significantly exceeds the norm of 220 students. hours per year (541 teaching hours for the academic year 2020/2021), with his predominance of engagement with English language students.

CONCLUSION

The presented documents by Dr. Alexander Zlatarov, PhD and his professional and academic development, fully meet the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor", defined in the regulations of the academic staff at the Medical University "Prof. P. Stoyanov" - Varna. Given the undeniably high level of professionalism of Dr. Zlatarov, both a lecturer and a modern surgeon, I propose to the scientific jury to vote positively for his election to the academic position of "Associate Professor".



June 16, 2022
Varna

Prof. Krasimir Ivanov MD, PhD, DSc.