

OPINION

By Prof. Mariana Dimitrova Argirova, DSc

Regarding the competition for academic position "Professor" in the scientific specialty Organic Chemistry, announced in the State Gazette No. 48/26.05.2026. with candidate Marin Neykov Marinov from the Department of Chemistry, Phytopharmacy and Ecology and Environmental Protection" appointed as a member of the scientific jury according to Order No. RD 16-769/22.06.2026 of the Rector of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv

1. Brief presentation of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Marin Marinov is a graduate of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas, where in 1998 he received a master's degree in the specialty "Biotechnology". Since 2010 he has held the academic position of Chief Assistant at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, and since 2013 he has been an Associate Professor in organic chemistry. In 2004 he defended his PhD dissertation on the topic "Synthesis and characterization of sulfur analogues of spirohydantoins and their derivatives" and was awarded the scientific degree "doctor" in the scientific specialty "Bioorganic chemistry, chemistry of natural and physiologically active substances".

2. General description of scientific production

Assoc. Prof. Marin Marinov participates with a total of 28 scientific works in the competition for academic position (AP) "Professor", grouped as follows:

❖ Monograph entitled "Phenothiazines: Synthesis and Antimicrobial Activity" in co-authorship. A divisional protocol for 50% participation of the candidate for the AP "Professor" is presented

❖ Scientific publications in the nomenclature specialty – 22 articles, of which:

- Publications with impact factor – 19 articles

- Publications in peer-reviewed and refereed scientific journals with Scientific Journal Rankings – 3 articles;

Indicative of the personal contribution of Assoc. Prof. Marin Marinov in the mentioned papers is the fact that in 13 of them the candidate is the first author, in 8 he is the second, and in one publication he is the next author. All presented articles were published after taking up the AP "Assoc. Prof."

❖ A book "Sulfur Analogues of Spirohydantoins" was presented based on a defended dissertation for the award of the doctor degree.

❖ One textbook

❖ Three study guides

All submitted materials were analyzed to prepare the opinion.

3. Teaching activities

Candidate's educational workload

Assoc. Prof. Marin Marinov has almost twenty years of experience as a university teacher. He has over 2700 hours of teaching workload for the last 5 academic years, which includes conducting lectures and exercises with students from the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, classes under the Erasmus+ program, as well as extracurricular employment.

These teaching activities are complemented by the supervision of two successfully defended PhD students. Three full-time doctoral students are in the process of studying under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Marinov.

Published educational materials

Assoc. Prof. Marinov is a co-author of a textbook on organic chemistry for students of non-chemistry majors, a guide to practical exercises in organic chemistry, two editions of the "Terminological Dictionary of Organic Chemistry", as well as "Questions and Answers on Organic Chemistry" to help students.

4. Research activity

Areas of publication

The principal area in the candidate's research activity is the development of effective methods for the synthesis of new heterocyclic organic compounds and their structural elucidation using various spectral analysis methods (8 publications). A significant part of the newly obtained compounds have been tested for potential biological activity against tumor cell lines and microorganisms (10 publications). Another direction in the research activity of Assoc. Prof. Marinov is the synthesis of organometallic coordination compounds (4 publications), and in these studies, a possible biological effect of the compounds obtained was sought.

Citing and referencing scientific production

The candidate for the AP "Professor" has presented a list of 75 citations of his works based on a search of world-renowned databases. Scopus determines his Hirsch index of 9.

Participation in scientific projects

Assoc. Prof. Marin Marinov is a participant in 15 scientific projects, one of them international, one project funded by the Paisii Hilendarski University, three – by the National Science Foundation, 4 – by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv and 7 by the University "Angel Kanchev" – Ruse. He is the leading investigator of 7 of these projects.

5. Notes and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the materials submitted in the competition. I would recommend that the candidate more closely connect the topic of his scientific research with the specifics of the university where he teaches.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the candidate's pedagogical and scientific activities, I believe that Assoc. Prof. Marin Neykov Marinov, Ph.D. meets the requirements of the Act on Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Regulations on its implementation and the corresponding Regulations of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv. The candidate has presented appropriate scientific works in number and significance in accordance with the aforementioned regulatory acts, and his scientific activity has been recognized by the scientific community through numerous citations of his articles. Assoc. Prof. Marinov has many years of experience as a university teacher, he is the author of textbooks, manuals, and teaching materials to assist in the training of students.

All this gives me reason to evaluate his overall activity **POSITIVELY**. That is why I would propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to also vote positively, and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Plant Protection and Agroecology at the Agricultural University – Plovdiv to elect **Assoc. Prof. Marin Neykov Marinov, Ph.D.** as "Professor" in the scientific specialty of **Organic Chemistry**.

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