

OPINION

by Prof. Elina Georgieva Baltadjieva-Trendafilova, MD, PhD, Head of the ICCU at the Clinic of Cardiology, National Cardiology Hospital, Sofia

SUBJECT: Competition for the occupation of the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education Health and Sports, in the professional field Medicine and scientific specialty "Vascular surgery" for the needs of the Clinique of Vascular surgery and angiology, National Cardiology hospital, Sofia. D-r Nadelin Krasimirov Nikolov was the only candidate.

The opinion was prepared on the basis of an announcement for the competition in State Gazette, issue 17 / 26.02.2021 and order № 138 / 02.04.2021, for conducting the present competition. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the NCH. I have no conflict of interest in this competition, I did not find any gaps in the documentation of the competition.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Dr. Nadelin Nikolov graduated in medicine at the Medical University - Sofia in 2003. He has a board certified in vascular surgery and endovascular surgery. In 2015 he successfully defended his dissertation on "Opportunities to reduce the overall risk in the surgical treatment of carotid stenosis" in NCH. Dr. Nikolov joined the National Cardiology Hospital as an assistant in 2004, and since 2015 he has been the head of the Operating Room at the Clinic of Vascular Surgery and Angiology.

Dr. Nikolov is a recognized and respected specialist in the field of vascular surgery, a member of the National Society of Angiology and Phlebology, the Bulgarian National Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Angiology, the Bulgarian Heart and Vascular Association, the Bulgarian Association of Thoracic, Cardiac and Vascular surgery, of the European Society for Vascular Surgery, International Society of Endovascular Specialists, The Balkan Venous Forum. In 2015 he won the award for best clinical case at the Fifth Scientific Conference of BHVA. He participated in many specializations at home and abroad.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Dr. Nikolov participates in this competition with a total of 35 scientific papers, of which 30 real publications and 5 published abstracts. After acquiring ONS "Doctor" Dr. Nikolov presents a separate monograph - habilitation thesis "Carotid revascularization", dedicated to various aspects of the diagnosis and indications for treatment of extracranial carotid stenosis - from diagnosis, intervention to medication and follow-up, summarized and critically presented are the world and the personal experience of the candidate. A chapter from a collective monograph - a textbook and 27 articles in Bulgarian scientific journals - was presented. D-r Nikolov is the first author in 7 of them, in 16 – he is the second author. Dr. Nikolov participates with 5 published summaries in leading international journals in the field of vascular surgery. His works have been cited 5 times in the foreign journals, no reference to the impact factor has been presented.

The scientific production of Dr. Nikolov covers the minimum national requirements according to the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the NCH - a total of 478.5 points, and additional 40 points for a specialty and 30 points for training of postgraduates were not included. The data are presented understandably and accurately in the available review materials.

Dr. Nikolov's interests are diverse - the presented scientific papers can be grouped in the following areas: diagnosis, surgical and endovascular treatment of extracranial carotid pathology, hybrid procedures; optimal drug therapy in carotid pathology; emergency endoprosthesis in vascular surgery; medical, invasive and surgical treatment of varicose veins; rare vascular diseases.

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

I believe that the most prominent are the candidate's contributions related to his own research in the field of surgical and endovascular treatment of extracranial carotid diseases, and the used surgical technique with a high success rate and low complication rate has been approved; it has been shown that it is not necessary to monitor intraoperative cerebral perfusion. A contribution of practical importance is the assessment of the benefit / risk ratio of preoperative antiplatelet therapy and proposing an algorithm for the place of CEA in the complex treatment of patients with multifocal atherosclerosis.

For the first time in the habilitation scientific work of Dr. Nikolov the two types of treatment are described - operative and endovascular, not as mutually competing, but as mutually complementary methods in the arsenal of the modern vascular surgeon. A personal contribution is the generalization of the hybrid techniques, which the candidate has been successfully applying for years at the NCH.

Personal contribution is also a summary of the experience with invasive treatment of varicose veins, as well as a critical look at drug therapy. For the first time the author has introduced and confirmed in practice the use of cyanoacrylate embolization of a large superficial vein, as well as mechano-chemical ablation.

For the first time in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian and world experience in the field of diagnosis and treatment of peripheral arterial disease has been summarized in the Clinical Guide of the Bulgarian National Society of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and Angiology.

The author enriches science and practice with the publication of rare vascular cases from clinical practice.

EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Dr. Nikolov teaches trainees in vascular surgery and angiology and students in vascular surgery, He is a respected lecturer at national scientific forums, both specialized and

interdisciplinary. He has extensive research work as a researcher in 4 major international clinical trials. Dr. Nikolov is a member of the working group that developed the Clinical Guide for the treatment of PAD.

IN CONCLUSION

The above characterizes Dr. Nadelin Nikolov as an established and recognized specialist, scientist and lecturer in the field of vascular and endovascular surgery. I believe that the overall scientific-practical, organizational and teaching activity of Dr. Nadelin Nikolov, MD. fully meets the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the NCH for the academic position "Associate Professor" in NCH.

I will vote positively. I recommend to the Distinguished members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Dr. Nadelin Nikolov, MD in higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1 "Medicine", in the scientific specialty "Vascular Surgery" for the needs of the Clinic of Vascular Surgery and Angiology at National Cardiology Hospital, Sofia.

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/prof. E. Trendafilova, MD, PhD/