

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Milka Asparuhova Nashar, PhD**

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Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna

Related to Competition for the occupation academic position "Associate Professor" in scientific specialty **Biochemistry**, in the area of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.3. Biological sciences,

1. Information about the competition procedure

The competition was announced in State Gazette No. 59/26.07.2022 for the needs of the Department "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics", Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna. I am a member of the Scientific Jury according the Order of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna (No. P-109-375/26.09.2022) and the decision of the Faculty Council (Protocol No. 41/19.09.2022). Only one applicant participates in the competition: Ch. Assistant Professor Oskan Bahidinov Tasinov, PhD.

All documents submitted by the applicant are in compliance with the regulative requirements for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in Medical University – Varna.

2. Education and career development

Oskan Tasinov has graduated as "Bachelor" in Molecular Biology at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and as MS in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". Since March 2010, after winning a competition, he was appointed as an Assistant in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics at the Medical University of Varna and since 2016 he is a Chief Assistant in the same department. After successfully defending his PhD thesis, in 2015 he obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor". Tasinov has specialty in biochemistry from the Postgraduate Training in the Health Care System. From the beginning of his academic career at MU-Varna, Dr Tasinov has completed more than 20 specializations and training courses, most of them abroad at prestigious universities and research centers such as the high-tech research center for Molecular Medicine and Chronic Diseases (CIMUS), at the University of Santiago de Compostela in 2014, University College Dublin, the Institute of Pathology at the Medical University of Graz, Austria in 2015., European Biomarker Science Center in Prague, Czech Republic in 2018, etc. Already at the beginning of his career, Tasinov made an impression with his scientific achievements and was honored with numerous awards and diplomas from prestigious organizations and scientific forums. It is worth mentioning the Certificate for high scientific achievements in dissertations of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria for 2015 and Certificate for a Young Scientist of the Union of Scientists Varna, Section "Health and Sports" for 2019.

Tasinov speaks fluently English and Turkish and has a basic level of German.

3. Educational and teaching activities.

According to the attached reference, Oskan Tasinov covered an average of approximately 375 academic hours for the last 5 years. He was engaged in seminars and practical exercises in the mandatory discipline "biochemistry" for students in Medicine and Dental Medicine (Bulgarian and English Language Programme) and Pharmacy (Bulgarian Language Programme), as well as in several elective disciplines: "Molecular Biology in Medicine" for students in Medicine (Bulgarian and English Language Programme), "Omic Sciences in Pharmacy" for students in Pharmacy (Bulgarian Language Programme) and "Biological role, mechanism of action and pharmacological application of macronutrients and their salts" for students in Medicine, Dental Medicine and Pharmacy, incl. English Language Programme. In addition, Tasinov was assigned individual lectures on some of the disciplines taught in the department.

4. Scientific research activities

4.1. Fulfillment of the minimal national requirements (MNR) for holding the academic position "Associate Professor"

The scientific papers submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition have summarized his scientific work for the period 2015-2022. In fulfillment of the MNR for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", Ch. Assist. Tasinov submitted the author's abstract of the dissertation, 1 habilitation thesis (monograph) and 13 publications in scientific journals indexed in Web of Science/Scopus. In addition, 2 publications are presented in the official Academic Reference outside the MNR. The comparison between the MNR of the relevant groups of indicators A/A, B/Б, C/С, D/Д, E/Е for holding academic position "Associate Professor" and the data presented in the Academic Reference of the applicant revealed the following: Indicators A – 50 points (required 50 points) and C 100 points (required 100 points) meet the national requirements. Indicator D is 204 points at a minimum requirement of 200. From the attached evidentiary material for the citations, it can be seen that Tasinov covers the MNR with 25 citations, which are equal to 50 points (indicator E).

All points summarized according to Academic Reference of the applicants compared with MNR are presented in the Table:

Table 1. Quantitative scientometric indicators of the applicant compared to MNR:

Group of indicators	MNR	Applicant reference
A	50	50
C	100	100
D	200	204
E	50	50
Total required "Associate Professor"	400	404

In addition to all mentioned so far, the impressive project activity of Oskan Tasinov should be noted. As can be seen in the Curriculum Vitae he participated as a researcher in 19 research projects, moreover in one of them he was a project leader. Also, a list of 57 participations of the applicant in scientific forums was applied.

The total Impact Factor of the publications submitted by Tasinov for participation in the competition is 20,094.

4.2. Scientific contributions

The research work of Assist. Prof. Tasinov has important fundamental and applied contributions in two main scientific fields: 1) investigations of the biological effects of medicinal plants, dietary supplements and waters in cell culture models, experimental animals and interventional human studies (*the following works are dedicated to this field: monograph in indicator C3 and publications № 1-7 and № 10 – 12 in indicator D7*) and 2) identification of predictive and prognostic-diagnostic biomarkers in colorectal carcinoma (*publications № 8, 9 and 13 in indicator D7*).

The most important original contributions in the first field are related to the in-depth characterization of extracts from the Dwarf elderberry fruits, both from the point of view of phytochemical composition, and from the point of view of revealing some basic molecular mechanisms and signaling pathways behind the biological effects of the herb: antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory potential.

Apart from being of a fundamental nature, the contributions of research falling into the second field are of applied importance for clinical practice. The potential of miRNA-618 and circular RNAs as non-invasive prognostic biomarkers in patients with colorectal carcinoma has been elucidated. An original contribution with applied significance is also the analytical comparison between different methods for RNA extraction from formalin-fixed biopsy material. As a result of this research, a combined methodological approach is proposed, by which a high yield of RNA could be achieved and the sensitivity and accuracy of the subsequent qPCR analysis could be increased.

5. Personal impressions

Oskan Tasinov is a positive, efficient and organized colleague, extremely dedicated in his work as a scientist and teacher. Since the beginning of his academic career, he has shown enviable work ability, constancy and critical thinking. He is an established scientist with in-depth knowledge in the field of biochemistry and molecular biology and is a competent teacher respected by his colleague and students.

6. Conclusion

Based on the submitted documents and evidentiary material, I believe that Ch. Assistant Professor Oskan Bahidinov Tasinov, PhD is an established specialist, scientist and teacher. With his excellent professional qualifications, scientific achievements and teaching experience, he meets all the requirements of the Act on Development of Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Medical University-Varna for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

I declare my positive assessment and confidently support the candidature of Ch. Assistant Professor Oskan Bahidinov Tasinov, PhD for holding the Academic Position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Biochemistry" for the needs of the Department "Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics", Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

30.11.2022 г.
Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury:
(Assoc. Prof. Milka Nashar)

