

OPINION

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Regarding the competition for "Associate Professor" in area of Higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, Professional area 4.3. "Biological Sciences", scientific specialty "Cell Biology", announced in SG no. 21/15/03/2022 by SU "St. Kliment Ohridski"

1. General part

The competition for the academic position "associate professor" in professional area 4.3. "Biological Sciences", specialty "Cell Biology" was announced in SG no. 21/15.03.2022 for the needs of the Department of Cell Biology and Developmental Biology at the Faculty of Biology of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The only candidate for this competition is Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev, Ph.D. From the review of the submitted documents, it can be seen that the competition procedure was followed properly. All the documents meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the the Regulations for its Implementation, as well as the The Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", adopted by decision of the Academic Council on October 31, 2018, amended and supplemented by decisions of the Academic Council of September 25, 2019, 30.10.2019, 29.01.2020, 26.02.2020, 27.05.2020, 21.10.2020, 16.12.2020 and from 26 May 2021.

2. Biographical data about the candidate

Ch. Assistant Professor Georgi N. Georgiev graduated in 2004 at the Faculty of Biology of the "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, after which he obtained a Master's degree in Cell Biology and Pathology in year 2007. At the same year, he started working as an assistant, and then as Chief Assistant at the Immunoneuroendocrinology section with the Isotope Laboratory - IBIR, BAS, where he also complete his dissertation work. In 2012, he defended a dissertation on the topic: "Role of melatonin and growth factors in the paracrine regulation of steroidogenesis and functional characteristics of human reproductive cells" and obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" (equal to PhD) in the same professional area as this competition.

Since 19.11.2014, he is a chief assistant professor in the Department of Cytology, Histology and Embryology (Renamed to Cell Biology and Developmental Biology at the end of 2021) at the Faculty of Biology of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". The total teaching experience of the assistant professor Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev so far is for **more than seven years**. This significantly exceeds the requirements of the The Rules on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Science Degrees and Holding Academic Positions in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" of **at least two years** of experience as an assistant or chief assistant professor (Article 105 (1), 2a).

3. General assessment of the scientific work

3.1. Overview of scientific papers and citations

Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev has listed 25 scientific publications, of which 18 are indexed in ISI with a total of 37 citations, and in Scopus – 17 in two profiles, with 32 citations, after removal of self-citations by all co-authors. In both databases, the Hirsh citation index (h-index) is 4. Three of these publications are included in the defense of a doctoral dissertation, and one is a chapter of a book in English published in an international scientific publishing house.

In the current competition, Chief Assistant Georgi Georgiev participated with 5 publications in category B (publications corresponding to habilitation work) with a total impact factor in the year of publication of 10.457 according to ISI database and 11 publications in category C with a total impact factor of 26.547, as well as one book chapter in a book, published in an international scientific publishing house. One of the included titles in each of these two categories, an abstract was published in the Journal of Reproductive Immunology from participation in the Joint International Congress of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology (ASRI) & the European Society for Reproductive Immunology (ESRI), which is referred in the ISI database Clarivate Journal Citation Reports and falls into the Q1 quartile according to the two databases listed in Annex 1 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria. In total, the specified publications in both categories B and C carry 355 points with a minimum requirement of 300 points in total and are cited above the required minimum of 25 citations (for a minimum of 50 points). In addition to the citations in the Scopus and ISI Web of Science databases, the list also includes citations from other sources, which give a good idea of the significance of the topic developed by Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev, but do not carry points when calculating the scientometric indicators.

The reference for compliance with the minimal state requirements in accordance with Art. 2b of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria for scientific area 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional area 4.3. Biological Sciences shows full compliance of the included data with the criteria in Appendix 1 as follows:

✓ Group A Indicators: dissertation work - **50 points** (Dissertation work on the topic **Role of melatonin and growth factors in the paracrine regulation of steroidogenesis and functional characteristics of human reproductive cells**, defended in 2012)

✓ Group B Indicators: habilitation work - scientific publications in journals that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science or Scopus) - **105 points** (minimum requirement of 100 points)

✓ Group C Indicators: scientific articles in international refereed and indexed journals - **250 points** (with a minimum of 200 points)

✓ Group D Indicators: cited works – **56 points** (minimum requirement of 50 points).

3.2. Scientific contributions

The main part of the contributions in the scientific works of the assistant professor Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev includes studies on signaling mechanisms in endocrine and paracrine interactions, and more specifically receptor-mediated effects of the pineal hormone melatonin on the regulation of steroidogenesis in male and female gametes, cell cycle and differentiation. Part of the research studies are on the mechanisms for regulating the state of cell senescence and proliferation, while others are aimed at investigating the mechanisms of action of anti-tumor and anti-inflammatory drugs in cell models. The contributions of these studies have both fundamental and scientific-applied nature.

3.3. Scientific projects

Chief Assistant Professor Georgi N. Georgiev is a participant in eight scientific projects, of which two international, one doctoral, one infrastructural and four national, funded by the National Research Investigations Fund. In this way, Dr. Georgiev has gained considerable experience in essentially different activities - scientific research, educational and organizational, and this will be useful to him in the future when implementing independent scientific projects.

3.4. Other activities

Chief Assistant professor Georgi Georgiev is a member of the The Faculty Committee on Quality and the Committee on Elections to the General Assembly of the Faculty.

4. Educational and teaching work

Dr. Georgi N. Georgiev began his teaching experience as a part-time assistant at the department of Cytology, Histology and Embryology of Faculty of Biology since 2012. Two years later, on 19.11.2014, he won a competition for the position of chief assistant professor at the Department of Cytology, Histology and Embryology at the Faculty of Biology and is appointed to a basic employment contract at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". His main responsibilities in the first years of his teaching experience were related to the organization and conduct of practical classes in Cell Biology, Cytology and Cultivation of animal cells and hybridoma techniques, and in the last years he was also assigned independent lecture courses in Cytology (for distance learning), Animal cell cultures and hybridoma techniques for bachelor degree program in Biotechnology, part of the lecture course Cytology, Histology and Embryology for Bachelor degree program in the field of Pedagogy of Education in ..., as well as in Master degree courses: Biology for Pharmacy (in English), Cell Signaling and Modern Methods in Cell Biology (elective). Georgi Nikolaev was also involved in the development of new courses and electronic resources for existing courses, especially intensively in the last three years. During this period, Chief Assistant Georgiev was also

the academic supervisor of six graduates who successfully defended their Diploma Theses, three in Bachelor degree programs and three in MS degree programs.

Conclusion:

In the presented documents for the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of Higher Education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional area 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty Cell biology, have been provided evidences, sufficient in terms of quantity and quality for scientific, scientific-applied and teaching activities at a high level. All requirements specified in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations for the Terms and Conditions for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" are fulfilled. Based on this, I can confidently recommend to the respected scientific jury appointed by order No. RD 38-180 of 04/05/2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev to be elected as a Docent (Associate Professor) in a professional area 4.3. Biological Sciences, Cell Biology.

Sofia

05.07.2022

Sign:

(Assoc. Prof. Tanya Topouzova)