

OPINION

by a member of scientific jury: Albena Georgieva Jordanova, professor of Biochemistry, Professional field: 4.3. Biological Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Subject: competition for the academic position "*Associate professor*" in a Professional field: 4.3. Biological Sciences (Microbiology) for the needs of the Department "Biology, Medical Genetics and Microbiology" at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"/SU, announced in the State Gazette (No. 56, 30.06.2023)

One applicant, Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Dimitrova Yocheva, PhD, presented documents for participation in the announced competition.

1. Conformity of the applicant's submitted documents, according to the Rules for occupying academic positions of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

The submitted documents from Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Dimitrova Yocheva, PhD, in the announced competition for the academic position "*Associate professor*" fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application, and the Regulations for the occupancy of academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

2. Brief biographical data of the applicant

From the presented CV of Lyubomira Yocheva, it can be seen that after graduating National Science and Mathematics High School "Acad. Lyubomir Chakalov" in Sofia in 1981, she continued her higher education at the Faculty of Biology of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 1986, she received a Master's degree in "Molecular and functional biology". Since 1988 until 1993 she is a PhD student with supervisor Prof. Lyubomir Kominkov in the Department of "General and Industrial Microbiology" of the Faculty of Biology, having successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "*Biological characterization of a strain of Streptomyces galbus (F) subsp. achromogenes 695, chemical nature of antibiotic 695 and optimization of the conditions for its biosynthesis*" in 1997, speciality "Microbiology", code 01.06.12.

According the certificate attached to the document, it can be seen that Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva has 17 years of work experience in her specialty at the Faculty of Medicine of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the Department of "Biology, Medical Genetics and Microbiology" as an Assistant (in the period 2006-2007) and as a Chief Assistant Professor (from 2007 until now). From the academic year 2008/2009 she has conducted practical classes in *Microbiology* for students specializing in "Medicine", "Medicine in English", and in *Virology* for students specializing in

"Nursing" at the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". In addition, from 2007 until now, she has been a Chief Assistant Professor of several disciplines to full-time and part-time students, as well as to students in master's programs in the Faculty of Biology and Faculty of Physics of Sofia University.

In the period 2011-2015, Lyubomira Yocheva carried out a post-graduate specialization and obtained a specialization in Microbiology (for microbiologist and biologists) at the Faculty of Medicine of SU, clinical base University General Hospital for Active Treatment "Lozenets", deepening her theoretical knowledge and practical skills in general, special, sanitary and clinical microbiology; antimicrobial chemotherapy; general immunology; new molecular methods; epidemiology; virology; parasitology; microbiological infectious diagnostics, etc.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied scientific and publication activities.

Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva is a co-author of 55 scientific publications, of which 26 articles are in journals with an impact factor/impact rank; the total impact factor is 16.215, the Hirsch index (h-index) is 3, according to *Scopus* and *Web of Science*. In 16 of the scientific publications, she is the first author. In addition, she is the co-author of 3 Microbiology textbooks for students at Sofia University. Chief Assistant Professor L. Yocheva participated in 45 international and national scientific conferences, as well as in 15 research projects. She was also the head of 4 scientific projects financed by the Scientific Research Fund of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The scientific topics of publications of Chief Assistant Professor Yocheva in the current competition are focused on the following 5 scientific and scientific-applied directions:

- research of the antimicrobial activity of naturally produced biologically active substances and nanomaterials – namely in this direction the main publications included in the habilitation work under indicator B4 are focused;
- isolation and characteristics of bacteria important in food technology and biotechnology;
- sanitary-microbiological evaluation of water for drinking and household needs;
- spread of some bacterial and viral infections in Bulgaria and their relationship with inflammatory, allergic or autoimmune diseases;
- contributions to academic education.

The minimum requirements of the National Center for Information and Documentation and the Regulations for occupying the academic position "*Associate Professor*" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" by groups of indicators in professional field: 4.3. Biological Sciences are described in the table below. For comparison, the indicators of Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva for her participation in the current competition are also presented in the table.

Indicator group	Content	Minimum number of points for "Associate professor"	Points of Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Sum of indicator 4	100	105
Г	Sum of indicator 7	200	239
Д	Sum of point in indicator 11	50	78
TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS BY ALL INDICATORS		400	472

According to **indicator A**: *Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific PhD degree* Chief Assistant Professor Yocheva presented a diploma from the Higher Attestation Commission for obtaining the educational and scientific PhD degree. The dissertation was successfully defended in 1997 by a committee of the Specialized Scientific Council for Microbiology, Virology and Immunology, Specialty Microbiology, code 01.06.12.

Regarding **indicator B**: *Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus)*, the candidate in the competition has submitted **6 scientific articles** published in the period 2020-2023 (one in Q1 journal, one – in Q2 journal, and four publications are in Q3 journals). **The points of the publications on this indicator cover the necessary legal requirements – 105 points, with a minimum required of 100 points.**

17 scientific articles, published in the period 2001-2023, were presented by Chief Assistant Professor. Lubomira Yocheva for meeting the requirements under **indicator Г.7**: *Scientific publication in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus)*. Distributed by quartiles, these articles were published in scientific journals as follows: Q2 – 1 scientific article, Q3 – 9 scientific articles and Q4 – 7 scientific articles. **The total sum of points under indicator Г is 239 points with a required minimum of 220 points, according to the legal requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".**

In addition, Chief Assistant Professor L. Yocheva presented evidence for **39 citations** to meet the requirements of **indicator Д**: *Citations in scientific publications, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus)*. **The total number of points for this indicator is 39 citations x 2 points = 78 points, with a required minimum of 50 points.**

4. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

After I reviewed the documents of Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva in the announced competition for "Associate Professor" in the Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment

Ohridski" I confirm that the 45 scientific publications with which she participated in the current competition, the results obtained, the formulated scientific contributions, her participation in 45 National and International scientific conferences, her management and participation in 19 scientific projects were carried out with her active participation and are her personal credit.

In conclusion, Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Yocheva meets the minimum national requirements in the professional field and no plagiarism was found in the scientific publications with which she participated in the competition.

5. Conclusion

After careful consideration of the submitted documents for participation in the announced 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; Scientific specialty: Microbiology, announced in the State Gazette - No.56/30.06.2023, I declare that the only candidate Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Dimitrova Yocheva, PhD, meets the minimum national requirements of the National Center for Information and Documentation and his scientific achievements meet the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the occupancy of academic positions in SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

I DEFINITELY SUGGEST Chief Assistant Professor Lyubomira Dimitrova Yocheva, PhD, to occupy the academic position "*Associate Professor*" in the field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; Professional direction: 4.3. Biological Sciences; Scientific specialty: Microbiology, for the needs of the Department "Biology, Medical Genetics and Microbiology", Faculty of Medicine of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski".

28.10.2023 г.

Author of the opinion:

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