

## POSITION

by Svetlana Dimitrova Simova - Professor at Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry-BAS  
on a competition announced for the occupation of the academic position "professor" by cipher 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty - Pharmacology  
for the needs of Department "Behavioral Neurobiology" at INB – BAS

### General presentation of the procedure and the applicant

By virtue of Order № 228 of March 29, 2019 of the Director of INB - BAS, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury at a competition for occupying the academic position "Professor" at INB - BAS according to the area of the educational system "7. Health and Sport", professional field "7.1. Medicine", the scientific specialty - **Pharmacology**, announced for the needs of the Department "Behavioral Neurobiology" at INB - BAS.

In the competition for professor, published in the State Gazette, No. 10 from 01.02.2019, the only candidate involved for participation is Dr. Lyubka Pavlova Tancheva, Associate Professor at INB-BAS, Department "Behavioral Neurobiology".

She has presented a set of paper-based materials that are extensive, consistently arranged and supported. They are in accordance with the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute of Neurobiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, exceeding considerably the recommended criteria for occupying the academic position "Professor", and include the administrative and scientific documents necessary for the procedure. Dr. Lyubka Tancheva has presented for the competition a monographic work, 25 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in a world-renowned databases with scientific information and 11 publications and reports published in unrefined journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes, also one patent application. An accurate reference is made to 39 citations and data on the number of 70 independent citations, and h-index equal to 5. Assoc. Prof. Tancheva has been conducting and participating in a significant number of research projects with national funding (MES, NSF, EBD, MU- Sofia and Varna, SU, UCTM). A list of 81 presentations was presented in 45 international forums with 11 reports and 70 posters. Assoc. Prof. Tancheva is a co-author of a patent application. She is the supervisor of 5 PhD candidates and 11 students on various programs, 4 of whom have prepared their Master theses.

Her teaching activity is also significant - 10 years as an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, Sofia and as a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the South-West University "Neofit Rilski". Data is presented on attracted funds at INB-BAS.

Dr. Lyubka Tancheva's exceedance of the minimum requirements of the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Occupation of Academic Positions at the Institute of Neurobiology at BAS is clearly visible from the table of points by the individual groups of indicators as follows:

INDICATORS	CONTENT	Number of points required by INB-BAS	Number of points in the contest
A	Dissertation work for the educational scientific degree "Doctor"	50	50
B	Dissertation work for the "Doctor of Science" degree	—	—
C	Habilitation work-monograph or 10 reference papers	100	100
D	Publications in the competition for the professor (excluding once for "doctor" and "assistant professor" titles)	220	354
E	Quoting only the publications in the professor's contest	120	540
F	Participation/leadership of scientific projects with PhD students / PhD scientist	150	605

*\*The number of points is reduced, i.e. a publication in habilitation work should not be marked in indicator D, but in world-known databases with scientific information under the meaning of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in the field of only Scopus and Web of Science*

I have only known Prof. Tancheva for a year, but I am impressed by her profoundness, persistence and desire to achieve reliable scientific results.

### **General characteristic of the applicant's activity**

Assoc. Prof. Tancheva's professional development has been realized in the most authoritative educational and scientific institutions in the country - the Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical University Sofia and INB - BAS. She has gained her qualification at the Institute of Pharmacology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena and the Faraday Institute in Cambridge. Tancheva received a scholarship as a guest professor at the Weizmann Research Institute in Rehovot, Israel. Years of systematic self-building, accumulated knowledge and experience make the acquisition of a professor's status as a logical and natural next step in her professional development supported by the following arguments.

- promising scientific field - studies on bioactive compounds of natural and synthetic origin for protection and therapy of socially significant diseases by applying new and classic experimental approaches and studying mechanisms in neurodegenerative processes.
- significant volume and quality of scientific production presented for the purposes of this competition, which has been found in the scientific literature.
- substantial scientific contributions such as the application of multitarget strategies in the treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases with substances of natural origin - ellagic and lipoic acid, monoterpene mirtenal and melatonin.
- scientific contributions in neurobiological and psychopharmacological studies of newly synthesized analogues on experimental models of socially significant diseases.
- scientific contributions in development of experimental approaches for protection and therapy of neurodegenerative diseases.
- scientific contributions to targeted synthesis and drug design for the selection of biologically active substances - *in vitro* and *in vivo*.
- contributions to the study of new mechanisms of neurodegenerative processes and social isolation.
- successful participation in a large number of scientific and applied research projects, funded by different sources. It should be noted the interdisciplinary nature of many of the projects and the ability of the candidate to work in a team, both as a principal investigator or as a team-member.
- participation with oral and poster presentations at a large number of different scientific forums in the country and abroad - congresses, conferences, etc.

### **Assessment of the applicant's personal contribution**

The personal contribution of **Assoc. Prof. Lyubka Tancheva** in the themes and publications developed is unquestionable and significant. The authorship report for the scientific contributions correctly summarizes the activity performed and reflects the theoretical and applied results achieved. I could characterize Dr. Tancheva as an erudite, correct, communicative colleague with considerable intellectual capacity.

### **Critical remarks and recommendations**

I have no critical comments on the materials presented by Dr. Tancheva in the competition for professor as well as on her considerable scientific work. I would recommend presenting all documents not only on paper but also electronically, which would facilitate the reviewers.

### **CONCLUSION**

The documents and materials presented by Associate Professor Dr. Lyubka Pavlova Tancheva meet all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Implementation and the Regulations for the Terms and

Procedure for Occupation of Academic Personnel at the INB at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Assoc. Prof. Tancheva has presented a significant number of scientific papers published after the acquisition of the academic position "Associate Professor". She has made significant scientific contributions in the field of neurobiology, which have received international recognition. Her qualifications in science are undoubtedly highly appreciated.

The results achieved by Dr. Lyubka Pavlova Tancheva in the research and scientific-applied work significantly exceed the requirements of the Institute of Neurobiology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the application of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

After studying the materials and scientific papers presented in the competition, analysis of their importance and the scientific and applied contributions contained therein, I find it worthwhile to give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report proposal to the Scientific Council of Institute of Neurobiology - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for awarding Assoc. Prof. Lyubka Pavlova Tancheva, PhD the Academic Position "Professor" at INB - BAS in Professional Field 7.1. Medicine, Scientific Specialty - Pharmacology.

Sofia, 09.06.2019