

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,
APPOINTED BY ORDER NO. 138/02.04.2021
OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
NATIONAL HEART HOSPITAL JSC, SOFIA**

REVIEW

From Prof. Veselin Petrov Petrov, M.D,

Head of Vascular Surgery Unit at "St. Marina's Hospital" - Varna

Member of Scientific Jury of the contest for acquiring the academic occupation „Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. „Healthcare and Sports", professional degree 7.1."Medicine" and scientific specialty „Vascular Surgery",

Announced in SG no. 17 26th of February 2021.

The review has been composed according to the "Law for development of academic composition", "The regulations of application" of the law mentioned above and "The regulations for the terms and order of acquiring scientific degrees and occupation of academic ranks at National Heart Hospital - Sofia and the requirements of acquiring the academic rank „Associate Professor". The procedure for declaration of the contest is formed according to the consent and requirements of the " Law of scientific degrees and ranks" and there were no procedural violations found .

Papers and documents for the aforementioned contest have been submitted by the sole candidate – Chief Assistant Dr. Nadelin Nikolov of Department of Vascular Surgery at National Heart Hospital - Sofia. The submitted documents have been prepared according to the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations for its implementation and – Regulation on terms and conditions for acquiring academic positions at MHAT NHH JSC. I do not find any gaps in the submitted documentation.

Biographical data

Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov graduated medicine at the Medical University - Sofia in 2003. Since 2004 he has been working at the Clinic of Vascular Surgery, and since 2006 he has been appointed as an assistant at the same clinic. In 2014 he acquired the specialty in "Vascular Surgery". In 2015, after specialization in Endovascular Surgery, he received a certificate in "Endovascular Surgery" and was appointed Head of the Operating Unit at the Department of Vascular Surgery at the National Heart Hospital. Acquired the scientific degree "Doctor" in 2016 after defending a PhD thesis "Opportunities to reduce the overall risk in the surgical treatment of carotid stenosis". Dr. Nadelin Nikolov has trained in many prestigious world centers:

- Peripheral endovascular surgery - San Rafael Hospital, Milan, Italy;
- Construction of vascular access for chroniodialysis - Marienhospital, Stuttgart, Germany;
- Carotid stenting with transradial access - Clinic of Cardiology, Medical University - Skopje, Macedonia;

- Critical limb ischemia - Academic Medical Center - Amsterdam, The Netherlands;
- Venous Mechano-chemical ablation (Clarivein) - Casa Di Cura Dott Pederzoli, Peschiera Del Garda, Italy;

1. Research activity

1.1. Publications

Dr. Nadelin Nikolov presented for the competition:

- Dissertation on the topic: "Opportunities to reduce the overall risk in the surgical treatment of carotid stenosis" and an abstract to it
- Author's monograph in Bulgarian entitled "Carotid revascularization", 2021. ISBN: 978-619-7063-45-5
- 27 publications and reports published in unrefereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (in 6 of which he is the first author).
- 6 citations or reviews in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

1.2. Scientific forums.

Dr. Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov has participated in over 100 scientific forums, congresses and conferences in the country and abroad (including the USA, Germany, England, Italy, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia) with published abstracts in scientific journals.

1.3. Other scientific activity:

He has participated as a researcher in several large international multicenter randomized trials - REMEDY, TALECRIS, EUCLID, VOYAGER-PAD.

From the presented publications and the cited Dr. Nadelin Nikolov covers the minimum state requirements under the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Freedoms of Children from 2018 and the Regulations of the Hospital "NHH".

2. Research profile, practical and applied activity

In accordance with the profile of scientific work in the Department of Vascular Surgery and his specialty in "Vascular Surgery", the main areas are

in the field of carotid pathology, endovascular treatment, hybrid techniques, treatment of chronic venous disease.

3. Scientific contributions

I. In the field of carotid pathology:

1. For the first time in Bulgaria conducts a large-scale study (1055 patients) of extracranial, steno-occlusive carotid pathology;
2. For the first time in Bulgaria proves the relationship between antiplatelet agents and KEA, perioperative complications and its benefits;
3. For the first time in Bulgaria offers an algorithm for modern treatment of atherosclerotic vascular lesions affecting more than one vascular pool;
4. Pays special attention to the optimal medical therapy, as it is placed as an equivalent method of treatment together with carotid endarterectomy and carotid stenting, especially in asymptomatic patients;
5. Creates a large database of carotid patients, which will continue to enrich in the future to help understand, prevent and adequately treat this pathology;
6. Proves that PAD in combination with lesions in any of the other vascular basins is an independent predictor of higher cardiovascular mortality;
7. Introduces an algorithm in which every patient with PAD is screened for carotid pathology.
8. Develops a database and prospective studies for patients treated surgically and with endovascular approach, presents the results, follow-ups and complications in the studied groups.
9. Develops for the first time in Bulgaria a book that presents both types of treatment for carotid pathology - surgical and endovascular, describes in detail all types of methods, monitoring of brain perfusion, types of carotid stents, possible complications and results.

II. In the field of endovascular treatment:

1. Introduces the CERAB technique in the NHH for the first time for treatment of stenotic-occlusive disease in the aorto-iliac segment;
2. Introduces all types of EVAR for the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysms;
3. Applies endovascular venous arterialization in chronic limb-threatening ischaemia;

III. In the field of hybrid techniques:

1. Introduces for the first time in the country a hybrid treatment of tandem carotid stenosis.
2. Introduces the routine approach of hybrid techniques for treatment of stenotic-occlusive lesions in the aorto-iliac and femoro-popliteal segment;

IV. In the field of treatment of chronic venous disease:

- 1. Introduces new endovenous techniques in the treatment of CVD - MOCA ablation, cyanoacrylate embolization;*
- 2. Develops the routine application of known methods - radiofrequency ablation, miniphlebectomies;*
- 3. Prepares and proposes an algorithm for treatment of chronic venous occlusions, according to internationally known experience in the field.*

4. Teaching and research-organizational activity

Dr. Nadelin Nikolov is consistently a scientific associate III, II and I degree and Chief Assistant in "Vascular Surgery" with teaching activities for vascular surgery trainees as well as modular training for other surgical specialties. Dr. Nikolov takes an active part in the training of doctors from other medical fields by giving presentations and lectures in various formats and scientific organizations.

His educational activity is also represented by his co-authorship in the preparation of textbooks, collections and clinical manuals for methodological purposes.

The workload of Dr. Nadelin Nikolov meets the requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor".

5. Membership in scientific organizations.

Dr. Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov is a member of the following national and international scientific organizations:

- Bulgarian National Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Angiology
- National Society of Phlebology and Angiology
- Bulgarian Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular Surgery
- Bulgarian Cardiovascular Association
- European Society for Vascular Surgery
- International Society of Endovascular Specialists
- The Balkan Venous Forum

According to the minimum requirements of MHAT "NHH" and NACID for the academic position of "Associate Professor" Dr. Nadelin Nikolov meets more than the minimum requirements as follows:

Indicator groups	Content	Associate Professor (minimal score required)	Score
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3	100	100
Г	Indicator sum : 5 to 9	200	253,5
Д	Indicator sum : 10 to 12	50	75
Total		400	478,5

Indicator	Minimal score required	Indicator	score
A	50	1. Dissertation work for awarding educational and scientific degree "Doctor"	50
	"Opportunities to reduce the overall risk in the surgical treatment of carotid stenosis"		
B	100	3. Habilitation work - monograph	100
	„Carotid revascularization“		
Г	60/n or distributed in a ratio based on a contribution protocol	7. Publications and reports published in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information	253,5
	30/n or distributed in a ratio based on a contribution protocol	8. Publications and reports published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes	
	20/n	9. Published chapter of a collective monograph	
Д	15	10. Citations or reviews in scientific journals, referred and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes	75
	10	11. Cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review	
	5	12. Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review	

Conclusion: Based on the above, Dr. Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov can be characterized as a researcher capable of independent creative research in the field of vascular surgery. The candidate has developed dissertation, as well as an excellently presented monograph on very relevant topic in the field of vascular surgery. Dr. Nikolov maintains a very good level of knowledge in his field through his constant participation in world and domestic forums, congresses and conferences related to the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

In conclusion, I believe that Dr. Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the "Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions" in "NHH". I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to vote positively for Dr. Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the Department of Vascular Surgery in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine" and scientific specialty "Vascular Surgery".

24.05.2021

Review prepared by:

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