

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury,
Professor Alexander Chervenyakov, MD, PhD
Appointed by Order No. 102/22.06.2026 of
the Executive Director of
Sofiamed University Hospital Ltd., Dr. Yordan
Pelev

REVIEW

By Professor Deyan Emilov Yordanov, MD, PhD
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Regarding

Competition for the Academic Position of Associate Professor in the higher education field 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Surgery", for the needs of the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery, Sofiamed University Hospital Ltd.

Only one candidate has submitted an application for participation in the competition—Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD.

The evaluation of the candidate's research, teaching, and clinical activities has been performed in accordance with the criteria for awarding academic degrees and 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).

The competition documentation is complete and contains all information required under the applicable regulations.

Professional Development

Dr. Kalin Vidinov was born in 1980 in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he graduated with distinction from Secondary School No. 73 "Vladislav Gramatik." He obtained his medical degree from the Medical University of Sofia in 2004. In November 2004, he joined the Department of Endocrine Surgery at the University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Endocrinology "Acad. Ivan Penchev" as a resident physician. Between 2005 and 2010, he completed his residency in General Surgery at the First Department of

Surgery of the University Hospital for Emergency Medicine "N. I. Pirogov," Sofia. In 2010, he was awarded board certification in General Surgery. Following a competitive selection process, in December 2005 he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Sofia, within the same department. In 2014, Dr. Vidinov successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Criteria for Determining the Extent of Primary Surgical Intervention in Benign Thyroid Diseases," thereby obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD). In January 2015, following an academic competition conducted in accordance with the regulations of the Medical University of Sofia, he was promoted to the position of Chief Assistant Professor. From June 2017 until the end of 2018, he served as Head of the Department of Endocrine Surgery at the University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Endocrinology "Acad. Ivan Penchev." In 2019, he obtained a second specialty in Thoracic Surgery. Since 2024, Dr. Vidinov has been a member of the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery at Sofamed University Hospital, where he continues his active clinical, scientific, and academic work.

Throughout his long-standing professional career, Dr. Vidinov has pursued advanced training in several areas of modern surgery. His principal scientific and clinical interests are focused on endocrine surgery, particularly the surgical management of intrathoracic goiter, thyroid carcinoma, and parathyroid diseases.

He also holds a Master's degree in Health Management from the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Sofia. Dr. Vidinov has completed numerous postgraduate training programs in leading medical centers in Turkey, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Austria, where he acquired advanced expertise in: General and laparoscopic surgery; Minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery; Continuous and intermittent intraoperative neural monitoring; Transoral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach (TOETVA).

He is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Surgical Society, and the Bulgarian Society of Endocrinology.

He is fluent in English and Russian.

Research Activity

For the purposes of this competition, Dr. Vidinov has submitted his doctoral dissertation together with 47 scientific publications, of which 42 are full-text papers. These publications are distributed as follows: 10 publications constituting the habilitation portfolio; 15 full-text publications in peer-reviewed international journals published in English; 17 full-text publications in Bulgarian non-peer-reviewed journals and scientific proceedings.

Dr. Vidinov's doctoral dissertation addresses the challenging and socially significant field of thyroid disease. The study investigates the causes of recurrence following various types of thyroid resection, providing a comprehensive analysis of the relevant morphological and histopathological variants together with their statistically validated probability of recurrence. Based on these findings, the author proposes clearly defined

criteria for determining the optimal extent of surgical intervention and practical strategies aimed at minimizing postoperative recurrence. The dissertation represents an original scientific contribution characterized by clearly formulated conclusions and strong clinical applicability.

The candidate has also submitted ten papers published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, which collectively constitute his habilitation thesis and fully satisfy the requirements of Indicator Group B, with a total score of 198 points, substantially exceeding the required minimum of 100 points. My only regret is that these valuable scientific contributions have not been published in the form of a monograph.

All ten publications are devoted to endocrine diseases requiring surgical treatment, a field that unquestionably represents Dr. Vidinov's principal area of scientific expertise. In six of the ten publications, Dr. Vidinov is the first author, demonstrating his leading role in the conducted research.

The principal scientific topics addressed include:

- rare clinical cases associated with thyroid carcinoma;
- contemporary diagnostic methods;
- molecular and genetic investigations;
- long-term clinical follow-up;
- surgical treatment of thyroid and adrenal diseases.

The candidate has submitted **15 full-text publications in English** published in peer-reviewed international scientific journals. These papers encompass a broad range of research topics, including human anatomy, genetic biomarkers for targeted therapy in thyroid carcinoma, various ophthalmological disorders, ultrasonographic features predictive of thyroid malignancy, and hereditary predisposition in papillary thyroid carcinoma.

In addition, Dr. Vidinov has presented **17 full-text publications** published in Bulgarian peer-reviewed journals and scientific proceedings. These contributions primarily focus on minimally invasive surgical techniques for the treatment of thyroid diseases and reflect his long-standing commitment to the advancement of endocrine surgery.

Dr. Vidinov has actively participated in **32 national and international scientific congresses and conferences**, where he has presented **38 oral presentations and scientific posters**, demonstrating sustained academic activity and continuous dissemination of his research findings within the international scientific community.

According to the official report issued by the **National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID)**, the candidate has **18 publications indexed in journals included in the Web of Science Core Collection and Scopus (SCImago Journal Rank)**. The cumulative **Impact Factor** of these publications is **13.145**, reflecting their publication in internationally recognized scientific journals. Furthermore, Dr. Vidinov's publications have received **136 citations**, of which **100 are in journals indexed with an Impact Factor**, indicating the substantial scientific impact and international recognition of his research.

An additional significant achievement is his successful leadership of a research project funded by the **Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria**. In 2018, following a competitive national funding procedure, his project entitled:

"Somatic Alterations in the Most Common Benign and Malignant Tumours of the Thyroid Gland"

received an excellent evaluation and was selected for full financial support by the Bulgarian National Science Fund. The scientific outcomes of this project have been disseminated through **three publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals** and presented at **four international scientific congresses**, confirming both the scientific quality and practical relevance of the conducted research.

Textbooks and Monographs

Dr. Vidinov has made a substantial contribution to academic medical education through his authorship and co-authorship of university textbooks and specialized monographs.

He is a co-author of the following university textbooks:

1. **Human Anatomy – Textbook/Atlas for Professional Bachelor's Degree Students**
Dimo Krastev, Kalin Vidinov, Blagovesta Nanova, Manol Kalniev.
2011. ISBN: 978-619-183019-0.
2. **Surgical Manual with Atlas, Volume X – Visceral Surgery. Endocrine Surgery**
Tanyo Sechanov, Georgi Ganchev, Nikolay Kanev, Mihail Velkov, Rumen Pandev, Kalin Vidinov, Yulian Stoynov, Teodosii Eksariev.
2011. ISBN: 978-954-322-398-5.
3. **Surgical Manual with Atlas, Volume X – Surgical Anatomy**
Edited by Damian Damyanov and Nikolay Vidinov.
Contributing authors: Delcho Andreev, Kalin Vidinov, Nikolay Vidinov, Georgi Ganchev, Damian Damyanov, Vasil Donchev, Manol Kalniev, Krasimira Mihaylova, Nana Narlieva, Danail Petrov, Lachezar Surchev, Petar Tivchev.
ISBN: 978-954-322-503-3.

Dr. Vidinov is also the author of chapters in the following monographs:

1. **Ultrasonography of the Cervical Region in Endocrinology Practice**
Mihail Boyanov, Kalin Vidinov.
2011. ISBN: 978-954-9318-11-1.
2. **Imaging Methods for the Thyroid, Parathyroid and Salivary Glands, and Cervical Lymph Nodes**
Edited by Professor Mihail Boyanov, MD, PhD, DSc.
2015. ISBN: 978-954-9318-35-7.

Based on the comprehensive review of Dr. Vidinov's scientific output, several distinctive characteristics can be identified:

First, his research is markedly innovative. He has actively participated in the introduction and implementation of minimally invasive surgical techniques for the treatment of thyroid diseases, thereby contributing to the modernization of endocrine surgery in Bulgaria.

Second, a substantial proportion of his scientific work is devoted to the molecular and genetic characterization of thyroid carcinoma. His investigations into genetic profiling and molecular diagnostics represent a significant contribution to the development of precision medicine in endocrine oncology.

Third, Dr. Vidinov consistently demonstrates openness toward the implementation of innovative diagnostic and therapeutic strategies into routine surgical practice. His work encompasses genetic screening, organ-preserving surgical procedures, and the application of novel targeted therapies for patients with advanced thyroid malignancies.

Taken together, these achievements demonstrate a coherent and highly productive scientific career characterized by originality, international visibility, and a strong commitment to translational research with direct clinical applicability.

Teaching Activity

Teaching has constituted an integral component of Dr. Vidinov's professional career for more than two decades. Between 2005 and 2024, he served as a faculty member in the Department of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University of Sofia, where he successively held the academic positions of Assistant Professor (2005–2015) and Chief Assistant Professor (2015–2024). In recent years, he has also served as a part-time lecturer at the "Yordanka Filaretova" Medical College, actively participating in the education of undergraduate healthcare professionals.

According to the official teaching activity report submitted for the competition, during the last three academic years Dr. Vidinov has delivered 140 hours of lectures and 70 hours of practical training, thereby fully satisfying and substantially exceeding the teaching requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor.

Since joining the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery at Sofamed University Hospital, he has assumed responsibility for the practical training of both undergraduate medical students and surgical residents in thoracic surgery. His teaching is distinguished by a successful integration of evidence-based theoretical knowledge with extensive clinical and operative experience, significantly enhancing the educational process.

His substantial contribution to medical education is further evidenced by his authorship and co-authorship of university textbooks, surgical atlases, and specialized monographs, which have become valuable educational resources for medical students, residents, and practicing surgeons.

Overall, Dr. Vidinov has established himself as an experienced and dedicated academic teacher who combines excellent pedagogical skills with outstanding clinical expertise.

Clinical Activity

Dr. Vidinov is a well-established General and Thoracic Surgeon with extensive experience in both elective and complex surgical procedures. He actively participates in the diagnostic, therapeutic, and operative activities of Sofamed University Hospital, where he has become an integral member of the multidisciplinary surgical team.

His principal field of expertise is endocrine surgery, encompassing the diagnosis and surgical management of thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal diseases. Throughout his professional career, he has acquired extensive experience in the treatment of benign and malignant endocrine disorders, including complex cases requiring advanced surgical techniques.

Owing to the multidisciplinary profile of the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Vidinov also participates in the diagnosis and management of patients presenting with: thoracic trauma; mediastinal diseases; esophageal disorders; benign and malignant pulmonary diseases. In addition to his operative responsibilities, he performs inpatient, interdepartmental, and outpatient consultations, contributing substantially to multidisciplinary decision-making and comprehensive patient care. Furthermore, he maintains active clinical practice in the outpatient setting as a specialist in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery, thereby ensuring continuity of patient care from diagnosis through postoperative follow-up.

His clinical work is characterized by a high degree of professionalism, extensive operative experience, sound clinical judgment, and strict adherence to contemporary standards of surgical practice.

Evaluation According to the National Minimum Requirements

Following a detailed review of the submitted documentation, I conclude that Dr. Vidinov fully satisfies—and in most categories substantially exceeds—the minimum national requirements established by the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the internal regulations governing academic appointments at Sofamed University Hospital Ltd.

Indicator Group	Content	Minimum Required	Dr Kalin Vidinov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	0
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	198

Г	Sum of Indicators 5 to 9	200 (160 за ПН 7.6)	537
Д	Sum of Indicators 10 to 12	50	1655
Е	Sum of Indicators 13 to the end	-	128,3

These results clearly demonstrate that the candidate considerably exceeds the quantitative criteria required for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.

Conclusion

Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov is an accomplished academic surgeon holding specialist qualifications in both General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery. Throughout more than twenty years of continuous academic service, he has progressed through the academic ranks from Assistant Professor to Chief Assistant Professor, while simultaneously establishing himself as a respected clinician, educator, and researcher.

For the present competition, Dr. Vidinov has submitted 47 scientific publications, including 10 publications constituting his habilitation portfolio in journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. He is the co-author of university textbooks and monographs and has accumulated the impressive number of 136 scientific citations, reflecting the international visibility and impact of his research.

His teaching workload, comprising 140 hours of lectures, together with his successful participation as principal investigator in research projects funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, further demonstrates his sustained academic productivity and professional commitment.

The overall evaluation of his research achievements, teaching activities, and clinical practice unequivocally demonstrates that Dr. Vidinov not only fulfills but substantially exceeds the minimum national requirements and institutional criteria for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.

My personal acquaintance with Dr. Vidinov dates back to the period of his specialization in Thoracic Surgery. Throughout this time, I have had the opportunity to observe his professional development firsthand and have formed an excellent impression of his clinical competence, academic integrity, work ethic, and collegiality.

The documentation submitted for this competition is complete and fully complies with all procedural and regulatory requirements.

In view of the above considerations, I am firmly convinced that Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD, possesses the scientific achievements, teaching experience, professional qualifications, and personal integrity required under the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty of Surgery.

Therefore, I wholeheartedly recommend that the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of electing Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD, to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty of Surgery.

Sofia, 7 July 2026

