**RECENSION**

REGARDING THE CONTEST FOR OBTAINING THE ACADEMIC POSITION “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR” IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD GASTROENTEROLOGY FOR THE NEEDS OF UMHAT “SOFIAMED”, PROMULGATED IN SP № 56/02.07.2024

from Prof. Krum Sotirov Katsarov, MD, PhD

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The only candidate for the promulgated in SP № 56/02.07.2024 contest is Nikola Boyanov Boyanov, MD, PhD

**1. Brief Biography**

Nikola Boyanov Boyanov, MD completeed his higher education in Medical University Plovdiv, where he acquired his master’s degree in professional qualification “Medical Doctor”. He began his professional career as a resident of Gastroenterology in MHAT “Plovdiv”. After acquiring a Gastroenterology specialty in the year of 2014, he joined the Department of Internal Diseases of UMHAT “Pulmed” and later became the head of the Department of Gastroenterology in the same hospital. The doctoral student also acquired master’s degree in “Public Health and Health Management”. In the year of 2018, Nikola Boyanov joined the team of the medical simulation training center at the Research Institute of Medical University of Plovdiv, where he works as an assistant professor.

Nikola Boyanov, MD is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology with Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and Abdominal Ultrasonography, Bulgarian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine, National Society of Simulative Medicine in Bulgaria and the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE).

The candidate has taken participation in numerous educational and scientific courses and initiatives, both in the country of Bulgaria and worldwide. He has a number of publications and participations in the field of interventional endoscopy and simulative training in the field of Gastroenterology, both of which are his main fields of interest. After his affiliation to the Medical Simulation Training Center at MU Plovdiv, he actively works with students, residents and specialists in the field of Gastroenterology in training them in basic and highly-specialized procedures on both virtual reality and life porcine models.

**2. Professional qualification**

Nikola Boyanov was awarded the educational and scientific degree of “DOCTOR” in the scientific field of Gastroenterology in 2023 for his dissertational work on the topic of „Complex stress indices predict novice endoscopists' performance in a high-fidelity simulator”

From 2009 to 2023, Nikola Boyanov had specialized in leading national and foreign medical centers, where he acquired certification for his professional qualification in abdominal ultrasound – I, II and III level, diagnostic upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy – first and second level, Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography and related endoscopic procedures -third level; different international certifications for basic and advanced therapeutic endoscopy (ЕMR и ESD), endoscopic ultrasound, elastography and etc.

He did two fellowships in India (Hands-on Training in ERCP and Endoscopic Ultrasound, Jaswant Rai Super Speciality Hospital, Meerut, India) and China (Third-space Endoscopy, Zhongshan Hospital, Shanghai, China).

In 2019 г. Nikola Boyanov was honored with the award “Doctor of the Year 2019” in the category “Contribution in the development and application of innovative medicine and unique techniques” from the Bulgarian Medical Association.

The candidate is fluent in English and German.

**3.Scientific and academic activity**

The scientific indicators of Nikola Boyanov correspond to the requirements of the Scientific council of UMHAT “Sofiamed”, that are reflected in the Law for the development of the academic staff (Anex 1).

He presented one monography, on a topic different to the topic of his dissertational work– „Peroral endoscopic myotomy for achalasia“.

In this contest Nikola Boyanov participates with 36 scientific works – publications in national and international journals, participations in national and foreign forums, as

* 15 publications in journals, that are indexed in the data bases Scopus or/and Web Of Science
* 5 publications in non-indexed journals
* 16 abstracts of reports in periodic journals of collective works, presented on national or foreign forums, conferences or sessions.

The presented scientific works have been cited 26 times in international journals that are indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science and 6 times in non-indexed journals, monographic or dissertational works.

The quality and quantity of his scientific research is in compliance and partly exceeds the requirements for participating in the contest, as far as the National minimum requirements and the requirements of the Scientific council of UMHAT “Sofiamed” are concerned.

From the indicators of group A, the minimum of 50 points is met. The indicators from group Б are not applicable. The minimum of100 points for indicator group В are met with 100 points. Group Г – the minimum of 200 points is met with 228.4 and group Д- 430 points with a minimum of 50 points. Group Е – 115p. with a minimum of 60 points and group Ж – 217,5 with a minimum of 100 points. The sum of the points of the candidate is 1141 compared to the minimum requirement of 560 points.

**4. Educational activity**

In the presented academic reference, Nikola Boyanov’s teaching activity for the academic years of 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 is 164 hours and 173 hours respectively.

His educational activity includes:

* Teaching basic endoscopic skills on a high-fidelity simulator to students of medicine and gastroenterological residents;
* Teaching advanced endoscopic procedures on a virtual reality simulator to gastroenterology residents and specialists
* Participation in scientific projects and scientific activity related to them.

**5. Contributions**

The main scientific and practical contributions of the candidate that I agree with are:

* The research of stress measurement felt by novice endoscopists during work on a simulator based on virtual reality, using complex stress indices.
* The study of the correlation of the level of stress experienced by novice endoscopists and their performance, while working on a simulator based on virtual reality.
* Performing Peroral endoscopic myotomy for the treatment of achalasia for the first time in Bulgaria.
* The first in Bulgaria endoscopic treatment of Zenker diverticulum, with two variations of Peroral endoscopic myotomy (Z-POEM and septotomy).
* The first in Bulgaria endoscopic treatment of epiphrenic diverticulum (D-POEM).
* The organization and teaching of a course for 30 residents and specialists in Gastroenterology for performing diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography on a high-fidelity simulator, as a part of a scientific project in Medical University Plovdiv
* The contributions with confirmatory character regarding the symptoms and complications in achalasia patients and the efficacy of the POEM reducing their symptoms.
* The case series of patients that underwent colonic stenting for malignant obstruction of the bowel as a bridge to single stage surgery and their long-term follow-up.

**Conclusion**

 The quality and quantity of his scientific work, present Nikola Boyanov Boyanov as an established specialist and scientist, with accomplishments in different areas in the gastroenterology filed – interventional gastroenterology and stress measurement in simulative setting. He is a known and well-accepted member of the clinical community in Bulgaria, both for his expert qualities and for his practical skills.

 I consider Nikola Boyanov Boyanov, MD, PhD to be an appropriate and deserving candidate for the position “Associate professor”. I give my positive statement and recommend to the members of the scientific jury to vote positively and to grant the academic position of “Associate professor” in Gastroenterology to Nikola Boyanov Boyanov.

 Prof. Krum Sotirov Katsarov, MD, PhD.:………………………

# 14.10.2024 г.

# Sofia, Bulgaria

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