

## Review

about a contest for the academic position "professor" in  
"otorhinolaryngology";  
announced by Department of Clinical Medical Sciences, Faculty of  
Dental medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev  
Stoyanov", Varna;  
published in DV № 32/26.04.2022

prof. Stephan Lolov, MD, DSc

### General presentation of the documents and procedure

The contest announcement for an academic position of "professor" and the procedure for arriving at a decision are based on the following documents: *i*) Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), amend. 12.III.2021; *ii*) Regulations on the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, amend. 19.II.2019; *iii*) The Rules on the Development of the Academic Staff in Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, amend. 21.03.2022; and *iv*) The order of the Rector of The Medical University, Varna, № P-109-255/23.06.2022.

The presented set of materials (all as PDF) comply with the requirements and are well structured. Furthermore, the *necessary procedure detailed in the points above has been followed.*



## Compliance with the "minimum national requirements" for the position of "professor".

Assoc. prof. dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD is the only candidate for the announced academic position. The information contained within the documents is enough to gain sufficient insight in his achievements. Document analysis shows that dr. Milkov satisfies the required criteria as detailed below<sup>1</sup>:

Group indicator			points
A	1	A successfully defended doctorate thesis	50
B	3	Habilitation thesis	100
Г	7	Publications in scientific journals, which are referenced and indexed in renowned scientific databases	100
	8	Publications in peer-reviewed journals, which are not referenced and indexed in renowned scientific databases	342
	9	Book chapter in a co-authored textbook	20
Д	11	Citations in scientific journals, monographs, inclusion of works in scientific summaries and patents, which are referenced and indexed in renowned scientific databases	>165
E	14	Supervised successfully defended doctoral theses	80
	15	Medical board certificate	40
	16	Participation in national scientific projects	15
	18	Management of national scientific projects	90

## Special requirements

In accordance with ADASRB, the scientific organisation holding this contest can define its own additional conditions for candidates. I familiarised myself with what has been published by Medical University, Varna and I can confirm that the candidate meets or exceeds said requirements.

<sup>1</sup>Group designation is according to the Bulgarian alphabet



## Publications submitted to the contest

The list of publications submitted to the contest exceeds formal "minimum national requirements":

- four papers are published in journals with Impact factor (3.564);
- the number of citations referencing said publications exceeds the "minimum national requirements". I have resorted to carrying out checks in renowned scientific databases as the candidate did not present his own citation summary which I would expect to be the source of truth. The information made available by the staff of the Medical University Library is inaccurate;
- there is an article in MedLine citing dr. Milkov's single-author paper, which conclusively shows candidate's ability for independent research;
- the candidate's publications are in various genres – experimental research, clinical studies, case reports, reviews and meta-analysis.

In addition to the presented scientific activity it is important to note dr. Milkov's *popularisation of his and his co-authors' findings*. He has participated in 39 congresses and conferences and submitted 70 works across them.

## Educational activities

While examining the documents submitted with his application I have noted:

- active participation in reading lectures and course-related exercises with students. He has carried out 152, 219, 190 and 199 teaching hours respectively in the last four years, each of which exceeds the university norm of 126;
- co-supervisor of four doctoral theses.

## Science coordination

Dr. Milkov is *Editor in Chief* of the "International Bulletin of Otorhinolaryngology". He has been working on it since the journal's establishment in 2005.



Our guild has seen a few periodicals in Bulgarian, but for more than a decade the “International Bulletin of Otorhinolaryngology” has been the go-to journal for young specialists in our field. With his many international relations and participation in foreign scientific societies, the candidate manages to truly make the journal *international*. I believe that dr. Milkov can achieve the last step in the journey to visibility by submitting a request for official Impact factor determination.

Dr. Milkov is the coordination leader of three national projects. Even though this is not noted in the submitted documentation I am aware that he has taken part of the organisational and scientific committee of a number of forums.

## Assessment of scientific contributions

Dr. Milkov has presented summary on claimed scientific contributions. The more significant findings that are the result of his published research could be summarised as follows:

1. validation in a bulla mastoidea-guinea pig model of the Targis/Vectris ossicular prosthesis system;
2. application of various audiology test procedures in hearing screening programmes and in patients with genetic disorders;
3. a series of scientific inquiries on different aspects of obstructive sleep apnea: mouth breathing in children, impact of aquatic sports, methadone therapy and floppy eyelid syndrome.

The candidate has standalone works of personal observations of interesting clinical problems, practices and methods which I believe should be considered as crucial contributions to applied science. Examples can be found in the areas of: temporomandibular disorders as an etiological factor for tinnitus, odontogenic complications, application of vestibular evoked myogenic potentials, medical 3D-printing.

## Personal opinion

I have witnessed the candidate’s professional career and we have no shared publications. His speaking session in forums I have attended have always resulted

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in helpful discussions. I believe that international scientific collaborations with dr. Milkov would be valuable for the Department of Clinical Medical Sciences. Sometimes I consult patients with him as I have seen positives outcomes from his clinical abilities.

## Critical notes and recommendations

- The included bibliographies are formatted correctly, but they follow *different standards*. The adoption of an automated system removes such tedious technical problems and it is a necessary tool for every scientist.
- In the candidate's list of publications there are a few which aim to popularise the subject by appealing to a more layman audience. His co-authored work "Clinical audiology" should be looked at through the same lens. However, I have not found similar works from the candidate in more modern media such as radio or TV recordings.

The above suggestions for improvements should not be interpreted as a barrier to offering the position to the candidate.

## Conclusion

Dr. Milkov is a reputable physician and scientist, with proven competency in the area of otorhinolaryngology. He has published papers in peer-reviewed journals cited by others. He exhibits notable organisational methodology to scientific work, educational and expert activity. The scientific papers submitted as part of his application are satisfactory in number and quality, and they have received publicity. As a member of the jury, I confidently express my *positive opinion* to offer assoc. prof. dr. Mario Petrov Milkov, MD, PhD the position of "professor" in "otorhinolaryngology".

July 25, 2022

  
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prof. Lolov