

OPINION

From: Assoc. Prof. Anna Hristova Todorova, PhD, MPharm
Medical University – ‘Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov’ - Varna

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of ‘Professor’ in the field of higher education 7. ‘Healthcare and Sports’, professional direction 7.3. ‘Pharmacy’, specialty ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’, for the needs of the Department of ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’, Faculty of Pharmacy at MU - Varna, announced in the State Gazette, issue 7/23.01.2024.

General information on the procedure:

According to an order from the Rector of MU - Varna, No. R-109-92/21.03.2024, I have been included in the Scientific Jury for the announced competition and have been assigned to present an opinion on the procedure for occupying the academic position of ‘Professor’ in the specialty ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’.

For the announced position in the aforementioned competition, only one candidate has submitted documents - Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, PhD. The documentation and evidence references for the competition are precisely described and organized by the candidate and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Application Regulations, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University ‘Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov’ - Varna for occupying the academic position of ‘Professor’.

Biographical data:

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva was born in 1981 in Burgas. In 2003, she obtained a bachelor's degree in ‘Biotechnology’, and in 2006, she graduated as a ‘Master’ in the same specialty. In 2016, she completed a second master's degree in ‘Organic Chemistry.’ In 2022, she obtained an educational and qualification degree ‘Master’ in the specialty ‘Pharmacy’ at the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU - Varna. In 2011, she defended her dissertation in the specialty ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’ as a part-time doctoral student at the Department of ‘Biotechnology’ at the University ‘Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov’ - Burgas with the dissertation topic: ‘Biotransformation of compounds with estrogenic activity using immobilized laccase on a polymer membrane in a non-isothermal bioreactor’. She has acquired specialization in ‘Analysis of Medicinal Products’ since 2019.

Her academic career began in 2008 as an assistant at the University ‘Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov’ - Burgas, Medical College, Department of ‘Pharmacy’. From 2012 to 2013, she was an assistant at MU - Varna, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of ‘Pharmaceutical Sciences’, Medical University ‘Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov’ - Varna, and in 2013, she was appointed to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’ at the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU - Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva has management and administrative experience as Head of Department for two consecutive terms, being elected Head of the Department of ‘Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Management’ in 2014, and later in 2018, when the Department of ‘Pharmaceutical Chemistry’ was formed from the same department, she served as its head from 2018 to 2022.

Teaching Activities:

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva delivers lectures and practical classes to 'Pharmacy' students pursuing a Master's degree at the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU - Varna in the disciplines: 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry' and 'Pharmaceutical Analysis'. She also participates in the teaching of assistant pharmacists by delivering lectures and practical classes in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and practical and seminar exercises in 'Bromatology,' 'Organic Chemistry,' and 'Inorganic Chemistry' at the Medical College of MU - Varna.

She co-authored 5 educational aids for pharmacy students as follows: a guide for practical exercises in pharmaceutical chemistry, two collections of test tasks in pharmaceutical chemistry, and two manuals for practical exercises in pharmaceutical analysis – parts one and two.

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva has over 15 years of teaching experience, 11 of which are at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Varna.

She has supervised five doctoral students who have successfully defended their dissertations in the doctoral program 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry' from professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy. She is currently supervising another five doctoral students enrolled in full-time studies in the doctoral program 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry' from professional direction 7.3 Pharmacy at the Department of 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry' of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Scientific Activity:

In the competition for the academic position of 'Professor', Assoc. Prof. Fotkova participates with scientific production under the following indicators:

B3 Habilitation work - monograph: 'Systematic review of the properties and effects of dietary supplements. Safety and quality' Nadia Agova, Svetlana Georgieva, MU - Varna, 2023. ISBN: 978-619-221-472-2. A separation protocol for equal contribution by both authors, respectively 50% / 50%, has been presented.

G7 Articles and reports published in scientific journals, refereed, and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases - 6 items.

G8 Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 27 items.

The presented materials under indicators G 5-9 total 307.8 points, covering and exceeding the required minimum of 200 points.

Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Georgieva has 8 citations, all under indicator D10. The total score for indicators D 10-12 is 120 points.

The total number of points for indicator E14, supervision of successfully defended doctoral students, is 140 points.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva has led 5 national scientific projects. She has participated in 2 national scientific projects and 1 international scientific project titled: 'Analysis of the content of vitamin D in the diet of Russian students as an approach to developing a dietary regime for preventing COVID-19', developed in collaboration with the Russian Economic University - 'G.V. Plekhanov' - Moscow, Russia.

The total score for indicators E13-E22 is 380.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva has presented 14 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position of 'Professor'.

Evaluation of Scientific Contributions:

The monographic work presented by Assoc. Prof. Georgieva is structured into three chapters: Overview and classification of dietary supplements; Regulatory framework, banned substances, and contaminants in dietary supplements; Trends and attitudes in the dietary supplements market. The monograph addresses a globally relevant public health issue – the rational use of dietary supplements against the backdrop of increasing industrial production and distribution, the rich diversity in the market, and wide public access. It covers the risks and benefits based on the individual characteristics of each consumer, including dietary habits, medication use, existing diseases, nutritional deficiencies, and more. The regulatory framework concerning the production, distribution, and use of dietary supplements is defined, with detailed consideration of European, Bulgarian, and Russian legislation in this area. Emphasis is placed on substances banned from dietary supplements, contaminants, and analytical methods. Studies on consumer attitudes towards dietary supplements and the analysis of dietary habits among students in Russia and Bulgaria during the COVID-19 pandemic highlight the need for educational campaigns on healthy eating among the population.

In this regard, the monographic work is a necessary guide that will serve both specialists from various fields and consumers for the safe use of dietary supplements in accordance with their health needs.

Assoc. Prof. Georgieva's research activity primarily focuses on the chemistry of pharmaceutical and synthetic substances and their potential applications in the treatment of socially significant diseases. The author's research covers the following main scientific directions with corresponding contributions:

- Synthesis and characterization of nitroimidazole and bexarotene analogs: Contributions in this area include the synthesis and characterization of nitroimidazole derivatives (publications G8-6 and G8-26), synthesis and characterization of bexarotene derivatives (publications G8-18, Additional 6, 7, and 11), and investigation of the possibilities for drug design of retinoids (publication G8-3).
- 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: Contributions include the application of a liver *in vivo* metabolism simulator in rats (publications G7-3, G7-6, G8-15, G8-19, Additional 9, 10, 13), application of a skin metabolism simulator (publications G7-4, G7-5, G8-17, G8-20, G8-21, G8-24, G8-27); Determination of oral activity (publication G8-22), prediction of antimicrobial activity (G8-25), and investigation of the potential antimicrobial activity of newly synthesized compounds (publications G7-1, G7-2, Additional 8).
- Safety and quality of food, dietary supplements, and natural products: (publications G8-1, G8-2, and Additional 5). A review of European and national legislation and the possibilities for harmonizing safety criteria for dietary supplements has been conducted. Classification and characterization of dietary supplements and the potential health risks from the use of herbal supplements have been provided. Consumer attitudes in Northeastern Bulgaria towards the use of herbal medicines and herbal supplements have been studied.

- Monitoring trends for modern therapy of socially significant diseases: in oncology, acne treatment, bacterial and fungal infections, Graves' disease, and multiple sclerosis (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).

The summary of Assoc. Prof. Georgieva's scientific contributions aligns with the published results. The presented scientific works have an original character, scientific-applied contributions, and merits in accordance with the field of the announced competition for the position of professor in the specialty 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry'.

Conclusion:

Based on the comprehensive evaluation of Assoc. Prof. Georgieva's professional development, research, and teaching activities, and the outlined contributions of theoretical and applied nature to pharmaceutical science and practice, I consider that Assoc. Prof. Georgieva fully meets the requirements for the academic position of 'Professor' in accordance with the Law on 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 'Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov' – Varna. All this gives me the grounds to give a positive assessment and confidently propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to award Assoc. Prof. Svetlana Fotkova Georgieva, Ph.D., the academic position of 'Professor' in the field of higher education 7. 'Healthcare and Sports,' professional direction 7.3. 'Pharmacy', specialty 'Pharmaceutical Chemistry'.

Varna, 27.05.2024 г.

Assoc. Prof. Anna Hristova Todorova, PhD

Signature:

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