

## STATEMENT

by Prof. Dobri Lazarov Ivanov, PhD  
Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy  
Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna,  
member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order No R-109-375 of 26.09.2022  
issued by the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna

**Regarding:** competition for the acquiring of an academic position "Professor" in the area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Biochemistry", for the needs of the Department of "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics" at the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University - Varna, announced in State Gazette no. 59/26.07.2022

### **1. Brief information about the procedure**

Based on the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Protocol No. 41/19.09.2022) and the order of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna (No. P-109-359 of 21.09.2022), I have been elected a member of the scientific jury, and by protocol No. 1/05.10.2022, I have been appointed to prepare a statement on the procedure for acquiring the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Department of "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics" at the Medical University of Varna, in the area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Biochemistry".

The only candidate in the competition is associate professor Yoana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva, PhD. The applicant has submitted all relevant documents in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, its implementing Regulations and the Rules for Development of Academic Staff of Medical University of Varna.

### **2. Brief information about the applicant**

Associate professor Yoana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva graduated from Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" with master's degree in biology with specialty "Genetics and cell biology". From 2000 to 2004, incl. holds the position of research assistant III degree at the Institute of Genetics "Acad. Doncho Kostov" at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia. Since 2006, she entered the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna, as an assistant in the

specialty "Biochemistry". Since 2009 she has been a senior assistant, and since 2011 - a chief assistant. Acquired medical specialty "Biochemistry" in 2009. In 2013, she qualified as an "Associate Professor" and from 2016 until now, she is the head of the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics.

### **3. Educational and teaching activity**

Associate professor Yoana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva has a teaching experience of over 19 years. She conducts biochemistry and molecular biology lectures and training in Bulgarian and English languages. The average annual academic workload of Dr. Kiselova-Kaneva is 155 hours, which exceeds the requirements of 126 hours for the position of head of department. She is the co-author of four task books for students of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy published by a team from the department.

### **4. Presented scientific production and scientometric data**

Associate Professor Kiselova-Kaneva participated in the competition with 27 scientific works proving the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "professor".

A1: Doctoral dissertation thesis - 50 points.

B4: Scientific publications in editions that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 6 items - 101 points for the required 100 points.

G7: 18 items - 287 points and G8: 2 published book chapters – 30 points. In total, the candidate has 317 points with a mandatory minimum of 200 points according to indicator G.

The publications of Associate Professor Kiselova are in the scientific field of the announced competition. She has over 60 participations in scientific forums and in more than 20 scientific projects.

The total number of citations according to indicator D11 is 86, which carry 172 points and significantly exceed the minimum requirements. The total real impact factor in 14 of the publications is (IF) 45.838. She works as a researcher and expert on 7 national (70 points according to E14) and one international (20 points according to E15) scientific projects, and is also the leader of two other projects (total 40 points according to indicator E16) or a total of 267, 83 points for the required minimum of 100 items.

### **5. Evaluation of scientific activity and scientific contributions**

A significant part of the scientific contributions of the works of Ioana Kiselova-Keneva are related to establishing biological activity, composition, metabolism and safety of natural raw materials, food additives and synthetic molecules. The medicinal plant elderberry (*Sambucus ebulus* L.) and more specifically its ripe fruits, whose use in our country is very popular for the purpose of immunoprophylaxis, has been studied extensively. The information available in the specialized literature regarding their chemical composition and specific biological effects, especially regarding immunity, is insufficient to ensure their safe and competent use. In this regard, the candidate's publications contribute to clarifying the content of nutrients and biologically active compounds in these fruits. The content of a number of polyphenols, including anthocyanins and resveratrol, essential amino acids, organic acids, sugars, etc., is reported for the first time. The studies carried out with cell cultures contribute to the clarification of some mechanisms by which the medicinal plant exhibits immunomodulating properties. All these studies reveal the potential of this raw material for the production of functional foods, nutritional supplements, and for the extraction and purification of certain active components B4.1, B4.2, B4.3, B4.4, B4.5, B4.6.

Studies of the composition, physicochemical characteristics and metabolic effects of sulphur-containing mineral waters from the Varna Basin are important for greater awareness of the therapeutic potential of this natural wealth G7.1. Analyzes of cytotoxicity and species composition of cyanobacteria in water samples collected during blooms from multiple water bodies contribute to clarifying the importance of toxic species as a potential risk factor for human and animal health G7.2, G7.3, G8. 1. A number of studies have also been carried out in connection with the development of new therapeutic agents G7.4.

Another main direction in which the scientific works of Ioana Kiselova-Keneva are researching molecular markers in search of new diagnostic and prognostic approaches G7.11, G7.12, G7.13. These studies are important for deepening and expanding knowledge about the significance of some molecular indicators in plasma, urine and saliva as diagnostic and prognostic markers in cardiovascular diseases, pyelonephritis and gingivitis in children, for evaluating the effectiveness of drug therapy in obesity etc. Some aspects of metabolic adaptation in overweight people have also been studied G7.15, G7.16 G7.14.

Along with the works of an emphasized fundamental and scientific-applied character, the work of the candidate is also related to the development and improvement of methods for analysis

and sample preparation, in connection with the research work in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics G7.18 B4.3.

### **1. Заключение**

Based on the materials submitted for the competition from associate professor Kiselova-Kaneva, I am convinced that she fully meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, it's implementing Regulations and the Rules for Development of Academic Staff of Medical University of Varna for acquiring an academic position "Professor". Associate professor Kiselova-Kaneva, is a very well prepared specialist and teacher of biochemistry, and I strongly recommend to the scientific jury to award associate professor Yoana Dimitrova Kiselova-Kaneva, PhD academic position "Professor" in the area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Biochemistry", for the needs of the Department of "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics", Faculty of "Pharmacy" at the Medical University of Varna.

05.12.2022  
City of Varna

Member of the scientific jury:



(Prof. Dobri Lazarov Ivanov, PhD)