

STANDPOINT

by Prof. Christo Georgiev Tsekov, MD, PhD
Clinic of Surgery, National Medical University Hospital "Tsar Boris III" - Sofia, specialist in
General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery,

Subject:

Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Surgery, announced in the
State Gazette No. 36/17.04.2026 for the needs of "Thoracic Surgery" at the University
Hospital "Sofiyamed" OOD - Sofia

Basis:

Conducting a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of
higher education 7. Health and Sports, in the professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific
specialty "Surgery", for the needs of "Thoracic Surgery" at the University Hospital
"Sofiyamed" - Sofia, announced in the State Gazette No. 36/17.04.2026 and on the hospital's
website.

By Order No. 102/22.06.2026 of the Manager of UMHAL "Sofiyamed" OOD, Dr. Yordan
Pelev, I was appointed as an official reviewer in this competition procedure. One candidate
participated in the competition – Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD – surgeon at UMHAL
"Sofiyamed" - Sofia.

After reviewing the submitted materials, I found that the competition documentation is
comprehensive and prepared in accordance with the current regulatory requirements. The
evaluation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the ZRASRB, the
Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for occupying the relevant academic
position from the Regulations for the organization, activities and internal order of UMHAL
"Sofiyamed" - Sofia.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

1. Education and qualification

Dr. Kalin Vidinov is a doctor with a consistently built academic and clinical career. He
graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 2004, after which he started working at
the Clinic of Endocrine Surgery of USBALE "Acad. Ivan Penchev". Within the framework of
his professional development, he passed through the main academic positions - assistant,
chief assistant and head of the clinic. Since 2024, he has been part of the team of the Clinic
of General and Thoracic Surgery at the University Hospital "Sofiyamed".

His professional qualification includes specialties in general surgery and thoracic surgery, a
successfully defended educational and scientific degree "doctor", as well as a master's
degree in health management. His additional training has been enriched by specializations
in a number of European surgical centers, focused on minimally invasive and endoscopic
surgery, neuromonitoring and modern techniques in endocrine surgery.

His scientific and professional interests are permanently related to diseases of the thyroid
and parathyroid glands, thyroid oncology and the surgical treatment of complex endocrine
pathology.

2. Work experience and specializations

From 2004 to 2008, he worked as a resident at the Clinic of Endocrine Surgery USBALE "Acad. Iv. Penchev". Then, for a short period, he was a resident at the First Surgical Clinic of the University Hospital of Medical Sciences "N. I. Pirogov". Since 2009, he has been an assistant at the Clinic of Endocrine Surgery USBALE "Acad. Iv. Penchev". Within the framework of his professional development, he has passed through the main academic positions - assistant, chief assistant and head of the clinic. Since 2024, he has been part of the team of the Clinic of General and Thoracic Surgery at the University Hospital "Sofiyamed".

3. Teaching load and teaching activity

Dr. Vidinov has many years of teaching experience at the Medical University - Sofia, where for more than fifteen years he has been actively involved in the education of students and residents. In recent years, he has also been teaching at the Medical College "Yordanka Filaretova".

The submitted reference shows a significant academic workload - 140 hours of lectures and 70 hours of exercises for the last three years.

A significant contribution to the educational and methodological literature is his participation as a co-author in three university textbooks and author of chapters in two specialized monographs dedicated to the surgical anatomy and imaging diagnostics of diseases of the neck and endocrine glands.

4. Administrative and academic activity

The administrative and academic activity of the candidate is reflected in detail in the previous sections of the opinion.

II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

Dr. Kalin Vidinov is the only candidate in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" announced in the State Gazette No. 36/17.04.2026 for the needs of "Thoracic Surgery" at the University Hospital "Sofiyamed" OOD - Sofia

The materials for the competition are presented in paper and electronic form. Photocopies of the abstracts of the publications and the abstract of the dissertation in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations of the University Hospital "Sofiyamed" - Sofia are uploaded to the official website of the Hospital

The materials submitted under the announced competition are comprehensive and systematized, clearly and accurately reflect the academic, scientific and teaching activities of the candidate and are in full compliance with the regulatory framework of the Republic of Bulgaria and the relevant Regulations for its application to the Scientific Organization.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for overall academic development.

1. Characteristics of the scientific production

To participate in the competition, the candidate submits a dissertation, a habilitation thesis (systematized into 10 full publications in refereed journals), 15 publications in English in refereed international journals, as well as 17 publications in Bulgarian scientific publications - a total of 32 publications in national and international scientific publications. The candidate's scientific output is characterized by thematic consistency, high relevance and a clearly expressed practical focus.

2. Scientific activity

The majority of the publications are from the last ten years. This reflects the candidate's aspiration to research and develop contemporary and relevant scientific topics for scientific and practical endocrinology.

3. Scientific and creative achievements

I share the candidate's scientific and creative achievements, reflected in detail and objectively in the "Report on the contributions of scientific works", presented on the hospital's website, therefore I will not repeat them.

IV. Evaluation of the dissertation:

Structure of the dissertation

The dissertation of Dr. Vidinov - "Criteria for determining the volume of primary surgical intervention in benign diseases of the thyroid gland" is dedicated to the criteria for determining the volume of primary surgery in benign diseases of the thyroid gland. The study has significant practical importance, as it analyzes the factors leading to recurrence of thyroid pathology, and offers a reasoned approach to optimizing the surgical strategy. It contains 138 pages. It is constructed correctly, in accordance with the requirements specified in Appendix 2 of the regulatory documents of the Medical University of Sofia. It consists of: Introduction (2 pages), Literature review (40 pages), Aim (1 page), Tasks (2 pages), Material and methods (10 pages), Results (51 pages), Discussion (11 pages), Conclusions (2 pages), Contributions (2 pages) and Bibliography (14 pages). Dr. Vidinov's dissertation is illustrated with 41 figures and 11 tables, in which the results are presented in a very good way, with great informative value.

Relevance and significance of the dissertation

The topic of the dissertation is relevant and socially significant. As a special merit of the presented work, I appreciate the parallel use of the clinical data of the studied group of patients and morphological studies. This increases the possibilities for a complex and scientifically substantiated assessment of the obtained results and the conclusions drawn. There is also the possibility of actually compiling algorithms for behavior during the different stages of the treatment of benign diseases of the thyroid gland.

Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov's dissertation contains scientific-theoretical and scientifically-applicable results, which represent original contributions to science, which are divided into

those of a scientific-theoretical nature, a scientific-confirmatory nature and a scientific-applicable nature. I accept and appreciate the contributions indicated by Dr. Vidinov.

Habilitation Thesis

Includes 10 publications in refereed scientific journals dedicated to contemporary problems of endocrine surgery. In a significant part of them, Dr. Vidinov is the first author, which testifies to his leading participation in scientific research work. The thematic scope includes:

- ▣ rare clinical cases of thyroid carcinoma;
- ▣ genetic profiling of thyroid tumors;
- ▣ modern diagnostic algorithms;
- ▣ follow-up of patients with thyroid neoplasia;
- ▣ minimally invasive surgical techniques.

Three main directions are clearly distinguished in the scientific production of Dr. Vidinov:

- ▣ introduction and development of minimally invasive techniques in endocrine surgery;
- ▣ genetic diagnostics and molecular profiling of thyroid carcinoma;
- ▣ application of innovative organ-preserving and targeted therapeutic approaches.

In the evaluation of the remaining submitted publications (32 issues), it should be noted that the candidate's scientific interests go beyond the narrow framework of endocrine surgery and include genetic markers in thyroid carcinoma, ultrasound diagnostics and hereditary factors in papillary thyroid carcinoma.

A significant contribution to his scientific activity is the leadership of the project "Somatic changes in the most common benign and malignant tumors of the thyroid gland", funded by the Scientific Research Fund. The project investigates the molecular genetic mechanisms of thyroid neoplasia and leads to publications in refereed international journals and participation in prestigious European scientific forums.

V. Citation of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature

According to an official report from the National Center for Information and Documentation (NACID), Dr. Vidinov's scientific works have 136 citations in foreign journals with an impact factor or SJR rank.

A significant indicator of the international recognition of his research are 18 publications indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. The citation report legitimizes the candidate for participation in the competition.

To participate in the competition, the candidate submits a dissertation work, habilitation work (systematized in 10 full publications in refereed journals).

VI. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of educational, methodological and teaching activities

Dr. Vidinov has many years of teaching experience at the Medical University - Sofia, where for more than fifteen years he has been actively involved in the education of students and

residents. In recent years, he has also been teaching at the Medical College "Yordanka Filaretova".

The presented reference shows a significant teaching workload - 140 hours of lectures and 70 hours of exercises for the last three years.

A significant contribution to the educational and methodological literature is his participation as a co-author of three university textbooks and author of chapters in two specialized monographs dedicated to the surgical anatomy and imaging diagnostics of diseases of the neck and endocrine glands.

Dr. Vidinov is undoubtedly a well-established specialist surgeon with significant experience in the specialty with significant publications and a sufficient number of citations of his scientific works. He possesses the necessary pedagogical skills, experience and experience for full-fledged teaching activities. His election as associate professor will be a logical consequence of the accumulated experience, scientific production, publication activity and teaching experience.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations, I do not find any procedural violations and documentary omissions in the materials submitted for the competition.

VIII. Assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria according to the regulations of the University Hospital "Sofiamed" - Sofia

Being a direct participant in the training of Dr. Vidinov in General, Thoracic and Emergency Surgery, I know his career development from the time when he was a surgical resident before the beginning of his scientific activity. He has established himself as a thoughtful, thorough clinician and precise researcher, which greatly facilitates my work as a reviewer in the competition today.

The candidate's clinical activity demonstrates high professional competence and a broad surgical profile. His main expertise is in the field of endocrine surgery, but within the framework of his work at the Clinic of General and Thoracic Surgery he is also actively involved in the treatment of patients with thoracic trauma, diseases of the mediastinum, esophagus and lungs.

The candidate performs the required volume of surgical interventions both as an operator and as an assistant. He develops active consultative activities in hospital and outpatient care.

Compliance with minimum national requirements

The submitted reference convincingly shows that Dr. Vidinov significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in all main groups of indicators - scientific production, citations, publications in internationally indexed journals and teaching and learning activities.

Group of indicators Content Minimum requirements academician Position "Associate Professor" Dr. Kalin Vidinov

A Indicator 1	50	50
B Indicator 2		– 0
C Indicator 3 or 4	100	198
D Indicators 5–9	200 (160 for Professional Field 7.6)	537
E Indicators 10–12	50	1655
F Indicators	13 onward	– 128.3

I believe that Dr. Kalin Vidinov meets the requirements of the Regulations of the University Hospital "Sofiyamed" - Sofia - completed higher medical education, acquired specialties in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery, ONS "doctor" and the mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor", for which 400 points are required according to the "Minimum national requirements for the scientific and teaching activities of candidates for holding a academic position "Associate Professor" and the Regulations of UMHAT "Sofiyamed" - Sofia, and the candidate scores three times more - 1428 points.

IX. Conclusion

Based on the comprehensive analysis of the submitted materials, the cited data, the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of UMHAT "Sofiyamed" OOD, Sofia, I recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. 102/22.06.2026 of the Director of UMHAT "Sofiyamed" - Sofia, to vote positively to grant Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the scientific specialty "Surgery" for the needs of the Clinic of Thoracic Surgery at UMHAT "Sofiyamed" - Sofia.

Prof. Christo Georgiev Tsekov, MD, I
Sofia
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