

**To the Chair of the Academic Panel
Appointed by Order No. P-109-133/16 March 2026
of the Rector of the MEDICAL UNIVERSITY – VARNA**

In accordance with your Minutes No. 1 of 27 March 2026

(date of the 1st meeting)

I hereby submit:

Opinion

regarding the competition for the academic post of “Associate Professor”
in the discipline “Physical Chemistry with Colloid Chemistry”,
Department of Chemistry announced for the needs of MU-Varna in the State
Gazette, issue 6/16 January 2026

Opinion prepared by: Prof. Kiril Blazhev Gavazov, PhD

Scientific discipline: “Inorganic Chemistry”

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OPINION

on the materials submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Anelia Tsvetanova Gerasimova-Peneva, PhD, for participation in the competition for the academic post of ‘Associated Professor’ in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences, specialisation “Physical Chemistry with Colloid Chemistry” for the needs of the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, in accordance with the announcement in the State Gazette, issue 6 of 16 January 2026

Opinion prepared by: Prof. Kiril Blazhev Gavazov, PhD

Professional field: 4.2. Chemical Sciences

Department of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, MU-Plovdiv

I. Analysis of the candidate’s career profile

Senior Assistant Professor Anelia Tsvetanova Gerasimova-Peneva, PhD (hereinafter referred to by her name for brevity) was born in 1987 in the town of Provadia, Varna Province. Her professional career began in 2010, when she held the position of ‘Junior Specialist (Chemist) – Grade II’ in the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the ‘Bishop Konstantin Preslavski’ University of Shumen. During the period 2011–2012, she was an ‘assistant’ in the same department and led practical sessions in the subject ‘Analytical Chemistry’.

From 2012 to 2018, Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva held the post of ‘Assistant’ in the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the ‘Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov’ Medical University – Varna, where she has been actively involved in teaching in the fields of physical chemistry and colloid chemistry. From June 2018 to the present, she has been a ‘senior assistant’ in the same department.

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva holds a certificate in ‘Theoretical Foundations of Medical Chemistry’ from 2022. Her academic development is a fine example of consistency, perseverance and the continuous enhancement of her competences. Her total professional experience in the field exceeds 14 years.

II. Assessment of the candidate’s scientific works

1. Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva’s research activity is characterised by high publication output and visibility within the international scientific community, as reflected in the extensive list of citing sources. These scientometric indicators attest to the relevance, scientific value and applicability of her research. The candidate is among the authors of a total of 37 scientific publications, of which:

- 25 articles in international journals, refereed and indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus databases, with impact factor and impact rank, distributed as follows: 9 publications in Q1, 5 in Q2, 4 in Q3 and 7 in Q4;
- 12 articles in international and national journals, indexed in other abstracting databases.

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva has participated in 23 international and national scientific forums, where she has presented research results in the form of papers and posters.

Her scientific output is characterised by an h-index in Scopus: 6 (including self-citations) or 5 (excluding self-citations by all authors). Anelia Gerasimova Peneva is the first author of two (8%) and the last author of three of the publications (12%), but has not yet been a corresponding author. The sharp increase in her publication activity over the last 2–3 years is striking.

Her h-index in Web of Science is 5. This platform contains data on 30 publications, 20 of which are included in the Web of Science Core Collection.

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva’s scientific contributions focus mainly on the following key areas:

1. Research into bioactive substances in extracts and essential oils – composition, properties, therapeutic potential and application in pharmacy, cosmetics and as food supplements.

2. Investigation of the potential applications of extracts from various species of algae in the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.

3. Determination of phycotoxin content in Black Sea mussels from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast and assessment of recommended doses for safe dietary intake.

The scientific output presented is aimed at developing healthier products, as well as innovative pharmaceutical and nutraceutical formulations that combine high stability, bioavailability and a composition enriched with biologically active substances beneficial to human health. The research also covers aspects related to the evaluation of the efficacy of accessible natural raw materials with potential for pharmaceutical application. A large part of the research fits within one of the main scientific priorities of MU-Varna, namely ‘Nutrition and Quality of Life’. Another part contributes to the development of pharmacy and focuses on nature-based and personalised therapeutic approaches.

The list of citations for this competition contains 65 entries. This number significantly exceeds the minimum requirements for the academic rank of ‘Associate Professor’ (260%).

III. Teaching and educational-methodological activities

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva carries out a substantial volume and variety of teaching and educational-methodological activities, including lectures, seminars and laboratory exercises, as well as participation in the development of teaching materials.

At the Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, she teaches the core subject “Physical Chemistry with Colloid Chemistry” to students on the Pharmacy degree programme.

Her overall teaching activities cover a wide range of related disciplines (“Chemistry,” “General and Organic Chemistry,” “Inorganic Chemistry,” “Analytical Chemistry,” “Environment and Health”), which is indicative of high professional competence and the ability to adapt to various educational fields.

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva’s teaching and methodological work is complemented by her involvement in the development of textbooks and teaching aids aimed at both undergraduate education and the preparation of prospective students. In this regard, the following should be noted:

- Co-authorship of the textbook ‘Colloid Chemistry: Lectures, Problems and Laboratory Exercises’, 2025, published by the Medical University of Varna.
- Co-author of the textbook “Physical Chemistry: Lectures, Seminars, Problems and Laboratory Exercises”, 2020, published by STENO – Varna.
- Co-author of the study guide “Collection of Questions for the University Entrance Examination in Chemistry”, published by the Medical University of Varna.
- Co-author of the textbook “Collection of Test Questions for the Chemistry Entrance Examination”, published by the Medical University of Varna.

These educational publications are practice-oriented and contribute to improving the quality of teaching by providing systematic knowledge and opportunities for students to prepare independently. Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva’s total teaching workload over the last 5 years has been substantial. It ranges between 512 and 634 hours per year, which is well above the statutory requirement (360 hours) adopted by a decision of the Academic Council of MU-Varna on 11 April 2011.

IV. Project activity

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva reports her participation in 15 research projects (internal, national and international). Five of these are registered in the NACID database. A further four are ongoing (in progress).

V. Patent applications

The candidate has participated in the development of three patent applications (one to the European Patent Office and two to the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria):

1. Patent application “Optical Switch of Type 1×N”, entered in the European Patent Register under No. EP25212037.3, with a filing date of 29 October 2025.

2. Patent application “Optical Switch of Type 1×N”, entered in the State Register of Patents under No. 114116, with a filing date of 6 August 2025

3. Patent application “Modular fibre-optic probe, method for spectral analysis of samples using the probe and use of the probe”, filed with the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria under No. BG/P/2025/114166, with a filing date of 29 October 2025.

VI. Comparison of the minimum requirements for the academic rank of “Associate Professor” and the candidate’s scientometrics

The table below compares the minimum scientometric requirements for the position of Associate Professor (as regulated by national legislation) with the scientometric profile of Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva.

Indicator	Mandatory minimum	Candidate’s score
A	50	50
C3 или 4	100	156
D5-10	200	252
E	50	130
Total:	400	588

It is clear that:

- 1) There are no indicators for which the points are insufficient.
- 2) The total number of points significantly exceeds the mandatory minimum.

VII. Critical comments and recommendations

It is noteworthy that in the publications presented as the equivalent of a habilitation thesis, Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva did not serve as the corresponding author. This could be viewed as a certain shortcoming regarding the visibility of her contribution and her leading role in the scientific publications.

In this regard, I would recommend that in her future research she strive to assume this responsibility.

I wish her success in her future professional development.

VIII. Conclusion

Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva more than meets the minimum requirements for the academic position of ‘Associate Professor’, as stipulated both in national legislation and in the specific criteria of the ‘Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov’ Medical University – Varna. The materials she has submitted provide convincing evidence of extensive and focused research and teaching activity.

The candidate’s research focus is clearly defined, consistently developed and fully aligned with the scope of the advertised competition. The research contributions outlined are substantial, and her publication record is characterised by high visibility and recognition within the scientific community.

The information provided demonstrates that the candidate possesses solid teaching experience, characterised by consistent academic development and established expertise in the field of physical chemistry and colloid chemistry.

Based on the above, I would like to propose to the esteemed members of the Academic Jury that they recommend to the Faculty Council that Senior Assistant Professor Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva, PhD, be appointed to the academic post of ‘Associate Professor’ in the field of higher education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, professional field 4.2. Chemical Sciences (“Physical Chemistry with Colloid Chemistry”).

Date: 14.04.2026

Signature:

Заличено на основание чл. 5, §1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679
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