

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Velichka Yordanova Andonova, PhD, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies, Vice Dean "Educational Affairs, Accreditation and Quality" at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, member of the scientific jury according to Order No. R-109-92/21.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna

Regarding: competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.3. "Pharmacy", specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry", announced in the State Gazette No. 7/23.01.2024, for the needs of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

By Order No. R-109-92/21.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna, I have been selected as a member of the Scientific Jury (SJ), and according to Protocol No. 1 from the first meeting of the SJ, I have been designated to prepare a position statement for the procedure for the academic position of "Professor" in the specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry". The sole candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, PhD. The competition procedure has been followed, and the candidate's documents comply with the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations on academic staff development at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"—Varna, including the criteria for holding the academic position of "Professor".

Brief Biographical Data and Professional Development

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva was born in 1981 in Burgas, Bulgaria. In 2003, she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology and a Master's degree in the same field in 2006. Subsequently, in 2016 and 2022, she acquired Master's degrees in two other programs, one in Organic Chemistry and the other in Pharmacy, a regulated profession.

From 2008 to 2011, she pursued her doctoral studies as a distance student at the Department of Biotechnology, specializing in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Burgas University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov," with her dissertation titled "Biotransformation of Compounds with Estrogenic Activity Using Immobilized Laccase on Polymer Membrane in Non-Isothermal Bioreactor". From 2008 to 2012, she worked as an assistant professor at Burgas University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Medical

College, Department of Pharmacy. From 2012 to 2013, she served as an assistant professor at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (MU-Varna), Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 2013, following a competition, she was appointed as an Associate Professor.

Assoc. Georgieva has extensive managerial experience, having led two terms of departments at the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU-Varna: from 2014 to 2018, she was the head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Management, and from 2018 to 2022, she was the head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. In 2019, she obtained a specialization in Pharmaceutical Product Analysis according to Regulation No. 1/22.01.2015. Since 2023, Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva has accumulated 16 years of academic experience in the field of Pharmacy. After obtaining a Master's degree in Pharmacy, she also worked as a pharmacist in open-type pharmacies.

Teaching and Academic Activity

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva started her teaching career as an assistant at Burgas University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in 2008, where she conducted practical exercises for students majoring in "Assistant Pharmacist" in pharmaceutical chemistry, organic and inorganic chemistry, and seminars in bromatology. From 2012, her teaching activity was associated with the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU-Varna, where as an assistant, she conducted practical exercises in pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmaceutical analysis. From 2013, after becoming an Associate Professor, she taught lecture courses in the same subjects for students in the Master's program in Pharmacy and the Professional Bachelor's program in Assistant Pharmacist. She chairs the State Examination Commission conducting the state exam in "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" and "Pharmaceutical Analysis" for students majoring in Pharmacy at MU-Varna. Her total teaching load for the last 4 academic years averages 225 teaching hours per year.

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva is the academic supervisor of 5 successfully defended doctoral students in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," Professional Direction 7.3 Pharmacy, area of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, serving as the sole academic supervisor for two of them:

- ✓ Assist. Prof. Nadya Vasileva Agova, enrolled with Order No. P-109-385/06.12.2016 as a doctoral student in an independent training program in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," with a dissertation topic: "Synthesis and Characterization of

Bexarotene Derivatives with Potential Biological Activity," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Prof. Alexander Borisov Zlatkov, Ph.D. (successfully defended).

- ✓ Assist. Prof. Silviya Yordanova Atanasova-Stamova, enrolled with Order No. P-109-467/29.12.2017 as a doctoral student in the regular form of education in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," with a dissertation topic: "Synthesis and Characterization of Substituted Imidazole Derivatives with Potential Biological Effect," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Maya Boyanova Georgieva, Ph.D. (successfully defended).
- ✓ Nadya Borislavova Hadzhieva, enrolled with Order No. P-109-42/01.02.2019 as a doctoral student in the regular form of education in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," with a dissertation topic: "Synthesis, Structure, and Properties of New Iododerivatives of Natural Aromatic Acids," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D. (successfully defended).
- ✓ Sonya Yordanova Ivanova, enrolled with Order No. P-109-62/01.02.2019 as a doctoral student in the regular form of education in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," with a dissertation topic: "New Strategies for Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis of Nitrofurazone and Its New Derivatives," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D. (successfully defended).
- ✓ Assist. Prof. Ivelin Rosenov Iliev, enrolled with Order No. P-109-53/31.01.2020 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," with a dissertation topic: "Synthesis, Characterization, and Toxicity Study of Bexarotene Hydrazones," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Yana Koleva Koleva, Ph.D. (successfully defended).

She is also the academic supervisor of another five doctoral students enrolled in the regular form of education in the same doctoral program "Pharmaceutical Chemistry," Professional Direction 7.3 Pharmacy, serving as the sole supervisor for one of them:

- ✓ Ivalina Valeriyeva Vasileva, enrolled with Order No. P-109-391/09.10.20 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program in the field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy, and specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, with a dissertation topic: "Analysis of Some Natural

Quinoline and Pyridine Toxins," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Iliyan Kolev, Ph.D.

- ✓ Tanya Nedelcheva Dimova, enrolled with Order No. P-109-385/08.10.20 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program in the field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy, and specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, with a dissertation topic: "New Aromatic Iododerivatives – Synthesis, Structure, Properties," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Iliyan Kolev, Ph.D.
- ✓ Stefan Radnev Stefanov, enrolled with Order No. P-109-524/02.12.2021 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program in the field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy, and specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, with a dissertation topic: "Comparative Analysis of Innovative Semisolid Dosage Forms with Included Extract of *Hypericum perforatum* L, Standardized by Hyperforin Content," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Velichka Yordanova Andonova, Ph.D.
- ✓ Yordanka Petrova Staneva, enrolled with Order No. P-109-622/21.12.23 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program in the field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy, and specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, with a dissertation topic: "Isolation and Identification of Long-Chain Polyunsaturated Omega-3 Fatty Acids in Dietary Supplements," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Albena Merdjanova, Ph.D.
- ✓ Kaloyan Rosenov Mihalev, enrolled with Order No. P-109-624/21.12.23 in the regular form of education in the doctoral program in the field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sports, professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy, and specialty "Pharmaceutical Chemistry" at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, with a dissertation topic: "Synthesis and Characterization of Hybrid Molecules with Potential Antimicrobial Activity," under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D.

Research Activity

In the competition for the professor position, Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva presented a total of 33 scientific works excluding those submitted for the Associate Professor position; 1 habilitation

work - a monograph; another 13 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the professor position, and 7 educational materials:

- ✓ Habilitation work - a monograph entitled "Systematic Review of the Properties and Actions of Food Supplements. Safety and Quality" with a volume of 249 pages co-authored with Assoc. Nadya Agova. A separate protocol has been submitted certifying the equivalent contribution of both authors (**B3 indicator - 100 points**).
- ✓ 6 scientific publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information (2 in WoS and 6 in Scopus; 102 points), and 27 published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (205.8 points). In the published full-text scientific publications in journals and collections, Assoc. Georgieva is the first author in 3 of them, the second author in 15, and the third and consecutive author in 28. The total number of points for indicators **G5-G9 is 307.8 points** with a mandatory minimum of 200 points.
- ✓ Citations of Assoc. Georgieva's publications covering the minimum requirements for the professor position are 8 in indicator D10. The sum of points for indicators **D10-12 is 120 points**.
- ✓ 5 successfully defended doctoral students (E14 - 140 points).
- ✓ Has acquired a medical specialty in Analysis of Medicinal Products (E15 - 40 points).
- ✓ 8 national scientific or educational projects. Assoc. Georgieva is the leader of 6 national scientific or educational projects and a participant in 2 national scientific or educational projects (E16-18 - 200 points).
 - Project on the topic "Synthesis and characterization of a new generation of retinoids," project No. 17011/2017 funded by the "Science" fund of MU-Varna. Funding: 2018, project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., base organization: Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Varna.
 - Project on the topic "Determination of the biological activity of newly synthesized bexarotene analogs," project No. 18018/2018 of the "Science" fund of MU-Varna. Project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., base organization: Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Varna.
 - Project on the topic "Synthesis and characterization of new nitroimidazole derivatives" - project No. 18019/2018 of the "Science" fund of MU-Varna; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., base organization: Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Varna.

- Project on the topic "Lipid nanoparticles - a modern technological approach for incorporating hyperforin with improved chemical stability into medicinal forms for local application and accelerated wound healing" - project No. 18027/2018 of the "Science" fund of MU-Varna; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Velichka Yordanova Andonova, Ph.D., base organization: Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Varna.
- Project on the topic "Prediction of the toxicity of newly synthesized hydrazide and hydrazone derivatives with potential antineoplastic effect" - Competition "Scientific Research and Artistic Creativity - 2019" University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Yana Koleva.
- Project No. 19026 - Science Fund - "Determination of the antimicrobial activity of newly synthesized nitroimidazole derivatives with potential application in transplantation medicine"; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D.
- Project No. 20008 - Science Fund - "Study of the toxicity of bexarotene hydrazones through application of in vitro and in vivo models"; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D.
- Project No. 23009 - Science Fund - "Design, obtaining, and investigation of isatin hybrid molecules with presumed broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity and potential application in implantology"; project leader: Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D.

The sum of points for indicators E13-E22 is 380.

In addition to the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor", Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva presents 13 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, which bring her 120.5 points.

Assoc. Georgieva is a co-author of 7 published university textbooks; she has participated in 87 scientific forums, excluding those in the competition for "Associate Professor". The total impact factor of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva is 18.036.

The overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators according to the Regulations on academic staff development at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"—Varna and the criteria for the academic position of "Professor" laid down therein.

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva provides evidence of meeting the mandatory conditions and quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU - Varna and the criteria for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy. It is evident that the total number of points for the candidate's group of indicators is 957.80 compared to the required 550 according to the Regulations of MU-Varna.

The documents submitted by Assoc. Prof. Georgieva fully meet and exceed the minimum national requirements and those of the Regulations of MU-Varna for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy.

Evaluation of Scientific Contributions

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva's creative endeavors are directed towards addressing important practical issues.

The monograph addresses fundamental questions related to the use of dietary supplements. The content is structured into three chapters. The first chapter is devoted to the classification of dietary supplements and the role of vitamins, antioxidants, minerals, and amino acids as basic dietary supplements, their interactions, individual characteristics, recommended intake, potential benefits and risks of their use, and the risks of their concomitant use with medicinal products. The second chapter examines in detail the regulatory framework related to the production, distribution, and application of dietary supplements. Emphasis is placed on the key points in European, Bulgarian, and Russian legislation. Prohibited substances for inclusion in dietary supplements, contaminants, and methods for their identification are indicated. The third chapter presents the results of the author's own research regarding trends in the dietary supplement market and consumer attitudes towards the use of dietary supplements in Varna. The dietary behavior and habits of students from Bulgaria and Russia in the conditions of COVID-19 are also analyzed.

The author's research, reflected in the published articles, covers the following main scientific directions:

- ✓ Synthesis and characterization of analogues of nitroimidazole and bexarotene – publications G8-3, G8-6, G8-18, G8-26 and additional 6, 7, and 11.
- ✓ Application of *in vivo* and *in vitro* models for determining the toxicological, pharmacological, and antimicrobial profile of biologically active substances; biologically active substances in natural products – publications G7-1, G7-2, G7-3, G7-4, G7-5, G7-6,

G8-15, G8-17, G8-19, G8-20, G8-21, G8-22, G8-24, G8-25, G8-27 and additional 8, 9, 10, and 13.

- ✓ Safety and quality of foods, dietary supplements, and natural products – publications G8-1, G8-2, and additional 5.
- ✓ Tracking trends in contemporary therapy for socially significant diseases – publications G8-4, G8-5, G8-7, G8-8, G8-9, G8-10, G8-11, G8-12, G8-13, G8-14, G8-16, G8-23 and additional 1, 2, 3, 4, 12.

I believe that the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva possess contemporary scientific and applied merits and make an original contribution to the field of the announced competition for a professorship in the specialty of "Pharmaceutical Chemistry".

CONCLUSION

Based on the materials provided to me for the competition, demonstrating significance, volume, and contributory nature, as well as my personal impressions of Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva, I am convinced that she fully meets the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations on academic staff development at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"—Varna and the criteria for holding the academic position of "Professor".

In connection with the above, I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend to the members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the appointment to the academic position of "Professor" in the field of 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy by Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva.

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Varna

Prepared:

(Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, Ph.D.)

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