



THRACIAN UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

STATEMENT

FROM: Prof. Dr. Svetla Trifonova Danova, DSc
The Stefan Angelov Institute of Microbiology / BAS,
Scientific specialty 4.3. Biological sciences, Microbiology

ABOUT: competition for Associate professor in Microbiology/Research division: 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; scientific field 4.3. Biological sciences, / at TRU- Stara Zagora.

1. Information about the competition:

The competition, announced in Gov. journal № 61/2020 is for the needs of the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics of Agriculture Faculty (AF)/Thracian University (TrU)

I participate in the scientific jury of the competition, according to Order №2466/01.10.2020 of the Rector of TrU, on the grounds of art. 4 (3), (4) about ZRASRB. Art. (3), (4) from Regulations of TrU u the decision of the Faculty council of Agriculture faculty protocol №8 of 28. 10 2020.

As a member of this jury, I declare that I have no common publications, projects or conflicts of interest of another nature within the meaning of paragraph 1 items 3 and 5 of ZRASRB with the evaluated candidate in the competition.

2. Brief information about the candidates in the competition

The only candidate in the competition is Dr. Toncho Gospodinov Dinev, presently a Chief Assistant in Microbiology, at the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics of AF. He is a graduate of the Thracian University. He graduated with a Master's degree in Veterinary Medicine in 2002 from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of TrU. Subsequently, he received a doctorate (PhD) with the code 03.01.24. "*Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and chemotherapy)*" on the basis of a dissertation on the topic: "*Comparative studies on side effects, antimicrobial activity and pharmacokinetics of aminoglycosides and aminocyclitols in goats and microorganisms isolated from goats*" (18.02. 2004- 18.02. 2007 year).

The candidate's academic career began in 2009-2010 as a full-time assistant at the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Thracian University. In 2010 - 2011 he was elected a full assistant in microbiology, and since 2014 he has been a senior

assistant in microbiology at the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Physics of the Faculty of Agriculture.

Dr. T. Dinev, speaks excellent English and very good Russian.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for holding the academic position

To participate in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", the candidate has submitted the required Information on the implementation of the minimum national criteria under the Law and the additional requirements for holding the position of "**Associate Professor**", according to the Rules of the University; the lists with papers and with citations found in Scopus and Web of Science, as well as a habilitation report on scientific his contributions. The documentation for the competition is well organized, but the candidate's CV is modest and presents only the minimum biographical data and information about work experience.

3.1. Fulfillment of the requirements under Annex 8.1.

As can be seen from the attached reference № 1, from the documents accompanying the proposals for opening a competition for associate professor Dr. T. Dinev was evaluated in the unit as "staff ready for habilitation". This is confirmed by the reports on its science-to metric indicators, according to the data in Annex 8.1. Seventeen scientific publications are presented (after acquisition of PhD degree), for participation in the competition, as well as one revised edition of the students' manual on Microbiology, published in co-authorship and one monograph, thematically related to the scientific specialty of the competition. Of these, 16 articles are in journals with Impact Rank (SJR) and / or IF. The total IF of the works is 9.45, with Citation index (h-index, according to SCOPUS) $h = 6.0$. The list also includes 10 papers reported (including as posters) at national and international scientific forums at home and abroad. Thus, Ch. Assistant Toncho Dinev instead of the required 405 points on indicators A, B, D, E and E forms 529.67 points. The candidate also has independent works, which is an indicator of excellent professional qualification in various aspects of modern microbiology. The papers have been cited 68 times in the international databases *SCOPUS and Web of Science*, in journals with high IF. In the future, I would recommend that papers on interesting and important scientific issues that the candidate develops be presented as publications, and not just as abstracts. This will contribute to their promotion among the scientific community.

4. Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

Ch. Assistant T. Dinev has accumulated teaching and research experience for the position of "*Associate Professor*". Data for teaching activity are presented - conducting exercises in the disciplines Microbiology, Microbiology and microbiological methods of purification, Biological control of water purification, Microbiology of meat and meat products, for students from different bachelor's and master's programs of TrU. He is the author of the programs for the disciplines - "Biological control of water purification" and

"Microbiology of meat and meat products" and co-author of the curricula in "Microbiology and Microbiology" and "Microbiological methods of purification".

Dr. T. Dinev is the leader of 9 graduates, developing a wide range of current microbiological problems - such as biological gambling, disposal of hospital waste, aflatoxins and food safety, to soil microbiology and aquaculture. The team work of the candidate with colleagues from the Department of AF, as a co-leader of bachelor students and as a participant in 4 inter-institute projects, makes a good impression. I highly appreciate the management of a project funded by TrU on the topic: "*Antimicrobial activity of plant extracts against microorganisms affecting the quality and safety of basic raw materials and feed*" and participation in three work packages of the National Scientific Program "*Healthy foods for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life*". This experience will allow Dr. Denev to expand the project topics of the department and to seek new scientific horizons in international programs.

5. Brief description of the presented scientific papers / publications

Ch. Assistant Professor T. Dinev presents works mainly on the characterization of antimicrobial agents in two thematic areas:

(1) *Study of the pharmacokinetics and side effects of some modern antimicrobial agents (antibiotics, fluoroquinolones, etc.) in the body of different species of animals.*

(2) *Antimicrobial activity of probiotic bacteria, plant species, plant extracts, foods and environmental factors.*

6. Synthesized assessment of the main scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the candidates

There are important scientific and theoretical contributions including and those of a confirmatory nature. The candidate defines a significant part of his work as performed for the first time. It is better to divide the personal contributions into original scientific and those of a confirmatory and methodological nature and to evaluate them objectively.

I cannot agree with the candidate's statement of original contribution in terms of summarizing information. Such reviews are valuable, but not at all the same contributing as an experimental article. Eg. characterization of the antimicrobial activity of *Lactobacillus plantarum*. The scientific publication under number 16, cited in support of the statement, does not cite any of the Bulgarian experience published in international journals more than 10 years before the candidate. This does not diminish the scientific value of the presented works.

7. Main critical remarks and recommendations

Dr. T. Dinev is a young scientist with opportunities for development. I have set out my recommendations, which I hope will be useful for my career development, in the separate paragraphs of the opinion. In addition, I would like to recommend focusing on international project initiatives to help expand the scientific horizons of the Department and AF at TrU.

8. **Conclusion**

The presented documents prove that Dr. Tomcho Dinev successfully covers and even exceeds all scientometric indicators, according to ZRASRB and the Rules of TrU for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

In conclusion, the candidate is a promising researcher with excellent knowledge of current microbiological problems, on which he works successfully. As a creative researcher, he would contribute to the development of the unit, including in new interdisciplinary topics. Based on the presented materials and analysis of the achievements, I give a completely POSITIVE assessment and strongly support the candidacy of Ch. Assistant Professor Dr. Tomcho Gospodinov Dinev for the academic position of "Associate Professor".

November 1, 2020
Sofia

Signature:.....
Prof. S. Danova,DSc