

OPINION

by Associate Professor Plamen Stefanov Stoyanov, Ph.D. - Medical University - Plovdiv, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of "Bioorganic Chemistry"

of the materials submitted for participation in a concours of the academic position of "Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna by: field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences (Biochemistry).

1. Information about the concours

The competition for "professor" was announced in the State Gazette, no. 59 of 26.07.2022 for the needs of the Department of "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics" at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna.

By order No. P-109-359 of 21.09.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of 'professor' at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in: field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences (Biochemistry)

2. General presentation of the candidate

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Dr. Joana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva, Associate Professor in the Department of "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics" at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna.

The set of electronic materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva is in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Medicine - Varna and includes all the necessary documents.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva was born on January 3, 1976. In 1999, she graduated from higher education (Master's) at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", Faculty of Biology, specializing in "Genetics and Cell Biology" and professional qualification Biologist. In 2012, he acquired the Doctor of Biochemistry degree.

The candidate's work experience began as a III degree research assistant at the Institute of Genetics at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (2000-2004), assistant (2006-2009), senior assistant (2009-2011), chief assistant (2011-2013) and associate professor (from 2013 to the present) at Medical University - Varna. From 2016 to the present, She is the head of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics at the same university.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupying the academic position "Professor"

The candidate has submitted a total of 26 scientific works, a diploma for awarded educational and scientific degree "Doctor", a certificate for a recognized specialty in Biochemistry, participation in 17 research projects (10 completed and 7 ongoing), a list of citations, as well as documents proving her teaching and administrative activities. I accept all 26 scientific papers for review.

The scientific activities presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva fully correspond to the minimum national requirements for professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences, namely:

3.1. According to indicator A – minimum 50 points, implementation by the candidate 50 points.

She has a defended dissertation on the topic "Study of the antioxidant activity of Bulgarian medicinal plants".

3.2. According to indicator B – minimum 100 points, the candidate has 101 points.

Assoc. Prof. Kiselova-Kaneva presents an equivalent number of publications covering the points for habilitation work. They are 6 in total, two falling in quartile Q1, one in quartile Q3 and three in quartile Q4. The specified publications do not repeat those presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

3.3. According to indicator G - minimum 200 points, performance by the candidate 317 points.

According to the indicator Scientific publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in the scientific information databases of Web of Science and Scopus, apart from those covering the habilitation thesis, the candidate presents 18 scientific papers and two published book chapters. The distribution of scientific publications by quartiles is as follows: 3 falling in the highest quartile Q1, 1 in Q2, 8 in Q3, 6 in Q4. Accordingly, each of the published chapters gives 15 points for the candidate.

3.4. According to indicator D - minimum 100 points, performance by the candidate 172 points.

According to the indicator Citations in scientific publications, monographs and other publications, referenced and indexed in the scientific information databases of Web of Science and Scopus, the candidate presents a list of 7 publications with a total of 86 citations. The high significance of the candidate's scientific production is also the fact that only one of the publications was cited more than 50 times in prestigious scientific publications.

3.5. According to indicator E - minimum 150 points, performance by the candidate 267.83 points.

According to this indicator E, included only for holding the academic position "Professor", the candidate was the supervisor of two successfully defended doctoral students (100 points), 7 participations in national research projects (70 points), one participation in an international project (20 points) and the project leader of two national projects (40 points). For this indicator, the candidate has certified funds gained from the leadership of projects (24 points). Moreover, She is a co-author of 4 teaching books used by students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy (13.83 points .).

I would like to note that Associate Professor Dr. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva has indicated a detailed reference for her academic productivity, with which she took the academic position (AD) "Associate Professor", This information is available on the website of the National Information Center and documentation (NACID). It is an honor for the candidate that she initially covered the scientometric indicators for academic position "Associated Professor" and was recognized as such by NACID.

All scientific publications, citations, participation in projects, study materials and other activities indicated by the candidate are outside of those for acquiring the Doctorate and Associate Professor degrees.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's educational and teaching activities

Assoc. Prof. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva gives lecture courses, seminars and laboratory exercises in Biochemistry in Bulgarian and English languages for students from the specialties of Medicine, General Medicine and Pharmacy; lectures on Biochemistry and Pathology for the students of the Medical Laboratory Technician specialty, as well as some freely-chosen disciplines for the Pharmacy students. She was the supervisor of 2 doctoral students in the scientific specialty "Biochemistry".

5. Brief description of the presented scientific publications

Assoc. Prof. Kiselova's scientific interests can be grouped into the following three directions: establishing biological activity, metabolism and safety of natural raw materials, food additives and synthetic molecules; research of molecular markers in search of new diagnostic and prognostic approaches; development and adaptation of new preparative and analytical methods.

6. Synthesized evaluation of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Joana Kiselova is an established scientist, recognizable both in our country and abroad. When analyzing her scientific output and in her attached reference, original, scientific-research and scientific-applied contributions are indicated, which I accept. Mainly they are related to phytochemical characterization of

extracts from some medicinal plants (*Sambucus ebulus*) and establishment for the first time of some compounds in them (acids, flavonoids, alcohols, amino acids, etc.); study of the biological activity of *Sambucus ebulus* fruit extracts in cell cultures and establishment for the first time of their cytoprotective effect; study of the metabolic effects of sulphur-containing mineral waters from the Varna Basin and establishing an increase in the plasma levels of thiols and glutathione in healthy people; studying the toxicity of cyanotoxins and waters contaminated with them and establishing the effect of cylindrospermopsin; study of the gastroprotective effect of melatonin in experimental animals on the antioxidant protection of the stomach; the study of iron in dietary supplements; study of the antioxidant activity of a number of compounds and products; the currently available information on medicinal plants with anti-diabetic potential has been systematized; research of molecular markers, as well as adaptation and development of new methods applied in the isolation of RNA and measurement of some parameters from plant extracts.

7. Critical notes and recommendations

The materials for the competition are arranged and organized in an overview, all references, certificates, scientific publications, cited works, etc. are attached. I have no critical remarks.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Associate Professor Dr. Joana Kiselova-Kaneva meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff in the medical university "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

The results achieved by Associate Professor Dr. Kiselova in the educational and research activities fully correspond to the minimum national requirements, and in most indicators they exceed them.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific-research and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I find it reasonable to give my **positive** evaluation and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy - **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Joana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva to be elected to the academic position of "Professor" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - city of Varna** by: field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences (Biochemistry).

21.11.2022

Prepared the opinion:
Associate Professor Plamen Stoyanov

