

OPINION

By Prof. Stefan Tsakovski, PhD

Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy – Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,
Chair of the Scientific Jury appointed with Order № RD 38-61/24.01.2022
of the of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,

Regarding the call for the academic position “Associate Professor”,
Area of Higher Education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics,
Professional Field 4.2. Chemical sciences (Radiochemistry)
for the needs of the Department of Analytical Chemistry,
Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”,
published in the State Gazette issue 103 dated 10 December 2021

Eligibility materials

In the call for the academic position “Associate Professor”, there is a single applicant – Head Assist. Prof. Boyan Rumenov Todorov, PhD. The set of materials provided by the applicant is in accordance with the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations on its implementation, and the Internal Rules of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

General presentation of the career development of the candidate

Boyan Todorov graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in 2001. His scientific career started at the Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (2002-2004) and since 2007 he has continued his scientific career at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; in 2007 he acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor of philosophy”.

Evaluation of the applicant’s research profile

Evaluation of the scientific metrics

Head Assist. Prof. Bojan Todorov participates in the current procedure for the academic position “Associate Professor” with 20 publications, which have not been used in the previous scientific advancement calls of the applicant. They are distributed among the criteria of the Regulations for implementation of ADASRB in the following way – 5 in Criteria C (all referenced and indexed in the world scientific information databases Web of Science and Scopus) and 15 (incl. book chapter) in Criteria D. In the list of publications, 3 are published in Q1 journals, 6 – in Q2 journals, and 4 – in Q3 journals. Therefore, I conclude that the results are published in recognisable and well-established journals, which is a positive indication about the quality of the performed research. Five of the publications have been produced in the last two years that is indicative of the high present scientific commitment of the applicant. The prominent contribution to the results in the collaborative studies is evident from the leading role in most of them – in 5 publications he is the first author and in 6 – the second author. For the period 2010-2021, Boyan Todorov had 41 citations on the publications with which he participates in the current procedure, all in scientific

journals, referenced and indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. This is an indication for significant interest among the scientific community in the field.

Evaluation of the scientific contributions

On the basis of the presented Habilitation extended report, as well as the publications, I estimate the scientific contributions of Head Assist. Prof. Boyan Todorov as interdisciplinary and applied scientific. In many of the studies, the core of the author's team is from the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy – Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, but there is also a growing trend for active cooperation with a number of other Bulgarian and international research groups. These elements of interdisciplinarity and active research collaboration determine Head Assist. Prof. Boyan Todorov as an advanced and promising researcher.

The research of Head Assist. Prof. Boyan Todorov could be classified in three scientific domains: radioecology, nuclear medicine and archeometrics. I estimate the scientific contributions in the Habilitation extended report as original and correctly formulated and can summarize them as follows:

1. Development of analytical and radiochemical methods for speciation analysis of environmental objects and foods.
2. Development of methods for obtaining of potential radiopharmaceuticals for use in theranostics.
3. Archeometric studies using non-destructive analytical methods.

Evaluation of the applicant's teaching activities

The applicant's report on his teaching load during the period 2016 - 2021 outlines average audience duty of 537.4 hours. It is formed predominantly by the four lecture courses in the Bachelor's Degree Programme "Nuclear chemistry".

Fulfilment of the minimal national requirements and the recommended specific criteria of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy – Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“

The comparative analysis on the fulfilment of the minimal national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor", as well as the specific criteria of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy – Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ indicated that the applicant fulfils and exceeds the above requirements.

Conclusion

The materials submitted for participation in this call meet and exceed the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on its implementation, the Internal Rules of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, as well as the recommended specific criteria of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy – Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“.

The materials of the call, as well as my personal impressions from d-r Boyan Todorov, give me a reason to conclude that he is a well-established researcher with high academic standards and significant research activities, which are essential for the development of the Laboratory of Trace analysis: ICP techniques and radioanalytical methods.

Based on what has been previously said, I give a positive assessment and recommend to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the appointment of Head Assist. Prof. Boyan Rumenov Todorov, PhD, as an Associate Professor in the Area of Higher Education 4. Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional Field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Radiochemistry) for the needs of the Department of Analytical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.

28.03.2022 г.

Chair of the Scientific Jury:

/Prof. Stefan Tsakovski, PhD/