

OPINION

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regarding

a competition for an academic position „**Associate Professor**” in **Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)** in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, announced in SG, issue 7 /23.01.2024 for the needs of Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Faculty of Medicine at Medical University of Varna

Information about the competition

As a member of the Scientific Committee, according to Order No. P-109-99/22.03.2024 issued by the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, and the decision of the first remote meeting of the Scientific Jury (Protocol No.1/04.04.2024), I present my opinion on the conducted competition.

Only one candidate participates in the competition - **Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva, MD, PhD**. Dr. Georgieva has submitted all necessary documents according to the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its application, and the Regulation for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University - Varna.

Biographical data of the candidate

Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva was born on July 30, 1985, in Ruse, Bulgaria. She completed her medical studies at the Medical University of Varna in 2010, graduating as a Master of Medicine. Following her graduation, she briefly worked in a pharmacy from 2010 to 2011 before transitioning to an appointment as an "Assistant Professor" in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapy at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University of Varna in 2012. In 2016, Dr. Georgieva obtained a PhD in Pharmacology, successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Psychopharmacological effects of phenolic acids in experimental pharmacological studies," under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Stefka Valcheva-Kuzmanova, MD, PhD, D.Sc. Since 2017, she has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor in the Department. Her responsibilities include leading seminars in both Bulgarian and English language programs in the disciplines of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology. Dr. Georgieva acquired a scientific specialty diploma in Pharmacology in 2021 and has completed a course on "Protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific and educational purposes." She has contributed to the publication of 4 textbooks on pharmacology, authored 1 monograph, and co-authored 34 scientific publications. Additionally, she has actively participated in 44 national and international scientific

forums and been involved in five scientific research projects. She is proficient in English and Russian.

Evaluation of the teaching activity

As a lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapy, Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva has over 12 years of experience. She participates in conducting seminars in both Bulgarian and English-language programs in the discipline "Pharmacology" for medical and dental students as well as in "Clinical Pharmacology" for medical students. Dr. Georgieva's total classroom engagement for the period from 2017/18 to 2022/23 is 2475 academic hours, with the exception of the 2018/19 academic year when she was on maternity leave. Her average teaching workload for this period is 495 academic hours, which fully meets the requirements for holding the position of Associate Professor according to Article 125(3) of the Regulation for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University - Varna.

Evaluation of Scientific Research Activity and Scientometric Indicators

To meet the scientometric requirements for the position of Associate Professor, Dr. Georgieva has presented a habilitation thesis - a monograph (Indicator C3), 16 publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in internationally renowned scientific databases (Indicator D7), and 5 publications published in non-referenced journals with scientific peer review (Indicator D8). Additionally, 3 full-text publications in scientific journals beyond the minimum scientometric requirements were submitted. Dr. Georgieva is the first author of 9 and the second or third author of 9 of the presented publications. 19 of the publications are in English, and 5 are in Bulgarian.

The habilitation thesis presented by Dr. Georgieva is titled "Traditional Bulgarian Spices Lovage, Savory, Fenugreek – Potential Health Benefits Based on Their Polyphenol Content." This is an original work, presented in a scientific but comprehensible language, making it suitable for a wide audience. In it, the author provides a detailed literature review of current data on the health benefits of these three classic Bulgarian spices. The emphasis is on their polyphenol content, describing the beneficial effects of whole extracts and individual polyphenolic compounds identified so far. The potential intracellular mechanisms by which the effects are achieved are also discussed. The monograph has not only scientific but also practical applications, as it promotes the use of these spices as add-on in the therapy of numerous socially significant diseases.

The contributions of Dr. Georgieva's research activities can be summarized in the following areas:

1. Clarification of the pharmacological effects of various plants (*Aronia melanocarpa*; *Levisticum officinale*; *Trigonella foenum-graecum*, etc.) and isolated polyphenols (the flavonoid fustin and chlorogenic acid) in experimental models of diseases and conditions in laboratory animals.
2. Behavioral effects of polyphenols (chlorogenic, ferulic, and gallic acid, and the flavonoid quercetin) in healthy rats.
3. Study of changes in models of estrogen deficiency/osteoporosis. The available data on behavioral changes in models of estrogen deficiency and the effects of various polyphenols

on osteoporosis have been systematized. Changes have been observed in a model of ovariectomy-induced estrogen deficiency in rats: anxiety-depressive behavior, decreased pain threshold, obesity, dyslipidemia, presence of inflammation, slightly reduced bone mineral density, and increased bone turnover.

4. Adverse drug reactions – Data on groups of medications that can lead to hyperglycemia have been identified and systematized.

A list of 7 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in internationally renowned scientific databases (Indicator E10), has been presented, fully meeting the scientometric requirements for the position of Associate Professor. Additionally, 3 more citations beyond the minimum requirements have been included at the candidate's request.

Dr. Georgieva has submitted a list of 44 participations in scientific forums, 24 of which are at international and 20 at national congresses and conferences. The high overall **impact factor** of the candidate's publications and reports – **42.159** – is noteworthy, indicating the high value of Dr. Georgieva's scientific work. Her h-index is 3 according to SCOPUS and 4 according to Google Scholar.

The overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the minimum scientometric requirements for the position of Associate Professor, according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, is presented in the following table:

Table for the Evaluation of Scientometric Indicators

Group of indicators	Content	Points required for academic position "Associate Professor"	Points of Antoaneta Georgieva, MD, PhD
A	Indicator 1	50 points	50 points (100%)
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicator 3	100 points	100 points (100%)
D	Indicator 7 Indicator 8	200 points overall (>80 points from indicator 7)	129.6 points for indicator 7 72.5 points for indicator 8 Total: 202.1 points + 3 additional publications (12.48 points) (Overall - 107.3%)
E	Indicator 10	50 points	105 points + 3 additional citations (210%)
	Total:	400 points	469.6 points (117.4%)

The scientometric indicators of Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva, PhD, amount to **469.6 points** and are **sufficient** for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of 7.1. Medicine, for the needs of the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapy at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University – Varna.

Conclusion

From the above, it is evident that **Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva, MD, PhD**, is an experienced lecturer and an established scientist in the field of Pharmacology. The scientometric indicators of Antoaneta Georgieva, MD, PhD, **fully meet** the criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor as outlined in the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna.

Based on all this, I confidently give my **positive vote** and recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote "in favor" of awarding Antoaneta Georgieva, MD, PhD, the academic position of Associate Professor in "Pharmacology (including Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine.

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