

# STATEMENT

by

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Member of the Scientific Jury approved by order of the Rector of Medical University of Varna (№ P-109-229/ 26.07.2024) concerning the procedure for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sport", professional direction 7.3. "Pharmacy" and scientific specialty "Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics" in Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna. The announcement for the competition was published in the State Gazette No. 45/ 28.05.2024.

Assist. Prof. Viliana Eduardova Gugleva from the Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies of the Faculty of Pharmacy (Medical University of Varna) is the only applicant in the competition.

## **Qualification and teaching activity of the candidate**

Viliana Eduardova Gugleva graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Sofia with a master's degree in pharmacy in 2011. In 2012 she was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. At the moment Viliana Gugleva is a Principal Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna. She defended dissertation entitled "Design and characterization of doxycycline hyclate loaded niosomes for ophthalmic application" in the scientific specialty "Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics" and acquired a PhD degree in 2021. The candidate has acquired a specialty in "Pharmaceutical Technology and Biopharmaceutics" in 2017.

It is important to note that the candidate has completed the following training courses: –

- "Work with electronic platform Blackboard Learn+" in MU-Varna in 2018
- "Safety assessment of cosmetic products" in Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2022
- "Pedagogical competence" (I level) in MU-Varna in 2022
- „Colorcon Formulation School" in 2022
- "Innovative educational technologies" within the National Program "Digital Qualification" in 2024
- "Design of Scientific Research and Statistical Analysis" in MU-Varna in 2024

Assist. Prof. Viliana Gugleva participates in the teaching of the courses "Pharmaceutical Technology" and "Biopharmacy and pharmacokinetics" as well as in the education in the master program "Cosmetology".

Assist. Prof. Viliana Gugleva is a member of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Science Society, American Chemical Society (ACS), Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (APS) and the Union of scientists - Varna.

## Evaluation of scientific indicators

The assessment of indicators includes:

- **Indicators "A" and "B"** – Defended thesis for the acquisition of PhD degree in 2021 (50 points) and a monographic work "Modern trends and perspectives in the design of vesicular systems. Focus on niosomes" (100 points for the indicator in the Group "B"). The monographic work (ISBN: 978-619-221-498-2) is entirely in the scientific specialty of the competition.

- **Group indicator "Г"** – The candidate presents 17 scientific publications which were realized after acquiring PhD degree. Among the presented publications, 13 are in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases. The total impact factor of these publications is 41.947. The total number of the points from the presented publications is 229.56, which fulfills the required 200 points for this group.

The scientific activity of the candidate is also represented through her participation in 22 scientific forums, of which 10 are international and 12 are national.

- **Group indicator "Д"** – A reference represents 6 citations of the candidate's publications in journals with an impact factor, amounting to 90 points, which fulfills the requirement for 50 points for this indicator according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB).

- **Group indicator "Е"** - the candidate has participated in 2 scientific projects - one founded by the Bulgarian National Science Fund, and the other by the "Science" Fund at the Medical University - Varna.

The contributions of the scientific research of Assist. Prof. Viliana Gugleva can be distinguished in the following areas:

- Development of pH-sensitive niosomes based on hexadecyl-poly(acrylic acid) copolymers providing high curcumin loading efficiency and improved cytotoxic and apoptogenic activity compared to the free substance on cell lines of bladder carcinoma origin (T-24) and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (HUT-78 and MJ).

- Development of niosomes as a drug delivery platform for systemic administration of cannabidiol – niosomes are made of non-ionic surfactants and are characterized by physicochemical characteristics suitable for systemic administration.

- Development of sterically stabilized cannabidiol-loaded niosomes by modification with newly synthesized amphiphilic linear or star-shaped (3- and 4-armed) copolymers based on polyglycidol and poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone) blocks - the niosomes exhibit significantly higher apoptogenic and inflammatory biomarker-modulating effects compared to the free substance.

- Development of ethosomes and transfersomes as a drug delivery platform for dermal application of curcumin – the optimized ethosomes provide more pronounced antiproliferative activity of encapsulated curcumin compared to the pure substance.

- Evaluation of the influence of the drying method on the protein content of different types of algae.

In conclusion, the total number of points that the candidate presented in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and sport", professional direction 7.3 "Pharmacy" is 469.56, which fulfills the minimum national requirements according to the Law on Academic Staff Development in the Republic of Bulgaria

(LASDRB), the Regulations for the implementation of LASDRB as well as the Regulations of MU-Varna (400 points).

## Conclusion

On the basis of the documents presented for the competition, I do believe that the candidate completely meets the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the LASDRB, the Regulations for the implementation of the LASDRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in MU-Varna. I state my positive assessment for awarding the academic position "Associate Professor" to Assist. Professor Viliana Gugleva, PhD in the professional direction 7.3 "Pharmacy" for the needs of the teaching in the Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Varna.

Sofia

26.09.2024

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