

STATEMENT

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On the competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”
in „Pharmacology (including Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy), Field of higher education
7. “Healthcare and sports”, Professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”
Announced for the needs of Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and
Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov,
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Based on the Decision of the meeting of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Medicine,
Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna (Protocol № 18/11.03.2024) and by
Order of the Rector of the Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna № P-
109-99/22.03.2024, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the procedure
for awarding the academic position “Associate Professor” for the needs of Department of
Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Medical
University – Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov. On the basis of a decision from the first e-
meeting of the Scientific Jury held on 04.04.2024, I have been appointed to prepare a statement
on the above-mentioned procedure.

In the announced competition for the academic position “Associate Professor” for the
needs of Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty
of Medicine, Medical University – Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov participates only one
candidate – Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva, MD, PhD; chief assistant professor at the
Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, MU-Varna.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Dr. Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva was born on 30.07.1985 in the city of Ruse. In 2010, she graduated with a Master degree in Medicine and acquired the professional qualification "Physician". Her academic career began in 2012, with the position of an assistant professor at the Department of Preclinical and Clinical Pharmacology of Medical University of Varna, later renamed Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics. In 2016, Dr. Antoineta Georgieva defended her PhD thesis on the topic "Psychopharmacological effects of phenolic acids in experimental pharmacological studies" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". From 2017 to the present, the candidate is a chief assistant professor at the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, MU-Varna. In 2021, she acquired the specialty "Pharmacology". Dr. Georgieva completed a course on the protection and ethical treatment of experimental animals used for scientific or educational purposes. The candidate has 12 years and 3 months of experience in the specialty, of which 12 years of teaching experience in pharmacology and clinical pharmacology. She is fluent in English and Russian. Dr. Georgieva is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and the Bulgarian Medical Association.

II. General description of the documents submitted in the competition.

Antoaneta Georgieva, MD, PhD supplied all the necessary documents for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor" in accordance with the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic staff at Medical University – Varna.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works.

Based on the attached official academic reference of the individual scientific metric indicators, issued by the Library of MU-Varna, Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva participates in the competition with:

- PhD thesis for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic "Psychopharmacological effects of phenolic acids in experimental pharmacological studies";
- one monograph (presented as the main habilitation thesis) on the topic "The traditional Bulgarian herbs lovage, savory, fenugreek – potential health benefits in relation to their high polyphenolic content", ISBN 978-619-221-444-9 - 297 pages;
- 16 publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-recognized databases with scientific information (Scopus and/or Web of science), of which 12 in journals with an impact factor;

- 5 publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited scientific volumes;
- 7 citations in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-recognized databases with scientific information.

Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva submitted 3 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals and collections and 3 citations, beyond the minimum scientific metric indicators required for holding the academic position "Associate Professor". The candidate has scientific profiles in internationally known databases for contact and exchange of information between researchers: ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate.

Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva is the first or sole author in 5 of the full-text publications in refereed journals and 4 of those in non-refereed journals with scientific review, in 9 of the publications she is the second or third author. 19 of the publications are in English, and 5 in Bulgarian. The total impact factor of the journals in which the candidate has publications is 42,159. Most of the publications are original research articles, and 4 of them are reviews. The h-index of Dr. Georgieva's publications is 3 (Scopus).

Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva has 20 participations in Bulgarian scientific forums and 24 participations in international scientific forums in Bulgaria and abroad.

Based on the information presented in the candidate's CV, Dr. Georgieva is part of the team of 5 scientific projects, 2 of which funded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund of the Ministry of Education and Science.

IV. Evaluation of the contributions of scientific works

The research activity of Dr. Georgieva includes study on the neuropsychopharmacological, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and organoprotective effects of various plants and polyphenols isolated from them (flavonoids and phenolic acids); determining the metabolic and other effects of plants and polyphenols in a model of ovariectomy-induced estrogen deficiency. The candidate's personal contributions are in the following areas:

1. investigation of the pharmacological effects of various plants and polyphenols (flavonoids and phenolic acids) in experimental models of different disorders and diseases - anti-inflammatory and organoprotective effects of the flavonoid fustin isolated from Royal Purple Smoke Tree wood; protective effects of *Aronia melanocarpa* fruit juice in ovariectomy-induced estrogen deficiency model, indomethacin-induced gastric ulceration and treatment of pregnant rats; protective effects of chlorogenic acid in an ovariectomy-induced estrogen deficiency model and treatment of pregnant rats; the potential health benefits of the traditional

Bulgarian spices lovage (*Levisticum officinale*), savory (plants of the *Satureja* genus), and fenugreek/chimen (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*);

2. behavioral effects of polyphenols (flavonoids and phenolic acids) in healthy rats - study of analgesic, anxiolytic and memory-enhancing effects;

3. study of behavioral and metabolic changes in an animal model of estrogen deficiency/osteoporosis;

4. systematic review of drugs leading to hyperglycemia.

I accept the contributions described in the reference supplied by Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva. They are original and important for the development of science in the research field and its practical application.

V. Assessment of the monograph submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition.

Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva participates in the competition with a monograph on the topic "The traditional Bulgarian herbs lovage, savory, fenugreek –potential health benefits in relation to their high polyphenolic content". The monograph is written on 297 pages and includes a preface, 6 separate chapters and conclusion.

In the first chapter of the monograph, Dr. Georgieva presents information on the botanical characteristics of *Levisticum officinale*, *Trigonella foenum-grecum* and plants of the genus *Satureja*, their habitat and distribution and literature data on the content of biologically active substances, mainly flavonoids and phenolic acids. The following three chapters provide detailed information on the biological activity of these medicinal plants/spices. The fifth and sixth chapters of the monograph are about the pharmacokinetics and biological activity of the flavonoids (quercetin, kaempferol, rutin, apigenin and luteolin) and phenolic acids (chlorogenic, ferulic, caffeic, gallic and vanillic) found in these herbs/spices. Each chapter/subchapter is followed by bibliography with large number of relevant sources on the respective topic. The monograph demonstrates Dr. Georgieva in-depth knowledge of the biological activity of flavonoids and phenolic acids found in medicinal plants/spices, as well as the complex mechanisms by which they produce these effects. The information in the monograph is of interest not only for theoretical science. The monograph presents the scientific basis for the use of the traditional Bulgarian spices lovage, savory, fenugreek not only for flavoring food, but also for health prevention. The paper meets the criteria for a monograph set out in the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

VI. Evaluation of the citations of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign scientific literature.

Based on the attached official academic reference of the individual scientific metric indicators, issued by the Library of MU-Varna, Dr. Antoaneta Georgieva participated in the competition with 10 citations in refereed journals. According to the presented author reference for contributions of scientific works, Dr. Georgieva has 28 citations (SCOPUS) and 58 citations (Google Scholar) throughout her academic career.

VII. Complex, qualitative and quantitative assessment of the teaching activity.

Dr. Georgieva participates in the teaching of medical and dental students in Bulgarian and English. She conducts practical classes in pharmacology for medical and dental students and clinical pharmacology for medical students. The average annual teaching (auditorial) load for the last six academic years is 412,5 academic hours despite the fact that one of the years Dr. Georgieva was on maternity leave. The academic workload of the candidate exceeds the required 360 academic hours based on the regulations of MU-Varna. Based on the presented author reference for contributions of scientific works, Dr. Georgieva is co-author of 4 textbooks.

VIII. General assessment of the candidate's compliance with the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" based on the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) and the minimum scientific metric indicators required in MU-Varna, defined in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic staff at Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna.

Based on the submitted documents and their analysis it is clear that the candidate meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the specific requirements set in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic staff at Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna.

Group of indicators	Required number of points (ADASRB)	Requirements (MU-Varna)	Antoaneta Georgieva, MD, PhD
A	50 p.	50 p.	50 p.
B	-	-	-
C	100 p.	100 p.	100 p.
D	200 p.	200 p. (≥ 80 p. for non-clinical specialties from indicator 7)	202.1 p. (129.6 points from indicator 7) + 12.48 p. beyond the minimum scientific metric indicators

E	50 p.	50 p.	150 p. (7 citations + 3 citations beyond the minimum scientific metric indicators).
F	-	-	-

IX. Conclusion.

Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva, MD, PhD is an established teacher, scientist and specialist in pharmacology. Her scientific works have original contributions which are important for the development of science in the research field and its practical application. The overall scientific and teaching activity of the candidate meets the mandatory and specific requirements and minimum scientific metric indicators for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and Regulations for the Development of the Academic staff at Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna.

Based on the above, I give my **positive opinion** and would recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to award Antoaneta Borisova Georgieva the academic position "Associate Professor" in "Pharmacology (including Pharmacokinetics and Chemotherapy)", field of higher education 7. "Health Care and Sports", Professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", for the needs of the teaching process at the Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Varna Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov.

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Assoc. prof. Iliya Kostadinov, MD, PhD

14.05.2024