

TO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY

APPOINTED WITH ORDER no. RD-04-49/17.08.2022

BY THE HEAD OF THE IEMPAM- BAS

STANDPOINT

Regarding a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor"

In the scientific field "Anthropology",

For the needs of the section "Anthropology and anatomy" to The Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEMPAM- BAS)

announced in The State Newspaper no. 60 of 29.07.2022.

Candidates: Chief Assistant Prof. Silvia Yanakieva Nikolova, PhD

In the scientific field "Anthropology",

Written out by: Assoc. Prof. Dr Angel Dimchev Dandov, PhD

Scientific Specialty "Anatomy, histology and cytology"

Institution: Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology

The Medical University of Sofia

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One candidate, Chief Assistant Prof. Silvia Yanakieva Nikolova, a PhD in the scientific field Anthropology, applied to the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor. Dr Nikolova presented a complete set of documents that comply with the requirements for taking up the academic position.

Dr Silvia Nikolova was born in 1982 in Sofia. In 2003 she acquired a bachelor's degree in Biology and Chemistry at Sofia University Saint Kliment Ochridski", and then a master's degree in General anthropology, specialty of Biology, at the same university. From July 2010 until April 2011 she worked as a specialist-biologist to IEMPAM- BAS. Dr Nikolova successfully defended a PhD thesis entitled "ANATOMICAL VARIATIONS OF THE SKULL – ANTHROPOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SEXUAL AND BILATERAL VARIATIONS", and she acquired the educational and scientific degree DOCTOR in anthropology. Since May 2011 she held the post of an assistant professor, and since 20102 she has held the position of a chief assistant professor to IEMPAM- BAS.

Silvia Nikolova has 13 years of work experience in the field of her specialty.

In the present competition for the announced academic position of Associate Professor, Dr Silvia Nikolova has submitted 21 research articles and 74 participations in national and international scientific events and congresses for the period between 2012 and 2021. It is worth noting that all her research papers appear in prestigious international journals. In eleven out of 21 articles she is the leading author. Fourteen of her publications are in journals with an impact factor, and six in sources with an impact rank. Dr Silvia Nikolova has also participated in writing out a chapter of a book.

The scientific output of the candidate is impressive, and it consists of prolific publication activity, a monograph, a PhD thesis and citations in the world database, where Dr Silvia Nikolova was cited 172 times, while the compulsory citations for an Associate Professor completion are thirty-five.

Dr Nikolova received three prestigious awards for participation in scientific forums, and her most impressive one is the Dimitar Kadanov award from the Bulgarian Anatomical Society for publication activity in the period 2019-2021. Moreover, she participated in five large scientific projects in the field of her expertise; three of them were budgeted by the Scientific Research Fund. In two of the projects Dr Nikolova was a leading researcher and investigator.


The research contributions of Dr Silvia Nikolova are of theoretical, but above all of practical and applicable nature. Many of them are of use for forensic medicine and legal anthropology, sex and age determination using the size of the greater occipital foramen, the mastoid process and the skull as a whole. Dr Nikolova also works in the field of facial approximation and the reconstruction of the soft tissues on the skull. Besides, in part of her investigations she applies the methods of the micro-computer tomography (μ CT) in the area of bioarcheology and paleopathology.

Conclusion:

From everything said above and the documents submitted for the competition it should be concluded that Dr Silvia Nikolova is a completely accomplished scientist. She possesses a depth of knowledge, a high level of expertise in her field, and a grasp of an array of modern methods and techniques. I have had the opportunity to observe and also participate, although for a short period of time, in the research done by Dr Silvia Nikolova. Therefore, I can state that she is a researcher with enviable competence in her field, a firm grasp in her knowledge, ambition and accomplishment of the set tasks. All this makes her future career even more promising. Not only does Dr Nikolova meet but she also greatly surpasses the minimal national requirements for taking up the academic position of Associate Professor. Her participation in a number of scientific events and projects, her prolific publication activity and her contributions of theoretical and practical nature make her an outstanding member of the national and international anthropological community. **Therefore, I heatedly recommend the respected scientific jury to vote positively for the election of Chief Assistant Prof. Dr Silvia Nikolova to be awarded the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR for the needs of the section "Anthropology and anatomy" to The Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEMPAM- BAS).**

13.12.2022

Sofia



Associate Professor Dr Angel D. Dandov, PhD