

STATEMENT

From Prof. Jana Tchekalarova

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Subject: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor", Higher Education 7 "Health and Sports", Professional Direction 7.3. "Pharmacy" , Specialty "Pharmacology", for the needs of the "Virusology" Department, Laboratory "Biological Response Modifiers and Pathogenesis of Viral Infections" at the Institute of Microbiology /IMicB - BAS/

1. Procedure

By decision of the Scientific Council of IMicB-BAS (Protocol No. 45 of April 27, 2023/ and Order No. I-52/April 28, 2023 of the Director of the Institute, I have been designated as a member of the Scientific Jury (SJ) for holding a Competition for occupying an academic position "Professor", Department of Higher Education "Health Care and Sports", Professional Direction 7.3. "Pharmacy" Specialty "Pharmacology for the needs of the Department "Virusology", Laboratory "Modifiers of the biological response and pathogenesis of viral infections" at IMicB- BAS announced in SG No. 21/07.03.2023

One candidate applied and was admitted to the competition - associate professor Milka Milcheva Mileva, d.m. The present procedure and the documents and materials presented to me related to it are in accordance with Art. 29 of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of IMicB-BAN. The scientific works presented in the competition do not repeat those indicated in the abstract of the dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor".

I declare that I have no conflict of interest regarding the announced competition.

2. Education and career development

Associate Professor Milka Milcheva Mileva graduated in 1993 from Plovdiv University "St. Paisii Hilendarski", specialty "Chemistry", Master. In 2002, he obtained a PhD in pharmacology from the National Academy of Sciences, after successfully defending his dissertation on "Effect of rimantadine, vitamin E and cold immobilization stress on oxidative

damage in an experimental model of influenza virus infection" at the Department of Medical Physics and Biophysics, MF – MU-Sofia.

In the period 1994–2009, she worked as a chemist at the Department of Medical Physics and Biophysics, MU-Sofia. In the period 2009-2011, she was appointed chief assistant in the "Microbial Biochemistry" section of IMicB-BAS, and in 2011, after a competition, she was appointed associate professor, which position she holds until now.

3. Scientific interests

Prof. Mileva's scientific interests are diverse and are related to research in the following two main areas:

1. Therapeutic approaches for treating oxidative stress induced under different conditions.
2. Biological activities of Bulgarian rose oils.

4. Scientific research activity

Scientific metrics:

The scientometric data of the candidate Assoc. Milka Mileva are fully in accordance with the minimum criteria and indicators recommended in the normative documents for evaluation by a Scientific Jury when conducting a competition for "professor".

The comparative analysis of the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of LDASRB for area of higher education 7 "Health and sport", Professional direction 7.3. "Pharmacy" with the attached report on the actual points of the candidate proves that Assoc. Mileva meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "professor". The detailed analysis of the relevant groups of indicators shows the following: Indicators A - 50 points (required 50 points), B4 - 111.78 points (required 100 points), D7 - 112.09 points + D8 - 137.44 points + D9 - 13.33 - for indicator D a total of 262.86 points (required 200 points), Indicator D is 960 points with a minimum required 100 points (D10 -750 t+ D11 – 130+ D12 - 80), Indicator E14 – 40 t + E16 -105 points + E 18 120 points + E 19 - 40 points + E 20 - 8 points – for indicator D a total of 313 points (required 100 points).

TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS: 1567.64 points out of a minimum of 750 points according to LDASRB.

A total number of points of 1782.32 points out of a minimum of 750 points according to the requirements of the Rules of the IMicB-BAN.

According to a group of indicators, Assoc. Mileva's values exceed the minimum national requirements and the requirements according to the Regulations of the IMicB-BAN for occupying the academic position of "professor".

Prof. Mileva is a participant in a total of 8 research projects, 5 of which he is the leader of (one of them international). The results of these scientific projects are presented in a total of 41 scientific publications on the competition, which defines its activity as very intensive and productive. A total of 716 citations are presented, from which it follows that her research is current and finds a wide response in the scientific community. The scientific results presented for review are mainly from the field of higher education 7. "Health and sport", professional direction 7.3. "Pharmacy", scientific specialty "Pharmacology". Prof. Mileva is the author of published and reported scientific works of very significant contribution in the field of pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, biologically active phytocomplexes and the pathogenesis of the influenza virus. Her dissertation work for the award of the ESR "Doctor" is on the topic: "Influence of rimantadine, vitamin E and cold-immobilization stress on oxidative damage in an experimental model of influenza virus infection" 2002, with scientific supervisors Prof. Stefan Ribarov, d.b.n. and Prof. Dr. A. Galabov, PhD.

Prof. Mileva participated in the current competition with scientific publications in refereed and indexed scientific journals with an impact factor and/or impact rank/quartile according to SJR – 19 (first or corresponding author – 16); publications in non-refereed journals – 20 (first or corresponding author – 9); two chapters of monographs (first or corresponding author – 2); reported scientific works in international scientific forums – 15 and in national scientific forums – 14.

According to the presented reference from the database Scopus and Web of Science, more than 446 citations of her publications (excluding self-citations) were found in specialized scientific journals, with a SCOPUS INDEX of 13. The distribution of journals by quartiles is as follows: 5 articles in Q1 ; 8 articles in Q2; 3 articles in Q3; 1 articles in Q4.

5. Analysis of scientific contributions

The main contributions from the scientific research activity of Prof. Mileva are systematized and reflected in the "Author's Reference" attached to the competition documents. They are summarized in two main directions:

1. Oxidative damage and the role of antioxidants in the prevention and therapy of diseases associated with the development of oxidative stress in experimental models in vivo and

2. Pharmacological potential of plant extracts, technological products obtained in water- steam distillation of essential oils from Bulgarian oil-bearing roses and their ingredients in experimental models in vivo and in vitro.

The presented scientific results are of a fundamental and applied medico-biological nature. Taking into account the fact that Associate Professor Milka Mileva is the head of 5 projects, there are two doctoral students who have defended their degrees and two current ones, in more of the articles submitted for the competition she is either a leading or a corresponding author, I can summarize that they were fully realized with her active and leading participation and are her personal merit, which is very well summarized in the contributions presented.

6. Conclusion

With the attached evidentiary material, the candidate Assoc. Milka Mileva exceeds the scientific-metric criteria /minimum requirements in LDASRB and the Regulations of IMicB-BAS/ for awarding the academic position "Professor" in Professional direction 7.3. "Pharmacy" specialty "Pharmacology", for the needs of the "Virusology" Department, Laboratory "Modifiers of the biological response and pathogenesis of viral infections" at the Institute of Microbiology /IMicB - BAS/.

29.05.2023 г.

Signature:

(Prof. Dr. Jana Tchekalarova)