

REVIEW

by Prof. DSc Ivan Iliev Atanasov, Agrobiointstitute /ABI/, Agricultural Academy /AA/ of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of 'Associate Professor' of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski", in the field of higher education: 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field: 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty: Molecular biology, SG 99 / 20.11.2020.

1. Presentation of the procedure

By order № P33-630 of 05.10.2015 by the Rector of the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski" I was appointed a member of the scientific jury in a competition announced in the State Gazette, issue 99 from 20.11.2020 and on the website of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski" for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education: 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field: 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty 'Molecular Biology' for the needs of the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Two candidates are participating in the competition for 'associate professor':

- ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Dimitrova Apostolova-Kuzova from Cat. Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv and
- ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Iliev Bachev from Cat. Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

Competition materials

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova. Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova set of materials is in accordance with the PRAS of PU. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova has applied for: diploma for ONS "Doctor", a total of 14 publications with IF, 8 publications in journals without IF (5 of them with SJR), 2 publications in conference proceedings, 3 chapters of books, 2 textbooks and an order of the Minister of MAFWE for recognition of 1 variety with the participation of the candidate. Taking into account the topics and the content of the mentioned publications and materials, I accept them for review and reporting in the final evaluation.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev. Presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev set of materials is in accordance with the PRAS of PU. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev has applied: diploma and abstract for ONS "Doctor" in Molecular Biology at Cat. "Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology", BF of PU, diploma and abstract for ONS "Doctor" in the specialty of Genetics at cat. "Pediatrics and Medical Genetics", MU-Plovdiv, dissertation for the degree of "Doctor of Science" to cat. "Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology", BF of PU, a total of 16 publications with SJR and indicated quarters, 1 publication in journals without SJR, 1 publication in a conference proceedings, 7 book chapters and 4 textbooks. It should be noted that the subject matter and content of a significant part of the above materials relate to research in the field of medical genetics (mainly related to mental disorders, autism and schizophrenia), which can

hardly be assumed to be related to the areas of scientific research of the unit that announced the competition - cat. Plant physiology and molecular biology to BF of PU. The attached materials (dissertations and publications) related to medical genetics include the dissertation for ONS "Doctor" at MU-Plovdiv, the dissertation for "Doctor of Sciences", 11 of the 16 attached publications with SJR, the 1st publication in journals without SJR, 1 publications in a collection of conferences and 3 of the 7 book chapters. Although these publications in the field of medical genetics demonstrate the competence and experimental experience of the candidate in the field of molecular biology, when considering them in this competition it should be noted that these studies are too far from the fields of research in cat. "Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology" at the BF of PU and it is questionable to what extent the demonstrated competencies and experimental experience would contribute to the development of the research potential of cat. "Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology" at the BF of PU. I should also note that the CV attached to the materials is incomplete and does not provide complete information about the candidate's length of service. Again in the autobiography, the candidate pointed out as the "main directions of scientific interests" only "Epigenetics of mental disorders autism and schizophrenia. Molecular aspects of mental illness. ", Which once again raises the question of why he participates in this competition and in what main research area (s) he will work if he is elected" associate professor "to cat. "Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology" to the BF of PU.

Brief biographical data.

Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Apostolova-Kuzova, PhD, was born on August 4, 1977. In 2001 she received a master's degree in Plant Biotechnology from the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv. In 2007 he obtained a doctorate in "Breeding and Seed Production" from the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. Since 2011 he has been working in the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology at the Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, where he has successively held the positions of assistant and chief assistant.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev was born on January 9, 1981. In 2008 he received a master's degree in "Molecular Biology and Biotechnology". In 2011 he obtained a doctorate in "Molecular Biology" from the University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", and in 2016 he obtained a second doctorate in "Genetics" from MU - Plovdiv. whence through. He works in the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Science at the University of Plovdiv, where he holds the positions of biologist and chief assistant.

2. General characteristics of the activity of the candidates

Assessment of educational and pedagogical activity

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova is a co-author of 2 textbooks (Manual of Bioinformatics and Workshop on Genetic Engineering), which are used in the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Physics. Currently ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Apostolova-Kuzova conducts a total of 150 lecture hours in 5 disciplines of the Bachelor's degree and 55 lecture hours in 2 subjects of the Master's degree, as well as participates in the development of 4 lecture courses for the Bachelor's degree. top ”and 1 lecture course for Master's degree. For the period 2016-2020

he is the head of a total of 5 successfully defended graduates in the BF of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev. Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev is a co-author of 4 textbooks (Molecular Medical Diagnostics, Molecular Biology, Molecular Virology, Medical Molecular Genetics), which are used to train students in various specialties, incl. Molecular biology and biotechnology and Medical biology at BF of PU. Currently ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev conducts a total of 14 courses of lectures and / or exercises in 11 subjects of Bachelor's and Master's degrees, as well as participates in the development of over 10 lecture courses in medical and molecular biology for ACS "Ba-calaver" and for the master's degree. For the period until 2020 he is the head of a total of 9 successfully defended graduates in the BF of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidates

Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Apostolova-Kuzova, PhD. For the publications included in the competition, ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova is a co-author of a total of 14 publications with IF (total IF - 26.99, total SJR - 11.87), 8 publications in journals without IF (5 of them with SJR), 2 publications in proceedings of conferences, 3 chapters of books. A total of 153 citations have been noted in the literature. Participates in the implementation of a total of 12 research projects.

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev. For the publications included in the competition, ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev is a co-author of 16 publications with SJR (total SJR - 4.52), 1 publication in journals without SJR, 1 publication in a collection of conferences, 7 chapters of books. As I noted above, a significant portion of these publications are related to medical genetics and research on "mental disorders, autism and schizophrenia." A total of 43 citations have been noted in the literature. Participates in the implementation of a total of 18 research projects.

Implementation activity

Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova is a co-author of a recognized variety.

Taking into account the submitted materials, the adopted amendments to the Regulations for ZRAS for area 4 Natural Sciences and the additional requirements of the BF of PU "Paisii Hilendarski" for the development of the academic staff it can be stated that:

- the submitted materials of both candidates cover the minimum requirements of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- the presented materials of both candidates cover the additional requirements of the BF of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv for the development of the academic staff

the sum of the separate groups of indicators for ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova amounts to a total of 798 points

- the sum of the separate groups of indicators for ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev amounts to a total of 731 points, and this amount includes publications and materials related to research on topics of medical genetics, which, as noted above, are not directly related to scientific research. the research activity of the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Physics of the University of Plovdiv

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks about the materials presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Apostolova-Kuzova, PhD.

My main remark on the materials presented by Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tihomir Vachev is that they have mechanically collected information about the current teaching and research activities of the candidate, without any attempt to systematize and present the materials, results and information so that it is clear shown how the eventual selection of the candidate for associate professor will contribute to the development of the research and educational potential of the department, which has a main profile "plant physiology and molecular biology"

4. Conclusion

After reviewing and analyzing the materials provided to me in the competition, I believe that the candidacy, results and contributions from the teaching, research and administrative activities of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Elena Apostolova-Kuzova fit perfectly and will contribute significantly to improving the quality and effectiveness of the overall teaching and research activities in the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology at the Faculty of Biology, University of Plovdiv Paisii Hilendarski "as a whole. Taking into account the above, I strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Biology, PU "Paisii Hilendarski" Ch. Assistant Professor Elena Dimitrova Apostolova-Kuzova, PhD, to be elected as an "Associate Professor" in the professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, scientific specialty 'Molecular Genetics', at the Department of Plant Physiology and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biology, Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

26.04. 2021

Prof. DSc Ivan Atanasov