

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yulian Dimitrov Zagranjarski,

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Department of Organic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy about the materials submitted for the participation in a competition for the academic position

Associate Professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

professional field 4.2. Chemical sciences in the scientific specialty Organic Chemistry – Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds

The competition for an associate professor in professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry – Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds) has been announced in the State gazette issue 105 of 11.12.2020 for the needs of the Department of Organic Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at Sofia University, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy. The only candidate in it is Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Tomov Burdzhiev. The presented documents are in accordance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Sofia University, and meet the requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy for the academic position "Associate Professor".

I. Career development of the candidate:

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Tomov Burdjiev completed his higher education as a bachelor in 2002 at the Faculty of Chemistry of Sofia University "St. Kl. Ohridski". In 2007 he entered the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy as a chemist. Since 2007 he has been a doctor of 4.2. Chemical sciences (organic chemistry), and from 2010 until now he held the position of chief assistant. The candidate has completed three postdoctoral specializations at the University of Oxford, Oxford, UK between 2015 and 2020; Max Plank Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz, Germany; University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

II. Research activity:

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Tomov Burdjiev is a co-author of 24 scientific papers and 3 textbooks. The candidate has presented 19 publications on the issues of the competition, published in the period 2008-2020, which are not included in his doctoral dissertation and which I accept for review. All 19 publications are in journals with an impact factor (IF), divided into categories as follows: in journals with category Q1 - 4; with Q2 - 7, with Q3 - 1 and with Q4 - 7 publications.

Indicator C lists 6 articles (of which 1 with Q1, 3 with Q2 and 2 with Q4), and indicator D - 13 articles (3 with Q1, 4 with Q2, 1 with Q3 and 5 with Q4).

According to indicators C, D, E and F, the candidate exceeds the required number of points, according to the specific requirements of Sofia University, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

The scientific works of the candidate are published in referenced and indexed international journals and correspond to the announced scientific field. Publications in journals with a high impact factor, such as the European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry (IF 4.83), the Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology (IF 2.73), the Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry (IF 2.62) and Chemical Papers (IF 1.68), prove the high quality of the scientific production of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Burdzhiev. The scientific results are presented in a total of 15 oral presentations and poster presentations at national and international forums. At the time of submitting the documents for participation in the competition, 97 citations have been noticed (referenced and indexed in Scopus), the h factor is 7.

The publications presented for participation in the competition are in the field of synthesis and modification of heterocyclic compounds of various structures with certain properties, and determination of their structure and stereochemistry using NMR spectroscopy. The main contributions can be summarized in the following scientific areas:

(1) Synthesis of heterocyclic compounds by cyclic anhydride reactions and subsequent modifications to provide compounds with potential biological activity [3, 6-10, 12, 21, 23];

(2) Synthesis and spectral characterization of heterocyclic compounds with potential application in practice [4, 5, 11, 14-15];

(3) Spectral properties of heterocycles used in practice [16, 18, 19, 22].

According to the recommended requirements of the FCP of Sofia University, Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Burdjiev has also presented for participation in the competition a habilitation thesis on the topic: "Polyfunctional heterocyclic compounds - synthetic and spectral studies". The presented habilitation paper is written on 33 pages, including personal achievements on the synthesis of polyfunctional heterocyclic nitrogen-containing compounds with possible biological activity. The research included in the habilitation work is part of the main thematic area that the candidate has developed in recent years. An excellent impression is made by the use of many and various synthetic approaches to achieve original results, even in quite complicated cases.

Dr. Burdjiev's research has made an indisputable contribution in various fields of organic synthesis and impresses with originality and ingenuity. The publication of these results in renowned journals and their international response (over 90 citations) unequivocally show their importance.

III. Teaching activity:

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Burdjiev started his teaching activity in 2010 as a senior assistant at the Department of Organic Chemistry. He began giving the lecture courses in Organic Chemistry II; Construction and biological activity of organic compounds; Structure and biological activity of organic compounds; Chemistry of heterocyclic compounds. Chief Assistant Dr. Nikola Burdjiev has led exercises and seminars in Organic Chemistry I and II (bachelor's degree); seminars and practices in Chemistry of heterocyclic compounds; seminars on Construction and biological activity of organic compounds; Practice in Modern Techniques in NMR Spectroscopy. It should be noted that the candidate was awarded a diploma for the best assistant for the students of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy in three consecutive years (for students graduating in the period 2012-2013, 2014, 2015-2016). Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Burdjiev was the scientific supervisor of nine successful graduates in the field of organic synthesis.

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the above analysis, as well as personal impressions, I give my positive assessment of the teaching and research activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola

Tomov Burdzhiev. The documents and the materials submitted by the candidate in the competition Dr. Nikola Burdzhiev fully comply with the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the corresponding Regulations of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the topic of the announced competition for "Associate Professor".

I confidently recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury and to the members of the Scientific Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to vote for the award of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Nikola Tomov Burdjiev in the professional field 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry – Chemistry of heterocyclic compounds).

05.03.2021 г.

Signature: 

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yulian Zagranyski/