

REVIEWER STATEMENT

by Assoc. Dr. Prof. Nikolay Iliev Georgiev

on an open procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.2 Chemical Sciences, scientific specialty "Organic Chemistry"

The procedure for Associate Professor in Professional field 4.2, scientific specialty "Organic Chemistry" has been announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette, issue 91 of November 2, 2021, for the needs of the Laboratory of Organic Synthesis and Stereochemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS. The only candidate for the Associate Professor is Dr. Atanas Atanasov Kurutos, Head Assistant Professor in the Laboratory of Organic Synthesis and Stereochemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS.

Head Assistant Professor Atanas Kurutos was born on September 12, 1988 in the city of Sofia. He was graduated with a master's degree in "Modern Methods for Synthesis and Analysis of Organic Compounds" in 2013 at the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". In 2014 he was accepted as a doctoral student in professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences - Organic Chemistry in the same faculty. In 2016 he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" after successful defense of PhD thesis "Synthesis of cyanine dyes and study of the photophysical properties of some of them." From 2012 to 2013 he worked as a chemist at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS. In 2016 he was appointed as an assistant professor at the same institute. From 2015 to 2020 he was specialized more than five times at the Ruder Boskovic Institute (Zagreb, Croatia), the University of Friborg (Friborg, Switzerland), the University of Roskilde (Roskilde, Denmark), the University of Copenhagen (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Kyoto University (Tokyo, Japan).

Dr. Kurutos' research interests are related to the synthesis and research of color and fluorescent organic products with high tech applications, which were especially focused in medicine and biology. He participated in the procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" with 20 publications published in authoritative international papers with a total factor of 56,972, which clearly illustrated the higher quality and attractiveness of his work. Nevertheless that these data are not required to receive the position of "Associate Professor", it should be pointed out that the applicant was the leader of 3 projects (one of them international) and participates in 9 more projects. In addition, Head Assistant Professor Atanas Kurutos has also prepared reviews for the authoritative specialized scientific journals Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology, Sensors & Actuators, Pharmacological Reports, Analytical Methods, Molecules. The participation of the candidates in many national and international conferences makes a good impression. The results of Dr. Kurutos' research were reported in the form of 13 oral presentations and 13 posters.

The submitted materials for the open procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" by Dr. Kurutos overtopped the minimal additional criteria of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS. The individual indicators are covered as follows:

Indicator A was covered by the successfully defended PhD thesis entitled "Synthesis of cyanine dyes and study of the photophysical properties of some of them".

Indicator B was covered by the habilitation thesis "Synthesis and study of photophysical properties of mono- and polycationic biosensors", based on 4 original scientific papers (quartile Q1). In all four publications, Dr. Kurutos was the first author.

Indicator D was fulfilled by 2 chapters of a books and 16 publications (7 in quartile Q1, 3 in quartile Q2 and 1 in quartile Q4). A total of 277 points, which satisfies the minimal additional criteria of Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS (220 points).

Indicator E was fulfilled by 50 citations corresponding to 100 points. The minimal requirements for this indicator are 70 points or 35 citations.

Indicator G (h-index ≥ 5) - According to the Scopus report with excluded citations of all authors, on February 2022 Dr. Atanas Kurutos is a co-author of a total of 20 scientific papers with 76 citations and Hirsch index - 6.

Conclusion

Regarding the submitted scientific activities of Dr. Kurutos, which overtopped the minimal requirements for the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, I am convinced that the scientific jury should propose to the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Center of Phytochemistry, BAS to appoint Head Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Kurutos for "Associate Professor" in Professional Field 4.2, scientific specialty "Organic Chemistry".

Sofia, February 27, 2022

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. N. Georgiev /