

SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT

By Professor Veselina Georgieva Gadjeva, DSc, Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Stara Zagora at the competition for the academic position “Associated Professor” in the Field of higher education: 4. “Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics”, Professional direction 4.2. “Chemical science”, specialty “Chemistry” for the needs of the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Varna, according to the announcement in the State Gazette, Issue 14/ from February 18, 2022.

The competition for the occupation of the academic position “Associated Professor” and the procedure for its holding are based on the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for the implementation of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University – Varna, 21.03.2022 г. The terms and conditions of the procedure for acquiring an academic position “Associate Professor” are respected and complied with the normative documents. In the competition involved a single candidate is Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Zdravkova Panayotova. I have received the necessary documents and materials for the competition according to Art. 125 (1) and Art. 126 (1) of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

1. Brief biographical data for the applicant

Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Panayotova was born in Varna on 8.11.1984. In 2007 she graduated as a Bachelor in Chemistry, specialty Chemistry at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” and in 2009 as a Master in Chemistry, specialty “Modern Spectral and Chromatographic Methods of Analysis” at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. From March 2010 to September 2012 Veselina Panayotova was a full-time PhD student at the Department of Chemistry and in 2015 after a successful defense of her doctoral thesis “Determination of biologically active substances in Black Sea algae” she acquired the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” at the Medical University of Varna in the scientific specialty: “Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active substances”.

Since October 2012 until now Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Panayotova has successively occupied the positions of Assistant Professor and Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University - Varna. During her academic growth has been constantly improved her qualification with a number of postgraduate specializations, courses, seminars, trainings, etc.: “Theoretical Concepts of Medical Chemistry” (a specialty in the field of healthcare, 2019); “2nd Young Scientists School on Bio-antioxidants” Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2018; „Working with an electronic platform Blackboard Learn+ – levels II and III” Learning content management, MU-Varna, 2019, etc.

2. Evaluation of the Scientific and scientific-applied activity

The contributions of the scientific works of Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Panayotova are mainly focused on characterizing the food quality and safety and comply with a number of priority strategic documents, such as: "The National Strategy for Development of Research in the Republic of Bulgaria 2017-2030", guidelines for regional specialization of the Northeast region in the thematic area 3 "Industry for healthy living and biotechnology" of The innovation strategy for intelligent specialization of the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as in the range of "The Multiannual National Strategic Plan for Marine Resources and Aquaculture 2021-2027". These facts prove the relevance of the directions in which the scientific developments are and gives me reason to consider them significant.

The Scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the scientific works are aimed at characterizing the quality and safety of marine and freshwater organisms, which the candidate Veselina Panayotova correctly summarizes thematically in the following three directions: Composition and biological/functional activity of marine and freshwater organisms; Safety of marine and freshwater organisms; Assessment of the risk-benefit ratio from the consumption of Black Sea shellfish. The results of the research activities in these areas have been published in a number of established international journals. A total of 30 publications were presented, of which the candidate was the first author of 11 of them and corresponding of 12 of them. A total of 15 scientific publications are published in journals with SJR and/or IF (indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science), 4 scientific publications are referenced in Web of Science without SJR. Of the presented publications, 9 are in journals with IF with a total IF of 20,974. The results of Veselina Panayotova's research have aroused serious interest from specialists abroad and in Bulgaria, which is evident from the number of citations of her works. The attached academic reference presents a total of 49 citations, which are in specialized journals indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science.

During her research experience, Dr. Panayotova has gained a lot of theoretical knowledge in the field of chemistry and biochemistry and has done a lot of practical work, using modern instrumental methods for analytical research. I highly appreciate the developed rapid chromatographic method (HPLC/UV/FL) for simultaneous quantification of fat-soluble vitamins (retinol, cholecalciferol, ergocalciferol and α -tocopherol), carotenoids (β -carotene and astaxanthin) and cholesterol in seaweeds and shellfish samples.

3. Assessment of the applicant teaching activities

Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Zdravkova Panayotova, PhD is a well-established and authoritative university lecturer. She had actively and effectively participated in the educational activities of the Department of Chemistry, as well as in the educational agenda of MU-Varna through doing lab exercises and seminars, lectures, session exams and etc. as an assistant professor and chief assistant professor. The applicants had performed totally of 532 hours of work for the previous academic year (2020/2021) based on the appendix "Information on the Annual Workload 2020/2021". She has held exercises in: "Chemistry" for students from major of Medicine (Bulgarian and English language program) and major

of Dental Medicine (English language program); "Inorganic and Organic Chemistry" and "Analytical Chemistry" for students in Clinical Laboratory; "Physical Chemistry with Colloidal Chemistry" for students major in Pharmacy; elective discipline of "Environment and Health" for students major in Pharmacy (Bulgarian language program). The applicant holds selected lectures in the course of "Physical Chemistry with Colloidal Chemistry" and in the elective discipline "Chemistry and Environment" for students majoring in Pharmacy (Bulgarian language program). Further, it is also noticeable that the applicant takes part in the development of curricula in Chemistry for students majoring "Medicine" and "Dental Medicine" (English language program), as well as her activities as an Academic coordinator for Ist year students in "Medicine".

4. Assessment of the minimum national scientometric indicators for holding the academic position 'Associate Professor'

For the participation in the competition Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Zdravkova Panayotova, PhD presents the following publications and citations:

Indicator A1. Dissertation work for earning an educational and scientific doctor degree (**50 points**).

Indicator B3. Monograph: Panayotova, V. "Marine phospholipids – sources of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids", 2021, 177 pages, Varna, MU-Varna, ISBN 978-619-221-355-8 (**100 points**).

Indicator D7. There are 15 publications published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information (Web of Science and/or Scopus) presented by the applicant: 10 publications with Q4, 2 publications with Q3 and 3 publications with Q4. Total number of points from indicators D (5-10) - **210 points**, with a mandatory minimum of 200 points.

Indicator E11. There are 27 citations (excluding the self-citations) of the applicant's papers according to Web of Science and Scopus databases presented in the current procedure, which carry **54 points** out of 50 points. The attached list of citations covers the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor". In addition to the minimum requirements, the candidate has included a list of citations, for which she adds 44 points. Total number of **458 points** (required 400 points according to the Regulation for the Development of the Academic Staff at Medical University – Varna).

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the materials and scientific contributions, which were submitted for participation in the competition, I find out that Chief Asst. Prof. Veselina Zdravkova Panayotova, Ph.D. has a sufficient amount of scientific and teaching activities. The attached publications and citations' evidences fully comply with and exceed the minimum requirements for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in Professional Field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, specialty "Chemistry" at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Chemistry. The above gives me the reason to vote positive and to recommend to the

Scientific Jury to award Chief Assistant Professor Veselina Zdravkova Panayotova, PhD the academic position of “Associate Professor”.

25.05.2022 г.

Рецензент:



Професор, дхн Веселина Георгиева Гаджева