

OPINION

From Petko Nedyalkov Denev, PhD - professor at IOCCP-BAS

on the materials in the competition for the academic position "Associate professor"
at Plovdiv University „Paisii Hilendarski”

Scientific field: 4. Natural science, mathematics and informatics

Professional direction: 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry, Organic analysis).

1. General introduction of the procedure and the candidate

By order № ПД-22-80 from 17.01.2025 of the Rector of Plovdiv University (PU) "Paisii Hilendarski" I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury of a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic chemistry, Organic analysis). The competition is announced in the State Gazette, № 98 from 19.11.2024 and on the PU website for the needs of the "Organic chemistry" department at the Faculty of Chemistry. To participate in the announced competition only Stanimir Petrov Manolov, PhD from the same department of PU submitted documents.

The set of materials presented by Dr. Manolov in paper and electronic media meets the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB) the Regulations for its Implementation (RIADASRB) and the specific requirements of the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU. It includes: Application to the Rector for admission to participate in the competition; Curriculum vitae; Diploma of higher education for the "Master" degree; Diploma of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; Abstract of a dissertation for scientific degree "Doctor"; List and copies of scientific publications; List of citations; Certificate of compliance with the minimum national and additional faculty requirements; Annotations of the materials under Art. 65. from Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of PU (in Bulgarian and English) with an extended habilitation reference; Self-assessment of the contributions; Declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents; Certificates of work experience, participation in research projects and academic work; Reference for participation in research projects; Reference for scientific metrics; Evidence of activities as a guest editor in scientific publications.

The candidate has attached twenty scientific publications for the period 2015 – 2025 and one published book. All 21 scientific works are on the topic of the competition, have not been submitted in other competitions and are accepted for review. I know the candidate briefly and have no direct personal impressions of him.

2. General characteristics of the applicant's activity

The teaching and pedagogical activity of Dr. Stanimir Manolov is very intensive and includes 13 years of teaching experience at the Department of Organic Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry of the Plovdiv University, including eight and a half years as a chief assistant professor. This fulfills the specific requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" at the Plovdiv University. Dr. Manolov conducts laboratory and seminar courses in "Organic Chemistry", "Chemistry of Medicinal Substances", "Bioorganic Chemistry", "Chemistry of Narcotic Substances", "Practices" for students of the Bachelor's Degree Program and in "Organic Synthesis", "Organic Chemistry", "Stability of Medicinal Products" and "Methods and Approaches for the Study of Biological Activity" for students of the Master's Degree Program. He also lectures to students of the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" in "Organic Chemistry", "Organic Analysis" and in "Chemistry of Steroids", "Stability of Medicinal Products", "Drug Design" for students of the Masters course. The attached report on his teaching activity shows that for the period 2015-2024, Dr. Manolov has conducted over 3980 hours of classroom activities with students, with a required minimum of 1080 hours. This is equivalent to over 440 hours of average annual employment, which significantly exceeds the set minimum of 360 hours/year. This is a very good certificate for the teaching experience of Dr. Manolov. In addition, the candidate has been the supervisor and co-supervisor of thirteen graduate students' theses (11 from the Bachelor's and 2 from the Master's degree programs), has supervised course projects and research practices, and has participated together with students and doctoral students in scientific publications and research projects. In addition, Dr. Manolov has participated very intensively in the development of electronic courses and curricula for Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in Organic Chemistry, Organic Analysis, Steroid Chemistry, Stability of Medicinal Products, Methods and Approaches for the Study of Biological Activity, Chemistry of Synthetic and Semi-Synthetic Medicinal Substances and Chemistry of Narcotic Substances. All this makes a very good impression and outlines Dr. Manolov as a promising lecturer.

Along with the intensive teaching activities, Dr. Manolov also demonstrates an affinity for research. He has participated in the implementation of 10 scientific projects – 6 funded by Plovdiv University, 1 by the National recovery and resilience plan and 3 by the National Research Fund.

Chief assistant professor Dr. Stanimir Manolov has presented an abstract for the acquisition of “Doctor” degree with a dissertation on the topic “Alternative methods for the synthesis of derivatives of the alkaloid cherylline”, which brings him 50 points on indicator A of the RIADASRB. After acquiring the PhD degree, he continued to work on the modification of methods and the development of alternative approaches for the synthesis of organic compounds with biological activity. Out of twenty-one scientific papers in the competition, five publications are presented as equivalent to a habilitation thesis. In two of these publications, the candidate is the first author, in two – the second, and in one he is a corresponding author, which is indicative of his personal contribution to their development. Thus, under indicator B of RIADASRB, he collects 115 points with a required minimum of 100 points. The fifteen publications and one book under indicator Γ bring him 229 points with a required minimum of 200 points. A list of 71 citations is also presented, of which 49 are in publications referenced or indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science. These are equal to 98 points under indicator group Д and exceed the required minimum of 50 points. Thus, under all indicator groups, the candidate meets the minimum scientometric requirements set out in the RIADASRB, with the points for the individual indicator groups being as follows:

Indicator	Minimal requirements	Candidate's points
A	50	50
B	100	115
Γ	200	215
Д	50	98
Total		492

The research of chief assist. prof. Dr. Stanimir Manolov is mainly in the field of organic synthesis and organic analysis, and corresponds very well to the objectives of the announced competition. As a result of his work, scientific contributions have been achieved, mainly of a fundamental nature, in the preparation and characterization of new organic compounds, as well as in the development of alternative methods for the synthesis of such compounds.

3. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks or recommendations regarding the submitted documents and materials, and the candidate's scientific production. The materials for the competition are well-structured, which facilitates their analysis and evaluation.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials presented by chief assist. prof. Stanimir Manolov, PhD meet the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its Implementation and the specific Regulations of Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The candidate demonstrates very intensive educational and pedagogical activities in various disciplines, which is why I find his teaching qualification to be undoubted. In the competition, he submitted a sufficient number of publications published outside the procedure for the acquisition of PhD degree and the competition for the appointment as "chief assistant professor". The results of Dr. Stanimir Manolov in his academic and research activities comply with the minimum national and additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry at the PU "Paisii Hilendarski".

After being acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analyzing their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the selection of chief assist. prof. Stanimir Manolov, PhD for the academic position "associate professor" at PU "Paisii Hilendarski" in field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry, Organic analysis).

06.03.2025

Member of the scientific jury:
(prof. Petko Denev, PhD)