

STANDPOINT

by prof. Maya Boyanova Georgieva, Ph.D.

appointed as a member of the scientific jury, by order № P-2177/28.04.2025 -- --

on a competition for the academic position of "**Professor**" in "**Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry**" in the field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, Professional Direction 7.3. Pharmacy at the Department of "Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry" for teaching Bulgarian and English on a part-time basis (4 hours) in the discipline "**Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry**", announced in the State Gazette, issue 15 of 21.02.2025 and on an approved proposal by the Faculty of Pharmacy - Medical University - Plovdiv (pr. No. 4 of 23.04.2025).

for participation in the announced competition for the academic position of "**Professor**" in "**Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry**" in the field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, Professional Direction 7.3. Pharmacy at the Department of "Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry" for teaching Bulgarian and English on a part-time basis (4 hours) in the discipline "**Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry**", one candidate has submitted documents - Assoc. Prof. Niko Yosif Benbassat, Ph.D.

In connection with my participation as a member of the scientific jury, I declare that there is no conflict of interest with the candidate.

According to the Declaration of Originality and Authenticity submitted by the candidate on 14.04.2025, the documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the current regulatory framework and there is no plagiarism proven in the scientific works in accordance with the statutory procedure.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat was born in 1963 in Sofia. In 1988 he obtained the Master's degree in Pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Sofia. During the period 1989 - 1992 he was a full-time doctoral student in the Department of "Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany" of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University - Sofia, where in 1995 he defended his dissertation on the topic "Phytochemical study of taxa of the genus "*Astragalus L.*" distributed in our country" and obtained the Doctor's degree in the scientific specialty Pharmacognosy.

The career path of Assoc. Prof. N. Benbassat began at the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU-Sofia, where in the period 1993 - 1995 he worked in the Department of "Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany" as a specialist and successively held the positions of Senior Assistant (1995 - 1997) and Chief Assistant (1997 - 2013). In 2013, N. Benbassat was elected Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU - Sofia in the scientific specialty "Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry", which he holds to this day.

In the period 2000 to 2008, Assoc. Prof. N. Benbassat acquired a specialty in "Medicinal Plants and Herbalism" and "Analysis of Drugs" from the specialties included in the Postgraduate Education programs at MU-Sofia. In 2019, he was appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

During his career, Assoc. Prof. N. Benbassat has acquired membership in a number of scientific and professional organizations, such as BNDF (member of the board of directors), BAPhT, BBS, BSA and BPhU.

II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition.

The candidate has provided a complete set of documents in electronic format in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University - Plovdiv and the relevant Quality Criteria for the Development of Academic Staff of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

III. Evaluation of candidates' scientific works for overall academic development.

✓ *General characteristics of scientific production and publication activity;*

The scientific activity of the candidate *Assoc. Prof. Niko Yosif Benbassat* can be summarized in: contributions of a scientific nature, contributions of a scientific-applied nature and contributions of an applied nature, mainly in the field of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry.

The scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Benbassat is mainly focused on research in the field of medicinal plants, their phytochemical composition and their application in medical practice in the treatment of a number of diseases. Serious attention is paid to essential oils, which is reflected in his monographic work.

The long-term scientific research of Assoc. Prof. N. Benbassat has found successful implementation in pharmaceutical practice – **32** plant-based **nutritional supplements** have been successfully developed and implemented in regular production, which in my opinion is an impressive result.

The publications submitted for evaluation by *Assoc. Prof. Niko Yosif Benbassat* fully cover the scientific topics of the competition for the academic position of "Professor" in "Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry" and, in my opinion, represent a significant contribution to pharmaceutical science and practice.

✓ *Scientific activity – dissemination and application of the candidates' scientific and practical achievements among the scientific community;*

In terms of his research work, *Assoc. Prof. Niko Yosif Benbassat* fully meets the scientometric criteria established in the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

To participate in the competition for the title of "Professor" N. Benbassat presents a list of **33** scientific papers, **27** of which are published in publications, referenced and indexed in

world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus), **23** of which in journals with **IF**, **4** in non-refereed journals with scientific review and **2** published chapters of collective monographs, referenced and indexed in Scopus.

✓ *Participation in the implementation and management of projects;*

Candidate Niko Yosif Benbassat participated in the competition with **6** national intra-university scientific projects at MU-Plovdiv, **3** of which he is the leader.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work submitted for participation in the "PROFESSOR" competition by the candidate.

The monographic work, presented in the competition by the sole author Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, Ph.D., is 141 pages long on the topic "*Essential oils - sources, preparation, analysis and application*".

The presented monograph is a current edition, reviewed by two reviewers, selected in accordance with the relevant legal order and representing a thorough analysis of the various methods for obtaining essential oils and the laboratory techniques for their preparation. It examines in detail some practical guidelines for the application of chromatographic techniques for the separation and identification of EM components in order to establish their chemical profile. Studies on Bulgarian species of essential oil plants, as well as on economically important plants, along with their sources for extraction, are reflected. This suggests a high utility of the presented work, which can be used to enrich the knowledge of students, doctoral students and established researchers in this field.

In this sense, I believe that the presented monograph is in line with the theme of the current competition for "Professor".

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

In the documents submitted to me for my consideration, Assoc. Prof. Benbassat, Ph.D. provides a reference, accompanied by the relevant documentation, for a total of **128** citations in journals referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. The scientific results have been separately presented at **6** international and **5** national scientific forums..

The total number of 1920 points for the candidate N. Benbassat many times exceeds the required 500 points for occupying the title of "professor" set out in the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

VI. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of educational, methodological and teaching activities, including scientific supervision of students, doctoral students, and postgraduates.

For the entire period of his teaching activity, Assoc. Prof. Benbassat has a full teaching workload, as evident from the submitted report on the teaching workload, during the last 2 academic years it is 2436.9 hours, of which 1508.9 hours are classroom hours. This norm

exceeds many times the annual norm of 360 hours required by the Academic Development Regulations of MU-Plovdiv..

Under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Benbassat, 2 dissertations for the acquisition of the ONS "doctor" have been successfully defended and he is currently the supervisor of 1 doctoral student as well as two postgraduate students under the SDO. Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat has participated in the development of the curricula for the discipline of Pharmacognosy he teaches and is a co-author of 1 manual for practical exercises and 3 teaching aids for the same discipline.

VII. Critical notes and recommendations.

I have no critical comments or recommendations regarding the documents provided to me.

VIII. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The materials provided to me for consideration regarding the competition are in accordance with the minimum national requirements according to the provisions of Art. 2b para 2 and 3; Art. 2b para 5 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

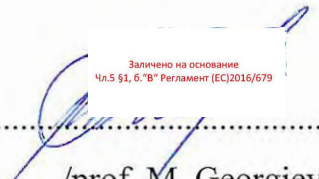
IX. Conclusion – **meets / does not meet** the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria – for the academic position "PROFESSOR".

The data provided in the opinion shows that the candidate **meets** the mandatory and specific conditions and scientometric criteria for the academic position of "Professor" and exceeds the required national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for Academic Development of the Medical University - Plovdiv..

Based on my opinion, I give my positive assessment for the selection in this competition for the candidate *Assoc. Prof. Niko Yosif Benbassat, Ph.D.* and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury and the relevant council of the receiving structural unit this candidate for the academic position of "**Professor**" in "**Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry**" at MU-Plovdiv in the field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, Professional Direction 7.3. Pharmacy at the Department of "Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry" for teaching Bulgarian and English on a part-time basis (4 hours) in the discipline "Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry".

Sofia

09.06.2025


Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, 6."B" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679
/prof. M. Georgieva, Ph.D./