

OPINION

On a competition to occupy academic position of Associate Professor
Professional field: 4.2. Chemical Sciences
Scientific specialty: Chemical Kinetics and Catalysis
Requesting laboratory: Design and Characterization of Catalytic Materials
Thematic area: EPR spectroscopy and quality of life
Announcement: State Gazette No. 77, 1 October 2019
Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Nikolay Ivanov Velinov, PhD
Institute of Catalysis, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

This opinion was prepared in accordance with Order No. ПД-09-64/22.11.2019 issued by the Director of Institute of Catalysis (IC) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

Chief Assistant Professor Katerina Ivanova Aleksieva, PhD, being a member of the requesting lab at IC-BAS, is a sole applicant. The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents in accordance with Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at IC-BAS.

Katerina Aleksieva graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia in 2001. Since 2002, she has been working as a research chemist at IC-BAS. In 2009, she defended her thesis entitled: EPR spectroscopy possibilities to identify high-energy irradiated foods of plant origin, and received her PhD degree in Chemical Kinetics and Catalysis (scientific specialty 01.05.16). In 2010, she was appointed Research Fellow Second Degree, and since 2011, she holds the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor at IC-BAS.

Katerina Aleksieva is the author and co-author of 32 publications that have found significant repercussions in the specialized scientific literature with a total number of 166 citations. She has also participated in 10 research projects as a leader and participant. For participation in this competition, she submitted 27 publications of which 22 are in impact factor (IF) or Scopus rank (SJR) issues. The entries included in the competition do not repeat those submitted for acquisition of the doctoral degree. Applicant's leading role and significant personal contribution to research and analysing results is supported by the fact that she is the first author of 11 publications.

The applicant has assembled seven of submitted publications in a habilitation treatise on the topic: Identification of gamma-irradiated foods and drugs by EPR spectroscopy. Most of the other publications are on the same topic. Dr. Aleksieva's main research contributions on this topic are extending the scope of certain European standards for irradiated foods as well as innovative research on some types of foods and medicines to identify radiation treatment. Two other topics are also concerned with submitted publications: (i) EPR study of lignocellulosic waste materials as biosorbents of metals for water purification, and (ii) EPR determination of the oxidation state of paramagnetic ions in catalytic materials, which are also well compatible with the thematic area of the announced competition.

Submitted information about fulfilment of minimum requirements under Article 4 of the aforementioned Rules shows that Chief Assistant Professor Aleksieva exceeds minimum points score requirement for each indicator to apply for the position of Associate Professor. Dr. Aleksieva also fulfils IC-BAS requirement referred to Article 51 of the Rules.

Conclusion: Applicant Chief Assistant Professor Katerina Ivanova Aleksieva meets the requirements to occupy an academic position of Associate Professor in accordance with Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Rules for the

Implementation of Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at IC-BAS. I give a positive assessment and strongly support Chief Assistant Professor Katerina Ivanova Aleksieva, PhD, to occupy the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences and scientific specialty Chemical Kinetics and Catalysis at Institute of Catalysis of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

20.01.2020
Sofia

Signature:
(Nikolay Velinov)