

To the chairman of the scientific jury  
defined with Order Nr. RD 26 1176/19.06.2019  
of the executive director of UMBALSM "NI Pirogov Sofia

## **Statement**

From Prof. Dr. Tihomir Nikolov Evtimov, dm  
Head of the Clinic of Neurosurgery and of the chair  
of "Neurological diseases, neurosurgery and psychiatry"  
in VMA-Sofia

For the competition for the academic position „**Professor**” in the scientific area  
“**Neurosurgery**” in the area of high education 7. „Healthcare and sport“. Professional  
area 7.1. Medicine and the scientific specialty “Neurosurgery” for the needs of the  
Department of Neurosurgery - announced in DV No 16/22.02.2019

Only one participant takes part in the competition- assoc. prof. Venelin Miloslavov  
Gerganov, dm

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Assoc. Prof. Gerganov is born on the 19.06.1970. He graduated his medical training in MU Sofia with excellent marks. Worked as a medical doctor in CSMP in Radomir, in the Section of Emergency Neurosurgery of Institute “N.I. Pirogov”, and in the Department of Neurosurgery of Hospital “Alexandrovska”. Since 2006 he started working at the International Neuroscience Institute, Hannover, Germany, where he was consequently Assistenzarzt, Funktionsoberarzt, Oberarzt and leitender Oberarzt. He was board certified in neurosurgery in 2005 and received his DM degree after successful presentation of a thesis “Surgical treatment of vestibular schwannomas”. Since 2012 he became associate professor at the Medical High School oh Hannover.

He performed multiple long-term sub-specializations, mainly in Europe. He is member of professional societies both in Bulgaria and in Germany. Honorary member of the Southeast European Neurosurgical Society and the Macedonian Neurosurgical Association. Member of the editorial board of world recognized high-standing neurosurgical scientific journals, as well as associate editor-in-chief and reviewer in some of them.

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY

In the present competition assoc. prof. Gerganov takes part with one thesis and 116 publications: 1 monograph, 23 chapters in collective textbooks, 8 chapters in neurosurgical textbooks, 71 publications in international journals and 13 publications in Bulgarian scientific journals. Presented are 33 published abstracts of presentations in international and regional scientific conferences. Assoc. prof. Gerganov is the single or first author in 29 of the publications, second author in 52, and third or more- in 35. In Bulgarian language are 13 of them, in English- 103. After his nomination as associated professor he has 32 full-text publications.

From his references it is obvious that he has more than 2000 citations, from them 1318 are in journals, referred and indexed international database (Scopus, Web of knowledge etc.) with h-index 19. The overall IF is 136.

The publications are mainly in the area of surgery of cerebellopontine angle lesions: 39 publications, 1 thesis and 1 monograph. All are with original theoretical and practical contributions in regards to various operative approaches and techniques to assess the outcome. In the area of skull base tumors, assoc. prof. Gerganov presented 12 full-text publications, in which he evaluated the outcome of various operative approaches.

Keeping to his interest in the area of neurooncology, assoc. prof. Gerganov published for the first time in the world literature the results of a broad prospective comparative study of the application of intraoperative imaging techniques – MRI and ultrasound – in surgery of brain gliomas.

In the area of the current neuroimaging diagnostics, the candidate presented also publications, dealing with the preoperative tractography of the cranial nerves and

important neural pathways, using 3D MRI sequences, which is a very innovative technique, opening many possibilities for their precise localization and preservation during surgery

Another main field in the research activity of assoc. prof. Gerganov is the endoscope-assisted techniques in the skull base surgery. In the publications devoted to these problems, the candidate discussed the need of constant intraop electrophysiological monitoring of the cranial nerves with the goal of preventing their injury and achieving optimal functional preservation.

In summary I have to point out also that the serious scientific activity of the candidate with multiple participations with plenary scientific presentations and 33 published abstracts in prestigious national and international congresses.

Due to the aforementioned facts, I am convinced that assoc. prof. Gerganov completely covers all criteria, formulated in the ZRASRB and in the Order for its application in UMBALSM “NI Pirogov” – Sofia (table 1).

Group of criteria	Content	Professor (score)	Assoc. Gerganov (score)	Prof.	Dr.
A	Parameter 1	50	50		
B	Parameter 2	-	-		
C	Parameters 3 and 4	100	100		
D	Sum of parameters 5 to 9	1500/ 20	>3000/ 29		
E	Sum of parameters 10 to 12	100	>1300		
F	Sum of parameters 13 to the last	100	>200		
IF	Publications in journals with IF	>10	59		

Table 1. Minimal score requirements, presented in groups for the AP “Professor”

### ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

Assoc. prof. Gerganov has an academic experience of many years. He gave lectures, seminars and trainings in the university departments of the Medical High School of Hannover. Since 2013 he is faculty member of the PhD program INI-Hannover and University of Medical Sciences, Tehran.

He had 3 doctor students, who successfully presented their theses for the degree “Doctor” in neurosurgery.

#### CLINICAL ACTIVITY

Assoc. prof. Gerganov is a well known and respected neurosurgeon with more than 20 years experience, who received the acknowledgement of the patients, as well as of the medical society in the country and abroad with his extremely good results.

#### SUMMARY

The analysis of the scientific, academic and clinical activity of assoc. prof. Gerganov, dm, showed that they correspond and exceed the minimal requirements for acquiring the academic position “Professor”, according to the ZRASRB, The Order for its application and PRAS of UMBALSM “Pirogov” EAD – Sofia.

I give with full confidence my positive vote for the selection of assoc. prof. Gerganov, dm, for the academic position “Professor” for the needs of the department of neurosurgery of UMBALSM “Pirogov” EAD – Sofia.

19.07.2019  
Sofia

Prof. Dr. T. Evtimov, dm