

STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Competition for the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in Professional Field 4.3. Biological Sciences, specialty Microbiology, announced in State Gazete no. 87 of 19.10.2020

FROM: Prof. Dr. Svetla Danova, Dsc, Department of General Microbiology, Stefan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

1. ABOUT THE COMPETITION:

The competition for Associate Professor (in Microbiology) has been announced in *SG №. 87 of 19.10.2021* on the basis of art. 4 and art. 25 of ZRASRB (*Law For The Development Of The Academic Staff of Republic of Bulgaria*), art. 57 para. (1) and para. (2) of the Regulations of ZRASRB and art. 106 para (1) and art. 108 para. (1) and para. (2) of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "S^t. Kliment Ohridski "

The scientific jury was awarded by order № **RD-38-612 / 15.12.2021** to the Dean of the Biological Faculty on the basis of a decision of the Faculty council (Minutes № 14 of 07.12.2021), for the needs of the Department of General Microbiology.

As a member of this jury, I declare that I have no common publications, projects or conflicts of interest of another nature within the meaning of para. 1 items 3 and 5 of ZRASRB with the evaluated candidate in the competition.

2. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICANT IN THE COMPETITION:

The only candidate, Anna Atanasova Tomova, has a proven interest and experience in the professional field of the competition - *Biological sciences*. She graduated from National Gymnasium of Natural Sciences and Mathematics "Academician Lyubomir Chakalov" Sofia and graduated in Molecular Biology (specialization *Microbiology*) in the Faculty of Science at Sofia University. His career, as a young microbiologist, began in Laboratory of Extremophilic Microorganisms at the Institute of Microbiology - BAS. There she developed a dissertation and received the PhD under the scientific supervising of Assoc. Prof. M. Kamburova. Her academic career as assistant (ns III level) started in the same scientific unit. Since 01.2017 year Dr. A. Tomova works as a senior assistant in the Department of General and Industrial Microbiology, Faculty of Biology, Sofia University "S^t Kl. Ohridski ". She has specialized for 3 months in

laboratory of the Danish company Novozymes. FEMS Scholarship (2001) and 2 weeks specialization at CNR, Italy (2009). Fluent in English.

3. FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR"

The only candidate for the academic position of "*Associate Professor*" in the competition has submitted all necessary documents, according to ZRASRB and the Rules to it, as follows: (i) reference to the implementation of national requirements of the Law (ZRASRB), (ii) individual indicators and reference to the implementation of university requirements for the position "*Associate Professor*", according to the Regulations of BF-SU with references for scientific papers and participation in scientific forums, (iii) a list of 327 citations, including the required by the Law habilitation certificate for scientific contributions.

She has more than 19 years of experience in the field of microbiology. It is a positive fact that Dr. A. Tomova combines the professional experience of a microbiologist and a lecturer. She started career in the research laboratory "*Extremophilic Microorganisms*" of Institute of microbiology - BAS, followed by work in NIS under a project funded by the EU-educational training program Erasmus + and is currently a lecturer in the Department, for which the competition was announced. There are two specializations abroad as a basis for future cooperation.

3.1. Fulfillment of the Minimum National Requirements according to the Law on the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations to it

From the documents on the competition it is clear that Chief Assistant A. Tomova meets and exceeds the minimum national requirements as follows:

According to indicator A -50 points, the candidate received the educational and scientific **degree "Doctor"** (*01.06.12 Microbiology*), successfully defending a dissertation on "*Characteristics of thermophilic aerobic spore-forming bacteria with carbohydrate degrading activities isolated from Bulgarian thermal springs*" (*Diploma № 34838 dated 17.01.2011*).

According to indicator 4 in group B are presented 5 publications published in the period 2010-2020 year in international journals with high impact factor and the required 100 points.

According to indicator 4 in group B are presented 5 publications in the period 2010-2020 published in international journals with high impact factor, which formed required 100 points.

According to indicators 7 and 8 in group G 1 chapter of a book and **12** scientific publications are presented, with a total of **209 points** with the required **200 points**. All scientific papers are co-authored, and in two of them Dr. Tomova is the first author.

Indicator 11 in group D: 448 points (with only 50 needed), formed by the high number of citations -121, in Scopus and Web of Science and 206 from other databases. This proves that the works are appreciated by the large scientific community at home and abroad.

3.2. Fulfillment of the university requirements for holding the position of "Associate Professor", according to the Regulations of BF-SU "Kl. Ohridski ", in accordance with the Law.

• *Teaching and working with students and graduates:*

The presented reference under Art. 112, para. 2. clearly shows that the candidate is a trained lecturer with high classroom employment: for the period 2016-2021 with a total of **2708 hours**, of which **2005 hours** of classroom employment. She is a successful supervisor of 7 graduates. She has prepared 2 new training courses in elective subjects and 5 cycles of exercises and a holder in two independent courses. The requirements for Lectures are met as followed:

- *in Bachelor's degree* program- in 2 *basic* and 1 *elective* course, as follows: - "General and soil microbiology" - basic course, specialty "Agrobiotechnology"; "Microbiology" - basic course, specialty *Bio management and sustainable development* – "Methods for obtaining strains of overproducers" - elective course, specialty *Biotechnology* (from 2021 - winter semester);

- *in the Master's degree* program - in two elective courses: the Ministry of Microbiology and Microbiological Control course "*Biology of Extreme Microorganisms*" and in the Ministry of Food Quality and Safety - the course "*Organoleptic Analysis*", which is held for the first year of Ch. Assistant Professor Anna Tomova.

• *Participation in research projects and publishing*

Despite high teaching load, Dr. A. Tomova presents evidence as an experienced researcher - microbiologist with an impressive participation in 16 research projects and 2 training programs. This means that she will be able to use the acquired knowledge and practical experience in the training of knowledgeable and capable staff of the Department of General Microbiology and Biological faculty at Sofia University.

The results of the serious research activity of the candidate are presented in 20 co-authored scientific papers in refereed international publications (of which 17 she presented for the competition), with a total **impact factor (26.05 total / 20,588** for the competition), well cited, which is the basis for personal **h factor -10**. Three student textbooks in the field of teaching microbiology are also presented. The works are in actual thematic areas, in the field of modern microbiology,

microbial enzymology and processes at the heart of modern biotechnology with the use of microorganisms. This, as well as the 20 participations in Bulgarian and International scientific forums with 3 reports in full text, once again prove the high scientific indicators and readiness of the candidate in the field of the unit and the competition.

4. CONCLUSION

The all above gives me a reason to confirm that the candidate Dr. Anna Tomova is a highly qualified microbiologist, who has proven his ability to conduct scientific and applied research at a high level, present the results and successfully train students, translating knowledge and experience in this dynamic scientific direction. The minimum national criteria for holding the position of "*Associate Professor*" are met, and on many of the indicators, incl. and those of the Regulations of BF-SU, the only candidate exceeds them.

Based on this, I confidently express my positive assessment and recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of BF at Sofia University "Cl. Ohridski "to sentence Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Anna Tomova the position of "*Associate Professor*" in the Professional field: 4.3 Natural Sciences, specialty Microbiology.

29.01.2022

Statement by.....

(Prof. Svetla Danova, DSc.)