



STATEMENT

P-HO-699/22.05.2025

BY ASSOC. PROF. STANISLAVA IVANOVA, PH.D.

REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION "PROFESSOR"
IN THE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "PHARMACOGNOSY AND PHYTOCHEMISTRY",
ANNOUNCED FOR THE NEEDS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV,
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOGNOSY AND PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY,
PUBLISHED IN THE STATE GAZETTE, ISSUE 15/21.02.2025.

I. Analysis of the career profile of Assoc. prof. Niko Benbassat.

Niko Benbassat earned his Master's degree in Pharmacy from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University of Sofia in 1988. In 1994, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Pharmacognosy. He has specialized in both "Medicinal Plants and Herbal medicine" and "Analysis of Medicinal Products." His academic career began at the Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical University of Sofia, where he has since accumulated 29 years of teaching experience. He was promoted to Associate Professor at Medical University of Sofia's Faculty of Pharmacy in 2013, and in 2019, he also assumed the role of Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University of Plovdiv.

II. General description of the submitted materials.

The submitted set of required documents is complete and meets the requirements of the procedure.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works in the context of his overall academic development

Associate Professor Niko Benbassat is a recognized researcher with significant contributions to the fields of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry. His work has been widely cited by both international and Bulgarian scientific teams. According to Scopus, he holds an H-index of 11, excluding self-citations. He has co-authored over 50 scientific publications indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, along with numerous other scholarly works. He also mentors postgraduate students, he is a supervisor of PhD studentss, two of whom have already successfully defended their dissertations.

In support of his candidacy, he submitted one monograph and 33 scientific publications, 27 of which are indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. Among them, 23 publications have an impact factor (IF), with a total IF exceeding 60. Since his appointment as Associate Professor, he has accumulated 128 citations recorded in Scopus. Additionally, he has been involved in six internal university projects, acting as supervisor on three of them.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work.

Associate Professor Niko Benbassat presents a monographic study entitled "*Essential Oils – Sources, Preparation, Analysis, and Application.*" The subject matter of the monograph is highly relevant and timely. Essential oils (EOs) have played a significant role in human culture for centuries, particularly in traditional medicine, where their use has deep historical roots. In contemporary times, their applications have expanded considerably across various fields.

Scientific interest in EOs has grown markedly, and they now represent a dynamic area of research. They are viewed as valuable components of the modern pharmaceutical industry and are recognized for their potential to provide bioactive molecules with significant therapeutic properties. These substances are being investigated for their potential use in the treatment and prevention of a wide range of diseases. In recent years, essential oils have also been explored as promising natural alternatives to synthetic preservatives and pesticides.

The monograph is well structured, clearly presented, and adheres to the formal requirements set forth in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. I regard this monographic work as a substantial and commendable scientific contribution.

V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature.

According to Scopus data, Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat's H-index is 11 (excluding self-citations), which is associated with a high level of citation of his works. Following his promotion to Associate Professor, the candidate has recorded a total of 128 citations (Scopus). Over his entire career, he has more than 500 citations (Scopus).

VI. Evaluation of the candidate's educational, and pedagogical activities, encompassing scientific mentorship of undergraduate, doctoral, and postgraduate students.

Assoc. Prof. Nico Benbasat, Ph.D. is an established and respected lecturer in Pharmacognosy. He works intensively with students, postgraduates and doctoral students.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations.

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

VIII. General evaluation of the candidate's fulfillment of the minimum national criteria in accordance with Art. 2b, paragraphs 2 and 3, as well as the requirements under Art. 2b, paragraph 5 of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, along with the specific institutional criteria established in the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

The candidate's indicators significantly surpass the minimum threshold required for the academic rank of Professor. While the Regulations for Academic Development at the Medical University of Plovdiv require a minimum of 1600 points, Assoc. Prof. Benbassat has achieved a total of **3808.4 points**.

GROUP	POINTS-PROFESSOR	CANDIDATE'S POINTS
A	50	50
B		-
C	100	100
D	300	322,74
E	500	1920
F	150	401,66
G	560	1014
Total:	1660	3808,4

IX. Conclusion

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbasat, Ph.D., fully satisfies both the mandatory and specific requirements, as well as the scientometric criteria for the academic position of "Professor." Based on the provided arguments and evidence, I hereby express my unequivocal positive assessment and strongly recommend that the esteemed jury support the appointment of Assoc. Prof. Nico Benbasat, Ph.D., to the position of Professor in Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, within the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.3. Pharmacy.

20.05.2025

Plovdiv

Assoc. prof. Stanislava Ivanova, PhD

Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б."В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679