

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Teodor Atanasov, MD, PhD, FACS

Regarding

Competition for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor," higher education field 7. Health Care and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Surgery," for the needs of the "Thoracic Surgery" ward, Sofamed University Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment Ltd.

By Order No. 102/22.06.2026 of Dr. Yordan Pelev — Manager of Sofamed UMHAT Ltd., I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the announced competition. One candidate was admitted to participate in the competition — Dr. Kalin Nikolaev Vidinov, MD, PhD. The present opinion has been prepared on the basis of a careful review of the submitted competition documentation, evaluated in accordance with the criteria for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofamed UMHAT Ltd., which correspond to the minimum national requirements of the National Center for Information and Documentation (NACID).

The submitted materials are complete and comply with the procedural requirements for conducting the competition.

Brief professional and academic biography

Dr. Kalin Vidinov is a surgeon with long-standing clinical and academic experience, whose professional career has been consistently built in the field of endocrine surgery. He graduated in medicine from the Medical University – Sofia in 2004 and joined the Clinic of Endocrine Surgery at USHATE "Acad. Ivan Penchev," where he progressed through the academic positions of assistant, senior assistant, and head of clinic, accumulating substantial clinical, teaching, and organizational experience.

He acquired specialties in "General Surgery" (2010) and "Thoracic Surgery" (2019), as well as the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD) based on a dissertation devoted to determining the extent of the primary surgical intervention in benign thyroid disease. He also completed specializations abroad, through which he expanded his skills in the field of minimally invasive and endoscopic surgery.

Since 2024, the candidate has worked at the Clinic of General and Thoracic Surgery of Sofamed UMHAT, where he continues to develop his expertise in the treatment of thyroid and parathyroid diseases, including cases involving intrathoracic goiter. He actively participates in the activities of professional medical societies in the country.

Research activity and scientific output

For participation in the competition, Dr. Kalin Vidinov presents his dissertation and a total of 47 scientific publications, of which 15 are in refereed foreign scientific journals and 17 in Bulgarian scientific journals and proceedings — a volume and structure demonstrating consistent and thematically coherent research work in the field of endocrine pathology.

The dissertation is devoted to a current and clinically significant problem in endocrine surgery — recurrent thyroid disease. Through in-depth morphological and statistical analysis, the factors determining the occurrence of recurrence after surgical interventions of varying extent were investigated, and practically applicable criteria were formulated for optimizing surgical treatment and reducing the risk of recurrence.

The habilitation thesis consists of ten publications in refereed and indexed journals, evaluated at 198 points under indicator group C, against a minimum requirement of 100 points — a result that significantly exceeds the regulatory threshold. The candidate is the leading author in six of these publications. Thematically, they cover rare clinical forms of thyroid carcinoma, contemporary approaches to molecular-genetic diagnostics, as well as surgical management of thyroid and adrenal gland disease.

The candidate's remaining scientific activity complements this line of research with publications on the molecular-genetic mechanisms of thyroid carcinoma, its ultrasound diagnostics, and hereditary predisposition to papillary carcinoma, as well as separate studies in the field of clinical anatomy. Of particular value are the publications related to the application of modern energy devices and minimally invasive techniques in thyroid surgery, given their direct practical applicability.

The candidate has presented his results at more than 30 national and international scientific forums, with over 40 papers and poster presentations. According to a NACID reference, his publications indexed in Web of Science and Scopus number 18, with a total citation count of 136, of which 100 are in internationally refereed journals — an indicator of genuine international visibility and recognition of his scientific results.

Research projects and contributions

Dr. Vidinov is the principal investigator of a research project funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund (Contract No. KP-06-N23/9), devoted to somatic genomic changes in benign and malignant thyroid disease, successfully completed in 2024 with an overall rating of "Good." The project is a logical continuation of his scientific interests and has led to publications in refereed journals and participation in international forums.

In summary, the candidate's scientific contributions can be systematized in three directions: (1) introduction and refinement of minimally invasive surgical techniques for thyroid disease; (2) elucidation of the molecular-genetic mechanisms and diagnostic markers in thyroid carcinoma; and (3) application of a personalized approach in surgical treatment, including genetic screening and organ-preserving surgical strategies for certain forms of the disease.

Teaching activity

Dr. Kalin Vidinov's teaching activity is long-standing and closely integrated with his clinical practice. From 2009 to 2024 he taught at the Department of Endocrinology of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University – Sofia, and subsequently also served as a visiting lecturer at the "Yordanka Filaretova" Medical College. According to the submitted reference, over the last three years he has delivered 140 hours of lecture courses and 70 hours of practical exercises.

The candidate is co-author of three university textbooks and has participated in the preparation of two monographs in the fields of surgical anatomy, endocrine surgery, and imaging diagnostics of the cervical region and endocrine glands. This activity demonstrates his

commitment to the development of medical education and the training of future medical specialists.

Clinical and diagnostic activity

Within the Clinic of General and Thoracic Surgery of Sofamed UMHAT, Dr. Vidinov carries out active surgical and consultative activity, with endocrine surgery remaining his main area of expertise. In parallel, he participates in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with thoracic pathology — traumatic chest injuries, mediastinal and esophageal disease, and benign and malignant pulmonary changes — both as an operating surgeon and as an assistant in more complex interventions.

A significant part of his practical activity is consultative work in both inpatient and outpatient care, as well as participation in multidisciplinary teams in diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making for patients with endocrine and thoracic pathology.

Group	Indicators	Min. required points (Associate Professor)	Points of Dr. Kalin Vidinov
A	Indicator 1 (dissertation for the ESD "Doctor")	50	50
B	Indicator 2 (dissertation for the SD "Doctor of Sciences")	—	0
C	Indicators 3 or 4 (habilitation thesis)	100	198
D	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200 (160 for PF 7.6)	537
E	Sum of indicators 10 to 12 (citations)	50	1655
F	Sum of indicators 13 to the end	—	128.3
Total		400	2568.3

Table. Number of points of Dr. Kalin Vidinov compared to the minimum national requirements for "Associate Professor"

Conclusion

The submitted documentation is complete and complies with the regulatory and procedural requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor." The analysis of the scientific output, research and teaching activity, as well as the clinical and diagnostic practice of Dr. Kalin Vidinov, shows that he possesses the necessary professional, scientific, and moral qualities to occupy the requested academic position.

The candidate does not merely meet, but significantly exceeds, the minimum national requirements under the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA) and the internal criteria of Sofamed UMHAT. His established scientific career, consistent teaching commitment, and proven clinical experience identify him as a mature university lecturer, researcher, and surgeon with a genuine contribution to the fields of endocrine, general, and thoracic surgery.

Based on the above, I give my positive assessment of the candidacy of Dr. Kalin Vidinov, MD, PhD, and I confidently recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of his election to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Surgery."

Signature:

Assoc. Prof. Teodor Atanasov, MD, PhD, FACS

Sofia, 31.07.2026