

## **POSITION**

by PROF. NIKOLAY ELENKOV LAZAROV, MD, PhD, DSc

**REGARDING THE COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "PROFESSOR"  
BY SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "PHARMACOLOGY"  
INSTITUTE OF NEUROBIOLOGY,  
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES – SOFIA**

In the competition for occupying the academic position "professor" in scientific specialty "Pharmacology" for the needs of Department "Behavioral Neurobiology", Institute of Neurobiology (INB) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, published in State Gazette No 10 / 01.02.2019 applies one candidate: LYUBKA PAVLOVA TANCHEVA, PhD, Associate Professor in the same Department of INB-BAS.

Associate Professor Lyubka Tancheva was born on 26.05.1952 in Sofia. She graduated at the Pharmaceutical Faculty of the Medical Academy, at present Medical University (MU)–Sofia in 1975. During the period 1976-1987 she was an assistant in toxicology at the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the Faculty of Medicine at MU-Sofia. In 1983, after successful defense of her thesis, she acquired the educational and scientific degree "doctor". Since 1987 Lyubka Tancheva has been a research associate at the Institute of Neurobiology, where she has gone through the entire academic path to a senior research associate II degree (Associate Professor) in Pharmacology, an academic position she has been occupying since 2007. She has held short-term specializations at the Institute of Pharmacology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, at the Universities of Jena, Germany and Cambridge University, UK; for a period of one year she was a visiting professor at the Weitzmann Research Institute in Israel. Associate Professor Tancheva speaks English and Russian languages.

Assoc. Prof. Lyubka Tancheva has more than 32 years of work experience at the Institute of Neurobiology and almost 11 years at MU-Sofia. During the current academic year she works as a guest lecturer at South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad, where she leads courses on Drug Toxicology. Assoc. Prof. Tancheva participates actively in the academic development of students and young collaborators from different institutions - she was a mentor of three medical students, four graduates and two students from the Sofia University "Kliment Ohridski". Under her supervision there was one successfully defended PhD thesis, and she is currently supervisor of four PhD students at INB-BAS. The above stated data give me sufficient reason to accept that Assoc. Prof. Lyubka Tancheva is a well-established and respected lecturer with proven professionalism and undisputed scientific-leader competencies.

In the present competition Assoc. Prof. Tancheva participates with 36 scientific publications, which are not included in the lists of scientific papers with which she has acquired the scientific degree "PhD" and the previous habilitation. The profile of the publications to be reviewed in this competition includes 25 scientific articles published in referred and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information journals (17 of which with impact factor and 6 with impact rank), and 11 articles published in unrefined journals or printed collective volumes, 7 of them in English. From the publications in referred journals 3 fall into the first quarter (Q1) of the most authoritative journals in the SCOPUS databases, 5 are in category Q2 and 15 are in journals from the lower two quartiles (3 - in the middle category Q3 and 12 in Q4 category). It is noticeable that 33 of the publications are a collective work, but in 6 of them (4 in the referred journals) Tancheva is a leading author. Three of the candidate's papers (in Bulgarian language), in which she is the only author, are actually chapters of a textbook on pharmacology and toxicology for medical students. From the presented data it is evident that the numerical indicators of the scientific journals with her publications in the professor's competition are as follows: total impact factor 21.095, aggregate impact rank 1.415. Tancheva presents a list of 45 participations in scientific forums in Bulgaria (29) and abroad (16) for the period 2010-2019. She is also part of a team of inventors who have declared at the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria the right to acquire a patent for the invention: "Adamantine derivative with antiviral and antiparkinsonic activity". Assoc. Prof. Tancheva was coordinator on the Bulgarian side of three successfully completed projects and one ongoing bilateral contract in the frame of EBR, all with partners from Israel. She is coordinator for INB-BAS of two current and participant in two completed research grants funded by the National Science Fund of Bulgaria, coordinator of work package in a project from the Ministry of Education and Science "Innovative Low-Toxic Biologically Active Means for Precision Medicine (BioActiveMed)". Tancheva was a participant in the scientific teams that have developed over the years 14 interinstitutional research projects with MU-Sofia, MU-Varna, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and HTMU-Sofia. Through these projects financial resources were invested in INB-BAS in the amount of BGN 28 000.

The scientific interests of Assoc. Prof. Tancheva are in the field of experimental pharmacology and toxicology. The main focus of her research is synthesis and drug design of biologically active substances, and study of the effect of newly synthesized analogs in diseases with social impact. Specifically, the scientific contributions from these experiments have led to the synthesis of new valine and neurotensin derivatives and for clarifying their effects on models of experimental aggression and social isolation in a genetic model of autism, as well as to the development of new approaches for prevention and therapy of neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's dementia.

Six of the research papers of the candidate in the competition are cited 39 times in Bulgarian and foreign scientific literature. Due to lack of attached documentation, I cannot assess the nature of these quotes. According to Scopus, Assoc. Prof. Tancheva has h-index = 5, with 21 of its publications quoting a total of 126 times.

In conclusion, I consider that the long and profound methodical preparation of Assoc. Prof. Tancheva, her indisputable scientific contributions from research activities (sufficient number of publications in Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals with an impact factor or an impact rank, international recognition expressed in citations of the authors' findings by foreign authors) is a sufficient attestation of her qualities as an established researcher and a scientist-pharmacologist with proven creative achievements. Her scientific assets and metrics meet the minimum national requirements for participation in a competition for professorship and cover the quantitative and qualitative requirements of INB-BAS for the occupation of this academic position.

All this gives me the belief that the candidate has the necessary professional qualities, methodical preparation, language skills and research experience - therefore, I recommend to the members of the scientific jury to positively vote for the election of Associate Professor Lyubka Tancheva at the ACADEMIC POSITION "PROFESSOR" in professional Strand 7.1. Medicine in the scientific specialty "Pharmacology".

Sofia

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