

# OPINION STATEMENT

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**Member of a scientific jury appointed by order of the Rector № RD-38-180 / 05.04.2022**

Subject: Competition for the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics, and informatics, Professional field 4.3 Biological sciences (Cell biology), announced in the State Newspaper issue 21/15.03.2022, with candidate Chief Assistant Professor Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev, Ph.D.

The formation of the assessment for the final opinion statement is based on the minimum national requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

## **1. General Information about the Candidate**

Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev was born on November 23, 1980 in the town of Vratsa. He graduated from the Faculty of Biology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a degree in Biology and a Master's Program in Cell Biology and Pathology in 2007. From 2007 to 2014 he worked as an assistant and chief assistant at IBIR-BAS, and in 2012 he obtained Ph.D. in the scientific specialty of Animal and Human Physiology and won an International Grant from Friedrich Schiller University, Jena, Germany. Dr. Georgiev speaks German and English. He conducts group activities with undergraduate students and is the research supervisor of 6 graduates for the period 2015 - 2020. He is a member of the Faculty Quality Committee and the Faculty Election Commission.

## **2. General description of the submitted materials in the competition**

For the current competition, the applicant submits 17 scientific publications in referenced and indexed publications in Scopus and/or WoS databases, which do not repeat those presented for the Ph.D. defense. Official notes are presented, certifying that Dr. Georgiev is the titular of courses at the Sofia University Foundation.

## **3. Scientific research activity**

The scientific production of Ch. Assistant Georgi Georgiev includes one chapter of a book in the prestigious publishing house Bentham Science, 26 scientific publications, 19 of which are in scientific journals with quartiles and impact factor and 7 publications are in proceedings of

scientific conferences. He has 34 citations, is a research supervisor of 6 graduates, and has participated in 8 national and international scientific and educational projects. Dr. Georgiev's research activities are related to planning and conducting experimental scientific work, including cell culture, protein analysis, nucleic acid analysis, microscopy, and more. The scientific works can be divided into several thematic areas:

- Studies of immunoendocrine, paracrine interactions, and receptor-mediated effects of melatonin on cell fate, in particular, their influence on the regulation of steroidogenesis in male and female gametes, cell cycle, and differentiation;
- Research on antitumor and anti-inflammatory agents in cell models, in view of their potential for therapeutic use and the mechanisms of their action;
- Study of the mechanisms for regulating the state of cell rest in cultures of human fibroblasts.

Some of the works are fundamental, while others are scientifically applied in nature. The localization of the MT1 receptor in the human reproductive tract has been shown for the first time, suggesting a role for melatonin in capacitance events and could be used in assisted reproduction. Possible mechanisms leading to inhibition of human skin fibroblast proliferation in models of diabetic patients with hyperglycemia have also been investigated. The data can be used in the development of therapies for wound healing in diabetes.

A list of 17 publications was provided to the current competition. 16 of them are referenced and indexed in academic research databases (Web of Science and Scopus). 6 articles are with Q1, 8 articles with Q2, 2 articles with Q3, or a total of **250** points on indicator D (with a minimum of 200). The total impact factor of the publications submitted to the competition exceeds 44 and brings 61 points. After reviewing the titles of the list of publications and the attached summaries, I believe that the scientific work and scientific-applied contributions of Ch. Assistant Georgiev are entirely in the specialty "Cell Biology" and meets the theme of the competition.

According to Group of indicators E (minimum required points: 50) on citations in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes, and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), Dr. Georgiev presented the citations, which give a total of **61** points. The publications included in sections "C" and "D" of the national minimum requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor" also carry points more than those required.

#### **4. Educational and teaching activities**

Official notes were presented, certifying that Dr. Georgiev is the holder of courses in the Faculty of Biology at Sofia University in the disciplines of Cytology, master's programs; Biotechnology, Ecology and environmental protection, distance learning; Animal cell cultures and hybridoma techniques, full-time students majoring in "Biotechnology", students majoring in "Teacher of ... Biology, English and Geography". Other disciplines, Master's degree, are: "Signal pathways in the cell", "Cellular signaling" and "Modern methods in cell biology".

According to the submitted certificate for academic employment for the period 2015 - 2020, the candidate has 340.4 hours of lectures and 88.5 hours of exercises. The arithmetic mean for the period is about 140 hours of lectures and 51.5 hours of exercises at the Biology Faculty.

## CONCLUSION

The scientometric indicators of Chief Assistant Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev, Ph.D. for the current competition, summarized in the table below, exceed the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Group of indicators Contents	National requirements	Fulfilled
A Indicator 1	50	50
B Indicator 2	-	-
C Indicator s 3 and 4	100	100
D Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	250
E Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	50	61
F Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	-	-
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>466</b>

In view of the above facts, I SUPPORT without hesitation the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Nikolaev Georgiev and I recommend to the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote POSITIVE for his election to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 4.3 Biological Sciences (Cell Biology).

30 June 2022

Sofia



*Prof. Elena Dzhambazova, PhD*