

STANDPOINT

from

Prof. Dr. Margaritka Ivanova Boncheva, MD .

habilitation in professional field 7.1. medicine in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" , city of Varna; place of employment: University Hospital "St. Catherine" EAD - Sofia, Head of Clinical Laboratory

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Professor", announced in the State Gazette No. 30/08.04.2025, in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna , with a candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, MD from the Department of Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

By order No. R-109-257 of 06.06.2025 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury (SJ) and in accordance with protocol No. 1/ 17.06.2025 of the first meeting of the SJ, I have been appointed to prepare a standpoint as an internal member in the procedure for acquiring the academic position "Professor" in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory", professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

For the competition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, D.M. has submitted all necessary documents, in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act and the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna for its implementation.

In Meeting minutes No. 1/17.06.2025 of the meeting of the Scientific Jury, after evaluating the candidate's scientific production, the members established that it complies with the minimum national requirements under Art. 26, para. 2 and para. 3 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the candidate is admitted to participate in the competition.

Based on the above-mentioned legal documents, all procedural requirements for announcing the competition, the deadline for submitting documents, and the selection of the Scientific Jury have been met.

Brief biographical information.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova was born in 1961 in Varna. In 1980, she graduated from a language school with a major in French in Varna. In 1986, she graduated as a Master of Science, majoring in Medicine at the Medical University of Varna. From 1991 to 1994, she specialized and acquired a medical specialty in Biochemistry. From 2004 to 2009, she specialized and acquired a medical specialty in Clinical Laboratory. From 2013 to 2015, she was an independent doctoral student at the Department of General Medicine and Clinical

Laboratory at the Medical University of Varna, and in 2015, she successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "Determination of vitamin D status and the importance of suboptimal levels of vitamin D for the course of some chronic diseases". She obtained the ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Clinical Laboratory". She is fluent in French and English. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova is married and has two children. She has no criminal record.

Professional development.

The professional development of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova is connected with practicing medicine and long-term scientific and teaching activity. In 1987, he started working as a district doctor, pediatrician in the city of Shumen. He was there until 1990. After successfully passing the competitive exam, from 1991 to 2010, he was an assistant at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medical Nutrigenomics, MU-Varna. From 2010 to the present, he is an assistant and associate professor at (consecutively) the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory (until 2021) and the Department of Clinical Laboratory established in 2021. From 2010 to 2016, he also worked as a doctor at the Central Clinical Laboratory of UMHAL "St. Marina" EAD - Varna. From 2016 Until now, he has been working as a doctor at the Clinical Immunology Laboratory, University Hospital "St. Marina" EAD - Varna. In 2025, he worked under a civil employment contract at the Clinical Laboratory of the Clinical Center "St. Marina" - Varna.

Academic development.

Since 1991, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova (already 34 years old at the moment) has not separated herself from academic work. As an assistant at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medical Nutrigenomics, MU-Varna, she successively moved to the positions of senior assistant and chief assistant there. As such, she was transferred in 2010 to the Department of General Medicine and Clinical Laboratory - Educational and Scientific Sector of Clinical Laboratory (MU-Varna), where she continues her teaching and scientific work. Since 2016, Dr. Gerova has been an associate professor at the same department (in 2021, the Department of Clinical Laboratory was established) and continues to this day. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova is a rare and valuable lecturer with specializations in biochemistry and immunology, which are extremely useful in the field of clinical laboratory training.

Membership in scientific organizations.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, section Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She is also a member of the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Laboratory. She is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Clinical Immunology. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Union.

Teaching and scientific leadership.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova teaches the discipline "Biochemistry" to medical and dental students - a complete course of exercises and selected lectures. She teaches students in Bulgarian and English. In the discipline "Clinical Laboratory" she leads a complete course of exercises and lectures to medical students, both in the Bulgarian-language and English-language education of MU-Varna. She leads the training of pharmacy students in the discipline "Clinical Chemistry" (lectures and exercises). She also teaches the discipline "Clinical Laboratory" - lectures, to students of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant" of the Medical College at MU-Varna. She leads a lecture course for specializing doctors in clinical laboratory, in the organized

summer and winter schools at the Department. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova has been a well-established lecturer for years, erudite with deep knowledge of the subject, which she expertly presents to students and doctors.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova was the supervisor of two doctors specializing in the medical specialty "clinical laboratory" and both of them successfully passed the State Specialty Exam.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova was the scientific supervisor of two doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertations and obtained the ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "clinical laboratory".

Scientific research activity.

In her scientific career, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova has developed consistently, demonstrating scientific interests in various fields. After assuming the academic position of Associate Professor, she has worked in the following scientific areas, with results reflected in 48 scientific publications:

1. Non-classical biological roles of some fat-soluble vitamins: Vitamin D status and its role in some chronic diseases (B4-03, B4-10, D7-09, D7-11, D7-12, D7-18, D7-21, D8-01, D8-02, D8-03, D8-11, D8-12, D8-13, IMI (beyond the minimum requirements) -02); Vitamin K - bone and vascular health (B4-01, B4-04, D7-15, D9-01).
2. Metabolic syndrome and endothelial dysfunction (B4-05, B4-08, D7-06, D8-06).
3. New biomarkers for the assessment of chronic intestinal inflammation (B4-02, D7-13, D7-14, D8-04); Bone disease in multiple sclerosis myeloma (B4-06, B4-07, D7-07, D7-19, D8-09); Vitamin B12 status (B4-09, D8-10).
4. Saliva as a valuable biological material with potential for application in routine laboratory practice (G7-02, G7-16, G7-17, G8-07, G8-08).
5. Varia: G7-03, G7-04, G7-05, G7-01, G7-08, G7-10, G7-20, G8-05, IMI-01, IMI-03

According to the official academic report, these publications carry a total of 148.48 scientometric points (with a minimum required of 100 points). In 20% of these publications, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova is the first author. In 30% - he is the second, in 30% he is the fourth author and in 20% he is the consecutive author. These facts convincingly show the personal participation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova in the emergence of the idea for certain scientific developments, their implementation and presentation of the results of these studies in reputable scientific journals. 80% of the presented publications contain original developments and results achieved in teamwork with researchers from different scientific units of MU-Varna and only 20% represent a literature review of current scientific problems in modern scientific practice. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gerova has a total of 89 published articles with a total IF=96.965.

She has participated in 74 scientific forums, of which 33 are national and 41 are international.

Until 2016 (when she held the academic position of "Associate Professor") she participated in 9 projects at MU-Varna. After 2016, she participated in 3 projects at MU-Varna, being the leader of the last project. According to the Google Scholar platform, the publications have a total of 1347 citations, and for 2020. there are 354.

CONCLUSION.

On the basis of the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements specified in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and scientific production above them; the established original contributions of the scientific activity; the high professional skills, significant teaching qualifications of the candidate, I give a **positive opinion**. I strongly suggest that the members of the esteemed Scientific Jury vote "positively" for the candidate Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ivanova Gerova, for occupying the academic position "professor" in the specialty "Clinical Laboratory, professional field 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the Department of Clinical Laboratory, MF, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

15.08.2025

Sofia

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Prof. Dr. M. Boncheva, MD .