



ACADEMIC OPINION

by prof. Vassil Borissov Delchev, DSc,
from the Department of Physical chemistry, University of Plovdiv
on the materials deposited for the participation in the competition
for the academic position "associate professor"
at the Medical university - Varna "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"

Field of higher education: 4: Natural sciences, mathematics and informatics

Professional area: 4.2. Chemical sciences

Scientific field: Physical Chemistry with Colloid chemistry

Candidate: Chief Assist. Prof. PhD Anelia Gerasimova – Peneva – Dept. Chemistry MU-Varna

Competition announced in the State Gazette: issue 6/16.01.2026

For the needs of the Dept: Chemistry, MU - Varna

Rector's order for the constitution of the Scientific jury: **P-109-133/16.03.2026 r.**

Decision of the first meeting of the Scientific jury: **to write an academic statement.**

The only candidate in this competition is Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Anelia Gerasimova - Peneva. The other candidate (Dr. Penko Papazov) was rejected at the first meeting of the Scientific jury, because of protocolized reasons. The materials on the procedure for occupying the academic position "associate professor" Dr. Gerasimova has presented in digital format (external memory stick) and include: 1) an application form to the Rector of MU-Varna for the admission to the competition for "associate professor"; 2) autobiography; 3) diplomas for Master's degree (2011) and Doctor (2017); (4) a list of publications; 5) summaries of the scientific papers for the competition; 6) certificates of acquired specialty, work experience, and teaching experience; (7) a statement for compliance with the Minimum national requirements; 8) a list of participation in scientific events; 9) reference on citations; and other documents required under art. 125(1) of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the MU-Varna.

Biographic information

In 2010 chief assist. prof. Anelia Gerasimova-Peneva, PhD graduated in Chemistry. A year later, she has graduated *cum laude* her master's level at the Shumen University (USH) "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" in the same specialty. In the meantime, she has held the position "chemist" in the Chemistry department at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Shumen University. For a short time (2011-2012), Dr. Gerasimova has been an assistant professor in analytical chemistry at the same university. Since 2012, the candidate has been working at MU-Varna (Department of Chemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy) as an assistant professor in the beginning in physical chemistry with colloid chemistry. She has held this position until 2018, when after winning a competition she has been promoted to the academic position "chief assistant professor", which she has held until now.

The doctoral study of chief assist. prof. Gerasimova at the MU-Varna is in the scientific area of "Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Substances" (2016-2017). After defending her dissertation in 2017 under the scientific supervision of Prof. Dr. Zhana Angarska, the candidate has acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The title of the dissertation is: "Kinetic behavior of foam films from aqueous solutions of bovine serum albumin and n-dodecyl- β -D-maltoside".

The candidate has additional qualifications: 1) from training courses – ECIS and COST – Germany; 2) specialization with a certificate for a recognized specialty in "Theoretical foundations of medicinal chemistry".

Scientific and research work

The candidate's research is in several main areas, which are in line with the university in which she works:

(i) determination of the composition, properties, therapeutic potential and pharmaceutical application of biologically active substances, in this number as food additives;

(ii) pharmaceutical and cosmetic applications of microalgae extracts, in this number applications in food industry;

iii) study of the content of phytotoxins in Black Sea mussels from the Bulgarian water area.

In this regard, a chemotypic and functional assessment has been made of essential oils from different types of chamomile, which is found in Bulgaria. The cosmetic potential of German and Roman chamomile has been studied. The radionuclide content of black elder (*Sambucus nigra*) from Bulgaria has been assessed. In this regard, an interesting fact is the established dose of ^{137}Cs , which has a half-life of 30 years and which is a major man-made pollutant from nuclear accidents (for example, Chernobyl)! There are doses of radionuclides in the cited data. Wouldn't it be more correct to give their activity (for very few isotopes the activity per unit mass is given, for example, ^{40}K - 750-1150 Bq/kg)?

A methodology for optimization and modeling of drying fruit products with microalgae has been developed. In particular, an assessment of the safety and bioactivity of various samples has been made. The pharmacokinetic properties of phycocyanin have been evaluated, as well as a way to stabilize it. An assessment of marine biotoxins of mussels in the Bulgarian water area of the Black Sea and the risk of their consumption has been made.

Regarding the scientific metrics, under indicator A of the Minimum National Requirements, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Anelia Gerasimova has enclosed a diploma for the PhD degree, which satisfies the requirement for this indicator. It would be better if the abstract of the dissertation for awarding the doctoral degree was attached to the documents!

Under indicator B, the candidate applies with 10 scientific reports equivalent to habilitation thesis, with a total of 156 points (minimum 100): three with quartiles Q2, four with quartiles Q3 and three with quartiles Q4, all indexed in the Scopus and/or WoS databases.

According to indicator Г, the candidate for the "associate professor" position Dr. Anelia Gerasimova has submitted 10 scientific publications, of which 9 with quartiles Q1 (225 points) and one with quartile Q4 (12 points). All publications are available in the Scopus and/or WoS databases. One patent has been declared, which has an entry number 14776909 from October 29, 2025. Thus, under indicator Г, the candidate collects 252 points, which exceeds the Minimum national requirements of 200 points.

Under indicator Д, 65 citations are presented, each of which is evaluated with 2 points. Thus, the total number of points is 130 (minimum 100). According to Scopus, the total number of citations of Dr. Gerasimova is 92, and the Hirsch index is $h=6$ (according to WoS, these values are 78 and $h=5$).

In the period 2010 – 2025, Dr. Gerasimova has participated in 23 scientific events (scientific forums), 8 of which abroad. However, from the attached list it is not clear the form of participation – poster or report! Nevertheless, the large number of participations shows high scientific activity of the candidate, which I hope will be stocked up in the future!

Teaching activity of the candidate

According to the attached certificate/reference (No. 7 and 8 - the two are identical and only one could be applied), the academic experience in field of Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Anelia Gerasimova is over 14 years. It covers teaching at positions "assistant professor" and "chief assistant

professor" at two universities: Shumen university "Bishop Konstantin Preslavski" and Medical university - Varna.

During her academic career, chief assist. prof. Dr. Anelia Gerasimova is a teacher of lectures, seminars and laboratory exercises in the following disciplines: i) Physical chemistry with Colloid chemistry (Sofia University and MU-Varna) – a discipline in which the competition for "associate professor" is announced; (ii) Physical chemistry parts I and II; (iii) Colloid Chemistry iv) Chemistry (with students from the specialty Medicine and Dental Medicine at MU - Varna), v) General and Inorganic Chemistry, vi) Inorganic Chemistry, vii) Analytical Chemistry, viii) Environment and Health, etc. The great teaching experience of the candidate is obvious! In 2013, she has been a supervisor of the diploma work of one graduate student in the Dept. Chemistry at the Shumen University. Due to the specifics of the nature of education at the MU-Varna, Dr. Gerasimova has no diploma students at this university.

Personal impressions

I don't know personally the candidate and I have no personal impressions on her work and achievements! However, some time ago I noticed her name in a published textbook on Physical chemistry in co-authorship with Prof. Angarska. I am interested in published textbooks in this discipline, since I am the author of several of them.

CONCLUSION. All materials submitted by the applicant under this procedure meet the requirements of the Law for Development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and its Regulations. I'm convinced that the candidate for the academic position "associate professor" chief assist. prof. Dr. Anelia Gerasimova is a real scientist and has the necessary skills and professional experience for this academic position. The materials show that she successfully copes with research and teaching work. Therefore, with conviction, I give my **positive assessment** of the candidate and recommend to the Scientific Jury to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy of MU-Varna to elect chief assist. prof. Anelia Tsvetanova Gerasimova - Peneva, PhD at the academic position "associate professor" in the field of higher education: 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics; Professional area: 4.2. Chemical Sciences; Scientific field: Physical chemistry with colloid chemistry.

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