

REVIEW OPINION

By Assoc. Prof. Tatina Todorova Todorova, PhD
Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna

By Order № ПД-16-139/24.10.2023 of the Rector of University of Shumen „Konstantin Preslavsky” I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury and according to Protocol №1/15.11.2023 I present my review opinion.

Regarding: Competition for awarding an academic position of “Associated Professor” in field of higher education 4. Life sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3 Biological sciences (Microbiology – Ecology of microorganisms and biotechnology), announced in the State Gazette №68/08.08.2023 with a single candidate Chief Assist. Prof. Sevginar Feimova Ibryamova, PhD.

Short data about the carrier and qualification of the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Sevginar Feimova Ibryamova obtained a Bachelor’s degree “Teacher in biology and physics” and Master’s degree in Chemistry from University of Shumen. She began her carrier pathway in 2011 as a part-time Assistant Professor in Department “Biology” of the Shumen University. Since September 2017, she has been employed as training assistant in the same department. The accumulation of scientific and practical experience has resulted in the successful defense of PhD thesis: „Exopolysaccharides of *Lactobacillus sp.*: biotechnological characteristics and application as inhibitors of corrosion“.

Dr. Ibryamova speaks fluently Turkish, French and German. She uses this knowledge efficiently in her scientific and teaching activities and also has excellent computer skills.

Scientific production presented by the candidate

The submitted scientific production fully complies with and even exceeds the minimal scientific metrics.

The candidate has a successfully defended PhD dissertation in Microbiology – Ecology of microorganisms and biotechnology, which counts for 50 points. She presents a monographic work “Microbial exopolysaccharides” with a total of 100 points. The scientific publications in Section Γ are 18 with a total of 200 points. I should mention that all of the submitted scientific publications are in English and are published in journals with an impact factor and/or SJR, which indicates the scientific significance and actuality of the studies. This is also supported by the official reference for the number of citations – 31 citations in scientific journals, referred and indexed in leading scientific databases.

The publications are practice-oriented and represent profound studies of actual problems. The scientific works focus on exopolysaccharides of lactic acid bacteria, which can be used as an alternative for production of natural food products. In addition, the candidate presents important results for the microbiota of mollusks and fishes in Black Sea.

In conclusion, the presented publications reflect the scientific capacity and demonstrate excellent professional and practical experience. They show systematic consistency which is the base of the scientific profile and interests of Dr. Ibryamova.

Scientific achievements and contributions

During her academic development, Dr. Ibryamova contributes actively in several directions with practical significance. She has investigated the microbiological status of different mollusks and fishes from various parts of Bulgarian Black Sea. In her works she analyzed their possible application as bioindicators for the changes in the sea environment. Among the whole scientific

production, I have to point out the analyses and contributions for the probiotic properties of *Lactobacillus plantarum* Ts and the prebiotic capacity of their exopolysaccharides.

I highly appreciate the presented research activity and its practical significance.

Conclusions

The presented actual and original scientific production, based on own investigations of Dr. Ibryamova is of high quality and significance, with a high potential to be implemented in the practice. The materials submitted for the competition fully comply with the minimal requirements of the Act for the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulation for the development of academic staff in Shumen University “Konstantin Preslavski”. The professional progress with a very engaged teaching activity, the well-established expertise, the scientific metrics and the personal qualities allow me to express my positive assessment. I strongly recommend to the respected scientific jury to award the academic position “Associated Professor” in field of higher education 4. Life sciences, mathematics and informatics, professional direction 4.3 Biological sciences (Microbiology – Ecology of microorganisms and biotechnology) to Chief Assist. Prof. Sevginar Feimova Ibryamova.

06.12.2023

Varna

Assoc. Prof. Tatina Todorova, PhD

