

## OPINION

by **Assoc. Prof. Boryana Stoykova Trusheva, PhD**

regarding the materials submitted for application in the procedures for an academic position “**Associate professor**” at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IOCCP-BAS) in the higher education area 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical sciences, scientific specialty “Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active compounds” for the need of Laboratory of Biologically Active Substances- Plovdiv.

In the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, announced in State Gazette, no. 53/25.06.2021 and on the website of IOCCP-BAS, the only candidate is

**Assist. Prof. Manol Hristov Ognyanov, PhD**  
from IOCCP-BAS, Laboratory of Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv.

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

The documents submitted by **Assist. Prof. Manol Ognyanov** are in accordance with the all requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations on the implementation of the ADASRB, the Regulations of BAS on the implementation of the ADASRB, and meets the criteria of IOCCP-BAS for the academic position “**Associate Professor**”.

For participation in the present competition the applicant has applied a total of 20 publications (5 of Indicator C and 15 of Indicator D), all of them published in referenced and indexing scientific journals. The distribution of publications by quartiles according to SJR ([www.scimagojr.com](http://www.scimagojr.com)) is as follows:

- ✓ For publications equivalent to habilitation work (Indicator C): **Q1 - 3, Q2 - 1** and **1** publication in an edition **with SJR without IF**.
- ✓ For publications included in Indicator D: **Q1 - 3, Q2 - 3, Q3 - 1** and **8** publications in editions **with SJR without IF**.

The total impact factor of the articles is 51.739. The citations of Dr. Ognyanov’s articles after taking the academic position “Assistant professor” are 109 (Indicator E), h-index 10 (according to Scopus, Indicator G). Materials for participation in research projects and scientific events have been provided, as well as diploma, with which Dr. Ognyanov receives the award “Prof. Marin Drinov” for young scientists under 35 - 2019, awarded by BAS in the field of “Biomedicine and quality of life”.

Assist. Prof. Manol Ognyanov graduated in 2010 with a master's degree in Biotechnology at the University of Food Technology - Plovdiv. In 2009 he began his career as an engineer-technologist in the Laboratory of Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv (LBAS-Plovdiv) at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with the Centre of Phytochemistry, BAS, where in 2011 he was enrolled as a PhD student and in 2016 acquired educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in scientific specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and

physiologically active compounds". Dr. Ognyanov continues his research career at the same laboratory as an Assistant, and since 2017 as an Assistant Professor. At the same time, in 2017-2018 he supervised laboratory exercises for students of the Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry at the University of Food Technology - Plovdiv.

According to my personal impressions, Dr. Ognyanov is a capable, competent, ambitious and responsible young colleague who can work in a team.

## **2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity**

The scientific publication of Assist. Prof. Ognyanov are mainly focused on the study of the chemical composition of medicinal and economically important plants, in particular their polysaccharide content and determination of biological activity. The contributions from his scientific work have a clearly emphasized fundamental and scientific-applied character.

The main scientific and scientific-applied contributions from these works can be summarized in the following two main directions:

- Study on the composition, structure, functional, and biological properties of polysaccharides isolated from economically important plant species, medicinal plants, and wastes (by-products) from their processing. Topics, which is a natural continuation of the candidate's PhD thesis and in which LBAS-Plovdiv is a leader in the country and the results have practical application.

Its objects of study in this area are Mursalski tea (*Sideritis scardica* Griseb.), leek (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *porrum* L.), purslane (*Portulaca oleracea* L.), linden flowers (*Tilia tomentosa* Moench) and lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia* Mill.), calendula (*Calendula officinalis*), callus cell cultures derived from fumaria (*Fumaria officinalis* L.) and carob flour obtained from the whole pod of the plant (*Ceratonia siliqua* L.).

- Study on the chemical composition and antioxidant activity of medicinal plants, berries, and vegetables, and discovery of the possibilities for their application.

Objects of research in the second direction are economically important fruits, vegetables, medicinal and essential oil plants such as rose hip, chokeberry, cornelian cherry, whitebeam, pepper, medicinal plants (nettle, bladder campion, water pepper, common centaury), the wastes from essential oil and brewing industry (defatted milk thistle, rose, lavender, lemon balm, basil, yeast).

The significance of Dr. Ognyanov's contributions is proved by the good citation of the published results (number of citations for the competition, including the period 2017-2021 according to Scopus/WoS - 109).

After getting acquainted with his works, I have good reason to believe that Dr. Ognyanov has a significant contribution to the elaboration, summary and analysis of the results, and their formation in a publication, without underestimating the contribution of the other co-authors. In half of the presented publications he is the first or second author, and in six of the works he is the author of correspondence, which testifies to his leading role in them.

Assist. Prof. Manol Ognyanov has participated in many national projects, projects funded by Bulgarian private companies, EU Operational Programs and projects under the bilateral inter-academic exchange, some of which are ongoing, as in two of the completed projects he was a leader. He is a co-author of 52 poster and oral presentations presented at national and international scientific forums. He was a member of the Organizing Committee of the 1<sup>st</sup>

International Conference on Bio-Antioxidants (BIO-ANTIOXIDANTS), organized by IOCCP-BAS.

Regarding the educational activity, Dr. Ognyanov was the supervisor of 2 student's theses and guided 7 students in the frame of student internships.

### 3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks on the material presented by Dr. Ognyanov in the competition for Associate Professor, as well as on his scientific work. I would recommend the numbering of the publications in the extended habilitation work to correspond to their numbering according to indicators C and D.

### CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Dr. Manol Ognyanov **fully comply** with the requirements of the Act on development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations on the implementation of the ADASRB, the Regulations of BAS on the implementation of the ADASRB, and the Rules of IOCCP-BAS.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific publications presented in the competition, the analysis of their significance and contributions, I am fully convinced to give my **positive opinion** and recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Scientific Board of IOCCP-BAS for awarding the academic position "**Associate Professor**" to Assist. Prof. Manol Hristov Ognyanov, the professional field 4.2. "Chemical Sciences", scientific specialty 01.05.10 "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active compounds" for the need of Laboratory of Biologically Active Substances - Plovdiv at IOCCP-BAS.

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**Opinion prepared by:** .....

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