

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury

Opinion Statement

by Desislav Georgiev Vrachanski, MD, PhD, FACS
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Regarding: Competition for the Academic Position of Associate Professor in the Field of Higher Education 7. Health Care and Sports, Professional Field 7.1. Medicine, Scientific Specialty Surgery, for the needs of the Department of Thoracic Surgery, University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment "SofiaMed" Ltd.

Distinguished Members of the Scientific Jury,
Esteemed Colleagues,

By Order No.102/22.06.2026 issued by Dr. Yordan Pelev, Manager of University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment "SofiaMed" Ltd., I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the above-mentioned competition. A single candidate has been admitted to participate in the competition – Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD.

The competition dossier has been prepared in accordance with the applicable legal requirements and contains all documentation necessary for an objective assessment of the candidate's research, teaching, and clinical activities. The evaluation has been conducted according to the criteria for awarding academic degrees and academic appointments at Sofiamed University Hospital Ltd., which are fully consistent with the minimum national requirements established by the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID).

Dr. Kalin Vidinov is an established specialist in General and Thoracic Surgery with a consistently developed academic and professional career. After graduating 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 successively held the academic positions of Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor, and subsequently served as Head of the Department. Since

2024, he has continued his professional career at the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery of Sofiamed University Hospital Ltd.

His professional qualifications include board certification in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery, the successful completion of a PhD degree in Surgery, a Master's degree in Health Management, and numerous fellowships and advanced training courses in leading European centres of modern surgery. His scientific interests have consistently focused on endocrine surgery, particularly the diagnosis and surgical management of thyroid and parathyroid diseases.

The candidate's research activity is characterized by continuity, high scientific merit, and strong clinical relevance. His scientific portfolio submitted for the competition comprises a doctoral dissertation, a habilitation thesis consisting of ten publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as a substantial number of publications in both national and international scientific journals. His principal research areas include the diagnosis and surgical treatment of thyroid and parathyroid disorders, the molecular and genetic characteristics of thyroid carcinoma, and the implementation of contemporary minimally invasive surgical techniques.

Particularly noteworthy are the candidate's outstanding publication record, including 18 papers indexed in the international databases Web of Science and Scopus, as well as the significant scientific impact of his work, reflected by 136 citations. An important contribution to his research achievements is his leadership of a research project funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund, dedicated to investigating the molecular and genetic characteristics of benign and malignant thyroid diseases. The results of this project have been published in reputable peer-reviewed journals and presented at distinguished international scientific meetings.

Dr. Vidinov has demonstrated sustained commitment to academic teaching throughout his career. For more than fifteen years, he has actively participated in the education of undergraduate medical students and surgical residents at the Medical University of Sofia. In recent years, he has also been involved in teaching activities at the Yordanka Filaretova Medical College. His contribution to medical education is further evidenced by his co-authorship of three university textbooks and two specialized monographs, which have enriched the educational literature in the fields of surgery, anatomy, and endocrinology.

The candidate's clinical practice reflects a high level of professional competence and extensive surgical experience. As a member of the Department of General and Thoracic Surgery at Sofiamed University Hospital Ltd., he performs a broad range of diagnostic, consultative, and operative procedures, with particular emphasis on endocrine

surgery. In addition, he actively participates in the surgical management of patients with various thoracic diseases, including disorders of the mediastinum, esophagus, and lungs, performing a substantial number of procedures both as the primary surgeon and as an assisting surgeon.

The submitted evidence clearly demonstrates that Dr. Kalin Vidinov not only fulfills but substantially exceeds both the minimum national requirements and the institution-specific criteria for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor. His scientific achievements, extensive teaching experience, and broad clinical expertise define the profile of an accomplished university educator, researcher, and surgeon with recognized contributions to the advancement of endocrine and thoracic surgery.

Based on the comprehensive evaluation of the submitted documentation, I conclude that Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD, possesses the scientific achievements, teaching qualifications, and professional competence required for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty of Surgery. Accordingly, I express my unequivocally positive evaluation and fully support his appointment to this academic position.

Sofia, July 29th, 2026

