

**TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,
DETERMINED BY ORDER NO. ZP-1222/10.12.2024
OF THE RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY “VASSIL LEVSKI”**

REVIEW

by **Prof. Dr. Nikolay Dimitrov Dimitrov, MD, PhD**

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Elected as a member of a Scientific Jury

Subject: Conducting a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 7.4. Public Health, specialty “Anatomy,” for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at the National Sports Academy “Vassil Levski.” The competition was announced by the National Sports Academy “Vassil Levski” in State Gazette, issue 96 (12.11.2024), p. 93.

According to: Order No. ZP-1222/10.12.2024, issued by the Rector of NSA “Vassil Levski.”

Candidate in the announced competition:

There is one applicant in this competition: **Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD**, Assistant in Anatomy at the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics of NSA “Vassil Levski,” Sofia. All required documents have been duly submitted in compliance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at NSA “Vassil Levski” for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor.”

I. Analysis of the Candidate’s Career Profile

1. Education and Qualifications

Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD, was born on October 13, 1978, in Sevlievo, Bulgaria. He obtained his higher education with a Master's degree in Medicine from the Medical University – Pleven in 2002. In 2009, after successfully defending his doctoral dissertation entitled “Clinico-anatomical Studies of the Perirectal Connective Tissue Structures in Light of Rectal Cancer Surgery,” he was awarded the educational and scientific degree “Doctor.” In 2014, he acquired a specialization in “Anatomy, Histology and Cytology,” and in 2008 he obtained a specialization in “Surgery.” In 2015, he was awarded the European Board of Surgery Qualification in Coloproctology (EBSQ Coloproctology).

2. Professional Experience and Specializations

1998–2002: Demonstrator in Anatomy at the Medical University – Pleven, Department of Anatomy, Histology and Cytology. 2004–2006: Part-time Assistant in Anatomy and Histology at the Medical University – Pleven, Department of Anatomy, Histology and Cytology. 2007–2014: Assistant (until 2011), then Senior Assistant (2011–2014) in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” Department of Anatomy, Histology, Pathology and Forensic Medicine. 2008–2012, 2023: Part-time Lecturer in Surgery and First Aid at the Medical University – Sofia, Medical College “Yordanka Filaretova.” 2008–2012: Assistant (until 2009), then Senior Assistant (2009–2012) in Surgery at the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior, Clinic of General, Abdominal and Vascular Surgery, Sofia. 01.10.2012–22.12.2012: Clinical Fellow in Colorectal Surgery at St. Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin (Ireland). 2013–2014: Surgeon (Second Surgery Ward) at the 5th Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Sofia. 2014–2017: Resident Physician at the Clinic of General and Hepato-Pancreatic Surgery, University Hospital “Alexandrovska,” Sofia, and the Department of General and Operative Surgery, MU-Sofia. 2017–2023: Senior Assistant in the Clinic of General Surgery, University Hospital “Alexandrovska,” Sofia, and the Department of General and Operative Surgery, MU-Sofia. 2023–present: Surgeon at the Clinic of Surgery, University Hospital “Lozenets,” Sofia. 2023–present: Assistant in Anatomy at the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics, NSA “Vassil Levski,” Sofia.

II. II. Evaluation of the Candidate's Scientific Publications for the Overall Academic Development.

1. General Characteristics of Publication Activity

Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD, is the author or co-author of a total of 47 scientific works, being the lead author in 9 of them. Of these, 34 are publications, including 14 in refereed journals and 20 in non-refereed journals. Additionally, he has contributed to 2 textbooks for higher education, 1 monograph, and 1 chapter in a collective monograph.

2. Participation in and Leadership of Projects

Dr. Dardanov has participated in 4 research projects funded by MU-Pleven, as a member of the research team:

1. Study of the anatomical variants of the hepatic veins (2000).
2. Investigation of the connective tissue and fascial structures surrounding the rectum, aiming to define anatomically, oncologically, and technically justified strategies for rectal mobilization in rectal cancer surgery (2005).
3. Examination of metastasis to the iliac lymph nodes in lower and middle rectal cancer through sentinel lymph node biopsy (year unspecified).
4. Immunohistochemical profiling of stromal tumors in the gastrointestinal tract (2007).

3. Scientific and Creative Achievements (Membership in Organizations, Juries, Editorial Boards, Awards)

Dr. Dardanov is a member of the following professional organizations:

1. Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS)
2. American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA)
3. European Society of Coloproctology (ESCP) – National Representative for Bulgaria (2013–2016), Regional Representative for Eastern Europe (2017–2019), and member of the Scientific Committee (2020–present)
4. United European Gastroenterology (UEG) – Member of the Scientific Committee (2022–2025)
5. Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI)
6. European Hernia Society (EHS) – National Representative (2021–present)
7. European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)
8. European Digestive Surgery (EDS)
9. European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES)

10. Union of Scientists in Bulgaria
11. Bulgarian Anatomical Society
12. Bulgarian Surgical Society
13. Bulgarian Society of Coloproctology – Founder and President (2019–present)

Awards

1. 2002: Golden Hippocrates Prize, Medical University – Pleven
2. 2002: “Mini-Nobel” Award from the Swedish Embassy in Bulgaria
3. 2015: Young Physician of the Year (Ministry of Health, Bulgarian Medical Association, Darik Radio)

III. Evaluation of the Scientific Publications Submitted for the Competition

The main scientific areas of the candidate’s research, as reflected in the publications, can be grouped into four directions:

1. Human Anatomy
2. General and Abdominal Surgery
3. Coloproctology
4. Surgical Oncology
- 5.

Summary: Based on the candidate’s scientific output, he possesses the necessary skills for conducting high-quality research. The works submitted for this competition are written clearly and in a good academic style.

IV. Publication Impact and Citation Profile

Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD, participates in this competition with 34 scientific publications, of which 14 are published in journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, and 20 in non-refereed journals. As of the date of submission, the candidate provides a reference list with citations relevant to the position of Associate Professor, indicating 15 citations of his scientific works, of which 15 are in refereed journals (Web of Science or Scopus).

He has also presented 1 monograph (*Anatomy and Anatomists Through the Centuries*, 2018), 2 textbooks (*General Surgery. A Textbook for Medical Students*, 2013) and (*Microscopic Anatomy Practical Manual. Internal Organs. For Students of Medicine and Biology*, 2013) and

one chapter in a collective monograph (“Lymphatic System and Cancer,” in *Lymph Dissection in Carcinoma of the Breast, Gastrointestinal and Urogenital Tract*, 2007).

A total of 39 publications by Dr. Dardanov appear in Scopus, with 1079 citations, yielding an h-index of 15.

V. Teaching Activity

Dr. Dardanov has taught lectures and practical classes in the following areas:

1. Lectures and practical sessions on Human Anatomy for students in the specialty “Nurse,” NSA (academic year 2023/24).
2. Lectures and practical sessions in General and Operative Surgery for third-year medical students at MU-Sofia, in both Bulgarian and English (2014/2015 – 2022/2023).
3. Lectures and practical sessions in Surgery and First Aid for students at the Medical College “Y. Filaretova” – Sofia (2009–2012, 2023).
4. Lectures and practical sessions in First Aid for cadets and students at the Academy of the Ministry of Interior (2008–2012).
5. Practical classes in Anatomy, Histology, and Cytology for medical students at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (2007–2014), including a module on Surgical Anatomy.
6. Practical classes in Anatomy for medical students at MU-Pleven (2004–2006).
- 7.

VI. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators.

Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD, fulfills the general requirements for having completed higher education, holding a **PhD (“Doctor”)**, and meeting the mandatory quantitative scientometric criteria required for **the academic position of “Associate Professor”**.

Table: Comparison of the scientometric indicators of for Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD with the mandatory quantitative criteria for holding the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

Group of indicators	C O N T E N T S	Necessary points	Declared points
A	Dissertation for educational and scientific degree "PhD"	50	50
B	Dissertation for "Doctor of Science"	---	---
V	Habilitation work – monograph or publications in editions indexed in global databases (Web of Science or Scopus)	100	100
G	Publications submitted for Associate Professor (excluding those used for the PhD)	200	453,4
D	Citations (only of the publications submitted for Associate Professor)	50	150
E	Indicator E	100	200
Total:		550	935,4

VII. Conclusion

According to the overall performance of the candidate in the competition, I believe that **Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD**, is a highly qualified teacher and experienced teacher and **meets the mandatory** and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for academic position of “**Associate Professor.**” Based on the above and taking into account the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at NSA “Vassil Levski,” I recommend that the Academic Jury propose **Dr. Dragomir Danilov Dardanov, MD, PhD**, for election to the academic position of „**Associate Professor**“ in the professional field 7.4. Public Health, specialty “Anatomy,” for the needs of the Department of Anatomy and Biomechanics at NSA “Vassil Levski”.

Date: 12.02.2025

Member of the Scientific Jury:



(Prof. Dr. Nikolay Dimitrov Dimitrov, MD, PhD)