

## OPINION

### for a contest for the academic position "PROFESSOR"

for the needs of Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", announced in  
SG No. 30 of 15.4.2022

from

Prof. Ilko Nikolaev Getov, PhD, External member of the Scientific jury, in accordance with  
Order No. RD-38-237/16.5.2022 of the Rector of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" – Prof. Dr.  
Anastas Gerdzhikov

### Regarding the procedure for occupation of the academic position "Professor":

Higher education area– 7. Healthcare and sports

Professional field – 7.3 Pharmacy

Scientific specialty - Social medicine and organization of healthcare and pharmacy

The sole applicant is Associate Professor Emil Ivanov Hristov, Ph.D., lecturer in the  
Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St.  
Kliment Ohridski".

**Biographic data:** Assoc. prof. Emil Ivanov Hristov is a Master of Medicine (1993), a Doctor  
of Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy (2013); he has recognized  
specialties in Internal Medicine (2000), Clinical Pharmacology and Therapy (2000),  
Gastroenterology (2006) and professional qualifications in Endoscopy and Ultrasound  
Diagnostics. The educational and scientific degree "Doctor" was obtained at the Medical  
University of Plovdiv, Faculty of Pharmacy with a dissertation research topic: "Analysis of  
some regulatory aspects of pharmacovigilance of biotech and high-tech medicinal products  
and new active substances".

Upon successful consequential contests for the positions of assistant (1995); senior assistant  
(2001) and chief assistant (2008) held by the Faculty Council of the Medical Faculty of MU-  
Sofia, and in 2014, after a contest and election by the Faculty Council of the Faculty of  
Chemistry and Pharmacy of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", the applicant Emil Hristov was  
attributed the academic position "Associate professor" in the department of "Physical  
chemistry" of the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University, where he is the  
lead medical and social disciplines lecturer in full-time studies for the acquisition of the  
Educational qualification degree "Master" in Professional field "Pharmacy" and in other  
trainings, intended for undergraduates and postgraduate students.

The professional experience of Assoc. Prof. Hristov's in the field of clinical medicine, drug  
regulation and control, tuition of regulated professions students is to be characterized as broad  
profiled, sustainable, consistent and sufficiently prolonged, in view of the fulfillment of the  
criteria for the recognition of the Academic degree "Professor". The scientific career of Assoc.  
Prof. Hristov had started at the Department of Internal Medicine of the Medical Faculty of the  
Medical University of Sofia, and further continued at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical  
University of Plovdiv and the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of Sofia University "St. Kl.  
Ohridski", predominantly in the scope of diagnostic, regulatory, medico-social and

management problems in medicine, pharmacy and healthcare organization. He has acquired significant administrative experience, practical skills and specific competences in the relevant professional and scientific fields, as well as in the lecturing of undergraduate and postgraduate students, and large team management.

**Scientific activity:** In the current contest, Assoc. prof. Emil Ivanov Hristov has presented a total of 39 scientific publications for the period 2014-2022, including, among others, 27 publications and reports in published literature, referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific information databases, all of them in English – with IF – 10; 12 chapters in collective monographs and 41 publications and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. He co-authored one textbook - "Fundamentals of Pharmacoconomics" in an international collective in 2016, and two teaching aids in 2012, respectively. Assoc. prof. Hristov is the first author in 6 of the chapters in collective monographs (50%) and 4 (15%) of the publications referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific information databases. In 8 (30%) publications he is the second author. No independent monographic work has been presented.

The scientific research activity of Assoc. prof. Hristov also includes presentation of reports, published abstracts and full-text materials at national and international scientific events, 11 of which are in refereed editions, and 24 of the participations are reports in international scientific forums or national forums with international participation.

Comprehensive information is presented for a total of 44 established citations in refereed publications, respectively 20 citations in sources from Bulgaria and 18 in the accessible databases, according to the Central medial library reference (Scopus, Google Scholar). No self-citations noted.

After obtaining the academic degree "Associate Professor", the candidate participated in the teams of 4 scientific research projects, financed by the Scientific Research Institute of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", in the capacity of Project lead in three of the projects; and three of the projects were purposefully state budget funded.

I have co-authored with the applicant in a total of 10 publications and participations in scientific forums (5 of the refereed and 5 of the others).

The presented scientific production of Assoc. prof. Hristov brings out his scientific interests in the medical and social sphere, medicinal product and pharmaceutical regulation and pharmacoconomics. The candidate has systematized his contributions in a total of 10 subject areas, and in my opinion the following can be highlighted:

- **Drug safety monitoring** – a total of 8 articles focused on data, processes and improvement of adverse reactions reporting by healthcare professionals and patients. In my opinion, the most significant contribution of Assoc. prof. Hristov is the study of the occurrence of adverse drug reactions in the Bulgarian population of patients with inflammatory joint diseases who were treated with biological medicinal products.
- **Clinical trials** – 7 publications in total, moreover this is a strictly specific field and demonstrates the interdisciplinary approach, knowledge and skills of the candidate.
- **Counterfeiting of medicinal products** – a total of 6 articles, furthermore, the first study in Bulgaria of the practical introduction of serialization and the preparation of pharmacists to work with the system at the EU level was conducted. An original

algorithm was developed for inclusion in the system for serialization and verification of medicinal products.

- **Pharmacoeconomics** – a total of 11 publications, researches based on an original design for the assessment of Health-related quality of life in different populations of patients and healthy volunteers. The most important of them are the assessment of the health status of pharmacy students and patients with systemic vasculitis.
- The remaining subject areas are (*not in order of importance and weight in scientific production*): Clinical pharmacology and therapy, General medical area, History of pharmacy; Pharmaceutical care; National drug policy, Regulatory affairs, information and promotion, Rational drug use and utilization; Health policy and health management.

The results of the candidate's research activity are significant and well documented through the presented in the contest full-text publications, evidences of participation in scientific forums, research projects, citations (all positive), the guidance supervision of successful graduate and postgraduate doctoral students, scientific projects with students participation. I support the presented reference for the author's contributions, although not structured in the usual way, but comprehensively anticipating and enabling the evaluation in the scope of the present procedure.

There are no data presented on participation in scientific juries, scientific and organizational committees, editorial boards, administrative activities, etc. The successfully defended PhD students of Assoc. Prof. Hristov have demonstrated an extremely high level of preparation, evidencing the candidate's skills and capacity for scientific leadership, creative promotion and development of academy young researchers teams.

**Pedagogical activity:** Assoc. prof. Emil Hristov has presented the necessary evidence of pedagogical experience and activities at the department level in the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski". He has successively passed through the academic positions of Assistant professor, Senior assistant professor, Chief assistant professor and Associate professor. From the academic year 2014/15, the candidate holds the academic position of "Associate professor" and has the necessary academic workload, actively participating in the teaching of students in the Master's degree program in Professional field 7.3 "Pharmacy" in the mandatory Uniform state requirements and curriculum disciplines - History of Pharmacy, Social Pharmacy and pharmaceutical legislation, Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmaceutical care – in Bulgarian and English language of instruction. Assoc. prof. Hristov has the necessary experience, skills and attitude to deliver lectures and lead practical exercises and seminars. The combination of knowledge in medicine, pharmacy and public health and healthcare allows him to present different perspectives, useful examples from practice and case studies from regulatory activity, which are essential for the professional orientation and training of the prospective Masters of pharmacy. He is the Chairman of the state examination committee at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy. Annual references for study workload cover and exceed the requirements of the Sofia University Regulation.

There are two successfully defended doctoral students, both Masters of Pharmacy, and two doctoral dissertations under his direct scientific supervision in the Doctoral degree program "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" accredited by Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

It has been taken into consideration that in the future Assoc. prof. Hristov will also have significant responsibilities in the Specialization programs for Masters of pharmacy students as provided in Appendix No. 1 of Regulation No. 1/2015 of the Ministry of Health at Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

My recommendation is in the direction of audience expansion of taught students and specialists, participation in Master's programs and development of facultative and vocational disciplines in order to achieve a broader and more effective utilization of his scientific achievements and practical experience. It is also necessary to expand his pedagogical activity to contribute the creation and publishing of more teaching aids on the subjects taught by the candidate, specially intended for the needs of the students in the Masters Educational qualification degree in Professional field "Pharmacy".

**General assessment:** The submitted materials for the contest give me reason to believe that Associate professor Emil Ivanov Hristov, PhD, meets all the basic and additional requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor" at SU "St. Kliment Ohridski", according to Rules on the conditions and procedures for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenancy on academic positions in the university (RCPASDTAPU), the Rules for Implementation and Law on the development of the academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB). The applicant has demonstrated: diverse teaching and scientific activities, participation in the production of study programs, authorship of scientific articles, published in refereed national and international publications, and extensive academic experience and skills. As justified from the evidence presented, the minimum national requirements and those of Sofia University-FCP have been met multiple times - a total number of points 2137 obtained by the groups of indicators, according to Art. 2b of LDASRB for Area of higher education 7, Professional field 7.3.

**Conclusion:** As an External member of the Scientific Jury for the announced contest, I consider that, in terms of his scientific research activity and scientometric indicators, the candidate meets the requirements of the LDASRB. The presented list of publications demonstrates that Prof. Hristov has diverse interests in the medical and social field, continues to work very intensively in the academic environment of the FCP of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" and fully covers the criteria to take the academic position "Professor".

According to LDASRB, the educational activity is an important indicator in the final evaluation of the candidates by the scientific jury. Prof. Hristov has a proven and extensive pedagogical experience and active practice. Regarding the additional indicators, according to Implementing regulations of LDASRB, professional and moral qualities and erudition, I have a high rated opinion for the candidate.

**On the grounds of the above justification, I confidently recommend the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the academic position "PROFESSOR" to the candidate Associate Professor Emil Ivanov Hristov, PhD.**

*Member of the Scientific Jury  
Prof. Ilko Getov, PhD  
(pursuant to Order No. RD-38-237/16.5.2022)*