

TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
APPOINTED BY ORDER No. 102/22.06.2026 OF
DR. YORDAN PELEV
MANAGER OF UHAT "SOFIAMED"

OPINION

by

Lt. Col. Assoc. Prof. Dr Georgi Popivanov, PhD

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific speciality "Surgery," for the needs of the Thoracic Surgery Department at SofiaMed University Hospital.

To evaluate research, teaching, and diagnostic-treatment activities, criteria for the conferral of academic degrees and ranks and for appointment to academic positions at Sofiamed University Hospital have been applied. These criteria are in compliance with the minimal national requirements set by NACID. The documentation submitted for the competition contains all necessary data in accordance with the existing requirements.

1. Biographical Data and Professional Career

Dr Kalin Vidinov graduated in Medicine from the Medical University of Sofia in 2004 and subsequently began working at the Clinic of Endocrine Surgery at the "Acad. Ivan Penchev," Specialised Hospital for Active Treatment in Endocrinology (SHATE). He successively held the positions of Assistant Professor, Senior Assistant Professor, and Head of the Clinic. Since 2024, he has been part of the team at the Clinic of General and Thoracic Surgery at "Sofiamed" University Hospital (UMBAL). He qualified as a specialist in general surgery in 2010. He defended his doctoral dissertation in 2014 and obtained a speciality in thoracic surgery in 2019. He holds a Master's degree in Health Management and has completed numerous international training programs in Turkey, Greece, the Czech Republic, and Austria, focusing on modern surgery. His

scientific and professional interests lie in the fields of endocrine surgery and diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands.

2. Research Activity

Dr Kalin Vidinov is participating in the current competition with **53** scientific works, as follows:

- PhD Thesis – **1**;
- full-text articles in Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals – **52**, of which **18** are in journals indexed in the international databases Web of Science and Scopus;
- participations in congresses and conferences in Bulgaria and abroad – **30**.

According to citation report No. 94-05-11/27.02.26, the scientific works have been cited **136** times in Web of Science and Scopus, with a combined Impact Factor (IF) of **13.15**. The works have an evaluation score of **2,440** points, significantly exceeding the national requirements for the academic rank of Associate Professor. Dr Vidinov leads the research project "Somatic changes in the most common benign (nodular goitre) and malignant (papillary thyroid carcinoma) thyroid tumours," funded by the Scientific Research Fund. The project focuses on the molecular-genetic characteristics of benign and malignant thyroid diseases, and its results have been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presented at prestigious international scientific forums.

3. Analysis of research activity

Significant contributions include the doctoral thesis titled *"Criteria for Determining the Extent of Primary Surgical Intervention in Benign Thyroid Diseases"* (defended in 2014); participation in the textbooks *"Visceral Surgery"* and *"Surgical Anatomy"* (published by the Marin Drinov Academic Publishing House), the textbook-atlas *"Human Anatomy"* for Bachelor's students, and *"Imaging Methods for the Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Salivary Glands and Cervical Lymph Nodes"* (edited by Prof. Mihail Boyanov); as well as the monograph *"Ultrasound of the Neck Region in Endocrinological Practice"*.

The included publications focus on the diagnosis and surgical treatment of thyroid and parathyroid gland disorders; notable among them are a ten-year retrospective analysis of

familial papillary thyroid carcinoma (Endocr Pathol 2016), a prospective study of 783 patients validating EU-TIRADS (Eur Thyroid J 2020), and a comparative analysis of the "ultrasonic scalpel" versus "clamp-and-tie" techniques (JCEI 2015), the comparative analysis of the role of Lugol's solution in thyrotoxicosis in the era of modern energy-based devices (J Clin Exp Invest 2019), the genetic profiling of thyroid carcinoma (Oncol Reports 2008), the role of somatic mutations in the development of differentiated thyroid carcinoma (Acta Med Bulgarica 2020), and the unpredictable behavior of Hürthle cell carcinoma of the thyroid (J Head Neck Surg, 2019).

4. Teaching Activities

Between 2009 and 2024, Dr Vidinov actively participated in the training of medical students and residents at the Medical University of Sofia, as well as at the Yordanka Filaretova Medical College. The submitted record (No. 425/04.02.2026) indicates that over the past three years, he has conducted **140** hours of lectures, **70** hours of practical classes, and **107** hours of student examinations.

5. Clinical and Diagnostic Activities

Dr Vidinov is engaged in active diagnostic, consultative, and surgical work, with a primary focus on endocrine surgery. Additionally, he participates in the treatment of patients with a wide range of thoracic pathologies, including conditions affecting the mediastinum, oesophagus, and lungs, performing the necessary surgical interventions both as an operator and as an assistant.

6. Conclusion

Dr Kalin Vidinov's research and teaching activities meet and significantly exceed the minimum national requirements and specific criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor. Based on a comprehensive assessment of the submitted materials, I consider that the candidate possesses the necessary scientific, teaching, and professional qualifications for the academic position of Associate Professor of Surgery, and I vote in favour of his appointment.

16 July 2026

Sofia

