

OPINION

**from assoc. prof. Ivayla Nedyalkova Pantcheva-Kadreva, PhD,
Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ",**

Concerning: the election call for the academic position "Professor" (4.2. Chemical Sciences, Physical Chemistry) at the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", published in the Bulgarian Government Gazette, issue 25 (26.03.2019)

The only candidate for the announced academic position is assoc. prof. Stoyan Ivanov Karakashev, PhD. Mr. Karakashev is a graduate of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "(Master of Theoretical Chemistry and Chemical Physics, 1995; PhD degree, 2002; assist. prof., 2009-2013; assoc. prof. since 2013). During the period of 2003-2008, Dr. Karakashev hold post-doc positions at the Universities of Newcastle and Queensland, Australia. He has been a guest researcher at the Leibniz Polymer Research Institute (Dresden, Germany), the Universities of Cambridge (UK), Utah and Illinois (USA) (2010-2016).

The research of assoc. prof. Stoyan Karakashev is mainly devoted to the physical chemistry of thin liquid films, foams and emulsions. Scientific contributions are mostly of fundamental impact. The total number of scientific publications of Dr. Karakashev is 90, of which 21 (published in the period 2013-2019) are submitted to the professorship call: 18 were published in peer-reviewed journals with impact factor (12 - Q1, 6 - Q2) and 3 - in journals without impact factor. Five of those papers represent historical perspectives (reviews) of the available literature data on thin liquid films and dispersion systems. The rest are original research publications accomplished in collaboration with Bulgarian and/or foreign colleagues. Dr. Karakashev is a corresponding author in 16 of his papers, and in 5 contributions he is a sole author. In the Scopus database, 80 citations on the publications submitted for evaluation were found, which shows the topics relevance on which the candidate works.

The Scopus data base (July 2019) shows a total of 68 publications authored by Stoyan Karakashev, with a Hirsch Index of 15, and 662 citations excluding self-citations of all authors.

Since 2013 when Stoayn Karakashev was elected as assoc. professor, he presented his running scientific results on 4 specialized forums and led a project financed by the Sofia University Science Fund. The applicant has been a leader of 8 projects funded by the Sofia University Science Fund (2), the Bulgarian National Scientific Research Fund (1), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (1), the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) of EC (2) and the University of Newcastle (2). He has also been a member of the scientific teams of two projects funded by the Bulgarian National Scientific Research Fund.

Teaching activity of assoc. prof. Stoyan Karakashev covers lectures and practical classes for BSc and MSc students in Chemistry (Physical Chemistry, Electrochemistry and Electrochemical Phenomena, Physical

Chemistry of Surfaces, etc.) held at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy. He was also a supervisor of three successfully defended graduates.

The submitted by assoc. prof. Dr. Stoyan Karakashev documents for participation in the present election procedure formally meet the minimum requirements according to the current Bulgarian Act for scientific career development and the corresponding Rules for its implementation.

In accordance with the Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" regarding the rules and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions and the Recommended Criteria of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Dr. Karakashev presented the necessary inquires and habilitation thesis. Despite his very good scientific output, in my personal opinion, the candidate has summarized the required documentation in a very negligent manner:

- The scientific contributions are presented in a fragmentary way without systemating the candidate's achievements;

- The habilitation work is designed on 179 pages and contains a full translation in Bulgarian of 9 scientific papers dedicated to the thin liquid films physical chemistry. I cannot agree that the thesis briefly and clearly outlines the research and personal contributions of assoc. prof. Karakashev on the level required for professorship; the habilitation work does not also possess any significant scientific impact compared to the papers already published;

- The numerous stylistic and technical errors throughout the documentation do not make a good impression.

In conclusion, I hope that assoc. prof. Dr. Stoyan Ivanov Karakashev will convince the members of the Scientific Committee at their closing meeting that he has to be promoted as a professor in Physical Chemistry (4.2. Chemical Sciences) at the Department of Physical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

July 2019

assoc. prof. Ivayla Pantcheva, PhD