

**To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury Appointed  
by Ordinance № P-109-257/06.06.2025 of the  
Rector of "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Medical  
University of Varna**

**STANDPOINT**

**Prepared by:** Assoc. Prof. Marianka Genova Petrova-Yanachkova, MD, PhD, Member of the Scientific Jury

**Scientific specialty:** Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University, Sofia  
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I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury according to the order № P-109-257/06.06.2025 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna and have been selected to prepare a Standpoint according to protocol №1/ (17.06.2025) from the meeting of the scientific jury, chosen by a decision of the Faculty Board (protocol №39/07.05.2025)

**Regarding:** Application for the academic position " Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory" – 0.5 for the needs of Department of Clinical Laboratory, at the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov " and 1.0 for the laboratory of Clinical Immunology at Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, St Marina University Hospital of Varna, published in State gazette №30/08.04.2025.

The necessary documents (in electronic format) of the single candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD, PhD have been provided for the competition within the required time, properly arranged and described, containing well-formed evidentiary material. The candidate declares that the submitted documents are reliable and prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its' application, the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna and meet the requirements for the specified position.

I have no comments on the materials provided for preparing of a standpoint.

I have no conflict of interest in this contest.

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations

for its' application and the Regulations of the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

Assoc Prof Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, PhD

## **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Assoc Prof Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova graduated from the Medical University of Varna in 1986 with the educational and qualification degree "Master of Medicine". She has been briefly working as a pediatrician in the city of Shumen (1987-1990) and after a contest was selected as an assistant professor at the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics in Medical University of Varna, where she grew from assistant professor, through senior assistant to chief assistant between 1991 – 2010. Since 2010 until 2018 Assoc. Prof. Gerova is a member of the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory, Medical University of Varna, and from 2010 to 2016 she was a chief assistant at the same Department and a physician at the Central Clinical Laboratory of the University Hospital "St. Marina" – Varna. She was elected as an Associate Professor at the Department of General Medicine, scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory" in 2016. She was a member of the Department of "General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory", University Science Specialty "Clinical Laboratory", Medical University of Varna for the period 2016-2021. Since 2016 until now Assoc. Prof. Gerova is a physician at the Laboratory of Clinical Immunology, University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna, and from 2018 up to now she is an Associate Professor at the Department of Clinical Laboratory, Medical University of Varna. In 1994 she acquired a specialty in Biochemistry and in 2009 a specialty in Clinical Laboratory. In 2015 successfully achieved her PhD thesis on the topic "Determination of vitamin D status and importance of suboptimal levels of vitamin D for the course of some chronic diseases" with which she acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Gerova is an established and recognized specialist in the field of Clinical Laboratory. She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Section of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a member of the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory and a member of the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Immunology. She speaks excellent French and very good English languages.

## **I. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

### ***1. Scientific publications***

The candidate's scientific output complies with the minimum national requirements under Art. 26, Para 2 and Art. 3 of the Law and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

A certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna has been provided, prepared by the library of the Medical University of Varna, based on the information ensured by the candidate and automated access to information from international scientific databases.

The publication activity of Assoc. Daniela Gerova, PhD meets the scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" and includes: a PhD thesis for acquiring the educational science degree "Doctor", a habilitation thesis, made up of 10 full-text scientific publications, referenced and indexed in with scientific world-renowned database-review with impact factor (IF); scientific publications, referenced and indexed in with scientific world-renowned data basis review without IF, publications and reports, published in non-referenced journals with scientific reviewing or published in edited collective volumes, full-text publications in scientific journals and collections beyond the minimum of scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "Professor" and 49 citations. Assoc. Prof. Gerova participated in the current competition with a total of 49 scientific works after acquiring the educational science degree "Doctor" in which she is the author and co-author and which are not related to the PhD thesis. Assoc. Prof. Gerova attached a list of scientific publications including original articles, reviews and clinical cases.

The presented academic reference prepared by the Library of Medical University of Varna (№186/29.05.2025) which certifies the total number of publications, 21 of which are in journals with an Impact factor (IF; total IF=46.093) of which 8 are full-text scientific publications and 13 are scientific reports. The Academic Reference shows another 11 publications in international and Bulgarian journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific review without IF; 13 publications are in journals with scientific review, of which 2 are in Bulgarian and 11 are in English - 11 are full-text scientific publications and 2 are published scientific reports.

Assoc. Prof. Gerova has contributed with a written chapter in a collective monograph in Bulgarian – Nazifova-Tasinova N, Nikolova M, Vankova D, Pasheva M, Angelov A, Yotov Y, Gerova D, Ivanova D, Kiselova Y, Galunska B. Extrahepatic Gla proteins-potential biomarkers for vascular calcification. Medical University Library -Varna, 2021, ISBN:978-619-221-366-1.

Beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the academic position of "Professor", 3 articles in Bulgarian and English have been submitted, of which 2 are full-text scientific publications and 1 is a scientific report.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Gerova presents a habilitation thesis, made up of 10 full-text publications (7 in international journals with IF and 3 in national journals referenced and indexed in world-famous databases) with a total IF=19.267 and 148.8 scientometric points out of the required 100 t and with the following distribution: in 20% of the publications the candidate is the first author; in 30% is the second author, in 30% she is the fourth author. In the remaining 20% she is a consecutive author. Nine out of the 10 articles presented were published in the last five years.

According to the requirements of the appendix to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU-Varna, the total score from group indicators A, B, and C (1, 2, 3, and 4) is 198.48 t; from group indicators D (from 5 to 9) is 450.38t, which is significantly more than the required minimum of 200t.

#### *2. Participations in scientific meetings*

Assoc. Prof. Gerova has a total of 39 participations in scientific meetings: 26 in international and 13 national congresses and conferences with posters and reports.

#### *3. Citations*

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova presented an academic reference prepared by the Library of Medical University of Varna (№186/29.05.2025) which certifies 49 results (49 citations without self-citations) in the databasis of Web of Science, Scopus and other databases (Total 735 t out of the required 100t).

#### *4. Participation in research projects*

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova is a participant in 3 scientific projects from competitions of the Science Fund-MU-Varna, in two of them she is the administrative and financial manager and the manager of the third project.

#### *5. Guidance of postgraduates and doctoral students*

She was an adviser of two PhD students that have defended doctoral theses for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree of PhD and two postgraduate students in Clinical laboratory that have acquired the specialty of Clinical Laboratory.

#### *6. Acquired medical specialties: Biochemistry and Clinical Laboratory*

According to the requirements of the appendix to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU-Varna, the total score from group indicators E (from 13 to 22) is 250t which is significantly more than the required minimum of 100t.

The scientific output of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova, PhD, covers and exceeds the minimum national requirements of the Ministry of Education and Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna according to the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Medical University of Varna.

The scientometric data are presented in an understandable, accurate and clear manner in the review materials provided.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova has been working as an established specialist in Clinical Laboratory since 2010 and is a long-time lecturer (over 30 years) in the disciplines of Biochemistry and Clinical Laboratory. In her scientific career, she has been building gradually and consistently by showing scientific interests in various areas. All of them are well illustrated with a total of 89 published articles with a total IF= 96.965 and 74 participations in scientific forums. According to

the Google Scholar platform, the publications have a total of 1347 citations, and from 2020 up to now they are 354 only.

### **7. Scientific interests and contribution**

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova's scientific interests after her habilitation as a associate professor are focused in the following fields:

- Non-classical biology role of some fat-soluble vitamins and more specifically:
  - Vitamin D status and it's role in some chronic diseases
  - Vitamin K - bone and vessels health
- Metabolic syndrome and endothelial dysfunction
- New markers for evaluation of chronic intestinal inflammation
- Bone disease in Multiple Myeloma and vitamin B12 status
- Saliva as a valuable biological marker with the possibility of its' application in routine laboratory practise
- Latest works in the field of clinical laboratory diagnostic and practice

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova presents habilitation extended reference in which her interest are excellently presented in certain fields of clinical laboratory science and practice, and which impresses with literature review of 549 references. Another important moment which shall be highlighted is that the candidate's scientific researches correspond with global trends in the indicated areas for a new look at well-known classical indicators and nutrients, and their pleiotropic effects - Vitamin D, K, B12 in the different diseases and conditions, as well as the search for new laboratory markers with a view to clarifying some pathophysiological links in the serious metabolic puzzle of metabolic syndrome and in particular the development of endothelial dysfunction. In this regard, it is worth noting the other focus of interest in searching for new metabolites and elucidating new molecular interactions in studying bone metabolic disease in multiple myeloma.

Another aspect of Assoc. Prof. Gerova's scientific interests is the study of saliva as a biological material easily accessible for laboratory analysis, but still neglected nowadays. Good knowledge of the qualities of saliva and the possibilities for use in laboratory practice provide the opportunity for research and assessment not only of dental and periodontal, but also of systemic diseases, as it reflects various metabolic, hormonal, mental, immunological and toxicological changes in the body.

*The candidate's main scientific contributions could be formulated as follows:*

- The results of a study on vitamin D confirm the significant role of the vitamin as an important modifiable factor in socially significant cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases.
- The role of matrix Gla protein as a significant vitamin K-dependent inhibitor of vascular calcification, its relationship with vitamin K status and traditional CVD risk factors as a new metabolic risk factor in patients ranging from healthy hypertensives to patients with CVD pathology, has been confirmed.

- Clarifying the importance of the transcription factor Nrf2, and its relationship with some important indicators for endothelial function such as MDA, ADMA, HO-1 and the transcription factor NF-kB in Metabolic Syndrome.
- The results of the conducted studies suggest adenosine deaminase (ADA) as a new non-invasive biomarker for monitoring patients with IBD.
- The effect of an original combination of new bone biomarkers in the disease "Multiple Myeloma" was monitored, which adequately reflects changes in the bone marrow, the response to therapy and can be used in routine monitoring of the course of the disease in different patients.

Assoc. Prof's Gerova scientific work is based on a multidisciplinary approach in developing scientific problems, clinical-laboratory programs and approaches and new biomarkers by using classical laboratory methods and highly specialized separation techniques.

The study and follow-up of rare, but with essential significance in clarifying the molecular mechanisms and laboratory indicators in the publications of Assoc. Prof. Gerova have practical contributions, enrich the theory and practice of the clinical laboratory and are an excellent example of a multidisciplinary approach in modern medicine.

## **II. EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING ACTIVITY**

The total classroom employment of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova for the previous four academic years amounted to 558 study hours as her horarium includes hours for lecture presentations and practical exercises. Assoc. Prof. Gerova participates with lectures and exercises in the training of Bulgarian and English-speaking medical students, in the training of the Clinical Laboratory discipline of students in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" of the Medical College at the Medical University of Varna, Master's degree students in the specialty "Kinesitherapy". She performs education training for postgraduate qualification as a lecturer in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory" in basic courses in clinical laboratory at MU of Varna (within summer and winter school) and as a lecturer in the courses for postgraduate qualification for doctors-specialists in Clinical laboratory. Assoc. Prof. Gerova participates with lectures and exercises in the training of "Clinical Chemistry" in Bulgarian for students from the Faculty of Pharmacy -MU of Varna. Assoc. Prof. Gerova taught the course "Biochemistry" in Bulgarian and English-speaking medical and dental medicine students until 2009 y.

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova participates in committees for semester exams and is a member of the State Commission for recognition of the "Clinical Laboratory" specialty.

The teaching workload of Assoc. Prof. Gerova exceeds the required 110 academic hours per year. The candidate has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" for 10 years.

## **III. COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of VARNA**

From the presented information, the fulfillment of the minimum requirements of MU-Varna is as it follows:

- Group A – completed, 50 items;

- Group B – completed: habilitation thesis-10 reviewed articles with 148.48 p with a required minimum of 100 points;

- Group G – completed, total number of points is 450.38 out of a mandatory minimum of 200 points, having met the requirement of  $\geq 80$  points for clinical specialties under an indicator 7;

- Group D-fulfilled: the number of points is 735 p, which exceeds the required minimum of 100 p;

- Group E - the required points for the academic position "Professor" are 100, and the candidate has 250 points, meeting the requirement of  $\geq 80$  points for clinical specialties under an indicator 14.

The total calculated number of points of the candidate, Assoc Prof. Daniela Gerova, PhD is **1667.26**, (additionally are presented 3 full-text publications in scientific journals and collections beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for obtaining the academic position "Professor" - 28.5t) which repeatedly exceeds the minimum required of a total of 550 points for admission to participate in the procedures under the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for the academic position "Professor".

## CONCLUSION

Based on the data described above, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD, PhD, can be characterized as an established and recognized specialist in the field of clinical laboratory, as a thorough and consistent researcher with opportunities for independent scientific work and a team player, a teacher with a serious scientific and academic background practice and a responsible attitude to it. Her in-depth knowledge and accumulated teaching and research experience are of great benefit to the medical and other students, and in conducting post-graduate studies. The large number of publications and citations are a proof of the value of her scientific work, it fulfills and significantly exceeds the mandatory scientometric indicators.

I believe that the overall scientific-practical, organizational and teaching activity of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Gerova fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna on the terms and conditions for holding the academic position " Professor ".

I give my positive evaluation and strongly recommend to the members of the esteemed Scientific jury to vote positively for the election of Assoc Prof. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD, PhD for holding the academic position of "Professor" in the field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Clinical laboratory" for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory, Medical Faculty of Medical University "Prof. Dr.

Paraskev Stoyanov" of Varna and for the laboratory of Clinical Immunology at Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, "St Marina" University Hospital of Varna.

28.07.2025

Sofia

Assoc. Prof. Marianka Genova Petrova-Yanachkova, MD,  
PhD

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