

БЪЛГАРСКА АКАДЕМИЯ НА НАУКИТЕ
И-Т ПО ЕКСПЕРИМЕНТАЛНА МОРФОЛОГИЯ
ПАТОЛОГИЯ И АНТРОПОЛОГИЯ С МУЗЕЙ
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СОФИЯ

OPINION

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Regarding a competition for the Academic position of "Associate Professor" in a professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific specialty: "Virology" - (01.06.13), announced in SG, no. 59 / 16.07.2021, for the needs of the Pathology department, IEMPAM - BAS

Chief Assistant Professor Ani Krasimirova Georgieva, PhD, from the Pathology Section of IEMPAM, is the only candidate to participate in the competition. She presented the necessary documents in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and for holding academic positions at IEMPAM-BAS.

Ani Georgieva has a master's degree in Molecular Biology with a specialization in animal and human physiology at the Faculty at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". Since 2002 he has been a laboratory assistant at IEMPAM, a full-time doctoral student, a specialist in molecular biology and an assistant. In 2014, Ani Georgieva defended her dissertation on "In vitro and *in ovo* models of chemical and retroviral-induced carcinogenesis." Since 2016, Ani Georgieva has held the academic position of Chief Assistant in the Pathology section of IEMPAM.

Dr. Georgieva participates in the current competition with 35 scientific publications, which cover the required points on indicators from A to D. In terms of indicators, the candidate's points exceed the minimum legal requirements. She has participated in the implementation of 14 research projects and in 74 scientific forums in the country and abroad with oral presentations and posters. Data for 116 citations are presented. The candidate has shown the opportunity for teamwork and successful collaboration with research teams at home and abroad

The main areas of her research are virology, oncovirology and experimental oncology. New approaches and strategies for prevention and treatment of oncological diseases have been developed and clarification of the factors and mechanisms responsible for the initiation and development of non-plastic processes is sought. In her scientific research she has applied

established and developed new experimental model systems for conducting research on carcinogenicity and antitumor action of natural and synthetic substances and preparations.

In the field of virology, her research is focused on taxonomic identification of avian oncogenic retroviruses isolated in Bulgaria and determination of their phylogenetic relationship with other representatives of the group of avian leukemia and sarcoma viruses.

In her research work Ani Georgieva applies a wide range of molecular biological, cellular biological, virological, histopathological and morphological methods.

Scientific contributions related to the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" are presented in several areas:

✓ Scientific contributions in the field of virology

Molecular biological studies have been performed to detect and identify six of the most common viruses in honey bees. The obtained results are of a contributory nature for the establishment of the most common viruses in bees in Bulgaria and for clarification of their origin and distribution.

✓ Scientific contributions in the field of oncovirology

A permanent Grafi virus-induced myeloid tumor cell line was derived from a hamster. This makes it possible to screen a large number of substances for antitumor activity under *in vitro* conditions and to select the most active ones for testing in experimental animals, as well as to determine the optimal doses to be used *in vivo* experiments. The development of this new *in vitro* model system contributes to the reduction of experimental animals used for research.

✓ Scientific contributions in the field of experimental oncology

Studies on cytotoxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and antitumor activity have been performed. Contributions of scientific and applied significance related to the development and application of new experimental models and research methods in the field of virology and experimental oncology are also presented.

CONCLUSION

The scientific production of Chief Assistant Ani Georgieva, PhD, participating in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", fully meets the regulatory requirements of Academic Staff Development Act and its regulations. The original scientific results presented by her have an indisputable fundamental and applied contribution character. The scientometric data exceed the minimum national requirements, the normative criteria and indicators for evaluation of the candidat during the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor".

All this gives me grounds for a positive opinion, which is why I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to decide on the selection of Chief Assistant Ani Krasimirova Georgieva, PhD for "Associate Professor" in professional field 4.3. Biological sciences, scientific specialty "Virology" (01.06.13) and holding this academic position in the section "Pathology" after approval by the Scientific Council of IEMPAM - BAS.

19.11.2021

Prof. Svetlozara Petkova

