

Statement from
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Member of the Scientific jury based on an order No. R-109-229/26.07.2024 of the Rector of Medical University-Varna. According to the protocol of the first meeting of the Scientific jury held on 05 August 2024., I am assigned to write a statement

REGARDING: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate professor", announced in State Gazette, issue **45/28 May 2024**, for the needs of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy, specialty "Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy" on a full-time basis – one.

At the competition for "Associate Professor" in Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, only one candidate appeared - chief assist. prof. Viliانا Eduardova Gugleva, MScPharm, PhD.

The set of documents were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), as well as the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB (RILDASRB) and the Regulations for the terms and conditions of acquisition of academic positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna.

Candidate acceptance

The first meeting of the Scientific Jury was held on 05 August 2024 and based on the submitted materials for the competition to each member of the Scientific Jury, it was determined and accepted with full unanimity the provided scientific production of the candidate chief assist. prof. Viliana Eduardova Gugleva, MScPharm, PhD for participation in the competition complies with the minimum national as well as with the additional requirements set in the rules for the conditions and order for acquiring scientific degrees and occupancies of academic positions in the Medical University- Varna. The scientific jury admitted the candidate for the competition assessment.

I. Biographical data

Viliana Eduardova Gugleva was born on 02nd October 1982 in Varna. She graduated the specialty Master of Pharmacist at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Sofia. In 2021, she obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Sofia. **Title of dissertation:** "Design and characterization of niosomes loaded with doxycycline hyclate for ophthalmic administration".

During the period from 2012 till 2021, she held the position of Assistant, Specialty Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences until 2014/Department of Pharmaceutical Technology since 2014 at the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU Varna. Afterwards she became a Chief Assistant from Nov 2021 till now at the same Department and University.

Specializations

2017: Acquired specialty "Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy" in the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov", Varna.

Foreign Languages

English, German, Russian

II. Scientific and publication activity

In the competition for Associate Professor, they presented in total of 17 publications, 16 of them in English and 1 in Bulgarian language. 12 of the publications are in scientific journals with impact factor (Total IF = 41.9). 14 of the publications are in referenced and indexed journals as well as 3 of them are non-indexed. In 8 scientific publications the candidate is a first author. One monograph is presented on the topic "Modern trends and perspectives in the design of vesicular systems. Focus on niosomes", as well as a published chapter from a collection monography.

Till now are found 274 citations in the Scopus database (h index 8).

She also actively participated in over 20 scientific forums in the country and abroad.

I fully accept the submitted reference for the candidate scientific contributions. The presented scientific production and the candidate interests can be defined mainly in the Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy, which are determined for the direction, in which the competition is announced, and I deem the candidate fully matches the defined criteria for occupying this position. Highlights of the contributions are mainly on the following:

- Development of pH-sensitive niosomes based on hexadecyl-poly(acrylic acid) (HD-PAAn) copolymers, which are loaded with two model substances - the water-soluble fluorescent dye calcein and the hydrophobic agent with antineoplastic action – curcumin;

- Niosomes loaded with cannabidiol as a drug delivery platform for systemic administration of the active substance;
- Development of sterically stabilized cannabidiol niosomes by modifying the vesicles using newly synthesized amphiphilic linear or star-shaped (3- and 4-armed) copolymers based on polyglycidol (PG) and poly(ϵ -caprolactone) (PCL) blocks;
- Curcumin-loaded ethosomes and transfersomes as a drug-delivery platform for dermal application;
- Hybrid systems based on bigels and nanostructured lipid carriers and evaluation of their rheological characteristics using different mathematical models;
- Lyophilization and subsequent characterization of algae from the waters of the Black Sea - *Chaetomorpha linum*, *Ulva intestinalis*, *Ericaria crinita* and from bioreactors - *Chlorella* spp. and *Arthrospira platensis*/cyanobacterium/ in relation to the protein content in the samples;
- Determination of the antioxidant activity of extracts from the flowers of *Sambucus nigra* L. from four different regions of Bulgaria;
- Conduct of an anonymous survey among pharmacists and medical specialists in the territory of the city of Varna regarding the application of extemporaneous dosage forms in the practice.

III. Teaching and learning activity

Chief assist. prof. Viliana Eduardova Gugleva, MScPharm, PhD has got at about 13 years of specialty experience and 12 years of teaching activity as assistant and respectively chief assistant. During the last 5 academic years, the candidate has a mean auditorium load of 423 hours.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I consider Chief assist. prof. Viliana Eduardova Gugleva, MScPharm, PhD as a highly qualified scientific researcher and lecturer. The submitted research and lecturing activity fully complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and RILDASRB as well as to the qualitative and quantitative criteria for the development of the academic staff laid out in the Regulation of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna regarding the acquisition of the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR". The minimal scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" are fully covered and on some of the indicators the collected points exceed the ones laid out in the Regulation of the Medical University- Varna.

All of this gives to me a full consideration to grant a **POSITIVE ASSESSMENT** as well as to recommend to the members of the respected Scientific jury to vote for awarding the academic degree "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" to Chief assist. prof. Viliana Eduardova Gugleva, MScPharm, PhD at the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy, specialty " Pharmaceutical Technology and biopharmacy "

Sofia

26th Sep 2024

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/Prof. Krum Stefanov Kafedjiiski, PhD/