

OPINION

**By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Mironova Statkova - Abeghe – Department of Organic chemistry,
Faculty of chemistry, University of Plovdiv**

on the materials submitted for participation in the competition
for the academic position of "**associate professor**"
at the **Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski"**

By field of higher education: 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics
Professional field: 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic chemistry, Organic analysis)

In the competition for the position of "Associate Professor," announced in the State Gazette, issue 98 of 19.11.2024, and on the website of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, for the needs of the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry, the candidate participating is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stanimir Petrov Manolov from the same department.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the candidate

By Order № RD-22-80 of 17.01.2025, issued by the Rector of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv (PU), I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" at PU in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry, Organic Analysis), **announced for the needs of** the Department of Organic Chemistry at the Faculty of Chemistry of PU.

The only candidate who has submitted documents for participation in the announced competition is Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stanimir Petrov Manolov.

The set of materials submitted by Dr. Manolov, both in paper and electronic format, complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at PU and includes all the necessary documents.

The candidate has submitted a total of 21 scientific works, including one book and a list of 11 research projects. All submitted materials align with the competition's subject area and have been published after obtaining the PhD degree. All articles have been published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in *Web of Science* and *Scopus*. The distribution of scientific works is as follows: Q1: 6 papers, Q2: 1 paper, Q3: 4 papers, Q4: 9 papers. The majority of publications (13) are in open-access journals—one published by ACS and 12 by MDPI. Seven of the publications are in peer-reviewed

journals without an impact factor for the respective year, four of which were published in Bulgarian journals.

The report on meeting the minimum national requirements, submitted by Dr. Manolov, covers the following indicators: **Indicator A** – PhD dissertation (2015) on the topic: "Alternative Methods for the Synthesis of Cherylline Alkaloid Derivatives" – 50 points. **Indicator B** – A total of five articles presented as equivalent to a habilitation work: four Q1 articles and one Q2 article, published in journals indexed in *Web of Science* and *Scopus* – 115 points. **Indicator G** – 15 publications, including two Q1, one Q2, three Q3, two Q4 with impact factor (IF), seven Q4 without IF, and one book – 229 points. **Indicator D** – Citations in publications indexed in *Web of Science* and *Scopus* – 49 citations, totaling 98 points. The candidate participates in the competition with a total of **492** scientometric points.

Dr. Manolov's professional biography is closely connected to Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv, where he completed his Bachelor's degree as part of the first graduating class of the Computer Chemistry program, followed by a Master's degree in Organic Chemistry. From 2010 to 2014, he pursued a PhD in Organic Chemistry under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Iliyan Ivanov. In March 2012, he became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Organic Chemistry, and since 2016, he has held the position of Chief Assistant Professor. Meanwhile, he has also worked in industry, holding the position of Research and Development Assistant at S&A Produce UK Ltd on five occasions (for periods ranging from two to 17 months). Additionally, he has served as a New Product Development Assistant and Technical Supervisor of the Pharmaceutical Stability Department at Natura Quest Pharma Group. In 2021 and again in 2024-2025, Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Manolov has been a part-time assistant at Medical University of Plovdiv, teaching Medicine and Dental Medicine students in foreign-language programs. Dr. Manolov has also gained administrative experience, serving as an Erasmus+ coordinator at the Faculty of Chemistry since 2020 and as the Scientific Secretary of the faculty since 2024.

The candidate's extensive professional experience is supported by a series of 18 qualification enhancement courses completed between 2017 and 2024 at institutions such as Sciex University, Publons Academy, King's College London, the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, and others.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

Dr. Manolov's **teaching and pedagogical activity** from 2015 to 2024 includes a total of 3,203 hours of classroom instruction for bachelor's students and 567 hours for master's students, of which

254 hours were lectures. His lecture courses include: "Organic Analysis" (30 hours) – a mandatory course for bachelor's programs in Analysis and Control and Chemical Analysis and Quality Control. "Introduction to Forensic Chemistry" (15 hours) – a course for the bachelor's program in Forensic Chemistry. "Chemistry of Steroids" (15 hours) – an elective course for the Pharmaceutical Chemistry master's program (part-time study). "Stability of Pharmaceutical Products" (15 hours) – an elective course for the Pharmaceutical Chemistry master's program (part-time study). Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stanimir Manolov also actively works with students and doctoral candidates. Between 2015 and 2024, he has supervised and co-supervised 12 graduate students. Additionally, he has developed and introduced a series of laboratory exercises for the courses "Chemistry of Medicinal Substances," "Chemistry of Drug Substances," "Organic Analysis," and "Stability of Pharmaceutical Products."

Scientific and applied scientific activities

Stanimir Manolov is a co-author of 48 scientific works, including one book, 36 scientific publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals, and 11 publications in non-indexed journals (*Web of Science* and *Scopus*). He participates in the competition with 21 of these works. For **Indicator B**, Dr. Manolov has submitted five scientific works equivalent to a habilitation thesis, with a total impact factor (IF) of 19.7. The remaining 15 publications and one book fall under **Indicator G**, with a total IF of 15.6. His primary research area focuses on the synthesis of new compounds by combining various profens with primary and secondary amines through molecular hybridization. The resulting compounds have been examined *in vitro* and *in silico* to assess antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis, and other activities, as well as general toxicity. A new term, "Amfens," has been proposed for amphetamine-profen hybrids. A relatively new direction in his research is the application of mechanochemical synthesis for the targeted molecules. His second research area involves phytochemical analysis of essential oils and polyphenols from medicinal plants such as Roman chamomile, immortelle, anise hyssop, fireweed, lupine, and others. He also investigates the bioactivity of extracts, both directly and after fractionation.

The research has both scientific and applied contributions, which have been highly recognized by the international scientific community. A total of 18 works have been cited, and according to the candidate's data, there are over 70 citations, with 50 of them appearing in peer-reviewed and indexed journals from foreign authors. The scientific contributions are related to the development of new synthesis methods and the application of modern techniques for determining the structure of new molecules. Notably, three flavonoids and four quercetin glycosides were identified in *C. Botrys* for the first time. The applied research includes interdisciplinary studies on the physiological activity of

new hybrid molecules and plant extracts, using various analytical methods. There is no doubt about the originality of the results and Dr. Manolov's personal contribution to the research.

All quantitative indicators required for the academic position of Associate Professor have been met and exceeded by 15% to 95%.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stanimir Petrov Manolov **meet** the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB, and the relevant Regulations of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv.

Dr. Manolov has submitted **a sufficient** number of scientific works published after the materials used for the defense of his PhD degree. The publications **contain original scientific and applied contributions** that have received international recognition, as they have been exclusively published in prestigious international journals. His scientific research is focused on teaching in the field of medical chemistry and organic analysis. The scientific and teaching qualifications of Stanimir Petrov Manolov **are indisputable and cannot be questioned**.

The results achieved by Stanimir Manolov in his teaching and research activities **fully comply** with the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of the Faculty of Chemistry, as adopted in connection with the Regulations of PU for the implementation of LDASRB.

After reviewing the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, their significance, and the scientific contributions, I find it justified to give my **positive assessment** and **support** the preparation of a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Chemistry for the appointment of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Stanimir Petrov Manolov to the academic position of “Associate Professor” at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry, Organic Analysis).

28.02.2025

The opinion was prepared by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stela Statkova-Abeghe