

Review

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By Order No. 102/22.06.2026 of Dr. Yordan Pelev, Manager of SofiaMed University Hospital Ltd., I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury. One candidate, Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD, has been admitted to participate in the competition. The evaluation of the candidate's research, teaching, and clinical activities has been conducted according to the criteria for awarding academic degrees and titles and for occupying academic positions at SofiaMed University Hospital Ltd., which are fully consistent with the minimum national requirements established by the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID).

I. Career Profile of Dr. Kalin Vidinov

Dr. Kalin Vidinov was born in 1980 in Sofia, Bulgaria. He completed his secondary education at 73rd Secondary School "Vladislav Gramatik" and subsequently studied Medicine at the Medical University of Sofia from 1998 to 2004. His professional career began in November 2004 at the Department of Endocrine Surgery of the University Specialised Hospital for Active Treatment of Endocrine Diseases "Acad. Ivan Penchev," where he was appointed as a resident physician. One year later, after successfully passing a competitive selection procedure, he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Sofia. In 2015, he was promoted to Chief Assistant Professor, and during the period 2017–2018 he served as Head of the Department of Endocrine Surgery. Since 2024, he has been working at the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery of SofiaMed University Hospital.

Between 2005 and 2010, Dr. Vidinov completed his residency training in General Surgery at the University Emergency Hospital "N. I. Pirogov" and obtained board certification in General Surgery in 2010. In 2014, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation devoted to the surgical treatment of benign thyroid diseases and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD). In 2019, he completed a second speciality training program and acquired board certification in Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Vidinov's professional interests are focused on endocrine surgery, including the treatment of intrathoracic goiters, thyroid carcinomas, and parathyroid gland disorders. In 2014, he also obtained a Master's degree in Health Management. He has completed numerous postgraduate training programs in Turkey, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Austria, where he further developed his expertise in laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery. He is a member of several professional organisations and is proficient in English and Russian.

II. Evaluation of Scientific Achievements and Quantitative Research Indicators

The scientific output presented by Dr Kalin Vidinov for participation in the competition comprises one doctoral dissertation and a total of 47 scientific publications. Of these, 15 have been published in English in peer-reviewed international scientific journals, while 17 have appeared in Bulgarian peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

The candidate's doctoral dissertation addresses a contemporary and clinically significant problem in endocrine surgery—recurrent thyroid disease. The study analyses the causes of recurrence following thyroid resections of varying extent from both morphological and statistical perspectives. Based on the obtained results, the author proposes evidence-based criteria for determining the optimal extent of primary surgical intervention in order to minimise the risk of recurrence.

Dr. Vidinov's habilitation thesis consists of ten scientific publications published in peer-reviewed journals, generating a total of 198 points within Indicator Group B, substantially exceeding the minimum requirement of 100 points. All publications focus on the surgical treatment of endocrine diseases, which represents the principal area of his research activity. In six of the ten publications, the candidate is the first author, demonstrating his leading role in the conception and execution of the studies.

The principal research topics covered in the submitted publications include rare clinical cases of thyroid carcinoma, as well as contemporary approaches to the diagnosis, genetic profiling, follow-up, and surgical treatment of thyroid and adrenal gland diseases.

Significant attention should be paid to the fifteen papers in English published in international peer-reviewed journals. These articles address a broad range of scientific issues related to human anatomy, molecular genetic markers in thyroid carcinoma, ultrasonographic diagnosis of thyroid neoplasms, familial predisposition and hereditary factors in papillary thyroid carcinoma, as well as several ophthalmological conditions. In addition, the candidate presents seventeen publications in Bulgarian scientific journals and conference proceedings, primarily dedicated to minimally invasive surgical approaches for thyroid pathology.

In addition to his publication activity, Dr Vidinov has participated in more than 30 national and international scientific meetings, presenting over 40 oral communications and poster presentations. According to the report issued by NACID, he has 18 publications indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases, published in journals possessing an Impact Factor and/or SCImago Journal Rank. His scientific works have received a total of 136 citations, including 100 citations in publications indexed in the international bibliographic databases Web of Science and Scopus.

III. Research Activity

A significant contribution to the candidate's research activity is represented by the scientific project led by him and funded by the National Science Fund. In 2018, the project entitled "Somatic Alterations in the Most Common Benign (Nodular Goiter) and Malignant (Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma) Thyroid Tumors" received a high evaluation during the competitive review process and was approved for funding. Following an interim evaluation in 2021, the project received a very good assessment and continued with full financial support. In 2024, the project was successfully completed and received a final evaluation of "Good."

The project results have been published in three peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at four prestigious international scientific forums. The findings have contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of the genetic mechanisms involved in the development of nodular goiter and papillary thyroid carcinoma, as well as to the improvement of diagnostic and prognostic approaches in these diseases.

IV. Scientific Results and Contributions

The scientific activity of Dr. Vidinov is characterized by several distinctive features:

Innovative orientation – his work includes active participation in the introduction and development of minimally invasive surgical techniques for thyroid diseases.

Focus on molecular genetics – a substantial portion of his research is devoted to molecular-genetic diagnostics and genetic profiling of thyroid carcinoma.

Translation of modern concepts into clinical practice – his scientific and clinical activities demonstrate a commitment to implementing contemporary approaches in surgical care, including genetic screening, organ-preserving surgical techniques, and innovative targeted therapies for advanced thyroid malignancies.

V. Teaching Activity

The teaching activity of Dr. Kalin Vidinov has been substantial and consistently developed over the years. Between 2009 and 2024, he actively participated in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching within the Department of Endocrinology at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Sofia. In recent years, he has also served as a part-time lecturer at the “Yordanka Filaretova” Medical College, contributing to the education and training of students in the medical sciences.

According to the submitted teaching workload report, during the last three years the candidate has delivered a total of 140 hours of lectures and 70 hours of practical training, demonstrating his active involvement in the education of students and residents.

In addition to his teaching activities, Dr. Vidinov has made significant contributions to the development of educational literature. He is a co-author of three university textbooks intended for the education of medical and healthcare students:

Human Anatomy – textbook/atlas for professional bachelor students (2011), co-authored with Dimo Krastev, Blagovesta Nanova, and Manol Kalniev;

Surgical Manual with Atlas, Volume X – Visceral Surgery. Endocrine Surgery (2011), where he contributed chapters related to the surgical treatment of endocrine diseases;

Surgical Manual with Atlas, Volume X – Surgical Anatomy (2012), edited by Prof. Damyan Damyanov and Prof. Nikolay Vidinov.

The candidate has also contributed to specialized scientific and educational literature through participation in two monographs:

Ultrasonography of the Neck Region in Endocrinological Practice (2011), authored by Prof. Mihail Boyanov;

Imaging Methods of the Thyroid, Parathyroid and Salivary Glands and Cervical Lymph Nodes (2015), edited by Prof. Mihail Boyanov.

Dr. Vidinov’s participation in the preparation of textbooks and monographs demonstrates his commitment to the academic advancement of medical education and to the dissemination of contemporary knowledge in surgery, anatomy, and endocrinology. The combination of active teaching and authorship of educational materials represents a substantial contribution to the training of students and young specialists and confirms his established position within the academic community.

VI. Clinical Activity

As a physician at SofiaMed University Hospital, Dr. Kalin Vidinov performs extensive clinical, diagnostic, and operative activities within the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery. His principal professional expertise and clinical focus are in endocrine surgery.

Given the department's broad scope, Dr Vidinov is also actively involved in the diagnostic and therapeutic management of patients with diverse thoracic diseases. His work includes the consultation and treatment of patients with traumatic chest injuries, mediastinal and esophageal disorders, as well as benign and malignant pulmonary diseases. In his daily practice, he applies contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in accordance with current surgical standards.

The candidate fulfils all requirements for surgical activity, annually performing the necessary volume of surgical procedures both as the primary surgeon and as an assistant in complex operations. His professional activity is a strong commitment to complete patient care and active participation in multidisciplinary decision-making processes.

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr Vidinov conducts extensive consultative work, including intra-departmental, interdepartmental, and outpatient consultations. He is also engaged in outpatient specialist practice in General and Thoracic Surgery, providing specialized diagnosis, follow-up, and treatment of patients with surgical diseases.

Overall, Dr Vidinov's clinical practice is distinguished by its broad professional scope, high surgical activity, and integration of expertise in endocrine, general, and thoracic surgery, contributing to high-quality and comprehensive patient care.

VII. Conclusion

The submitted competition documentation is complete, properly prepared, and fully compliant with the regulatory and procedural requirements for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor. The procedures related to the announcement of the competition and the admission of the candidate have been conducted in accordance with the applicable legal framework.

The analysis of the submitted documents, scientific publications, and evidence of teaching, research, and clinical activities demonstrates that Dr. Kalin Vidinov, MD, PhD, possesses the professional and academic qualifications required for appointment to the academic position of

Associate Professor. The quantitative and qualitative indicators of his scientific output exceed the minimum national requirements established by the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and its implementing regulations, as well as the specific criteria outlined in the Regulations of the Council for Education and Science of SofiaMed University Hospital Ltd.

The candidate's scientific, educational, and clinical activities reflect consistent professional development, high scientific productivity, significant contributions to the field of surgery, and active involvement in the training of future medical professionals. The presented achievements establish Dr Vidinov as an acknowledged specialist and researcher with clearly defined scientific interests and proven accomplishments in endocrine, general, and thoracic surgery.

Based on the above considerations, I give my positive evaluation and strongly support the appointment of Dr Kalin Vidinov, MD, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific speciality Surgery, for the needs of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at SofiaMed University Hospital Ltd.

I respectfully recommend that the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury vote in favour of the candidate's election.

12.07.2026 yr.