

**To:**

**The Chairman of the Scientific Jury,**

Appointed by Order No. ZP-1222/10.12.2024

of the Rector of the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski"

## **STATEMENT**

**By Professor Slavi Dimitrov Delchev, MD, PhD**  
**Department of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology,**  
**Medical University – Plovdiv,**  
Elected as a member of the Scientific Jury

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health, specialty "**Anatomy**" for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski," announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 12.11.2024.

### ***1. General Presentation of the Procedure and the Candidate***

In the competition for "Associate Professor," announced in the State Gazette, issue 96 of 12.11.2024, for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski," the **sole candidate** is Dragomir Danailov Dardanov, MD, PhD.

The materials submitted by Dr. Dragomir Dardanov on an electronic device **comply** with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for Holding the Academic Position of "Associate Professor" at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski."

The candidate has submitted one monograph and a total of 46 scientific papers for the "Associate Professor" competition; participation in the teams of four research projects, and a list of citations of articles.

The distribution of scientific papers by category is as follows: articles in refereed and indexed journals in globally recognized databases – 14; articles in non-refereed scientific journals with peer review – 20; citations – 10.

The documents submitted by the candidate for this competition are comprehensive and correctly arranged, with no remarks regarding their authenticity.

### ***2. Brief Biographical Data of the Candidate***

Dr. Dragomir Dardanov completed his higher education as a Master of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University – Pleven in 2002. In 2004, he was appointed as an adjunct assistant in anatomy and histology at the respective department of the Medical University – Pleven. After defending his dissertation on the topic: "Clinical-Anatomical Studies of the Perirectal Connective Tissue Structures in Relation to Rectal Cancer Surgery" in 2009, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "PhD" in Medicine. From 2007 to 2011, he worked as an assistant in the Department of Anatomy, Histology, and Cytology, and since 2011 he has been appointed as a senior assistant at the same department.



Between 2008 and 2012, he worked as an assistant (until 2009) and senior assistant (from 2009 to 2012) in surgery at the Clinic of General, Abdominal, and Vascular Surgery at the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior, Sofia. From 2013 to 2014, he worked as a surgeon (Second Surgery) at the 5th City Hospital – Sofia, and from 2014 to 2017, he was a surgical assistant at the Clinic of General and Hepatopancreatic Surgery, University Hospital "Alexandrovska," Sofia, and the Department of General and Operative Surgery at the Medical University – Sofia. In 2017, he became a senior assistant at the Clinic of General Surgery, University Hospital "Alexandrovska," Sofia, and the Department of General and Operative Surgery, Medical University – Sofia. Since 2023, he has been an assistant in anatomy at the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski," Sofia.

Dr. Dardanov has been a member of the teams of four institutional research projects at the Medical University – Pleven. The candidate possesses excellent teamwork skills as well as the ability to organize, conduct, and analyze scientific research activities. He is fluent in English, which he successfully applies in his research and teaching activities.

Dr. Dardanov has been a regular participant in specialized scientific forums over the years. He has personally presented his research results through reports or poster discussions, demonstrating precise knowledge of anatomy and surgery and in-depth discussion of specific topics.

### ***3. General Characteristics of the Candidate's Activities***

Dr. Dardanov has over 20 years of teaching experience in anatomy, histology, and cytology. He has conducted exercises and lectures in Bulgarian and English in anatomy, histology, and cytology at the Medical University – Pleven (2004 – 2006), the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2007 – 2014), and the National Sports Academy since 2023. He has also conducted exercises and lectures for third-year medical students at the Medical University – Sofia in General and Operative Surgery in Bulgarian and English from 2014/2015 to 2022/2023. He has taught pre-medical first aid courses to cadets and students at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior (2008–2012) and surgery and first aid at the "Y. Filaretova" Medical College – Sofia (2009 – 2012, 2023). He has contributed to writing and publishing one textbook and one teaching aid. His extensive experience in theoretical and clinical disciplines establishes him as a qualified educator and specialist with a broad range of medical knowledge.

The candidate is a member of several prestigious international scientific organizations, including the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA), the European Society of Coloproctology (ESCP), the United European Gastroenterology (UEG), the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI), the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO), the European Digestive Surgery (EDS), and the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES), among others.

### ***4. Evaluation of the Candidate's Scientific and Applied Research Activities***

Dr. Dardanov has presented a total of 43 articles. The articles are distributed by significance as follows: 14 articles in scientific journals indexed in globally recognized databases, 20 in non-indexed but peer-reviewed journals. The distribution by publication venue



includes Comptes rendus de l'Académie bulgare des sciences (IF=0.378), Journal of Biomedical and Clinical Research, Diseases of the Colon & Rectum (IF=3.3), Colorectal Disease (IF=2.9), Rentgenologiya i Radiologiya, Medicina (SJR=0.59), Science & Technologies, and the European Journal of Surgical Oncology. In nine publications, the candidate is first author.

Dr. Dardanov has met and exceeded most of the criteria of the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski" for the academic position of "Associate Professor."

#### ***5. Contributions (scientific, applied science, applied) and citations***

Dr. Dardanov has presented a monograph (366 pages), which thoroughly examines the historical development of anatomy as a science from antiquity to the present day. Examples are given of the close relationship between the development of modern medicine and anatomy. The main eponymous terms in anatomy, used in anatomical and clinical literature, have been collected. This is an original work that has the potential to be a basic tool for anatomy teachers, as well as for a wide range of doctors, residents and students.

The candidate Dr. Dardanov has many years of experience in the field of anatomy of the rectum, anal canal and perirectal connective tissue structures with clinical application. The connective tissue structures and spaces around the rectum have been studied in depth macroscopically and histologically. Their nomenclature and terminology have been refined. The various surgical aspects of rectal mobilization are presented depending on the stage of rectal carcinoma. The various approaches to the treatment of chronic anal fissure are analysed.

Another direction is imaging and magnetic resonance anatomy of the rectum and the diagnosis of rectal carcinoma. Pretreatment MRI has been introduced into practice in patients with rectal cancer. The candidate has also worked on the biological significance of the lymphatic system in cancer in accordance with modern achievements in cell, molecular biology and oncology.

The etiology, pathogenesis and surgery of colorectal carcinoma have been studied. The various methods of rectal anastomoses have been discussed in depth.

As a specialist in surgery, Dr. Dardanov has worked on the anatomy of the peritoneal cavity, retroperitoneum and mesentery with application in surgery. Other areas studied by the candidate are: anatomy and surgery of the mammary gland, thyroid and parathyroid glands, extrahepatic bile ducts, purulent-septic surgery and morphology of soft tissue connective tissue compartments.

The candidate's participation in 4 scientific projects related to the areas studied is indicative of his professional qualities. The results of the studies have been thoroughly interpreted and published in specialized scientific publications.

The presented reference to some of the candidate's numerous citations (under point D.10.) fully covers the required number, all of which are in foreign scientific publications. The citations are entirely on the scientific issues developed by Dr. Dardanov.

#### ***6. Critical remarks and recommendations***

I have no comments on the scientific papers and materials presented by the candidate.

The area of scientific interests of Dr. Dardanov is focused on anatomy, surgery and other clinical disciplines, which gives excellent prospects for the further development and expansion of his scientific research. The integration of theory and practice in medicine is extremely

valuable and my recommendation to the candidate is to continue to encourage clinical thinking in students with various additional forms of teaching (courses, SID, seminars, etc.).

### **CONCLUSION**

Dr. Dragomir Dardanov's career development, acquired doctoral degree, scientometric indicators, contributions from his research activities, teaching workload, participation in research projects, and preparation of teaching materials **fully comply** with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the regulations of the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski" for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor." His work contains original scientific and applied contributions that have gained international recognition.

Based on my review of the submitted materials and scientific works, I provide a **positive assessment** of Dr. Dragomir Dardanov, MD, and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury **support** his appointment to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at the National Sports Academy "Vasil Levski."

16.02.2025

Prepared by:  .....

Professor Slavi Delchev, MD, PhD