

S T A T E M E N T

**From: Prof. Margarita Stoyanova Kambourova, DSc,
The Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – BAS
Scientific specialty Microbiology**

**Subject: competition for an academic position “Associated professor”
in the field of higher education direction 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and
computer science; Professional field 4.3 Biological sciences; Scientific specialty
"Microbiology" in Faculty of Agriculture, Thracian University**

Applicant(s): Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Toncho Gospodinov Dinev

1. Information about the competition

The competition for an academic position "Associated professor" was announced in a State Newspaper (SN) № 61 / 10.07.2020 for the needs of the Faculty of Agriculture (FA) of Thracian University (TRU), Stara Zagora. I participate in the composition of the scientific jury of the competition according to Order № 2466 / 01.10.2020 of TRU Rector. As a member of the scientific jury, I declare that I have no common articles with the applicant.

2. Brief information about the applicant in the competition

Only one candidate has applied for participation in the competition for a scientific position "Associated professor" - Dr. Toncho Gospodinov Dinev, currently Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics, Section Microbiology at FA, TRU. The submitted documents are in accordance with the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its implementation.

Ch. Ass. Prof. Dinev is an author of 24 scientific papers. Seventeen works published in the period 2008-2020 are a subject of reviewing in the current statement. The publications included in the dissertation are not included in this competition. Ch. Ass. Prof. Dinev graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Thracian University, Stara Zagora with a master degree in Veterinary Medicine in 2002. In 2007 he received the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in Veterinary Medicine (PhD), code 03.01.24., "Pharmacology. Since 2009 the candidate works consecutively as a full-time assistant in pharmacology, full-time assistant in microbiology and chief assistant professor in microbiology at the Thracian University, Stara Zagora.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position

When comparing the scientometric indicators of Ch. Assistant Dinev with the Minimum National Criteria for the scientific degree "Associate Professor" according to ZRASRB establish the following number of points of the candidate on the individual indicators:

- Criterion "A" - Successfully defended dissertation for awarding "Doctor" degree.
- Criterion "B" - Habilitation work - monograph (№ 23).
- Criterion "D":

- One article (№ 8) in a journal with SJR - Q1

- Three articles (№ 6, 10 and 11) in journals with SJR - Q2

- One article (№ 22) in a journal with SJR - Q3

- One article (№ 17) in a journal with Q4

- Eight articles (№ 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21) in journals with SJR, but without IF.

- Two poster presentations in journals with Q1 (№ 7) and Q2 (№ 9) respectively.

Total Points - 237 (required 200)

- Criterion "E" - 71 citations without autocitations of all authors (SCOPUS)
- Criterion "F" - One participation in a national project and a published university textbook co-authored by three authors).

The applicant has participated with oral presentations and posters in 10 scientific forums - six in the country and four abroad. He is a participant in a nationally funded project under the Healthy Foods for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality of Life Program and four university projects. He led one university project.

The reviewed scientific production of the candidate meets the requirements of ZRASRB under Annex 8.1. There are no unfulfilled requirements for the position of "Associated professor".

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity for the candidate

A reference prepared by the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics, FA, TRU, Stara Zagora indicates a significant annual workload of the Section of Microbiology in the presence of only one habilitated lecturer, which determines the need in this competition. Information provided by the candidate notifies reveal his active participation in teaching process by conducting exercises in four disciplines; in three of them he also give lectures. The creative attitude in the teaching activity is also demonstrated by the independent preparation of the programs for two of the disciplines, and for the other two - in co-authorship. He is a co-supervisor of the bachelor's theses of nine students.

5. Brief description of the presented scientific papers

The scientific works of Ch. Ace. Dinev are in the field of antimicrobial substances of natural and synthetic origin. His scientific activity is developed in two main directions and several important theoretical, applied, and methodical contributions are formulated. In my opinion the most valuable are:

Area 1: Study of the pharmacokinetics and side effects of some modern antimicrobial substances on different species of animals.

Important scientific contributions are: the established stronger influence of aminoglycosides compared to aminocyclitols on the erythrocyte sedimentation rate of goats; different rates of absorption and elimination of several antimicrobial substances in different species of birds; different effect of antimicrobial compounds in dependence of a sex and a method of treatment (intravenous or oral).

Applied contribution for fish using is the established safe level of ethylene thiourea, a metabolite of the fungicide mancozeb, even after 60 days of contact of trout with mancozeb in acceptable concentrations according to European legislation.

A methodological contribution is the established high sensitivity of the HPLC analysis for a presence of spectinomycin in various animal tissues, as well as an introduction and validation of an HPLC method for determination of the concentration of the carcinogenic agent ethylene thiourea in water basins for rainbow trout cultivation.

Area 2: Antimicrobial activity of probiotic bacteria, plant species, plant extracts, foods and environmental factors.

Original contributions in this area are:

Scientific contribution is the established potential of three algae species as a source of substances with antimicrobial action. Their inhibitory activity against 10 species of bacteria and fungi, including pathogens and microorganisms that cause spoilage of human and animal food and plant diseases has been observed.

Practical impact has the established antibacterial action of water lentil plant, often used in aquaculture and fodder production. An important contribution in agriculture is characterization of microbial communities in different water basins and the established unsuitability of Ovcharitsa Dam for irrigation due to the presence of pathogens. Of great scientific and practical importance in composting is the strong reduction of microbiological presence, including pathogens after vermicomposting with red California worm.

The observed drastic reduction of the number of microorganisms after milk pasteurization and the processes of cheese ripening is of a confirmatory nature.

In area 2, the candidate submits for review three papers summarizing the information in the world literature on the antimicrobial potential of probiotic species.

6. Main critical remarks and recommendations

I don't have one

7. Conclusion

In terms of volume, content and quality of the presented scientific production and the active teaching activity the only candidate in the announced competition, Ch. Assistant Professor T. Dinev meets the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations to him for the academic position of "Associated Professor". As a member of the scientific jury for the announced competition, I give a positive assessment and recommend to the members of the scientific jury to support the candidacy and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture, Thracian University, an election of Ch. Ass. Prof. Dinev for the academic position "ASSOCIATED PROFESSOR" in the scientific specialty "MICROBIOLOGY" for the needs of the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics, FA, TRU, Stara Zagora.

23.20.2020/Sofia

Signature:

(Prof. M. Kambourova, DSc)