

OPINION

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Concerning the materials submitted for the competition for academic position “Associate Professor“ within the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Science (IOCCP-BAS) in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, scientific speciality “Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances”.

1. General presentation of the received materials under the procedure and the applicant

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 53/25.06.2021 and on the website of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry - BAS (IOCCP-BAS) the only candidate is **Assistant Professor Manol Ognyanov, PhD in Laboratoty of Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv, IOCCP-BAS.**

At the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, it was unanimously decided that the applicant is allowed to be evaluated in the announced competition and submitted documents are in accordance with the all requirements of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations govern the implementation of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and meets the criteria of IOCCP-BAS for academic positions “Assistant Professor”.

For participation in the competition Dr. Ognyanov has applied a total of 20 publications of which:

- Publications equivalent to habilitation report (Indicator C) - 5 issues are presented. All of them are distributed by quartiles according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) as follows: - **Q1 -3, Q2 - 1** and publications **with SJR without IF - 1.**

- Publications included in Indicator D - 15 issues ditributed by quartiles according to SJR (www.scimagojr.com) as follows: - **Q1 -3, Q2 – 3, Q3 -1** and publications **with SJR without IF - 8.**

Dr. Ognyanov also presented a list of citations not provided in previous procedures (109) and a list of participations in research and applied projects with attached evidence (27). Information for h-factor of Scopus - (h-7).

In 2010 Manol Ognyanov graduated with Master's Degree in Biotechnology in UFT - Plovdiv. He has done his PhD thesis in the specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active substances" at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Center of Phytochemistry - BAS in 2016. Until now, Dr. Ognyanov continues his research career as Assistant Professor at IOCCP-BAS. According to my personal impression Dr. Ognyanov is a responsible and ambitious young scientist who knows how to work in a team and is valued by his colleagues in the laboratory.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

The presented materials confirm active research activity of high quality. The candidate's scientific contributions are presented in two main areas.

In area 1 are carried out studies on the composition, structure and biological properties of polysaccharides from plant sources such as *Sideritis scardica*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Alium ampeloprasum*. A complex approach is applied, including hydrolysis and analysis by modern chromatographic and mass spectral techniques. The immunomodulatory properties of some of the studied polysaccharides have been proven. For others, such as those isolated from callus cell cultures from *Fumaria officinalis*, from bioflour from *Ceratonia siliqua* and from treated raw materials from *Calendula officinalis*, possibilities for their application in the food industry have been proposed after conducting chemical and physicochemical studies.

In area 2 the chemical composition and antioxidant activity of medicinal plants, berries and vegetables were studied. The objects of research are important crops such as chokeberry and pepper varieties, berries like rose hips and whitebeam, traditional medicinal plants and by-products from the brewing and essential oil industries. The obtained results have a scientific-applied character in areas like modeling of functional foods and beverages, the preservation of the genetic fund of traditional vegetable crops and the utilization of industrial waste.

The co-authorship of Dr. Ognyanov in the presented publications, some of which he is the corresponding author, clearly proves the personal contribution of the candidate in long-term

research topics of the Laboratory "Biologically active substances". The number of the candidate's participations in a total of 41 national and international scientific forums is impressive.

Chief Assistant Manol Ognyanov is a participant in 27 scientific and applied projects, funded by the NSF, EU programs, businesses and more. He has gained teaching experience as a part-time lecturer at UFT - Plovdiv and as supervisor of two graduate students and seven trainees from the same university.

All listed above speaks convincingly about his competence and professional qualities.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by Dr. Manol Ognyanov fully comply with the requirements of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations govern the implementation of the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and meets the criteria of IOCCP-BAS for academic positions "Assistant Professor". Based on the materials presented in the competition and the scientific and applied contributions reflected in them, I fully believe my positive assessment and recommend to the other members of the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Scientific Council of IOCCP for conferment of the academic position "Associate Professor" of Dr. Manol Ognyanov in professional field 4.2. "Chemical Sciences", scientific specialty "Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances".

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