

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury

Opinion Statement

by Prof. Hristo Ivanov Shivachev, PhD

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 Thoracic Surgery, Sofamed University Hospital Ltd.**

Pursuant to Order No. 102/22.06.2026 issued by Dr. Yordan Pelev, Executive Director of Sofamed University Hospital Ltd., I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the procedure for the appointment to the academic position of **Associate Professor**. The only candidate admitted to the competition is **Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD**.

The documents submitted for the competition have been prepared in full compliance with the applicable statutory and institutional requirements and provide sufficient information to enable an objective assessment of the candidate's scientific achievements, teaching activities, and clinical practice. The evaluation has been conducted in accordance with the assessment criteria of Sofamed University Hospital Ltd., which are fully aligned with the minimum national requirements established by the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID).

Information about the Candidate

Dr. Vidinov's professional career demonstrates consistency, sustained academic development, and progressive advancement. Following his graduation from the Medical University of Sofia in 2004, he joined the Department of Endocrine Surgery at the University Specialized Hospital for Active Treatment of Endocrinology "Acad. Ivan Penchev", where he gradually progressed through all major academic positions, ultimately serving as Head of the Department. Since 2024, he 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.

His professional qualifications include board certifications in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery, the educational and scientific degree of **Doctor (PhD)**, a Master's degree in Health Management, and postgraduate training at several leading European medical centers. His scientific interests have consistently focused on endocrine surgery, with particular emphasis on the surgical management of thyroid and parathyroid diseases.

Research Activity

The scientific portfolio submitted for the competition comprises a doctoral dissertation, a habilitation thesis represented by **ten publications in peer-reviewed medical journals**, and a substantial body of scientific publications in reputable national and international journals, including **15 papers published in peer-reviewed journals** and **17 papers in non-peer-reviewed scientific publications**. His research addresses important and contemporary issues in modern surgery, including the molecular characterization of thyroid carcinoma, the refinement of diagnostic strategies, and the implementation of minimally invasive surgical techniques.

Particularly noteworthy are his **18 publications indexed in Web of Science and Scopus**, as well as his **136 citations**, which clearly demonstrate the scientific impact and international visibility of his research. An additional significant achievement is his successful leadership of a research project funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund, the results of which have been widely disseminated through **three publications in peer-reviewed journals** and **four presentations at international scientific conferences**.

Teaching Activity

Dr. Vidinov's teaching activities constitute an integral component of his professional career. Over many years, he has actively participated in the education and training of undergraduate medical students and surgical residents, successfully integrating extensive clinical experience with contemporary educational approaches. His authorship and co-authorship of university textbooks and specialized monographs have made a valuable contribution to the development of educational resources in the field of surgery.

Clinical Activity

Dr. Vidinov's clinical practice is distinguished by a high level of professional competence, extensive operative experience, and expertise in the diagnosis and

treatment of a broad spectrum of surgical diseases. Endocrine surgery represents his principal field of expertise; however, he also plays an active role in the management of patients with complex thoracic surgical pathology.

Conclusion

The comprehensive evaluation of the submitted documentation clearly demonstrates that the candidate possesses outstanding scientific productivity, well-established teaching experience, and extensive clinical expertise. Collectively, these accomplishments unequivocally indicate that Dr. Vidinov not only fulfills but substantially exceeds the requirements for appointment to the academic position of **Associate Professor**.

Based on the above considerations, I express my **positive evaluation** of the candidate's application for the academic position of **Associate Professor** and respectfully recommend that the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of appointing **Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD** to the academic position of **Associate Professor** in the scientific specialty **Surgery**.

Sofia, 13.07.2026

