

STANDPOINT

by **Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Filipova Belenska-Todorova, PhD**
*Department "Biology, Medical Genetics, and Microbiology",
Medical Faculty, University Sofia St. Kliment Ohridski*

Concerning: a competition for tenure of the academic position of 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR' in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, speciality of Public Health Management (Medical Biology) for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna announced in *State* gazette No 83/October 3, 2023.

On the grounds of a decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Protocol No 63/November 10, 2023) and Order R-109-517/November 30, 2023 of the Rector of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna I have been elected member of the Scientific Jury and with a Protocol No 1/December 14, 2023, I am assigned to prepare a standpoint in relation to the procedure for tenure of the academic position of 'ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR' for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, and scientific speciality of 'Public Health Management (Medical Biology)'.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, is the only candidate in the competition.

Brief biographical information

Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova graduates in 'Biology' from the University 'Paisii Hilendarski' of Plovdiv in 2000. Until 2010, she works as biologist at the Immunohistochemical Laboratory in the Clinic for General and Clinical Pathology at St. Marina University Hospital of Varna, sole joint-stock company. During the period between 2010 and 2022, she is assistant at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna, and since 2022, she is assistant-in-chief. In 2016, she acquires the speciality of Medical biology. In 2021, she successfully defends a dissertation work on the theme of 'Investigations and screening methods for early diagnosis of patients with gastrointestinal disorders because of mushroom consumption' and acquires the scientific and educational degree of 'doctor of philosophy' in the scientific speciality of Medical biology.

Assessment of candidate's research activity

The publication activity of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, covers according to all the scientometric indicators the normative requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' according to the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute-Book of the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, submits a total of 22 full-text scientific articles in eight Bulgarian and two foreign journals published after the acquisition of the

scientific and educational degree of 'doctor of philosophy'. It deals with one dissertation work for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree of 'doctor of philosophy' (A1 indicator with 50 scores); ten articles abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as Web of Science and Scopus as an equivalent to a monograph/a research work qualifying for an academic degree (V4 indicator with a total of 187,3 scores); two articles abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information (G7 indicator with a total of 120 scores), and ten articles which have been published in non-referenced journals with scientific peer reviewing or in edited collective volumes (G8 indicator with a total of 108,9 scores).

The candidate is the only one or the first author of seven, the second author of ten articles, the third and ninth author of one article each, and the fourth author of three articles.

The total number of the citations to one article is four (in four articles by foreign authors in four eminent foreign journals (60 scores).

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, possesses active profiles in the scientific data-bases Google Scholar, SCOPUS Author ID, and ORCID.

The scientific works of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, presented eloquently testify to her competence. They are predominantly in two topical main trends: i) characteristics of the knowledge of wild mushrooms and their usage and ii) dermatoglyphics and immunohistochemistry of breast cancer and patients' quality of life.

Not only in the dissertation work (A-No 1) but also in five articles, the results from inquiry investigations of the awareness of the adult population in the Region of Varna about the wild mushrooms and their usage are presented and discussed (V4-No 1, V4-No 8, G8-No 1, G8-No 3, and G8-No 4).

Four articles are devoted to the dermatoglyphics, two articles each - to the immunohistochemistry of breast cancer and to the quadruple negative breast cancer, and one article - to the individual patients' quality of life. The statistically significant differences established between the female patients and healthy women in terms of the dermatoglyphic dactiloscopic and palmoscopic characteristics could help the accomplishment of a rapid, cheap, and reliable screening of this disease of a great medico-social importance.

The publications about the peculiarities of ozone as a disinfection and therapeutic means during COVID-19 pandemic and about the behavior of the blastocysts after the vitrification during the cryopreservation of embryos in the course of in vitro fertilization represents an interest, too.

The published investigations contribute to the further extension and enrichment of our knowledge of some topical features not only of the usage of wild mushrooms and the intoxications with them but also of the breast cancer, including its triple and quadruple negative subtype. They play a role for the enhancement of the international prestige of the Bulgarian medico-biological; and medical science. There are definite scientific contributions for the public health, too.

The scientific investigations of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, are characterized by active and critical thinking and striving for effective collaboration within interdisciplinary collectives of botanists, biologists, anatomists, and gynaecologists.

Teaching and lecturer's activity

The annual teaching loading of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, during the period between 2018 and 2023 is considerable. It varies between a total of 476 and a total of 608 hours of auditory occupation with a standard of 360 hours annually. The lectures represent between ten hours and 48 hours and the practical exercises between 460 hours and 592 hours in the obligatory educational discipline of 'Biology' of the students of the specialities of 'Master pharmacist' and 'Assistant pharmacist' and in the discipline of 'Human Biology' to the students of the specialities of 'Medicine' and 'Dental medicine'.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova is co-author of five text-books of a total volume of 652 pages.

Conclusion

As a whole, the original scientific results obtained by assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, have an undoubted scientific-applicable and fundamental contributory nature, with possibilities for application in the medical practice. Undoubtedly, she is a built-up researcher and lecturer meeting the minimal national requirements defined in the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute-Book for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University of Varna for tenure of the academic position of 'Associate Professor' in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health, speciality of Public Health Management (Medical Biology) for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

Based on all the abovementioned, I give my positive evaluation and with a complete conviction recommend to the members of the Scientific jury to make the decision for the election of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, for the position of 'Associate Professor' Professor' in the field of higher education No 7. Public health and sports, professional trend No 7.4 Public health for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

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

February 13, 2024
city of Sofia

Standpoint prepared by
(Assoc. Prof. Lyudmila Filipova Belenska-Todorova, PhD)