

## STATEMENT

by Prof. Svetlana Dimitrova Simova - IOCCP-BAS, member of the scientific jury,  
under an announced competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**",  
by code 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry - Chemistry of heterocyclic  
compounds) for the needs of FCP at Sofia University "St. K. Ohridski"

In the competition for "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 105 of 11.12.2020 and on the website of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy (FCP – SU) for the needs of the Department of Organic Chemistry of FCP – SU as the only candidate participates **Ch. as. Dr. Nikola Tomov Burdjiev** from **FCP - Sofia University**.

### General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order of the Rector of Sofia University № RD 38-9/07.01.2021 I was appointed to be a member of the Scientific Jury for selection of an Associate Professor in Professional Field "4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics", 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry - Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds)", announced for the needs of the Department of Organic Chemistry at FCP - Sofia University.

For participation in the announced competition documents submitted only:

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. **Nikola Tomov Burdjiev** from the Department of Organic Chemistry of FCP - Sofia University.

He has presented a set of materials in electronic system of SU, which are extensive and well arranged. They obey the specific rules and conditions for academic positions in FCP and SU, exceeding the recommended criteria for the academic position "Associate professor" in FCP – SU and include all necessary documents from administrative and scientific nature.

Dr. **Nicola Burdzhiev** submitted for the contest 19 of his 28 scientific papers, mostly in specialized international journals, of which four research papers in Q1 journals, 7 in Q2, 1 in Q3 and 7 in Q4, of which two review articles. Presented is a detailed reference of 54 citations for the works presented in the contest, and according to Scopus Dr. Burdzhiev has 102 citation, corresponding to h-index 7. Ch.ass. Burdzhiev has been involved in a significant number of research projects founded by the National Science Fund, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> framework programs, OP NOIR, SU, MES and is head of a project funded by the University. A list of participations in 15 scientific conferences with section reports are presented, 6 of which were presented in person. According to the requirements, a habilitation paper is presented, which summarizes the research of Dr. Burdjiev on the topic "Polyfunctional heterocyclic compounds - synthetic and spectral studies"

Dr. **Nicola Burdzhiev** have significant teaching load. Last year he has over 640 hours of total and 525 classroom employment. He is leading five lecture courses and practical classes in 6 disciplines for full-time and part-time students. He received a diploma for the best assistant from students of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy in three consecutive years (2012-2013, 2014, 2015-2016). He accompanied 5 master and four bachelor diploma. Dr. Burdzhiev is co-author in the preparation of 3 textbooks. Significant is his commitment to teachers and students by his involvement as Member and Chairman of the National Commission to conduct the National Olympiad in Chemistry and Environmental Protection and Member of the National Commission for conducting the National Competition in Chemistry and Environmental Protection. For his activities he has been awarded the honorary sign of Sofia University "St. K. Ohridski", second degree.

### **Personal impressions**

I know personally Ch.ss. Burdzhiev for many years, initially as a student, later as user of the NMR equipment at the Institute of Organic Chemistry, BAS, and later during the installation and operation of the NMR spectral equipment in FCP - SU. I can say that he was among the most outstanding students and a constructive member of the teams of the NMR spectral laboratories. He has always seeking solutions to achieve results, without excuses for the difficulties encountered. In his scientific work he is distinguished by depth and diligence. I believe that in addition to the results achieved so far, he has significant prospects for further professional development in the field of organic chemistry.

### **General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

The professional growth of Ch. Ass. Burdjiev is employed in the most authoritative in educational and scientific terms institution in the country - the Faculty of Chemistry of Sofia University. He studied further at the University of Oxford, UK, the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research in Mainz, Germany and the University of Barcelona, Spain. He is a productive young researcher with established qualities and a promising career, who combines academic and teaching activities. Longstanding systematic self-creation, knowledge and experience make becoming an "Associate Professor" logical and natural next step in his professional development supported by the arguments set out below.

- promising research topic - synthesis of heterocyclic compounds with desirable properties, and determination of their structure and stereochemistry by means of NMR spectroscopy.
- significant in volume and quality scientific production, presented for the purposes of this competition, that found an echo in the scientific literature.
- substantial scientific contributions such as the synthesis of heterocyclic compounds by reactions with cyclic anhydrides and subsequent modifications to obtain compounds with potential biological activity.

- scientific contributions to the synthesis and spectral characterization of heterocyclic compounds with potential application in practice.
- successful participation in scientific and applied research projects funded by national and international organizations. The interdisciplinary nature of many of the projects and the candidate's ability for team work should be noted.
- expert activity in conducting the National Olympiad in Chemistry and Environmental Protection and the National Competition in Chemistry and Environmental Protection.

### **Evaluation of the personal contributions of the candidate**

The personal contribution of Ch. ass. Nicolas Burdzhiev in developing topics and publications is undoubted and significant. The presented author's reference for the scientific contributions correctly summarizes the performed activity and reflects the achieved theoretical and applied results. I could characterize Dr. Burdjiev as an erudite, correct, communicative colleague, with a high chemical culture and significant intellectual capacity.

### **Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical remarks on the merits of the presented materials, with which Dr. Burdjiev participates in the competition for associate professor, as well as on his significant educational and scientific activity. I am puzzled by some small facts from the presented materials - several lists of publications with different numbering, data on all citations are not presented, the lack of a funding organization for some of the contracts. It is not specified where the reports are presented. It is not clear on what principle some of the presented data have hyperlinks and others do not.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials submitted by Ch. Ass. **Nikola Tomov Burdjiev**, PhD, meet all the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Specific Rules for Academic Growth in FCP and Sofia University.

Ch. Ass. Burdjiev has a **significant** teaching activity and has presented a **significant** number of scientific papers. There are significant scientific and applied contributions in the field of organic chemistry, which have received international recognition. The scientific qualification of Dr. Nikola Burdjiev is **undoubted and highly appreciated**.

The results achieved by Dr. **Nikola Tomov Burdjiev** in the teaching, research and applied research activities **exceed** the specific requirements of FCP and Sofia University for the application of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** assessment and recommend the

Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of FCP - Sofia University for election of Ch. Ass. Dr. **Nikola Tomov Burdjiev** to the academic position of 'Associate Professor' at FCP - Sofia University in a professional field. "4.2. Chemical Sciences "(Organic chemistry - Chemistry of heterocyclic compounds).

*/Prof. Svetlana Simova, DSc/*

Sofia, 14.02.2021