

**OPINION**

**in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"  
by scientific specialty**

**"Pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacognosy"**

for the needs of the **Department of Pharmacy**

**Medical College, University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas,**

announced in SG, no. 105 of 11.12.2020

from

**Prof. Ilko Nikolaev Getov, Ph.D.**

Internal member of the scientific jury, according to Order № RD-28 / 05.02.2021 of the Rector  
of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas Prof. Dr. Magdalena Mitkova

**Regarding the procedure for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor":**

Area of higher education - 7. Health and sports

Professional field - 7.3 Pharmacy

Scientific specialty - Pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacognosy

**The only candidate is Chief. Assistant Prof. MPharm. Stefan Vanev Harkov, PhD**, Deputy Director of the  
Medical College of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

**Biographical data:** Ch. Assistant Professor Stefan Vanev Harkov graduated with a master's degree in the regulated professions "Pharmacy" in 2010 at the Lviv National Medical University "Danilo Halitsky" in Lviv, Ukraine. He defended his master's thesis at the Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany. In the same year he was accepted for full-time doctoral studies for a period of 4 years at the Lviv National Medical University "Danilo Halitsky". After successfully defending his dissertation on "Synthesis and biological activity of thiazolidine derivatives with 2-oxo-1,3-dihydroindole fragment in the molecule" in 2014, he acquired "PhD" degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, which is recognized by the relevant order in Bulgaria - Certificate №120 / 10.01.2020 and the candidate is included in the NACID register. Since 2016, after a competition, he has held the academic position of "Assistant" in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Department of Pharmacy of the Medical College. Since 2018 he has been a senior assistant, and since January 2020 - Deputy Director of the College.

Harkov's work experience is diverse and consistent. After working in various structures of the pharmaceutical sector, he has gained significant practical experience and skills and established positions in the professional, teaching and scientific circles.

**Scientific activity:** In the present competition Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Harkov participates with a total of 26 scientific publications, including 11 publications in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, all in English and impact-rank; 6 publications and reports in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Scopus, Web of Science) and 8 in non-refereed journals with scientific review. The dissertation for the acquisition of "PhD" is in the scientific specialty of the competition. The minimum national requirements and the scientometric indicators of the Regulations for the conditions and the order for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

Dr. Harkov's research interests are in the field of pharmaceutical chemistry - 12 full-text publications and pharmacognosy - 3. The candidate has extensively studied newly synthesized compounds including thiazolidine, pyrazoline and isatin fragments for their activity and toxicity as potential drugs. The synthesized compounds were studied for antitumor, antiviral and antioxidant activity in vitro, as well as a detailed study of their toxicity "in vivo". An in silico study and COMPARE analysis of the groups of potentially antitumor and antiviral agents were performed, on the basis of which to hypothesize the mechanism of action and formulate proposals for targeted synthesis of new drug molecules. In the field of pharmacognosy, morphologically, anatomically and phytochemically, the genus "Geum L.", the underground and aboveground organs of "Geum urbanum" were studied and the quantitative content of BAC was determined. The quantitative content of tannins in the individual organs (underground and aboveground) is determined depending on the period and phase of harvesting. Phytopreparations were obtained and their antimicrobial activity was determined. There is a complement and a logical connection between the scientific fields in the complex nature of the scientific specialty of the competition.

The results of the candidate's research activity are significant and documented through the presentation in the competition of the publications in full text, the participation in scientific forums, 5 research projects and nearly 170 citations (all positive). I accept the submitted report on the author's contributions.

**Pedagogical activity:** Ch. Assistant Professor Stefan Harkov has the necessary pedagogical experience and activities at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"- Burgas and Medical College. From the academic year 2016/17 he holds the academic position of assistant, from 2018 he is the chief assistant and has the necessary work load. Participates in the teaching of compulsory subjects in USR for the acquisition of a professional bachelor's degree in students majoring in "Assistant pharmacist", has experience in lecturing and leading practical exercises, seminars, internships and undergraduate internships. The report on the study load covers the requirements of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"- Burgas.

I recommend expanding the audience of trained students in order to achieve optimization and efficient use of scarce resources in the health care system.

**Overall assessment:** The materials presented in the competition give me reason to believe that Ch. Assistant Professor Stefan Vanev Harkov, PhD covers all the basic and additional requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"- Burgas. The candidate has a diverse teaching and research activity, participates in the creation of curricula, is the author of scientific articles published in refereed national and international publications and has administrative experience.

The scientific developments are entirely in the field of scientific specialties of the competition - pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacognosy. Some of the publications have a pronounced practical orientation, which shows that the candidate is an established specialist in practice and has proven achievements in his complex scientific field.

**Conclusion:** As an internal member of the Scientific Jury of the announced competition, I believe that in terms of its research activities and scientometric indicators, the candidate meets the requirements of ZRASRB. A dissertation for "PhD" in the scientific specialty of the competition has been defended and the scientific production of Dr. Harkov is sufficient in volume. The presented list of publications shows that he continues to work very intensively in the chosen field and meets the criteria for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

According to the Law on Scientific Research, the educational activity is an important indicator in the final evaluation of the candidates by the scientific jury. Ch. Assistant Professor Harkov has the necessary

pedagogical experience and practice. Regarding the additional indicators, according to PPZRASRB, I have a high assessment of the candidate.

All the above gives me reason to strongly recommend to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the academic position of "Associate Professor" to the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Stefan Vanev Harkov, Ph.D.

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Member of the scientific jury:

Prof. Ilko Nikolaev Getov, Ph.D.

(according to Order № RD-28 of 05.02.2021 of the Rector)