

## OPINION

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**Regarding:** Concourse for the occupation of the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty "Diagnostic Imaging", announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the State Gazette, № 35 of April 18, 2023.

### **Data on the Concourse procedure**

The concourse for the occupation of the academic position "professor" in professional field 7.1. Medicine (Diagnostic Imaging) has been announced for the needs of the Department of Physics, Biophysics and Radiology, in the Faculty of Medicine of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The concourse announcement is published in the Official Gazette, No. 35 of April 18, 2023. On the basis of the Rector's orders ПД-38-284/5.6.2023 and ПД-38-277/29.5.2023 and the minutes of the meeting of the commission that examined the documents and of the first meeting of the scientific jury, the only candidate admitted to the competition was Georgi Vassilev Hadjidekov, MD, PhD.

The opinion was drawn up in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of LDASRB and Section V (Conditions and Procedures for Holding the Academic Position "Professor") of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The regulatory requirements regarding the concourse procedure have been complied with.

The applicant's documents are comprehensive and in full compliance with the regulatory requirements for admission to participation in a concourse for the academic position of "Professor" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

### **Biographical data and academic development of the candidate**

Georgi Hadjidekov was born in 1976 in Sofia. In 1994, he graduated from secondary education at the 9<sup>th</sup> French high school, and in 2000 – "Medicine" at the Medical University - Sofia. Since 2006, he has a recognized specialty in Diagnostic Imaging. In 2011, he successfully defended the educational and scientific degree "PhD" with a dissertation on magnetic resonance urography in childhood. Assistant-professor since 2007, he was elected associate professor in 2013. In 2014, he defended his master's degree in Health Management.

Associate Professor Hadjidekov takes many courses for specialization and improvement abroad - Besançon, Zurich, Prague, Rome, Brussels and others.

He is a member of a numerous international scientific and professional organizations: the European Society of Radiology (ESR), the European Society of Paediatric Radiology (ESPR), the European Society of Uroradiology (ESUR), as well as the Bulgarian Association of Radiology, the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Densitometry and others.

He is fluent in written and spoken English and French.

#### **Scientific research activity and scientometric data.**

The total number of all publications of Associate Professor Hadjidekov is 233. **59** of them in full text are after holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" and are distributed as follows:

- **38** in publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, of which **9** in IF publications,
- **18** in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals,
- **2** published chapters in collective monographs,
- **1** published university textbook.

After occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", the following are also presented:

- **45** participations in national and international scientific forums,
- **3** participations in scientific and educational projects,
- 9 reviews of books and monographs published in the journal "Roentgenology and Radiology".

The papers submitted for participation in the current concourse have been published in authoritative scientific periodicals. They are dedicated to different areas of the specialty:

#### 1. Fetal and perinatal magnetic resonance imaging.

A scientific - applied contribution is the current study on the comparison of two-dimensional measurements from ultrasound and magnetic resonance images on the one hand and volumetric segmentation in different degrees of fetal ventriculomegaly. The methods used are actually techniques of artificial intelligence.

#### 2. Diagnostic imaging of the female reproductive system.

The works devoted to the possibility of magnetic resonance imaging for visualization of congenital anomalies of the uterus and their determination according to the most modern classifications have a contributing character. The role and place of the different methods of magnetic resonance imaging of the female reproductive system has been defined.

#### 3. Description of the magnetic resonance images in focal peri epiphyseal areas of oedema and their differential diagnosis.

4. The possibilities of 3T magnetic resonance diagnostics for space-occupying processes of ovarian origin. The methodology and research protocols with two types of equipment are indicated.
5. Description of various anatomical variants, paying attention to their importance for the differential diagnosis.

For example, a patient is presented in whom *Cisterna chili* is visualized, an image that must be differentiated from secondary lymph node involvement.

6. Minimally invasive interventional methods for treatment of pain syndromes of different origin.

In the course of his specialization abroad, Associate Professor Hadjidekov was part of the team working on these problems. The results find a place in papers and monographs published abroad.

7. Conditions associated with rare genetic syndromes and diseases.

The published cases and observations in surgical, urological and other conditions have a didactic value. Of particular interest are patients with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser syndromes, and besides the diagnostic features, the therapeutic possibilities, social significance and genetic aspects have been

8. Developed algorithm for extracting contrast-enhanced signals from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) images using ImageJ script.

The attached report of the applicant, for the achievement of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of LDASRB, shows the following:

Indicator group	Minimum required number	Number of points
A	50	50
B	100	189
Г	200	682,20
Д	100	2040
E	100	138,33

The analysis shows that Associate Professor Dr Georgi Hadjidekov, not only meets, but also significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements for the academic position "professor".

#### **Teaching and learning activity**

From the attached report on academic employment, issued by the Faculty of Medicine, it appears that during the academic years - from 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 (winter semester), the academic workload of Associate Professor Hadjidekov was respectively 681.8; 796.4; 348; 767.6; 558.2; 287.8 hours per year, which is significantly above the required.

The report on the indicators under Article 122 paragraph 2 indicates that for the last 5 years - Associate Professor Hadjidekov has taught a total of 91 hours of lectures and 942 hours of exercises

in English. Associate Professor Hadjidekov supervised 7 specialists who successfully passed the state exam. He has been an invited speaker at a number of international scientific events.

### **Clinical activity**

Associate Professor Hadjidekov is an established and experienced radiologist. He knows and practices all imaging methods. His areas of interest are magnetic resonance imaging, multi-slice computed tomography, prenatal MR imaging, paediatric urology, magnetic resonance imaging of the heart, oncological imaging, digital imaging methods, female breast imaging, osteodensitometry, as well as teaching students and specialists in diagnostic imaging.

### **Conclusion**

Associate Professor Georgi Vassilev Hadjidekov, MD, PhD, participating in the concourse for the academic position of "Professor", fully meets the regulatory requirements of the LDASRB and the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". He is an established specialist in diagnostic imaging, respected by colleagues in the medical community and patients. His scientific output is significant, with original scientific contributions in the field of the diagnostic imaging. His papers have been cited in a large number of publications.

The scientific data of Associate Professor Hadjidekov exceed the minimum national requirements, the normative criteria and indicators for evaluation when conducting a concourse for the academic position "Professor".

The complex assessment of his documents and activity gives me reason to confidently give my positive vote and to recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report – a proposal to the Faculty Council of the Medical Faculty at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" for awarding the academic position of "Professor", by professional direction 7.1. Medicine (Diagnostic Imaging) of Associate Professor Georgi Vassilev Hadjidekov, MD, PhD.

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