

Statement

From

Prof. dr. Asen Georgiev Baltov, dm

In regards to the competition for the for the academic position „**Professor**” in the scientific area “**Neurosurgery**” in the Department of Neurosurgery of UMBALSM “Pirogov”, Sofia; published in “Darjaven vestnik”, Nr. 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 is member of professional societies both in Bulgaria and in Germany. Honoraray 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.

Scientific 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.

For the first time in the world literature he published the results of a broad prospective comparative study of the application of intraoperative imaging techniques – MRI and ultrasound – in surgery of brain gliomas.

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 skullbase tumors, he presented 12 full-text publications.

In the current neuroimaging diagnostics, the candidate presented publications, dealing with the preoperative tractography of the cranial nerves and important neural pathways, using 3D MRI sequences. Endoscope-assisted operative techniques to the skull base are also analyzed.

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

Group of criteria	Content	Professor (score)	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerganov (score)
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 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 has 3 doctorands, who successfully presented their theses for the degree "Doctor" in neurosurgery.

Summary

The analysis of the scientific parameters and the clinical activity of assoc. prof. Gerganov, dm, showed that they exceed the minimal requirements for acquiring the academic position "Professor", according to the ZRASRB, The decree 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 and ask all other members of the jury to confirm it.

30.08.2019

Sofia

Prof. Dr. Asen Baltov, dm