

ATTN: The Rector
Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov'
city of Varna

PEER REVIEW

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concerning a competition for tenure of the academic position of 'associate professor' promulgated in *State gazette* No 14/February 18, 2022 in the scientific speciality of 'Biology' in the professional trend No 4.3 Biological sciences and in the field of higher education No 4 Natural sciences, mathematics and computer science for the needs of the Department of Biology of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna

Peer reviewing of the materials submitted for the competition is based on the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Statute-book for its application and the order for the acquisition of scientific degrees and for tenure of academic positions in the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna. The peer review is prepared based on Order No R-109-159/April 14, 2022 of the Rector of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

1. General presentation of the materials submitted

Only one candidate has applied for participation in the competition, i.e. Galina Alexieva Yaneva, PhD, assistant-in-chief in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna.

The set of materials on electronic carriers submitted by the candidate are in conformity with the advisable minimal national scientometric requirements for tenure of academic positions presented in the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

2. Career development

Galina Yaneva graduates with a speciality of medical laboratory assistant from the Medical College of Varna in 1996. Following graduation, she works in the Laboratory of Serology in the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at St. Anna Multiprofile Hospital of Varna Ltd. In 2004, she graduates as master in biology in the Faculty of Biology at Paisiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, and since the next year, she is appointed as biologist in the Laboratory of Immunohistochemistry of the Clinic of General and Clinical Pathology at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna Ltd.

Her academic development starts in 2009 when she enters the Department of Biology at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Varna as biologist. During a period of 10 years, G. Yaneva conducts practical exercises in the discipline of 'Human biology' in Bulgarian and English language with students masters in medicine, dental medicine, and pharmacy. During this stage, she begins an independent doctoral study within a PhD programme in medical biology. The topic of her dissertation work is 'Medico-dermatoglyphic study of fingerprints and palmar prints in women with breast cancer in North-Eastern Bulgaria'.

Since 2019, she is appointed as assistant-in-chief in the same department and is involved along with practical exercises also in lecture courses in biology for the master degree of pharmacutists and assistant-pharmacutists. Her mean auditory teaching loading during the recent 5 years is 489 hours against a quota of 360 hours (by 74% more than the exigible hours). She acquires the speciality of medical biology in 2016.

3. General characteristics and activity evaluation

- ***Teaching and lecturing activity***

Along with the conductance of practical exercises and delivery of lectures to first-year students of the Medical University of Varna, G. Yaneva participates in the elaboration of test combinations for the examination in written in the BLACKBOARD system. Besides she participates in the examination commission in biology for the admission of candidate students in the Medical University of Varna.

- **Research and scientific-applied activity**

G. Yaneva's scientific activity is heterodirectional as defined by herself in the author's information about the contributions. In it, nine! thematic trends are outlined, probably, because of long lasting search of her own niche. I consider that one related with the biological and epidemiological characteristics of breast carcinoma most profoundly examined. In her dissertation thesis, G. Yaneva presents comparative analyses of the primary quantitative and qualitative dermatoglyphic parameters in female patients and healthy women. The prognostic importance of the fingerprint and palmar dermatoglyphic traits as a reliable and cheap biomarker in women with genetic predisposition to this disease is confirmed. The monograph in which actual publications dealing with the contemporary aspects of breast cancer imaging diagnosis are systematized is a continuation of this work, too. The variety of immunohistochemical diagnostic methods is emphasized. The own investigations of 128 randomly selected female breast cancer patients during a three-year period represent the most essential part of the monograph. The peculiarities of the concrete histological and molecular subtypes of the disease in terms of the differentiation stage, hormonal receptor expression and their combinations as well as their prognostic value are studied.

The second scientific trend in which G. Yaneva works as a part of the collective of the Department of Biology is associated with ethnobotany. In several publications, the attitude of the population in the Northern Black Sea coast of Bulgaria towards the plants with medical importance and their usage in dependence on the demographic characteristics of the respondents as well as of the inhabitants in the Region of Varna concerning the use of wild edible mushrooms are considered. The analyses are based mainly on inquiry investigations and demonstrate some peculiarities in dependence on respondents' gender, educational level, and main residence.

When evaluating candidate's scientometric indicators, it is evident that, formally, they cover the minimal national criteria. One should not ignore the fact that out of the 16 publications presented according to G7 indicator, nine are published in J IMAB, i.e. 56% are in one and the same journal, although the candidate accumulates 254 scores against the obligatory minimum of 200 scores (for the indicators G 5-10). G. Yaneva is the first author in 5 (31%) of the publications for the competition only, as three of them are in the trend in which she

declares the longest interest, i.e. breast carcinoma. The same tendency is observed in the works outside the competition for the tenure of the academic position of 'associate professor', too - she is the leading author in 9 out of 21 (in 43%) only. They are related to dermatoglyphic analyses and breast cancer, too. In the rest 567% of the works, she is part of an interdisciplinary collective working on other topics.

Citations are the most essential recognition for the quality and significance of the works of every candidate for an academic position. Although the citations submitted cover the minimal requirements according to the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, they do not seem particularly convincing. It stresses that G. Yaneva's works are predominantly cited by Bulgarian scientists working in the field of ethnobotany. For instance, in Ts. Dimitrova's paper *Ethnomycological research in the field of wild mushrooms and medicinal plants*. Acta Sci Natur. 2021;8(3):67-83, 7 G. Yaneva's works are cited and in another paper by the same author, *Role of dermatoglyphics for breast cancer prevention and prognosis*. Acta Morphol. Anthropol. 2021;28(3-4):130-138, 6 candidate's publications are cited. Six citations in one and the same article are also observed in *Distzibution of edible, toxic and medicinal wild mushrooms in Europe and Bulgaria*. Acta Sci Natur. 2021;8(3):55-66, again by the same author. Actually, out of a total of 26 citations to G. Yaneva's articles, 19 are cited by Ts. Dimitrova. The only two serious citations are those to the article No XIII in Genes 2021;12:1085.

Being acquainted with the candidate, I have grounds to believe that she is motivated to enlarge and extend her research activity and to publish in prestigious journals which, in future, will warrant her natural and positive citedness.

4. Assessment of the personal contributions and personal qualities

Assistant-in-chief Galina Yaneva is a researcher who displays skills to work in teams with multidisciplinary directedness that is evident from her thematically versatile publications.

My personal impressions and professional contacts with her are associated with the presentation at national scientific forums where she has reported her own

results. Thanks to that she is a discernable member of the professional community of the specialists in medical biology.

I do hope that as a lecturer and investigator having academic rank she will contrive to create a collective with which she will continue the existing, or initiate a new scientific theme in the Department of Biology of the Medical University of Varna.

When analyzing the scientific production submitted and juxtaposing it with the minimal obligatory scientometric criteria presented in the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the following data is outlined:

Indicator	LDASRB	G. Yaneva
G5 – G10	200 scores	254 scores
D	50 scores	52 scores

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by assistant-in-chief **Galina Yaneva, completely meet the obligatory minimal scientometric requirements** of the LDASRB, the Statute-book for the application of the LDASRB, and the Statute-book of the Medical University of Varna.

After becoming acquainted with the documents for the competition and the scientific works, the analysis of their significance and of the contributions in them, I give my **positive evaluation** and **recommend** to the Scientific jury to award Galina Alexieva Yaneva, PhD in biology, the academic position of ‘associate professor’ in biology in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy of the of the Medical University ‘Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov’ of Varna.

May 30, 2022

Prof. Victoria Sarafian, MD, PhD, DSc

