

OPINION

By: Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Georgieva Gluhcheva, Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum – BAS, determined by Order No ПД 38-180/05.04.2022 г. of Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov - Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Regarding: the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the professional field 4.3 Biological sciences (Cell biology) published in SG issue 21/15.03.2022 for the needs of the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Assist. Prof. Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev, PhD is the only candidate in the present competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 4.3 Biological sciences (Cell biology) published in State Gazette issue 21/15.03.2022. The presented documents are precise and in compliance with the requirements of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the regulations for its implementation.

Assessment of academic and career development

Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev obtained his BSc degree in 2006 and MSc degree in 2008 at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” with a specialty in Biology, master program in Cell biology and pathology. In 2012 he became a PhD following a successful defense of his doctoral thesis on: “The role of melatonin and growth factors on the paracrine regulation of steroidogenesis and functional characteristics of human reproductive cells” at IBIR-BAS. The same year he received a DAAD scholarship and specialized in University “Fridrich Schiller” in Jena, Germany. Since 2014 Dr. Georgiev is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Cell biology and biology of development in the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Dr. Georgiev organizes and delivers lectures, seminars and extracurricular activities with students. He supervised several successfully defended master thesis. In parallel with his academic activity Georgi Georgiev is an active researcher, participating in several scientific projects with national and international funding.

Assessment of works

In the present competition Dr. Georgiev has submitted 17 scientific works, published in referenced and indexed journals in Scopus and/or Web of Science (WoS), one of which is a chapter from an e-book. In 7 publications Georgi Georgiev has a leading position (1st or 2nd author) which shows his leading contribution in the investigations. The total scientific works is 25, three of which are part of his PhD thesis.

The research activity of the candidate encompasses a wide range of molecular, biochemical, immunological, morphological (morphometric) methods and the contributions based on his scientific works are in the following fields:

- Studies on the immunoendocrine and paracrine regulation and receptor-mediated effects of the pineal gland hormone melatonin on steroidogenesis in male and female gametes, cell cycle and differentiation;
- Studies on the effect and mechanism of antitumor and anti-inflammatory agents (quercetin, resveratrol, dimethylsphingosine and miltefosine) in cell culture models in regards to their potential therapeutic application;
- Studies on the mechanisms regulating cell rest (G₀) in cell cultures of human fibroblasts.

The multidisciplinary profile of Dr. Georgiev's work has generated original fundamental and applied scientific data contributing for the elucidation of the regulatory mechanisms of the cell cycle in norm and pathology with a focus on reproductive biology, oncology and regenerative medicine. The results are published in prestigious international scientific journals and presented at various international scientific meetings.

Dr. Georgi Georgiev's scientific papers have been cited 28 times (excluding self-citations) in journals indexed in Scopus and WoS and another 5 times in other data bases. This indicates the high quality of the publications and the significance of the conducted studies.

Scientometric analysis

The candidate has presented 17 publications in referenced and indexed in Scopus and/or WoS. Six of the articles are published in Q1 journals, 8 in Q2, 2 – in Q3 and one is a chapter in e-book, published in English. One of the presented works in Q1 is an abstract of a poster presentation in a conference. Despite this, the points exceed the required minimum according to the national

Legislation and Regulations. The points for citations (56) found in Scopus and/or WoS also exceed the required minimum.

Conclusion

Based on the presented documents, I believe that Assis. Prof. Georgi Georgiev, PhD is a prominent and promising researcher in the field of Cell biology, specifically in reproductive biology, oncology and regenerative medicine. On the basis of the obtained data for the regulatory mechanisms of steroidogenesis, cell cycle – normal and in pathology and cell differentiation, original contributions of fundamental and applied significance are obtained. They aim development of new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of different socially significant diseases in regards to improving health and quality of life. Dr. Georgiev demonstrates active project activity which proves his ability to collaborate and work in a team. The Scientometric analysis shows that the candidate fully meets the requirements of the legislation in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Minimum Requirements and I recommend Assis. Prof. Georgi Georgiev to be elected “Associate Professor” in the professional field 4.3 Biological Sciences (Cell biology) for the needs of the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

Date: 07.07.2022 г.

(Assoc. Prof. Yordanka Gluhcheva, PhD)