

Opinion

of

Prof. Dimitar Christozov D. Sc.,

American University in Bulgaria,

member of the jury,

appointed by the Rector of New Bulgarian University,

order No 3-PK-68/01.12.2022

for evaluating the academic achievements of the only candidate

Chief Assistant Professor Metodi Georgiev Traykov, Ph.D

for position of Associate professor in the field of Computer Science.

Sofia, 2023

I. General Description of submitted evidence.

Works, submitted for the competition by Dr. Traykov include: one monography, seven publications, refereed and indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus; list of 30 reviewed papers, in eight of which Dr. Traykov is the first author. In presented works, Dr. Traykov is a coauthor with more than ten different scientists. Eleven citations of three of the above mentioned seven works are detailed by the candidate. The total number of noticed citations of candidate's works, listed in the CV, are more than 80. The candidate had contributed also to translation of one book from English to Bulgarian.

The key role of Dr. Traykov in all research leading to above publications is out of doubts. Also, it is also clear that Dr. Traykov is a well-come partner in conducting research required team work.

I was impressed by activity the candidate shows in working on projects – national and international. Projects he had contributed to are highly diverse by topics and subjects' domain, but all were in the area of computer modeling and developing software solutions.

II General characteristic of candidate's scientific, educational, and scientific-applicable activities

The publications, presented by Dr. Traykov for this competition, characterized him as a scientist with deep knowledge in the research domain – computer modeling of protein folding and other diverse problems in the area of bio-informatic. Without being an expert in this specific area of Computer Science, I can assess that proposed 3D models of protein structure definitely represent a valuable scientific contribution.

Successful penetration of deep understanding of problems in the field with other relevant areas as molecular biology, chemistry, physics and more with

competence in building computer models and algorithms in his works are needed for comprehensive study of observed phenomena.

Education is also a significant component of candidate's activity. He is teaching successfully a large number of different courses in different schools, in both Bulgarian and English languages.

III Analysis of scientific and scientific-applied achievements

I accept the self-analysis of Dr. Traykov about contributions in his works. The area of his research is most generally characterized as bio-informatic and achieved results, presented in his publications, are valuable contributions for the field, but also as software solutions of complex problems.

The monography summarizes the achieved results of the author.

IV Reflection of candidate's results in works of other authors.

Results of research activities of Dr. M. Traykov are widely referred in the works of other authors. There is evidence of 11 citations of three of the publications presented for competition. The total number of noticed citations of all works of Dr. Traykov are more than 80. This indicates the value of achieved results by Metodi Traykov.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

The only recommendation I can make to the candidate is to publish as a single author, despite that I fully understand that researches he participate in require team work.

VI Personal impressions

I know Dr. Traykov by our joint work on Project ICoSCIS and by his teaching as adjunct faculty at AUBG.

My personal impressions are for an established scientist, with deep knowledge in the area he is working. A person applying the highest professional standards in performing his research. Excellent teacher and colleague.

VII Conclusion

After considering the presented documents, scientific publications, and achieved contributions I confirm that the candidate Assistant Professor Dr, Metodi Georgiev Traykov meets fully the requirements of the „Act For The Development Of Academic Staff In The Republic Of Bulgaria”, the Rules for its implementation, and the specific rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of New Bulgarian University for appointment for academic position Associate Professor in Higher Education Professional Field 4 Natural sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; Science Higher Education, professional area 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science.

In particular, the candidate fully satisfied the minimal national requirements for the professional area, and I have not identified any cases of plagiarism in presented scientific works.

Computer modeling of processes on molecular level in given bio-system requires diverse competences well demonstrated in Dr. Traykov's works. Definitely, he had achieved valuable innovative results. Contributions, as of theoretical as well as with applied nature, are visible and undisputable. They are widely reflected in works of numerous scientists. I also acknowledge the educational activity of Dr. Traykov. My overall assessment for his performance is highly positive.

All these allows me to vote in full confidence in favor for granting the academic position “Associate Professor” to Dr. Metodi Traykov in scientific area 4.6. “Informatics and Computer Science” and to invite other members of the jury also to vote positively.

Based on the above, I propose that the scientific jury recommends to the Academic Council of New Bulgarian University to elect Assistant Professor Dr. Metodi Georgiev Traykov for the academic position of Associate Professor in professional field 4.6. Informatics and Computer Science.

Signature:

Date: February 12, 2023