OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Nora Angelova Angelova

about the competition for acquiring the academic position of

"Associate Professor"

at the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering of the

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

in the Higher Education Field: 4. "Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics",

Professional Field 4.6. "Informatics and Computer Science",

Scientific Specialty "Informatics",

announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette No. 26/ 01.04.2022

The only candidate in the competition is Senior Assist. Prof. Simeon Alexandrov Ribagin, PhD.

1. Reason for expressing the present opinion

The reason for expressing the present opinion is my appointment as a member of the Scientific Jury by order № 294/27.05.2022 of the Director of the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering (IBPhBME) of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), regarding the procedure for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the Higher Education Field: 4. "Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics", Professional Field 4.6. "Informatics and Computer Science", Scientific Specialty "Informatics", announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette No. 26/01.04.2022.

I declare that as a member of the Scientific Jury, I have been provided with all the documents of the only candidate in the competition, Senior Assist. Prof. Simeon Ribagin.

2. Short biographical data

Senior Assist. Prof. Simeon Ribagin was born in 1981. During the period from 2010 to 2013 he was a doctoral student at the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBPhBME-BAS). In 2013 he accomplished his PhD degree in Informatics with dissertation entitled "Generalized net models of the skeletal and neuromuscular systems of the upper limb".

In 2016, Simeon Ribagin won a competition for Senior Assist. Prof. at IBPhBME - BAS, and since 2018 he has been an Associate Professor at the Medical College at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in the city of Burgas.

A copy of diploma for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD), issued by BAS on 05.10.2015, with No.000620 has been presented.

From the submitted documents it is evident that the candidate has over 7 years of working experience as a Senior Assistant Professor in the IBPhBME-BAS and meets the minimum requirements of the Regulations on the Implementation of the Act on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Regulations for the application of the Act at IBPhBME-BAS.

3. **Scientific-metric indicators**

Table 1 presents:

- the minimum required points by groups of indicators for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to the Regulations for the application of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria at IBPhBME-BAS,

- the points of Senior Assist. Prof. Simeon Ribagin with respect to these indicators.

Group of indicators	Minimum required points for the academic position "Assoc. Prof."	Points of Sen. Assist. Prof. Simeon Ribagin, PhD
Group A	50	50
Group B	-	-
Group C	100	100
Group D	220	229
Group E	60	72
Group F	-	-

Table 1: Candidate's scientific-metric indicators *and minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor" in IBPhBME-BAS*

According to the *"List of scientific papers for participation in the competition"*, Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Ribagin takes part in the competition with a habilitation work of 6 scientific publications, which are referenced and indexed in *Web of Science* and / or *Scopus*. Five of the presented publications on criterion C have impact factor – one publication is in *Q1*, one is in *Q2* and 3 are in *Q3*. The sixth scientific publication was published by *Springer* and has an impact rank (*SJR*).

According to indicator D, Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Ribagin participates in the competition with 22 scientific publications and one book chapter. Three of the presented publications have impact factor and 16 have impact rank (SJR). It makes a good impression that all publications are in the field of the competition and are published in renowned international editions in English.

The candidate has no single-authored publications and fulfills the requirement under indicators C4 and D7 for at least 8 publications in international journals with impact factor .

According to the "Habilitation Extended Report on Scientific Contributions", Senior Assist. Prof. Dr. Ribagin has a total number of 89 citations of 11 of the publications presented for the competition, which are a part of the candidate's publication record after acquiring the position of Assist. Prof. at IBPhBME - BAS.

According to the Reference for the fulfillment of the minimum requirements, Simeon Ribagin has presented 12 citations in *Scopus* for participation in the current competition.

4. **Contributions of the candidate**

Senior Assist. Prof. Simeon Ribagin has attached a well-described extended habilitation reference for his scientific publications.

The focus of his research is in the field of modeling of biological processes and physiology of the human body and applications of Generalized Nets (GN) in the field of medicine and medical rehabilitation.

The contributions are divided into scientific, scientific-applied and applied. I consider the summary made in the habilitation report well done, and all contributions being original

works of the author. The developed GN models in medicine, medical rehabilitation, orthopedic and traumatological diagnostics are interesting, innovative and demonstrate the practical application of the apparatus of GN in these and other areas.

5. **Notes and personal impressions**

As a comment regarding the documents, I would like to note that for some of the scientific publications no SJR factor was provided for the respective or the previous year. A complete list of all the candidate's publications and citations is not provided either.

I have known Dr. Ribagin for approximately 8 years, from the times when he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. I have had the opportunity to work with him on several research publications and to attend seminars and talks which he has given. In my consideration, he is a serious, consistent and research-focused scientist, who is always a pleasure to work with.

6. **Conclusion**

The candidate Senior Assistant Professor **Simeon Alexandrov Ribagin, PhD,** satisfies the requirements of Act on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as Regulations for the Application of the Act at IBPhBME-BAS.

Having said all of the above, I give my positive conclusion of the materials presented for participation in the competition. This provides me with reasons to recommend the honorary members of the Scientific Jury to award Senior Assistant Professor **Dr. Simeon Alexandrov Ribagin, PhD,** with the academic position **"Associate Professor"** in Professional Field **4.6 "Informatics and Computer Science", Scientific Specialty "Informatics".**

25.06.2022   The opinion was prepared by: ..   ..

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