

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury,
Designated by Order No P-2155/28.04.2025

4002 Plovdiv
15A Vasil Aprilov Blvd.

On Protocol №1 of 28.04.2025

(date of the 1st meeting)

Attached please find: Statement

on the competition for the academic position **“PROFESSOR”**
in the scientific specialty **"Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry"**
announced for the needs of MU-Plovdiv, Department of **Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical
Chemistry**

Journal of Laws, issue 15 of 21.02.2025.

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The peer review is compiled in accordance with the requirements of Section III / Section IV of the ASDRBA - Conditions and Procedure for Holding the Academic Position of Associate Professor / Professor

STATEMENT

IN A COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF "PROFESSOR"

AT MU-PLOVDIV

by **Assoc. Prof. Diana Karcheva-Bahchevanska, PhD**

CONCERNING: competition for the academic position "Professor"
in the scientific specialty "Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry",
announced for the needs of **MU-Plovdiv, Department of
Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry,**
Journal of Laws, issue 15 of 21.02.2025

I. Analysis of the career profile of Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, obtained his Master's degree in Pharmacy at the Medical University - Sofia, Faculty of Pharmacy in 1988. In 1995, he obtained his PhD degree (diploma No. 23472/27.02.1995). Since 1993, he has been successively assistant, senior, and chief assistant at the Department of Pharmacognosy and Botany of the Faculty of Pharmacy at MU - Sofia. He was appointed as Associate Professor of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry at MU-Sofia in 2013. He was appointed as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU-Plovdiv in 2019. Currently Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, has 32 years of teaching experience. He is a member of BSPHS, BAFT, BDA, and BPhU.

II. General description of the submitted materials.

The submitted set of documents on electronic media is complete and by the legal requirements and the requirements of Article 120 of the Regulations for Academic Development at MU - Plovdiv (2021) for the academic position (AP) "Professor". Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, is the only candidate for the announced competition.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, is a well-established scientist with significant contributions in the fields of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry. He has co-authored more than 55 publications, refereed and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. He has been repeatedly cited by international and Bulgarian research teams. According to Scopus data, his H-index is 11 (excluding self-citations).

For the purposes of this competition alone, 33 scientific publications have been submitted, 27 of which are in scientific journals refereed and indexed in scientific databases (Scopus and/or Web of Science only), 23 of which are in journals with Clarivate Analytics impact factor (IF). The remaining 4 publications are in non-refereed, peer-reviewed journals and 2 published chapters of collective monographs refereed and indexed in Scopus. The total IF is 60.1. He has submitted 128 Scopus citations. The candidate has been a participant in 6 intra-university projects of MU-Plovdiv, 3 of which he is a supervisor. Author of 1 monographic work. Co-author of 1 textbook and 2 teaching aids.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, is a scientific supervisor of three PhD students, two of whom have obtained PhD. He is also the supervisor of two postgraduate students in the system of MU-Plovdiv.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic work.

Assoc.Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, is the author of 1 monographic work entitled "Essential oils - sources, preparation, analysis and application", 2025 (ISBN 978-619-270-152-9). The monographic work is up-to-date, incorporating a thorough knowledge of the subject, from the sources for obtaining essential oils (EOs), to the various analytical techniques for their characterization, to their therapeutic application. It describes in detail and in depth not only the various methods for obtaining EOs under industrial conditions, but also the laboratory techniques for their preparation, including microdistillation and direct sampling of secretory structures. It is structured in three main thematic parts, conceptually organized. Each of the individual chapters is illustrated with a sufficient number of figures and tables. The work complies with the standards set out in the Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (ASDRBA).

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

According to Scopus data, the H-index of Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat is 11 (excluding self-citations), which correlates with a high level of citation of his scientific works. For his overall academic development, the candidate has more than 500 citations (Scopus). Since taking the position of Associate Professor, the candidate has submitted 128 citations (Scopus).

VI. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the teaching activity, including scientific supervision of students, doctoral students, and postgraduate students.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, is a respected lecturer in Pharmacognosy. He has worked extensively with students for more than 32 years. He is a scientific supervisor of 3 PhD students, 2 of whom have obtained a PhD, and is a supervisor of 2 postgraduate students.

VII. Critical comments and recommendations.

I have no critical remarks or recommendations.

VII. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and science metrics according to the Regulations for academic development at MU-Plovdiv, in sections IV.-VI. "*Conditions and procedure for holding academic positions at MU-Plovdiv*" and "*Criteria for evaluation*" (part of the Regulations on the structure and activities of MU-Plovdiv).

The candidate's scientific metrics repeatedly exceed the minimum requirements for holding the position of "Professor", set out in the Regulations for Academic Development of MU-Plovdiv. With a minimum requirement of **1660** points, the candidate has collected **3808.4** points.

GROUP OF INDICATORS	Regulations for Academic Development at MU-Plovdiv	CANDIDATE'S POINTS
A	50	50.0
B	-	-
C	100	100.0
D	300	322.74
E	500	1920.0
F	150	401.66
G	560	1014.0
TOTAL:	1660	3808.4

IX. Conclusion.

Assoc. Prof. Niko Benbassat, PhD, fully meets the mandatory and specific requirements and the scientific-metric criteria for holding the AP "Professor". Due to the significance of the presented scientific works and original contributions thereof, I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend the esteemed members of the scientific jury to vote positively for the award of the AP "Professor" to Niko Joseph Benbassat in Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.3. Pharmacy.

10.06.2025

Plovdiv

Prepared the statement:

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Заличено на основание
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