

## OPINION

On to the competition for the academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty Immunology 01.06.23, professional field 4.3. Biological sciences (Biochemistry), field 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional field, at the Laboratory "Experimental Immunology" at the Department of Immunology, Institute of Microbiology "Stefan Angelov", BAS, announced in SG, issue 47 / 22.05.2020.

Member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anastas Dimitrov Pashov, Laboratory "Experimental Immunotherapy", Institute of Microbiology "Stefan Angelov", BAS

Order for scientific jury of the Director of IMicB, BAS № 82 / 01.07.2020.

One candidate participates in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Andrey Tchorbanov. The candidate meets the conditions under Art. 24 (1) of ZRASRB and the regulations of the Institute of Microbiology for holding the academic position "professor".

### 1. Biographical data

Andrey Tchorbanov was born on June 1, 1967, he has a master's degree in biology from the Faculty of Biology at Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski" received in 1992. He defended his doctoral thesis in 2002 in "Immunology" at the Institute of Microbiology, BAS, then continues to work at the same institute to this day. Since 2009 he has been an associate professor of immunology. He has passed additional training in 6 courses in microbiology, immunology and molecular biology. He has a specialization in the Netherlands under the Copernicus program before the defense of his dissertation and a post-doctoral specialization at the University of Taiwan, Taipei since 2003.

### 2. Research activity

The main topics in the research interests of Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov are in the field of experimental and applied immunology. A number of in vitro and in vivo models for testing biotherapeutic agents and a variety of animal models for preclinical trials have been developed under his guidance. He is an expert in creating hybrid antibodies through protein and genetic engineering.

In connection with these studies, Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov further develops the methodological areas of designing genetically engineered biotherapeutics and the application of "humanized" models of autoimmune and allergic diseases in immunodeficient SCID and NSG mice in the respective preclinical trials.

The candidate presents 64 scientific publications (total IF of publications in indexed and peer-reviewed publications - 142, total number of citations - 479, h-index = 12), two book chapters and two patents. The Scopus database contains 55 publications of Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov, which have 307 independent citations and an h-index of 10 after excluding all co-authors. As a habilitation contribution in this competition are presented 4 articles in Q1 and one in Q2. Of the other publications with which he participated in the competition, 33 (with 20 required) are in journals with an impact factor and in 23 (with 16 required) he is a corresponding author. There are also almost 300 participations in scientific forums.

Associate Professor Tchorbanov has managed 5 international projects and has participated in a total of 33 completed and 13 ongoing projects. He has been awarded 6 times: award of the Stefan Angelov Foundation for the best work of a young microbiologist in Bulgaria - 2000; award from the competition of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria - "Diploma of Excellence", 2011; Pythagoras

Award for Biomedical Sciences - 2012 and for an established scientist for biomedical sciences - 2017; award from USB - "Diploma of Excellence", 2013 and a special award of the Kosovo Association of Allergology and Immunology - 2017

The documents presented by Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov exceed the requirements of ZRASRB and the Criteria of the Institute of Microbiology of BAS for holding the academic position "Professor".

I have known Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov for about 30 years and I can say that in addition to the qualities of a scientist, he also has organizational skills and leadership qualities. Thanks to his work, experience and contacts with leading scientists in the country and abroad, a group of young scientists with very good scientific output was created.

### **3. Teaching activity**

Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov has over 1,050 teaching hours in universities and research institutes since 2012.

### **4. Expert and administrative activity**

Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov is a member of the National Commission for Ethical Work with Laboratory Animals at the NVS at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a representative of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 2006-2012; representative of Bulgaria in the European Union program "Horizon 2020". Commission "Challenges for the European Bioeconomy: Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Maritime, Marine and Inland Water Research", since 2013; "Commission for consideration of the requests for providing national co-financing for the preparation and participation of Bulgarian teams in research projects under the EC Framework Programs in the field of research." To the Ministry of Education and Science 2014-2016; member of the National Assembly at the Stefan Angelov Institute of Microbiology - BAS, since 2011; "Commission for Determining Pythagorean Awards for 2017" 2018 at the Ministry of Education and Science; "Commission for updating the rules of operation of the National Contact Network under the Horizon 2020 Framework Program", 2018 at the Ministry of Education and Science; Member of the General Assembly - BAS, since 2020; Chairman of the Immunology Section at the USB. He is also a member of EFIS - European Federation of Immunological Societies and EASD - European Diabetes Research Association.

### **5. Conclusion**

After examining the submitted documents, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Tchorbanov meets the requirements of the law and local regulations and has the necessary professional qualities to hold the academic position of "professor".

I propose to the Scientific Council of the institute to elect associate professor Dr. Tchorbanov as a "professor" in 4.3. Biological sciences (Biochemistry), field 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics; professional direction.

28.08.2020

Sofia

Anastas Pashov