

OPINION

by Professor Dr. Dimitar Petkov Sivrev, MD, PhD - Department of Anatomy at the Medical Faculty of the Thracian University (Trakia University), Stara Zagora,

Subject: Conducting a competition in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, in scientific field 7.1. Medicine, for the academic position "Professor", in the scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology". The competition was announced in the State Gazette no. 59/16.07.2021.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, MD, Ph.D., submitted documents for the announced position within the legal deadline.

Analysis of the applied documents

The candidate has submitted the administrative documents required to apply for the academic position of "professor".

Analysis of education and qualification

Assoc. Prof. Stefanov presented detailed evidentiary documentation in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations for its implementation. According to the attached diploma (decision of the FS, protocol №7/27.06.2016) Dr. Stefanov was confirmed in the academic position of Associate Professor at the Medical Faculty - Stara Zagora, by order of the Rector of TrU №1696 from 01.07.2016.

The professional development of the candidate marks several main points. He graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Thracian University in 1997, obtaining a master's degree in veterinary medicine. Starting in the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Thracian University, he held the academic positions of assistant, senior assistant and chief assistant.

From the presented CV it is evident that the candidate is an assistant in the section "Histology" at the Department of Veterinary Cytology, Histology and Embryology from 2000 to 2003 and a senior assistant in the same section of the Department from 2003 to 2004.

From February 26, 2006 to 2007 Dr. Stefanov was an assistant in the Section of Anatomy at the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology and Senior Assistant in the same section of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology. From 2007 to 2011 he became a senior assistant in the same section of the Department in 2011.

In 2011 Dr Stefanov defended his dissertation on "Morphofunctional aspects of the paraanal sinus (Sinus paraanalis) in dogs" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (document № 0005/16.12.2011).

Since 2016, the candidate for the academic position of "Professor" has been confirmed as an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy at the Medical Faculty of the Thracian University, Stara Zagora.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov has specializations and scientific experience abroad, which increase his scientific and teaching level, namely:

1. Quarterly training (Short Term Scientific Missions - STSMs) on COST Action BM 1007 "Mast Cells and Basophils - Targets for Innovative Therapies", Prague, Czech Republic - Institute of Molecular Genetics - CHAN, for the period from 18. 02 to May 18, 2013

2. Participation in a workshop on "Application of confocal microscopy", organized by YGVA (Young Generation of Veterinary Anatomists), Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 8-10, 2007.

3. Visitation through Erasmus programme to the Department of Anatomy in Bursa, Republic of Turkey in 2012, for training purposes.

4. From 18 to 22.05. In 2015, the candidate for the academic position "Professor" held a lecture and practical course on "Application of silicone elastomers in anatomy training" at the Department of Anatomy of the Veterinary Faculty, Ankara, Turkey. The course is based on the Erasmus + program for teaching purposes.

Scientific activity, social skills and competencies

According to the presented CV, the candidate shows high communication skills and good opportunities for teamwork, as well as the ability to organize scientific and experimental activities.

In his professional field, Assoc. Prof. Stefanov masters and applies morphological methods aimed at 5 areas:

1. Investigation of the distribution, histochemical, enzymohistochemical, immunohistochemical, and morphometric characteristics of mast cells in the organs of domestic and laboratory animals.

2. Study of the distribution of endocrine cells mainly in the bile ducts, as well as in other organs.

3. Study of macro- and microvascularization of the extrahepatic bile ducts.

4. Study of the innervation of the extrahepatic bile ducts in pigs using enzymohistochemical and immunohistochemical methods.

5. Macro- and micromorphometric studies.

From the presented list it is clear that Assoc. Prof. Stefanov has participated in four university Scientific projects, leading one of them:

1. Scientific project №13-2017 at the Medical Faculty of the Thracian University.

Topic: "Study of the distribution of mast cells in the skin, carotid body and brain in rats, as well as in the extrahepatic bile ducts of domestic pigs in the norm"

Leader: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov, Ph.D.

2. Scientific project 15/18 "Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate diaphorase (NADPH-d) in the intramural part of the urethra in domestic swine"

Leader: Prof. Dr. Vodenicharov Angel Petrov

3. Scientific project 08/17 "Distribution and histochemical characteristics of mast cells in the intravesical part of the urethra in domestic pigs"

Leader: Prof. Dr. Vodenicharov Angel Petrov

4. Scientific project 07/19 "Distribution, histochemical and enzymochemical characteristics of mast cells in the bladder wall in domestic pigs"

Leader: Prof. Angel Petrov Vodenicharov

The candidate speaks English. Evidence is presented:

1. English language training course

(№ 1049/09.02.2002). Level of proficiency - B1.

2. Specialized English language course for mastering professional terminology (Certificate of foreign language specialization № 6262/29.06.2010).

Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov is a member of:

1. Bulgarian Anatomical Society (BAD) since 2008 -.

2. European Association of Veterinary Anatomists (EAVA) of 2012.

3. Union of Scientists - Stara Zagora.

Teaching work

From the presented reference for the teaching activity with ref. №1425/14.09.2021 it is evident that for a period of 5 years and 1 month Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov has enough teaching experience as an associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Stara Zagora. He led part of the lecture course in Bulgarian and English in the discipline "Cytology and Histology" with a schedule of 60 lecture hours and 30 hours of exercises in the specialty "Medicine".

The candidate for the academic position "Professor" has led practical exercises in the discipline "Human Anatomy" with a working time of 240 hours with first and second year students in the specialty of "Medicine".

Lecture course and part of the practical exercises on SID "General and Special Embryology" for first-year medical students.

Lecture course on the subject "Human Anatomy" for the specialties "Nurse" - 20 hours and "Midwife" - 30 hours.

In support of the teaching work, the candidate has participated in the publication of manuals, textbooks and guides. Three of them are in Bulgarian and three are in English, as follows:

1/ "Cytology, general histology, general embryology. Manual and workbook for medical students.". 2/ "Collection of test questions in cytology, general histology, general embryology for medical students". 3/ "Manual for exercises in topographic anatomy of domestic animals". 4/ "Cytology, General Histology, General Embryology. Guide and workbook for medical students." 5/ "Guide for diaphonization". 6/ "Manual for practical training in Topographic Anatomy of domestic animals".

Analysis of research activity

The evaluation of the research activity is based on the criteria adopted in the Republic of Bulgaria for holding the academic position "Professor", reflected in the "Law on the Development of Academic Staff" and the "Regulations for its implementation".

The candidate, who submitted an application for participation in the competition, submitted a list of the titles of 18 full-text articles, of which 6 are in IF journals, 8 are in SJR journals, 4 are in refereed journals.

Assoc. Prof. Stefanov has published a monograph entitled "Morphometric, histochemical and immunohistochemical characteristics of mast cells in the gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts in domestic pigs".

For the period 2016-2020, the candidate for the academic position "Professor" has 16 participations in 9 scientific forums, including one international in Hanover, Germany, 6 national with international participation and 2 national, for which evidence was presented. In 2019 he participated in the organization of a national congress with international participation.

Assoc. Prof. Stefanov has been cited 12 times. One of the citations is by a Bulgarian author, and the other 11 are in renowned foreign journals.

Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Stefanov was the supervisor of one doctoral student, seven times he participated in a scientific jury for academic positions and once - in the selection of an assistant. The candidate for the academic position "Professor" has been awarded 3 times for active participation in the publishing activities of the Thracian University in connection with the publication of 3 articles in journals with IF. He took part as a lecturer in a working meeting organized by the Institute of Fishery Resources in Varna, on "Diaphonized biological sites."

Contributions to scientific works

The scientific contributions from the research activity of Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Stefanov are mainly in the field of anatomy, histology and cytology, and can be related to the following main areas: macro- and microscopic anatomy, vascularization, histochemistry, enzymohistochemistry and immunohistochemistry. ducts, spinal ganglia in pigs; histochemical and immunohistochemical studies on mast cells in various organs of rat, pig and human. They are grouped thematically in five points:

1. Macroscopic anatomy, vascularization. Microscopic anatomy.
2. Morphometric, histochemical and immunohistochemical studies on mast cells and nerve structures in various organs of pigs, rats and normal humans.
3. Immunohistochemical studies on mast cells in human lung disease.
4. Immunohistochemical expression of ghrelin in human stomach cancer.
5. Morphological changes in nerve structures and mast cells in acupuncture at acupuncture point ST36 in rats.

The contributions are presented in: 1 monograph and 18 scientific publications, published in various international and Bulgarian scientific journals in full text, in English. The candidate is a leading author in 7 scientific publications (42.8%), in 1 of which he is an independent author. He is the second author in 5 publications and the last author in 7. Six of the publications are with IF, 8 - in journals with SJR, and 4 - in refereed journals without IF and SJR.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the documents and materials presented to me, and taking into account both the theoretical and practical contribution of research, as well as the business and organizational qualities of the candidate in the competition for the academic position "Professor", I believe that Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, PhD is a built scientist with achievements in science, demonstrated by his published results.

If we compare the presented evidence for the overall scientific activity of the candidate for the academic position "Professor" with the minimum number of required points by groups of indicators for the position of Professor in Area 7. Health and Sports and Professional 7.1. Medicine, it is evident that the collected points from group A, B and C (indicators 1, 2 and 3 or 4) meet the requirements, from group D and E (indicators 5-9 and 10-12) are significantly above the requirements for indicators 5-9 - more than double the number of points). The points in group E (indicators from 13 to the end) the points are a little more than the required ones.

Due to the above, I propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to rank Assoc. Prof. Dr Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, MD, PhD for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, and Professional field 7.1. Medicine, and to present it for election to the relevant Scientific Council of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas.

08.12.2021 год
гр. Стара Загора

Изготвил рецензията: /
/проф. д-р Димитър Сиврев, дм/