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OPINION

from

Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Dimitrov Spasov, Ph.D.

Deputy Dean of the Ministry of Finance of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports in the professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty "Orthopedics and Traumatology" for the needs of the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", published in the State Gazette, issue 22 of 16.03.2021

By order of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" RD 38-228 / 14.05.2021 I have been appointed an internal member of the Scientific Jury, at the First Meeting of which I was elected Chairman of the Scientific Jury with a presentation of an opinion.

One candidate participates in the announced competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesselin Kolev Kojouharov, MD. from the Department of Surgical Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Professional development: Assoc. Prof. Vesselin Kojouharov graduated Medicine at the Medical University of Sofia in 1995.

Dr. Kojouharov began his medical practice at the State University Hospital "St. Anna ", Sofia, where he has been working for 12 years. He then joined the team of "Lozenets" Hospital, where he currently works. In his professional development, Dr. Kojouharov has gone through all positions from resident to head of clinic. Its academic development is realized in the Medical University of Sofia, the University of Ruse and the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Dr. Kojouharov has 20 years of experience in Orthopedics and Traumatology. In 2000 he defended his dissertation educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on "Simultaneous restoration of bone and soft tissue defects in the antebrachium and arm with pediculous iliac grafts", and in 2016 he obtained the degree "Doctor of Sciences" after defending a dissertation "Implantation problems of revision endoprosthesis". The candidate has built and improved his professional skills in emergency conditions and in solving difficult clinical cases in leading university clinics. There are many qualification courses in Austria, Belgium, France and the USA.

Teaching activities: Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov teaches students at Sofia University in the specialties of Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy, Medicine and Medicine in English. From a report on the study load for the last 5 years, his classroom employment is on average 378 hours per year, with a total study employment of 502 hours per year on average. He headed the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the Student Journal Club. Participates in the training of interns, trainee doctors in Orthopedics and Traumatology, is a member of examination commissions and the State Examination Commission for the specialty.

Research activity: The applicant has participated in two research projects, one of which is international under the Fifth Framework Program of the EU. He is a member of the Bulgarian Orthopedic Traumatology Association, a member of the Editorial Board of the Yearbook of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", the Editorial

Board of the journal "Orthopedics and Traumatology" and the Ethics Commission of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

For participation in the competition Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov has selected 49 publications in peer-reviewed editions, of which 22 publications in scientific proceedings from national and international congresses, 16 articles in scientific journals, 1 book chapter, 2 dissertations, 2 textbooks and a monograph. He has realized a total of 83 scientific publications, abroad - 12, Bulgarian - 71. A reference for 25 citations of his publications is presented. From the reference for the implementation of the minimum national requirements under art. 2b of ZRASRB for scientific field 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine is found to significantly exceed these criteria set for the academic position of Professor. Under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov it has successfully defended two dissertations for the acquisition of educational and scientific degree Doctor.

The candidate's scientific output outlines several areas in which he has contributed at the national level. Joint prosthetics and related problems have been studied and solutions have been proposed in numerous publications as well as in reports from national forums. In the field of reconstructive surgery, original solutions of bone and soft tissue defects resulting from trauma or tumor diseases are presented. The author successfully applies treatment with regional flaps and thus achieves recovery of patients in a short time. Problems of functional recovery are thoroughly discussed, as an integral part of the healing process and a condition for achieving better results. The monograph "Painful motor syndromes" presents the treatment-diagnostic approaches to 110 painful syndromes of the musculoskeletal system and has no analogue in the specialized literature.

Other professional activity: For the last 15 years, in which Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov has been working at Lozenets University Hospital, the Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the Clinic of Surgery has been established, which has grown into a Clinic under his leadership. He attracted specialists and developed the activity of this Clinic with growing good treatment indicators. Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov was twice elected and headed for 8 years the Department of Surgical

Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynecology, which unites teachers of 8 surgical specialties. During this time, numerous competitions were held for the development of the academic staff, which strengthened the Department. Certain specialties were accredited for the training of PhD students. The curricula for Bachelors and Masters have been accredited twice. The Clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology for medical activity in the highest Third level of competence was accredited.

Conclusion:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vesselin Kojouharov has many years of experience in clinical practice. As a lecturer he has an established authority among the students and lecturers of the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Realizes its scientific interests and the parameters exceed the requirements of the national criteria. The candidate meets the conditions specified in the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" regarding the Academic position of Professor. Therefore, I give a **Positive** assessment of the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Kojouharov, proposing to the honored members of the Scientific Jury to elect Assoc. Prof. Vesselin Kojouharov to the academic position Professor of Medicine, Orthopedics and Traumatology, for the needs of the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

07.07.2021.

Prof. Dr. Lyubomir Dimitrov Spasov, Ph.D.

