

OPINION

from Plamen Angelov Angelov, PhD – associate professor at Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

on materials presented for the competition for academic position of “Associate professor” at IOCCP-BAS

Field of higher education 4. Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics

Professional direction 4.2. Chemical sciences (Organic Chemistry)

In the competition for "associate professor ", announced in the State Gazette, no. 55 of 16.06.2026 and on the Internet page of IOCCP-BAS for the needs of the Organic Synthesis and Stereochemistry laboratory, as the only candidate participated ch. assistant Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev.

1. General presentation of the obtained materials

By Order No. RD-09-139 dated July 23, 2026, issued by the Director of IOCCP-BAS, I was appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the competition to fill the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’ at IOCCP-BAS in Higher Education Area 4 (Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Informatics), Professional Field 4.2 (Chemical Sciences – Organic Chemistry), announced for the needs of the Organic Synthesis and Stereochemistry Laboratory. A single candidate submitted documents for participation in the announced competition: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev from IOCCP-BAS. The set of materials submitted by Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev—in both paper and electronic formats—complies with the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at IOCCP-BAS and includes the following documents:

1. Application to the Director (using the standard form) for admission to the competition;
2. Curriculum Vitae (European format);
3. Higher education diploma (Master’s degree) with its supplement;
4. Diploma for the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" (PhD);
5. List of scientific publications;
6. Scientific publications (copies of the papers);
7. List of citations;
8. Statement of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of IOCCP;

9. Abstracts of the materials (in Bulgarian and English) with a detailed habilitation summary and prospects for future research;

The candidate, Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev, is a co-author of a total of 22 scientific publications, having submitted 16 scientific works for review as part of the competition procedure. All 16 reviewed scientific works are published in international journals with an impact factor or SJR ranking; with a single exception, they fall within the top two quartiles (Q1 and Q2). A list of 40 noted independent citations (excluding self-citations) of the candidate's works is also included.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activities

The candidate has extensive research experience, accumulated over a total of 13 years of service as a chemist and Chief Assistant Professor at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry (BAS). The research activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev lie in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. His work encompasses the design, synthesis, spectral analysis, and structural characterization of novel compounds with potential biological activity or possible application as heavy metal sensors. Among the scientific publications submitted by the candidate, 11 appeared in journals ranked in the first quartile (Q1) according to IF or SJR metrics in WoS or Scopus, 4 in the second (Q2), and 1 in the third (Q3) quartile, based on data from the respective databases. Ivaylo Slavchev is the first author on three of these publications. The candidate has also participated in 13 different research projects. The contributions resulting from the scientific work of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev are both fundamental and applied in nature. They serve to enrich, expand, and deepen knowledge in the fields of organic synthesis and biologically active organic compounds. The candidate's scientific contributions stem from multidisciplinary research and can be categorized into the following five thematic areas: 1 – Methodological studies on novel approaches to amide bond formation; 2 – Synthesis and antiviral activity of novel diaryl ethers and their analogues. 3 – Synthesis and comprehensive biological evaluation of new compounds with a camphane skeleton. 4 – Semi-synthetic amides with a fenchane skeleton and their anti- and pro-oxidant activity. 5 – Design and synthesis of new sensors for heavy metals.

The submitted publications and the habilitation report demonstrate that a substantial volume of work has been carried out in each of these areas; the scope of application of the developed methods, as well as their limitations, has been investigated systematically and methodically. The publication of results in prestigious international journals serves as significant evidence of the quality of the work. The candidate's contributions are significant, and the quantitative criteria for the academic

position have been met. A list of 40 independent citations for the articles included in the procedure has been provided, and the candidate's total citation count stands at 96 according to Scopus data at the time of writing this opinion. This indicates a high level of international recognition for the work and contributions of Ivaylo Slavchev.

CONCLUSION

The documents and materials submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB), the Regulations for the Application of the ADASRB, and the relevant regulations of the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IOCCP-BAS). The candidate has submitted a sufficient number of scientific works published after the materials used for his PhD thesis defense. The candidate's works contain original scientific and applied-scientific contributions that have gained international recognition through publication in journals issued by international academic publishers. The scientific qualifications of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev are unquestionable. The results achieved by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev in his research activities fully comply with the minimum national requirements and the additional requirements of IOCCP-BAS. Having reviewed the materials and scientific works submitted for the competition, and having analyzed their significance as well as the scientific, applied-scientific, and applied contributions contained therein, I find it justified to provide a positive assessment and to recommend that the Scientific Jury prepare a report proposing the appointment of Ivaylo Momchilov Slavchev to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at IOCCP-BAS in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry).

14.10.2026

Reviewer:

Assoc. prof. Plamen Angelov, PhD