

## STANDPOINT

From Prof. D-r Maya Vladova Gulubova MD, PhD

Department of Pathology, Medical Faculty, Trakia University, Stara Zagora

For participation in a contest for academic position "Associate Professor" in "Cellular Biology" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences

Based on Article 57(2) from PPZRASRB and Article 70(2) from PURPNSZAD in "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass has been announced a contest for academic position "Associate Professor" in "Cellular Biology" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences, published in a "State newspaper", number 45 from 17 June 2022. One candidate has been admitted for the procedure - Veselina Stoyanova Merhar, PhD, Chief Assistant in the Department of Biology, Medical Genetics and Microbiology, Medical Faculty, "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass.

The presented materials are in compliance with Article 7 (1) from Statute for the conditions and turn for acquisition of academic positions (PURPHSZAD) in the "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass.

In addition, after insistence of the chairman of scientific jury, the candidate presented information about Impact factor (IF) and SJR of the articles, where the scientific papers have been published, and IF and SJR of the articles, which have cited these papers.

### 1. Career development of the candidate

Veselina Stoyanova Merhar acquires Master's degree in Biology, speciality of "Molecular and Functional Biology" in Biological Faculty of Sofia University "St. Climent Ohridski" in 1986. In the same year she has been appointed as biologist in the Physics Institute of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, where she works until 1989. In the period of 1990-1993 Merhar elaborates PhD thesis for acquisition of educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the Institute of Plant Physiology, Russian Academy of Sciences, theme "Soluble proteins of wheat germ in connection with seed vigor". In 1994 after a contest she has been appointed on academic degree "research fellow II degree" in the Institute of Plant Physiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the period of 1997-2000 she has been post-doc in the University of Bloemfontein, Republics of South Africa. From 2001 she has been appointed as assistant professor in Kwazulu-Natal University, Durbin, South Africa, where Merhar works (with short suspension) until 2017, when she returns to Bulgaria. From 2019 she is a teacher in "Pharmaceutical Botany" in the Medical College. From march 2020 after a contest she begins to work as chief assistant-professor in the Department of "Biology, medical genetics, and microbiology" in the Medical Faculty, "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass.

## 2. Scientific subject

Scientific subject of Merhar refers to visualization and characterization of various cellular components, and to cellular response to stress, caused by infections. Her earlier investigations have been conducted on plant material and concern biochemical and structural changes in cells of the host as a result of interaction with plant-pathogen. Later she having researcher's experience and knowing immunohistochemical methods, in combination with contemporary microscopic techniques has worked on placental morphology of patients with pre-eclampsia with HIV infection. The investigation on cellular cyto- and nuclear skeleton with contemporary immunofluorescent techniques including Con focal laser scanning microscopy. The developed method for direct visualization of nuclear skeleton is a significant contribution in the investigations on the inner nuclear skeleton, which existence is still contested by some scientists. Scientific directions and contributions of Merhar are according to the scientific field 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences, for which she applied.

Merhar has great experience in the application in various techniques for light and electron microscopy (transmission and scanning) and connected with them computer programs for image analysis. Her scientific investigation shows her great experience in contemporary technologies in fluorescent microscopy including Con focal laser scanning microscopy, applied in cell biology. This experience has been achieved on seminars and trainings organized by Leica Microsystems (presented certificates). This experience Merhar uses in her scientific investigations and in the training of researchers, teachers and students in seminars of con focal microscopy.

## 3. Scientific metrics

Merhar takes part in the contest with 12 scientific publications. From them 3 articles with Q1; 2 with Q2; 5 with Q3; and 2 with Q4. Seven articles are with impact factor. In addition, 6 publications in revised proceedings and articles from scientific events are presented. She presents one monograph, 2 published chapters in a book and a monograph and scientific reports and posters from 16 international and national congresses. She participated as a manager of student's research in student's scientific conference.

In the contest Merhar takes part with 60 citations in international journals with Impact factor. Merhar participates in 5 scientific projects in the Republic of South Africa. S has been manager of one of the projects.

Accordig to minimum requirements, determined according PPURPSZAD in the "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass in group of indicators "G" Merhar represents 244 score (minimum 200 points). In group "D" Merhar represents 120 score (minimum 100 points), and in group "E" Merhar presents 130 score (minimum 100 points). In group "B" Merhar represents 50 score because of monograph, and in group "A" Merhar represents 50 score because of PhD thesis.

## 4. Educational and teaching activities

Merhar is on permanent employment contract as chief assistant-professor in the Department of "Biology, medical genetics, and microbiology" in the Medical Faculty, "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass. Merhar teaches in medicine speciality "cytology, general histology and embryology of

humans" lectures and exercises I student's course; "Human's biology" – I course exercises; "Microscopic anatomy" – I and II course exercises.

Speciality "Physician assistant", Faculty of Health Care: "Human's biology" - I course, lectures and exercises.

#### CONCLUSION

Scientometric indicators, contributions from scientific activity and the great research experience of chief assistant professor Veselina Merhar PhD are in accordance with the requirements of Statute for the conditions and turn for acquisition of academic positions (PURPHSZAD) in the "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass, for occupation of academic position as "Associate professor".

For these reasons I am convinced to give my **positive assessment** to chief assistant professor **Veselina Stoyanova Merhar PhD** to be to be elected for occupation of academic position as "**Associate professor**" in "**Cellular Biology**" in the field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3. Biological Sciences, the "Prof Asen Zlatarov" University Bourgass.

17.11. 2022 r.  
Bourgass

....

.....

ya Gulubova, MD, PhD)