

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Cheshmedzhieva

Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
on an open procedure for the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in
professional field **4.2 Chemical Sciences**, scientific specialty "**Organic Chemistry**"
for the needs of the Laboratory "Structural Organic Analysis"
at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor," announced in the *State Gazette*, issue 40 of May 16, 2025, the sole candidate is Head Assistant Professor Dr. Simeon Stoyanov Stoyanov from the "Structural Organic Analysis" Laboratory at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IOCCP-BAS).

Head Assistant Professor Dr. Simeon Stoyanov graduated with a Master's degree in Organic and Analytical Chemistry in 2001 from the Faculty of Chemistry at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski." In 2004, he began working at the Institute of Organic Chemistry with Centre of Phytochemistry, BAS, where he has continued his professional career to the present day. In 2009 he defended his PhD thesis under the supervision of Senior Research Fellow II Dr. Yordan Tsenov and Senior Research Fellow I Prof. Dr. Ivan Binev, DSc.

General Overview of the Procedure and the Candidate

Head Assistant Professor Dr. Simeon Stoyanov submitted a complete set of application documents, which meet the requirements of the **Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB)** and the relevant implementing regulations: the national implementation regulations, the IOCCP's internal regulations on academic career development. The candidate meets both the minimum and specific criteria required for appointment to the position of *Associate Professor*.

Dr. Stoyanov submitted a complete list of his scientific publications (32 in total). For this competition, he participates with 26 publications, distributed into two separate lists according to **Indicator C** and **Indicator D** (9 and 17 scientific papers, respectively). Full texts of the publications submitted for the competition have been provided; they are directly relevant to the thematic scope of the competition, have not been used for the award of the PhD degree, and are eligible for the competition. Evidence of participation in scientific forums (30 in total), research projects (14), and research specializations (3 between 2004 and 2013) has also been provided (in the form of official certificates, scanned documents, and electronic materials). A citation list is included (119 citations referring to the submitted publications). In my opinion, citations no. 3 and 4 from the list should be excluded, as the citation report should be prepared excluding self-citations by all co-authors.

General Characteristics of the Candidate's Work

The documentation submitted by Head Assistant Professor Dr. Simeon Stoyanov fully complies with all requirements and recommendations.

Indicator A

50 points

Dr. Stoyanov defended his PhD thesis entitled “IR Spectral and Structural Changes Induced by the Transformation of Nitriles into Anions and Radicals” in 2009, under the supervision of Senior Research Fellow II Dr. Yordan Tsenov and Senior Research Fellow I Prof. Dr. Ivan Binev, DSc.

Indicator C “habilitation summary”

166 points

Nine scientific publications relevant to the competition have been submitted, published in specialized international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, all with impact factors: three in Q1, two in Q2, one in Q3, and three in Q4. The candidate thus exceeds the minimum requirement of 100 points under this criterion.

Indicator D

273 points

Dr. Stoyanov has presented 17 publications with impact factors, indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. He exceeds both the minimum requirement of 200 points and the specific requirement of 220 points for appointment as Associate Professor. His research results have been presented at national and international scientific forums, with more than 30 poster presentations and 2 oral presentations. He has also supervised one diploma student (2018).

Indicator E

238 points

The national minimum requirement under this criterion is 50 points (70 points according to IOCCP-BAS’s specific criteria). The candidate has submitted 117 citations in Web of Science and Scopus, corresponding to 234 points, far exceeding the minimum requirements.

Dr. Stoyanov actively participates in various projects. Evidence of participation in 14 research projects has been submitted.

Indicator F

According to IOCCP-BAS’s minimum requirements for Professional Field 4.2. – Chemical Sciences, candidates must have a Hirsch index ≥ 5 . The candidate’s h-index is 6. The analysis of the submitted documents shows that Dr. Stoyanov not only meets but exceeds the minimum requirements for the competition.

Contributions and Citations

The habilitation summary prepared by Head Assistant Professor Dr. Simeon Stoyanov presents consolidated data on 14 publications relevant to the current procedure. The main results are in the field of organic chemistry, particularly in the synthesis of anionic derivatives of organic compounds – pharmaceuticals, strong poisons, or new compounds with potential biological activity.

The structural data of these anions are of fundamental importance for elucidating the mechanisms and kinetics of chemical reactions, as well as for clarifying the biological activity of these compounds in relation to the possible participation of their anions and radicals in the mechanism of drug action in the organism.

The formation of organic anions and radical anions leads to significant—sometimes profound—changes in their vibrational spectra. The main approaches used to elucidate the structures of the studied compounds and the interpretation of their vibrational spectra combine experimental spectroscopic techniques with theoretical quantum-chemical calculations.

The candidate's application would benefit further if his individual contributions were clearly defined in the habilitation summary (or in another appropriate section). Dr. Stoyanov is the first or corresponding author of 9 of the submitted publications under criterion B, which is a clear indicator of his personal contribution and establishes him as an independent researcher with professional experience in organic chemistry. In this context, his appointment as Associate Professor represents a logical and natural step in his career development.

The originality of the results has been highly recognized by researchers in the field — the works submitted for the competition have received 117 independent citations from various authors (Scopus), all published in prestigious scientific journals. The habilitation summary is accompanied by a concluding statement in which the candidate outlines the directions in which he plans to develop his future research activity.

I have no critical remarks regarding the submitted materials.

Conclusion

The documents and materials submitted by the candidate Dr. Simeon Stoyanov Stoyanov fall into the scope of the announced procedure and fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), its National Implementation Regulations, the Implementation Regulations of BAS, and the internal regulations of IOCCP-BAS. The scientific indicators, in accordance with both the national minimum requirements and the specific criteria of IOCCP-BAS, have been met and, in some cases, significantly exceeded, due to the fact that the candidate has presented a sufficient number of substantial scientific contributions published in prestigious journals and recognized internationally. I therefore give my positive evaluation and recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the Scientific Council of IOCCP-BAS the appointment of Dr. Simeon Stoyanov Stoyanov to the academic position of Associate Professor at IOCCP-BAS in the professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (Organic Chemistry).

25. 09. 2025 г.

Reviewer:
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana Cheshmedzhieva