REVIEW

By Prof. Yana Dimitrova Boicheva, MD

Head of the Clinical Laboratory Department, Faculty of Medicine

Prof. Paraskev Stoyanov Medical University, Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. 109-257/06.06.2025

of Prof. Dimitar Raikov, MD, PhD – Rector of Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov Medical University, Varna

Regarding competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific field of "Clinical Laboratory", in the area of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory" at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD-Varna

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROCEDURE

In connection with the competition announced in State Gazette No. 30/08.04.2025 for the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific field of "Clinical Laboratory", in the area of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna and the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at the University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD-Varna, by order No. 109-257/06.06.2025 of Prof. Dr. Dimitar Raikov, MD - Rector of MU " Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury for the above-mentioned competition. By Protocol No. 1/17.06.2025, the scientific jury selected by decision of the Faculty Council (Protocol No. 39/07.05.2025) decided to prepare a review. The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD, administrative assistant in the Department of Clinical Laboratory at MU " Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in Varna, associate professor at the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at the University Hospital "Sv. Marina" in Varna. The procedure for announcing the competition complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at MU-Varna.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova completed her secondary education in her hometown of Varna in 1980 (IV Language High School "Frederick Joliot-Curie" with intensive French language studies). In 1986, she graduated from Medical University of Varna with a degree in medicine. She began her professional career as a district pediatrician in Shumen (1987-1990). In 1991, after winning a competition, she was appointed assistant professor of biochemistry at the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Medical University of Varna. In 1994, she obtained a degree in Biochemistry and was subsequently appointed as a senior and chief assistant at the same department, which has undergone numerous transformations over the years and is now called the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine, and Nutrigenomics. During the period 2004-2008, Assoc. Prof. Gerova completed

additional specialization in Clinical Laboratory and in 2009 obtained her second medical specialty in Clinical Laboratory. During her specialization in Clinical Laboratory (October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007), Assoc. Prof. Gerova completed a one-year internship in the field of laboratory endocrinology at the Central Clinical Laboratory of the Brugmann University Hospital, Brussels, Belgium. At the beginning of 2010, she was appointed as a specialist physician in the Clinical Laboratory at the Central Clinical Laboratory of UMHAT "Sveta Marina" EAD-Varna, and since 2016 - at the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at UMHAT "Sveta Marina", where she still works today. At the same time, she continues her academic career at MU Varna. Since 2010, she has been appointed as a senior assistant at the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory, Clinical Laboratory Council at MU Varna. During the period 2013-2015, she conducted independent doctoral studies at the same department and in 2015 successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "Determination of vitamin D status and the significance of suboptimal vitamin D levels for the course of certain chronic diseases" and obtained the educational and scientific degree of "DOCTOR" in the scientific specialty of Clinical Laboratory. In 2016, after participating in a competition, she was appointed associate professor at the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory, Clinical Laboratory Council at MU Varna. In 2021, the educational and scientific sector was transformed into an independent department, and Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova continues to work as an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Laboratory at the Medical Faculty of MU-Varna, a position she still holds today. Throughout her academic career, Assoc. Prof. Gerova has been actively involved in the scientific and teaching activities of the departments to which she has been appointed. She has taught the subjects "Biochemistry" to students of Medicine and Dental Medicine, "Clinical Laboratory" to students of Medicine and Pharmacy, as well as to students majoring in "Medical Laboratory Technician" at the Medical College of MU-Varna. She participated in a lecture course for specialist doctors in the specialty of Clinical Laboratory at MU-Varna (summer and winter school). She has supervised the specialization in Clinical Laboratory of two specialist doctors and has been the supervisor of two doctoral students who have successfully defended their doctoral theses in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory". From 1994 to the present, Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova has also performed administrative functions in the units where she has worked.

Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (USB, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Section), the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory Medicine, and the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Immunology. She speaks French and English.

SCIENTIFIC INDICATORS

An analysis of the quantitative data on the scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova, MD, shows that she is participating in the competition with a total of 48 scientific papers, distributed as follows

- INDICATOR A1:

PhD thesis on the topic "Determination of vitamin D status and the significance of suboptimal vitamin D levels for the course of certain chronic diseases"

- INDICATOR B4:

10 full-text scientific articles (B1-01 to B4-10) with a total IF=19.267, published in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (Web of Science and Scopus), recognized by NACID at the Ministry of Education and Science. They reflect

part of the scientific research activity of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, carried out after obtaining the academic position of "associate professor" (in the period 2016-2025) and are included in the academic reference to indicator B4 (B4-01 – B4-10, "publications equivalent to a monographic work"). According to the official academic reference, these publications carry a total of 148.48 scientometric points, with a minimum requirement of 100 points. In 20% of these publications (2: No. 9 and No. 10), Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova is the first author. In 30% – second author (3: No. 2, No. 6, and No. 7). In 30% – fourth author (3: No. 1, No. 3, and No. 5). In the remaining 20%, she is a serial author (2: No. 4 and No. 8). Seventy percent of the publications presented have an Impact Factor (IF) (7: No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, and No. 9) with a total IF=19.267. Nine of the articles (90%) have been published in the past five years. Eighty percent of the publications presented (8: No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, and No. 9) contain original research and results achieved through teamwork with researchers from various scientific departments at the Medical University of Varna. Twenty percent (2 items: No. 1 and No. 10) represent a literary review of current scientific issues in contemporary scientific practice. The publications presented in the section equivalent to a habilitation thesis reveal the diversity of scientific fields in which Assoc. Prof. Gerova works and publishes. They are evidence of the candidate's lasting interests in areas of scientific activity, divided into several main directions:

1. Non-classical biological roles of certain fat-soluble vitamins

1.1. Vitamin D status and its role in certain chronic diseases (No. 3 and No. 10)

1.2. Vitamin K – bone and vascular health (No. 1 and No. 4)

2. Metabolic syndrome and endothelial dysfunction (No. 5 and No. 8)

3. New biomarkers for assessing chronic intestinal inflammation (No. 2), bone disease in multiple myeloma (No. 6 and No. 7), and vitamin B12 status (No. 9).

- INDICATOR G7:

A total of 21 scientific publications and reports published in journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases with a total IF=46.093. Of these, 8 are full-text scientific publications and 13 are scientific reports.

- INDICATOR G8:

A total of 13 scientific publications and reports published in non-referenced journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. Of these, 11 are full-text scientific publications, and 2 are published scientific reports.

- INDICATOR G9:

1 collective monograph

- Above the minimum requirements (IMR):

A total of 3 scientific publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes: 2 full-text scientific publications and 1 scientific report

THEMATIC AREAS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Non-classical biological roles of some fat-soluble vitamins

1.1. Vitamin D status and its role in some chronic diseases (B4-03, B4-10, G7-09, G7-11, Г7-12, Г7-18, Г7-21, Г8-01, Г8-02, Г8-03, Г8-11, Г8-12, Г8-13, ИМИ- 02)

The work in this area is a continuation of Assoc. Prof. Gerova's scientific research prior to her habilitation, mainly reflected in her dissertation on the topic: "Determination of vitamin D status and the significance of suboptimal vitamin D levels for the course of certain chronic diseases," which examines the effects of vitamin D insufficiency and/or deficiency in hepatitis C viral infection and prostate cancer. In publications G8-02, G8-03, and IMI-02, vitamin D status is also linked to androgen levels, whose imbalance plays an important role in triggering and developing prostate cancer. These studies were carried out as part of the project "Correlations between vitamin D and androgens in benign and malignant prostate diseases," in which Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova is an active researcher.

B4-03 applies an innovative approach to studying the role of vitamin D in adult patients with heart disease (atrial fibrillation and heart failure), namely, not only determining serum levels of 25OHD by liquid chromatography with mass-selective detection, but also studying the gene expression of the regulatory enzyme 1-alpha-hydroxylase (CYP27B1) in easily accessible mononuclear cells from peripheral blood. In addition to the theoretical contribution of this study regarding the possibility that vitamin D deficiency or insufficiency is an important factor in the pathogenesis of CVD, it also has a clear practical application, namely that adult patients with CVD, especially those starting statin therapy, should be tested for vitamin D and begin timely intake of vitamin D supplements in order to delay the progression of the disease and reduce the toxic effects of statins on the muscular system.

In the review B4-10, Assoc. Prof. Gerova reveals the pathogenetic link between vitamin D deficiency and the most common neurodegenerative diseases. The results of clinical studies investigating the effects of vitamin D supplementation are also summarized.

Vitamin D status has also been studied in individuals with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) – G7-11, G7-12, G8-12, and G8-13. The studies have a confirmatory scientific contribution, establishing that almost 95% of patients with IBD have vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency.

Review G8-11 reveals the link between low vitamin D levels during pregnancy and the development of adverse outcomes for both the mother and the fetus, such as the risk of premature birth, preeclampsia, gestational diabetes mellitus, low birth weight, and postpartum complications.

One of the prominent pleiotropic effects of vitamin D is its role as an immunomodulator. In this regard, vitamin D status is being studied in Bulgarian patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis (HT), one of the most common autoimmune diseases (G7-21).

The main contributions in this thematic area focus on a wide variety of chronic diseases and conditions covering almost the entire age range – from early childhood to older adults, as well as affecting the special physiological condition of pregnancy. They are both scientific and research-oriented, as well as practical, proving the need for regular monitoring of vitamin D status in individuals and promoting the idea of regular supplementation with the vitamin, promoting the introduction of preventive medicine into real clinical practice.

1.2. Vitamin K – bone and vascular health (B4-01, B4-04, G7-15, G9-01)

Contributions in this thematic area are both scientific and research-oriented, supplementing knowledge about the role of vitamin K in bone and vascular health, offering new approaches and biomarkers for assessing vascular calcification, but also have a practical focus, as they provide a basis for the prevention and/or slowing down of a number of chronic and socially significant diseases such as osteoporosis and atherosclerosis. Review B4-01 examines in detail the role of vitamin K2 in bone and vascular health. It tracks experimental, epidemiological, and interventional clinical studies that examine the importance of vitamin K for bone density and bone fractures, as well as the effect of vitamin K antagonists on bone. An important aspect of the complex mechanism of action of vitamin K as a transcriptional regulator is also described. The role of vitamin K in vascular health is also highlighted, with facts about important inhibitors of vascular calcification such as MGP and other Gla proteins (Gla-rich protein and Gas6) and their mechanisms of action. Light is also shed on theso-called "calcium paradox," which is a syndrome of subclinical vitamin K deficiency. The established series of common pathophysiological mechanisms and interacting factors underlying osteoporosis and CVD have led to the development of the concept of "cross-talk" between bones and blood vessels—ectopic calcification in the vessels is often accompanied by either reduced bone mineral density or impaired bone turnover. This review opens up new horizons for future clinical studies. Monograph G9-01 examines in detail the calcification of coronary arteries as a manifestation of the atherosclerotic process and an independent risk factor for CVD complications. The original article B4-04 and scientific report G7-15 examine the links between circulating uncarboxylated MGP (ucMGP), CVD pathology, and coronary artery calcification (CAC).

2. Metabolic syndrome and endothelial dysfunction (B4-05, B4-08, G7-06, G8-06)

Study B4-05 examined plasma levels of asymmetric dimethylarginine (ADMA) as a marker of endothelial dysfunction and malondialdehyde (MDA) as a marker of oxidative stress and lipid peroxidation in individuals with metabolic syndrome (MetS). In study B4-08, in addition to plasma levels of ADMA and MDA, gene expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) of several transcription factors was investigated – the redox-sensitive transcription factor Nrf2 (nuclear factor2-related factor2) as an important regulator of antioxidant protection against oxidative stress, the transcription factor NF-kB (nuclear factor kappa B), which induces the expression of pro-inflammatory markers, and the enzyme heme oxygenase 1 (HO-1), which plays an important role in antioxidant protection. Another study (G7-06) assesses the role of asymptomatic hyperuricemia in the presence and severity of coronary artery calcium (CAC) in adults with various cardiovascular pathologies and its relationship to conventional cardiovascular risk factors. The prospective study G8-06 assessed serum sST2 levels in patients with PM and those with HF and preserved ejection fraction. The results of this study identified sST2 as a new biomarker with prognostic significance for predicting HF in patients with PM.

Major contributions in this area include clarifying the significance of the transcription factor Nrf2, which plays an integral role in protecting the endothelium, and its interaction with MDA, ADMA, HO-1, and the transcription factor NF-kB in MetS.

3. New biomarkers for assessing chronic intestinal inflammation, bone disease in multiple myeloma, and vitamin B12 status (B4-02, G7-13, G7-14, G8-04),

3.1. New biomarkers for assessing chronic intestinal inflammation (B4-02 and G8-04, G7-13, G7-14).

In modern gastroenterology, assessing disease activity, prognosis, and therapy control in patients with IBD is a challenge. The search for a non-invasive panel of biomarkers for

assessing the course of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and various aspects of intestinal inflammation is a priority task. In addition to well-known markers of inflammation such as CRP and FC, adenosine deaminase (ADA) may be another promising candidate biomarker. The B4-02 study found significantly elevated ADA levels in patients with IBD. Together with fecal calprotectin (FC) and CRP, ADA can be used as an effective biomarker for assessing intestinal inflammation and as a potential indicator of disease activity. The contribution of this study is not only original but also has practical application value, as it proposes adenosine deaminase (ADA) as a new non-invasive biomarker in the arsenal of methods for monitoring patients with IBD.

3.2. New biomarkers for assessing bone disease in multiple myeloma (B4-06, B4-07, G7-07, G7-19, G8-09)

Myeloma-induced bone disease (MBD) is one of the most significant clinical manifestations of multiple myeloma (MM). Scientific activities in this area are related to the active work of Assoc. Prof. Gerova on scientific project "PR No. 19009, Science Fund at MU – Varna, 2019-2022, contract No. FN-98/19.12.19: "New molecular biomarkers for the assessment of bone disease in multiple myeloma." The review publications G7-07 and G8-09 have a definite theoretical contribution to the analysis of molecular mechanisms in the pathogenesis of bone disease in MBD. The results of publications B4-06, B4-07, and scientific communication G7-19 have a significant contribution to the assessment of MBD. The circulating levels of sRANKL, periostin, and osteopontin as osteoclast activators and the levels of sclerostin and Dickkopf-1 protein (DKK-1) as inhibitors of the canonical Wnt/β-catenin signaling pathway, factors that reduce osteoblast activity. The main contribution of these studies is aimed at elucidating the molecular mechanisms of bone disease development in MM. It has been proven that the original combination of new bone biomarkers adequately reflects changes in the bone marrow and clinical characteristics of the disease, as well as the response to therapy. A significant practical contribution is the possibility of using the studied parameters as reliable biomarkers for better monitoring of bone disease during the course of the disease, as well as for assessing the effectiveness of therapy.

3.3. New biomarkers for assessing vitamin B12 status (B4-09, G8-10).

Vitamin B12 deficiency or insufficiency is an important public health issue. Leading to an increased incidence of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, early detection of functional vitamin B12 deficiency during pregnancy is a global concern. Review G8-10 examines vitamin B12 metabolism, methods for determining vitamin B12 status in individuals, and the effects of suboptimal vitamin B12 levels on the course and outcome of pregnancy. This area is relevant because modern diets increasingly restrict animal products, which leads to a wider prevalence of vitamin B12 deficiency or insufficiency. The field was conceptually initiated as a scientific project entitled "Methylmalonic acid and 25-hydroxy vitamin D3 as new biomarkers for determining functional deficiencies of vitamin B12 and vitamin D3 during pregnancy," led by Assoc. Prof. Gerova. An important practical contribution to clinical practice from this scientific field is the proposed algorithm for assessing vitamin B12 status. The inclusion of MMA as a functional biomarker in addition to the direct parameters TB12 and AB12 would contribute to a more reliable assessment of vitamin B12 status in routine laboratory practice.

4. Saliva as a valuable biological material with potential applications in routine laboratory practice (G7-02, G7-16, G7-17, G8-07, G8-08)

As a diagnostic tool, saliva is an underutilized biological material and is still neglected in the diagnostic process today. Review G7-02 characterizes saliva as a biofluid, describing its physiological mechanisms of formation, composition, and main functions, with a view to its

full utilization in clinical practice. The original publication G8-07 presents the results of a study of the cellular composition of saliva in patients with IBD. With this study, Assoc. Prof. Gerova continues an important and significant line of research pursued in her scientific career prior to her habilitation as an associate professor, namely "In vivo and in vitro studies on the problems of oxidative stress and prooxidant/antioxidant status in living organisms." In addition to the theoretical contribution proving the involvement of oxidative stress in the pathogenesis of chronic intestinal diseases, the results also have a practical contribution, providing clinicians with an additional and important tool for assessing and monitoring the activity and progression of IBD.

5. Varia: G7-03, G7-04, G7-05, G7-01, G7-08, G7-10, G7-20, G8-05, IMI-01, IMI-03

The publications in this field add an extra touch to the multidisciplinary nature of Associate Professor Gerova's research and her participation in various scientific research teams.

The published review G7-01 addresses the problems of childhood obesity and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). The candidate's close professional relationship with her colleagues from the Department of General Medicine and the Rheumatology Clinic is reflected in publications G7-03, G7-04, G7-05, which deal with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), a relatively common systemic chronic inflammatory disease of autoimmune origin. Publications G8-05 and G7-10 provide data from the study of iron metabolism and inflammation parameters in patients with different forms and stages of myelofibrosis (MF), a relatively rare hematological neoplasm.

As a long-time lecturer, Associate Professor Gerova pays serious attention to the education of her students, challenging them not only to critically accept the information presented, but also to develop the ability to handle scientific literature, analyze and summarize it, and develop the ability to write scientific texts. Proof of this can be found in publications IMI-01 and IMI-03. Students majoring in Medical Laboratory Technology at the Medical College of Varna, under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Gerova, were introduced to screening tests for HbS and other hemoglobinopathies leading to sickle cell anemia (SCA). This gave the students the opportunity not only to participate in their forum, but also to prepare their first publication (IMI-01). Assoc. Prof. Gerova also motivated an outstanding pharmacy student to collect and summarize information on tyrosine kinase inhibitors, their pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and side effects as medications that are increasingly being used in the modern treatment of neoplastic diseases. Thus, the student improved her theoretical knowledge and also developed her article writing skills, as evidenced by publication IMI-03.

As a result of her overall scientific activity, Assoc. Prof. Gerova has actively contributed to the successful defense of several scientific theses for the acquisition of the academic degree of "DOCTOR":

1. "The relationship between vitamin D and androgen status in prostate diseases" by Bogdan Rusev

2. "Comparative study of biochemical markers in different biological matrices in patients with chronic gastrointestinal diseases" by doctoral candidate Dr. Mariana Yordanova

3. "The role of vitamin D and vitamin B12 in pregnant women and newborns" by doctoral candidate Dr. Monika Todorova

4. "Biomarkers for the assessment of bone disease in multiple myeloma" by Dr. Vladimir Gerov

Assoc. Prof. Gerova is the scientific supervisor of two of the above-mentioned dissertations.

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC FORUMS /2016-2024/

In the attached documents, Assoc. Prof. Gerova has presented a list of her participation in 13 national forums on clinical laboratory and clinical hematology and 26 participations with reports and posters in international forums such as BCLF, IFCC, EFLM, IMAB, European Congress on Obesity ECO, AACC.

PARTICIPATION IN PROJECTS

1. Head of the research team of completed project No. 20005 "Methylmalonic acid and 25-hydroxy vitamin D3 as new biomarkers for determining functional deficiencies of vitamin B12 and vitamin D3 during pregnancy," funded by the Science Fund of MU – Varna, according to contract reg. No. ФН-23/01.02.2021.

2. Member of the research team of completed project No. 19009 "New molecular biomarkers for the assessment of bone disease in multiple myeloma", funded by the "Science" fund of MU - Varna, in the position of "Administrative and Financial Officer", according to contract reg. No. FN-98/19.12.2019

3. Member of the research team of completed project No. 17002 "Vitamin K-dependent GLA proteins - new biomarkers for cardiovascular calcification", funded by the Science Fund of MU - Varna, in the position of "Researcher", according to contract reg. No. ФМН-50/18.12.2017.

4. Member of the research team of completed project No. 15006 "Correlations between vitamin D and androgens in benign and malignant prostate diseases," funded by the Science Fund of MU - Varna, in the position of "Researcher," according to contract reg. No. ФМН-86/21.12.2015.

5. Member of the research team of completed project No. 11002 "Assessment of vitamin D status in target groups using a selective chromatographic method for determining 25-hydroxyvitamin D3," funded by the Science Fund of MU - Varna, according to the contract dated 21.12.2012.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Assoc. Prof. Gerova is a lecturer with nearly 35 years of academic experience. At MU-Varna, she teaches the subjects "Clinical Laboratory," "Clinical Chemistry and Immunology" in Bulgarian language to students majoring in "Medicine" at the Faculty of Medicine, "Pharmacy" at the Faculty of Pharmacy, and "Clinical Laboratory" at the Medical College in Varna to Medical Laboratory Technicians. She has taught the subject "Biochemistry" to students of Medicine and Dental Medicine.

Her average annual teaching load over the last four years has been 140 hours/academic year, compared to the standard 110 hours, with her teaching hours mainly consisting of lectures to Bulgarian-speaking students. As an administrative assistant in the Clinical Laboratory Department, she has participated in two updates of the curricula for the subjects of clinical laboratory, clinical chemistry, and immunology in the specialties she teaches, with the content of all lecture courses posted on the university's Blackboard internet platform.

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova is the supervisor of two specialists who have obtained a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science and two doctoral students who have successfully defended their scientific theses to obtain a PhD degree.

Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova is a member of the state examination board for acquiring a specialty in clinical laboratory.

Assoc. Prof. D. Gerova is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (SUB, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Section), the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory (BSCL), and the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Immunology. For the period 2023-2025, Assoc. Prof. Gerova is a member of the BSCL Management Board.

In conclusion, the candidacy of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova fully meets the state and institutional requirements for the academic position of "Professor." Her scientometric and professional indicators, as well as her personal qualities, are undoubtedly worthy of this degree. In the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Gerova, the pursuit of perfect analysis and a well-founded search for the innovative and undiscovered, as well as the achievement of an ever higher level in her beloved profession in its various projections, is evident throughout. Her ability to collaborate, organize, and unite often incompatible points of view and personalities in the name of a common goal is impressive and unique in our context. Her positive spirit and ability to express herself accurately and to analyze and summarize facts with ease make her a valuable colleague and teacher in the academic departments where she has worked.

With complete conviction and great respect, I recommend that the Scientific Jury award Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD, the academic position of "Professor" in the scientific field of "Clinical Laboratory" in the area of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports," professional field 7.1. Medicine," for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna and the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology at UMHAT "Sv. Marina" EAD-Varna.

07.08.2025 Prof.Dr. Yana Bocheva, MD, PhD