

OPINION

by Prof. Angelina Milcheva Stoyanova, PhD
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University - Pleven

Regarding: Competition for taking up the academic position "Professor",
field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics;
professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences; Specialty "Chemistry",
for the needs of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy,
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna,
promulgated in SG, no. 7/23.01.2024

Information about the procedure

I present this opinion as a member of the scientific jury, according to the Order of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna (№ P-109-94/21.03.2024) and decision of the scientific jury from 04.04.2024.

The only candidate in this competition is Assoc. prof. Albena Vasileva Merdzhanova, PhD.

Brief information about the candidate

Assoc. Professor Albena Merdzhanova received a master's degree "engineer-biotechnologist" from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy - Sofia in 1993.

Since 2016 she has second master's degree in "Organic Chemistry" from Shumen University "Episkop K. Preslavski".

From 1993 to 2005 she worked at the Institute of Oceanology - BAS - Varna as an engineer and research assistant.

Then, from 2005 to 2018, she was Chief Assistant in the Chemistry department at the Medical University "Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna.

In the period 2011-2014 she has been a doctoral student in "Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances" at the Chemistry Department of the MU – Varna and successfully defended a dissertation on the topic "Fatty acid composition of Black Sea and freshwater fish".

From 2018 until now she is Associate professor in "Chemistry" in the Department of Chemistry at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna.

Teaching activities

Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova has developed and conducted exercises and seminars in the subjects:

Chemistry for specialty Medicine (Bulgarian language training);
Chemistry for specialty Dental Medicine (Bulgarian language training);
Inorganic and Organic Chemistry for specialty Medical laboratory assistant;
Analytical Chemistry for specialty Medical laboratory assistant;
Inorganic Chemistry for specialty Assistant-pharmacist;
Analytical Chemistry for specialty Assistant-pharmacist.

Assoc. prof. Merdzhanova conducts lectures in the following subjects:

Chemistry for specialty Medicine (Bulgarian language training);
Inorganic and Organic Chemistry for specialty Medical laboratory assistant;
Inorganic Chemistry for specialty Assistant-pharmacist;
Food composition and safety for Pharmacy students;
Perfumes and fragrances in cosmetic production - elective subject for students in specialty Cosmetology.

The candidate's teaching-load for the academic years 2019/2020, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 is a total of 1347 hours. As can be seen from the presented documentation, she participated in the development of 3 study programs for lectures and exercises on: "Inorganic Chemistry" for students of the specialty Assistant-pharmacist; "Inorganic and Organic Chemistry" for students in speciality Medical laboratory assistant and "Perfumes and Fragrances in Cosmetic Production" for students in speciality Cosmetology.

Assoc. prof. Merdzhanova is the author of 2 textbooks for students of the Medical College and is the co-author of 2 handbooks for candidate-students.

According to the information provided by the candidate, Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova has not successfully defended doctoral students so far, but since December 2023 she is the supervisor of 4 doctoral students.

Scientific research activity

Assoc. prof. Albena Merdzhanova participated in the competition for the academic position "professor" with 1 habilitation thesis-monograph and 22 publications, of which 18 are referenced in Scopus and/or Web of Science, 1 is published in an indexed issue, and 3 are published in non-refereed journals or conference proceedings without IF and SJR (non-indexed). The presented publications cover the period 2018-2023 and correspond to the profile of this competition.

In 4 of the studies presented for the competition, the candidate is the first author with a major contribution to conducting the experiments, processing the results, their analysis and writing the articles; and in 6 she is a corresponding author with a major contribution to the methodology and analysis of the results.

The candidate's scientific interests and research are related to the study of the fatty acid composition and lipid profile of marine and plant origin and other biological samples.

The candidate's citation index (h-index) according to Scopus is 8.

According to Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova, her scientific interests and publication activity can be summarized as scientific contributions in the following areas:

1. Quality and composition of Black Sea and freshwater organisms (fish, mussels, rapans, shrimps).
2. Influence of heat treatment on the composition and quality of marine and freshwater organisms as food.
3. Safety of marine and freshwater organisms.
4. Assessment of the "benefit - risk" ratio when consuming Black Sea organisms.
5. Study of the changes of free and bound fatty acids content in blood serum in relation to the study of metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular pathologies.

Compliance with minimum national requirements for the academic position "Professor"

The information provided by Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova about the fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "Professor" in Professional Area 4.2 Chemical Sciences shows the following:

➤ **Indicator A1:** Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" "Fatty acid composition of Black Sea and freshwater fish", 2014, Medical University - Varna - **50 points**

➤ **Indicator B:** Habilitation work - monograph "Biologically active fatty acids in support of human health", MU-Varna, 2023, Medical University - Varna, ISBN 978-619-455-5 - **100 points**

➤ **Indicator Γ:** Scientific publications in journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), not included in the habilitation work
18 articles, of which: 4 papers with Q1, 3 papers with Q2, 2 papers with Q3, 9 papers with Q4.

The total number of points on indicators Γ is **298** with a minimum requirement of 200 points.

➤ **Indicator Д:**
52 citations - **104 points**, with a minimum requirement of 100 points.

➤ **Indicators group E (min. 150 points):**

Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova has reported participation in 8 national scientific projects (80 points), in 2 international scientific projects (40 points), as well as management of one national scientific project (20 points). According to indicator E18, Assoc. prof. Merdzhanova declares attracted funds from projects managed in the amount of BGN 120,000 (24 points). This group of indicators includes the candidate's co-authorship in writing 2 textbooks that are used in the school network (10 points), as well as the authorship of 2 university textbooks (40 points). The total number of points obtained by indicators E (from 12 to 20) is **214 points**.

CONCLUSION

The review and analysis of the presented by Assoc. prof. A. Merdzhanova, PhD, documents and materials on the announced competition show that they meet all requirements for taking up the academic position of "Professor".

Based on the above, I give my positive evaluation and propose to the members of the scientific jury to award Albena Vasileva Merdzhanova the academic position "Professor" in professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, specialty Chemistry.

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

10.05.2024

Prof. Angelina Stoyanova, PhD