

STANDPOINT

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CONCERNING: the 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), at the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' 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 chairman of the Scientific jury and with a Protocol No 1/December 14, 2023, I am assigned to prepare a standpoint for the candidate in this competition.

There is one candidate only - assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD.

Brief biographical data

Tsonka Dimitrova acquires the speciality of biology from the University 'Paisii Hilendarski' of Plovdiv in 2000. From 2001 to 2010, she works as biologist at the Immunohistochemically 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. In 2016, she acquires the speciality of Medical biology. In 2021, she 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. In 2022, she is elected assistant-in-chief in the Department of Biology.

Evaluation of research activity

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

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, participates with a total of 22 full-text scientific publications. She is the only one author of five articles, the first author of two articles, the second author of ten articles, the third author of one

article, the fourth author of three articles and ninth author of one article within an international authors' collective. These articles are published in eight Bulgarian and two foreign journals. Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, indicates 12 participations (with reports and posters) at national scientific forums, too.

A total of 12 publications are abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information such as Web of Science and Scopus. Ten articles are used for the V4 indicator (scientific publications equivalent to a research work qualifying for an academic degree in editions which are abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information).

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, presents information about four citations to one article of her in foreign journals abstracted and indexed in world-famous data-bases with scientific information.

i) characteristics of the knowledge of wild mushrooms and their use, including and of the intoxications with wild mushrooms (in the dissertation work and in a total of six articles)

ii) dermatoglyphics and immunohistochemistry of breast cancer and patients' quality of life (in a total of nine articles)

iii) other fields - application of platelet-rich plasma, peculiarities of ozone as a disinfection and therapeutic means during COVID-19 pandemic, behaviour of blastocysts after verification during in vitro fertilization, role of *Trichomonas tenax* in the oral cavity for the development of periodontitis, antimicrobial effectiveness of the biologically active glass, etc.

By means of inquiry investigations, a series of peculiarities of the inhabitants of the Region of Varna in dependence on their residence and educational level in terms of their awareness about the wild mushrooms and the manners of their use are identified. A series of statistically significant quantitative differences in terms of the dermatoglyphic dactiloscopic and palmoscopic characteristics between female breast cancer patients and healthy controls are proved. These results could help the performance of a rapid, cheap, and reliable screening of the disease.

The publications of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, are distinguished by undoubted merits. They contribute to the further extension and enrichment of our knowledge of these topical problems.

The research activity of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, is characterized by active and critical thinking and striving for effective collaboration within interdisciplinary collectives of botanists, biologists, anatomists, and gynaecologists. Her publications can receive a positive evaluation only as they are of high quality and contain scientific contributions for the medical biology, clinical medicine, and public health.

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova, PhD, possesses active and regularly updated profiles in the scientific data-bases Google Scholar: <https://scholar>.

Teaching and lecturer's activity

The lecturer's length of service of assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, at the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna is of duration of more than 13 years. Her teaching loading during the last five years (between 2018 and 2023) is much greater than the defined norm of 360 hours. She performs classes (lectures and exercises) in the discipline of 'Biology' of the students of the specialities of 'Master pharmaceuticals' and 'Assistant pharmaceuticals' and in the discipline of 'Human Biology' of the students of the specialities of 'Medicine' and 'Dental medicine'. She participates in the elaboration not only of a course with exercises and lectures in biology for the master pharmaceuticals and assistant pharmaceuticals but also of test combinations for the performance of the written examination within BLACKBOARD system. Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Dimitrova is co-author of five text-books of a total volume of 652 pages.

Conclusion

Assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, possesses a considerable competence for interdisciplinary research, teaching and lecturer's activity. She has achieved significant results in the field of the medical biology, clinical medicine, and public health.

The documentation submitted by her for the participation in the present competition entirely corresponds to the minimally scientometric requirements indicated in the Statute-Book for the application of 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'.

Based on these ascertainments, I give my positive standpoint and completely convincingly recommend to the honourable members of the Scientific jury to award assistant-in-chief Tsonka Slavova Dimitrova, PhD, 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 for the needs of the Department of Biology, Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University 'Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov' of Varna.

city of Varna

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Standpoint prepared by

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