

## STANDPOINT

From Professor Dobroslav Stanimirov Kyurkchiev, PhD, Doctor of Medicine,  
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Regarding the contest for the academic position of  
'PROFESSOR' in the field of 4.3 'Biological sciences', 'Immunology', due to the  
demand in the Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, Department of  
The Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
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### 1. Education and professional development

Associate Professor Andrey Tchorbanov graduates from the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with a specialization in genetic and cellular engineering. From 1992 until 1999 he works at The National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases developing bacterial vaccines. In 1999 Andrey Tchorbanov accepted a place in at the laboratory of Experimental Immunology, Institute of Microbiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2002 he presents his PhD thesis on the topic of "Engineered and genetically engineered chimeric molecules as antigens", which he had developed under the guidance of Prof. Tchavdar Vassilev, PhD.

During his undergraduate study and further professional development Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov has participated in many additional courses at the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases primarily connected to immunology diagnostics of infectious diseases. He has also undertaken courses abroad involving fundamental immunology such as "Molecular immunology" in Rumania, "European summer school" in Czech Republic, "Self-tolerance and self-recognition" in Romania. In the period 1996-1997 he specializes at Utrecht University, Netherlands, whereas in 2003 at the National University of Taiwan.

In 2009 Andrey Tchorbanov becomes an associate professor at the Institute of Microbiology, Bulgarian Academy of Science. In 2016 he becomes the head of the immunology department at the Institute of Microbiology. In 2011 he is a guest-lecturer at the University of Niš, Serbia.

### 2. Research activity

When analysing Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov's research activity, it is hard to find balance. Either, one must speak long and wide, or let the facts speak for themselves. For the period 2009- 2019 he has introduced 16 scientific papers as habilitation work which can be classified into three different, but logically and applicably connected themes. Each one of is included in renowned and famous scientific journals with high impact factors (IF), which are either in Q1 or Q2 quartiles. My honest opinion is that the presented scientific papers as habilitation work are an excellent example of a scientific research at the highest level.

In terms of the scientific publications, after obtaining the title "associate professor", Andrey Tchorbanov has introduced 33 scientific papers with impact factor and



participation in a monograph in English. As mentioned previously, all these facts speak for themselves. The following statistics have been established: 479 citations, IF for overall activity- 142, H factor- 12. The scientific accomplishments of Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov have been presented in 117 conferences. Furthermore, in many of them the candidate has presented more than one scientific report. He is the head of four international projects, which involve central scientific structures from France, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia. The candidate has participated in 33 concluded projects and is further involved in 13 ongoing projects. His scientific accomplishments have been awarded with 6 scientific awards two of which are the "Pythagoras Award" handed to the associate professor in 2012 and 2017. Another award given to him is the award of "The association of allergology and immunology of Kosovo" in 2017.

In conclusion of this part, I will allow myself to make the comment that in all of his presented scientific work there could not be found any trace of "scientific spam". There is a lot more that can be said about Andrey Tchorbanov's work, however only a small but the best part was mentioned here. It is my view that Associate Professor Andrey Tchorbanov's way of work deserves admiration, primarily because it is not often met in the midst of Bulgarian scientists and, secondly, because it demonstrates that quality, not quantity, is of paramount importance in research.

### 3. Teaching activity

From 2012 until now Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov has 1050 teaching hours at different universities. Under his guidance 4 people have received a PhD and currently other three are working on their PhD theses. Moreover, in January 2021 two more doctoral students will begin their research.

In the Laboratory of Experimental Immunology at the Bulgarian Academy of Science under Andrey Tchorbanov currently are working three chief assistants, two assistants, eight diplomants and interns. He is the main organiser and inspirer of "Black Sea International Immunology School", a forum that takes place in Bulgaria since 2014 with a primal aim at doctoral and master students, studying in the field of immunology. The forum is further sponsored by the European Federation of Immunological Societies.

A huge part of the impressive energy and time of Associate Professor Andrey Tchorbanov is dedicated towards the education of his young colleagues not only at the Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, but also in many other places. He is a regular guest-lecturer in many courses and forums such as "Current problems with autoimmune diseases", which is organised annually by Laboratory of Clinical Immunology, University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski. It is fair to say that for years Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov has brought up successful scientists in the field of experimental immunology and I am sure many more will follow.

### 4. Expertise and social activity

Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov has registered 2 patents in connection with selective suppression of autoreactive B- lymphocytes. He participates in many scientific juries and is also the chairman of section Immunology of the Union of Scientist of Bulgaria. Nonetheless, he is a representative of Bulgaria within the Program Committee, responsible for the curriculum of scientific research and innovations in the European



Union "Horizon 2020" from 2013 until present. He is also a member of committees, part of the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as head of many working groups.

Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov has a wide variety of interests. This, together with all his other qualities and his absolute professionalism, define his positions within the society. From March until now Andrey Tchorbanov has constantly been talking publicly about the Covid-19 pandemic. In the days of panic, in the days of relief as well as in the present- he never let himself spread stress or hysterics, he never changed his scientific opinion and never let himself be used or his position as a scientist for politics. Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov held his beliefs as a scientist. It is my view, that a professor needs such traits as well as his scientific authority in order to be the complex figure that is expected of a professor.

In conclusion, on the basis of the material presented to me, in regards with the research, teaching and expert activity of associate professor Tchorbanov, additionally due to the fact that the applicant covers all the requirements of LDASRB, the statute book associated with it and the the statute book of the Institute of Microbiology, I recommend to the scientific jury to award associate professor Andrey Ivanov Tchorbanov, the academic position PROFESSOR.

10.08.2020

Professor Dobroslav Stanimirov Kyurkchiev

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на основание  
чл. 30т ЗЗНМ