

STANDPOINT

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Medical University 'Professor Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna

Member of a scientific jury

according to Order No R-109-517/November 30, 2023 of the Rector of the Medical
University 'Professor Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna

Concerning: a competition for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, speciality of Public Health Management (Medical Biology) at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, announced in *State gazette* No 83/October 3, 2023.

One candidate only participates in the competition, assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD.

Assistant-in-chief Dimitrova has graduated in biology from the University 'Paisii Hilendarski' of Plovdiv in 2000. Until 2010, she worked as biologist at the Immunohistochemical Laboratory in the Clinic for General and Clinical Pathology at the St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, sole joint-stock company, in 2010-2022, she is assistant in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Varna Medical University "Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov" and since 2022, she is assistant-in-chief. In 2021, she successfully defends a dissertation work on the theme of 'Investigations and screening methods for early diagnosis of patients with gastrointestinal disorders because of mushroom consumption' and acquires the scientific and educational degree of 'doctor of philosophy' in the scientific speciality of Medical biology, and in 2016, she acquires the speciality of Medical biology.

Research activity

According to all scientometric indicators indicated, the publication activity of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, covers the normative requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' listed in the Statute-Book of the Medical University of Varna for the application of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

In the competition for associate professor, assistant-in-chief Dimitrova has submitted 22 full-text publications. In seven of the publications presented, assistant-in-chief Dimitrova is the first author and in ten publications, she is the second author. Twelve of the publications are abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as Web of Science and Scopus. The candidate submits one publication beyond the minimal scientometric requirements, too. Assistant-in-chief Dimitrova has submitted 12 participations (with reports and posters) at national scientific forums, too. Among the full-text publications submitted, ten are used for the **B4** indicator (scientific publications equivalent to a research work qualifying for an academic degree in editions which are abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information).

The works are published in significant scientific journals such as Journal of IMAB, Botanica Serbica, Open Access Macedonian Journal of Medical Sciences, Acta Morphologica et Anthropologica, Acta Scientifica Naturalis, Journal of BioScience and Biotechnology, Scripta Scientifica Medica, and Scripta Scientifica Pharmaceutica. They are generalized results from a series of scientific investigations, analyses, and evaluations.

According to Google Scholar, 28 citations are observed for the entire research career of the candidate assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova. For the participation in the competition, she has provided evidence material of a total of four citations in scientific editions abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information.

The scientific works submitted by assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova are a proof of the author's competence in four main topical trends: characteristics of wild mushroom usage; breast cancer dermatoglyphics and immunohistochemistry and patients quality of life; ozone peculiarities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and blastocysts behaviour after vitrification, as they consider significant issues of knowledge and practice in the areas indicated.

The published investigations are characterized by a series of merits and contribute to the further extension and enrichment of our knowledge of some topical features not only of the use of the wild mushrooms and the intoxications with them but also of breast cancer, including its triple and quadruple negative subtype. The review articles play a role for the enhancement of the international prestige of the Bulgarian medico-biological and medical science, too.

The research activity of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, in the field of dermatoglyphics is reflected in four publications, of breast cancer immunochemistry and of the quadruple negative breast cancer in two publications each, but of the quality of life patients in one article. Several statistically significant differences in terms of the dermatoglyphic dactiloscopic and palmoscopic characteristics between female breast cancer patients and healthy controls are established. They could help the accomplishment of a rapid, cheap and reliable early screening of this disease presenting with a great medico-social importance in our country. The diagnostic value of the conventional immunohistochemical examinations is analyzed in women with breast cancer. The new combinations of biomarkers representing the foundation of the diagnostic algorithms with rising complexity are an undoubted contribution in this scientific trend.

The scientific investigations of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, are characterized by active and critical thinking and striving for effective collaboration within interdisciplinary collectives of botanists, biologists, morphologists, and gynaecologists. My evaluation of the scientific production of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, is positive and high because the works contain definite scientific contributions for public health.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, possesses active and regularly updated profiles in the scientific data-bases Google Scholar, SCOPUS Author ID, and ORCID.

Teaching and lecturer's activity

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, has a total lecturer's length of service of more than 13 years in the Medical University of Varna. During the last five years, her annual teaching load many times surpasses the norm of 360 hours for a lecturer without academic rank accepted for the university.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, performs classes (lectures and exercises) in the discipline of Biology to the students of the specialities of Master pharmacist and Assistant pharmacist and in the discipline of Human Biology for the specialities of Medicine (Bulgarian language education) and Dental medicine (Bulgarian language education). She participates in the development of a course with exercises and lectures in biology for master pharmacists and assistant pharmacists as well as in the elaboration of test combinations for the performance of the written examination within the BLACKBOARD system.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova is co-author of five text-books of a total volume of 652 pages.

Conclusion

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, presents herself in the competition as a mature and competent researcher and lecturer in the field of public health, and she has a lecturer's activity of a sufficient volume, experience, and publications that should be evaluated by the Scientific jury.

The documents submitted by assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, completely meet the minimal scientometric requirements listed in the Statute-Book for the application of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and in the Statute-Book for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University of Varna for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor'.

Rendering an account of candidates's professional development and scientific contributions, I give my **positive** standpoint and convincingly recommend to the members of the Scientific jury to award assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

February 13, 2024
city of Varna

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Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679