



TO The Chair of the Scientific Jury, appointed at the First Meeting of the Scientific Jury of 26.03.2026 in relation to Order No. R-109-130/16.03.2026 of the Rector of MU – Varna

## OPINION

**REGARDING:** Competition for the academic position of “**Associate Professor**” in the specialty “**Medical Genetics**”, professional field 7.1. Medicine, area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports – **one** position, 0.5 full-time equivalent for the Department of Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, MU – Varna, and 1 full-time position for the Laboratory of Medical Genetics at St. Marina University Hospital EAD – Varna, announced in State Gazette No. 6/16.01.2026.

**OPINION BY:** **Assoc. Prof. Trifon Georgiev Chervenkov, PhD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Immunology at the Department of Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, *Member of the Scientific Jury* pursuant to Order No. R-109-130/16.03.2026 of the Rector of Medical University – Varna and appointed as an *internal member preparing an opinion* under Protocol No. 1 of 26.03.2026 from the First Non-Attendance Meeting of the Scientific Jury.

**CANDIDATES:** **Dr. Mari Ara Hachmeriyan-Andreeva, PhD** – **sole candidate**

The documents prepared by the candidate have been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna.

### **I. Brief biographical and career data about the candidate**

Born on 05.03.1986 in the city of Varna.

In **2011**, she obtained a Master’s degree in Medicine from Medical University – Varna.

From **2012** to **2019**, she worked as a physician at the Laboratory of Medical Genetics, St. Marina University Hospital – Varna.

From **2012** to **2018**, she was an Assistant Professor in Medical Genetics at Medical University – Varna.

In **2017**, she acquired a doctoral degree in “Genetics” from Medical University – Varna.

In **2018**, she acquired the medical specialty “Medical Genetics” from Medical University – Varna.

Since **2018**, she has been a Chief Assistant Professor in Medical Genetics at Medical University – Varna.

Since **2019**, she has worked as Physician – Head of the Laboratory of Medical Genetics, St. Marina University Hospital – Varna.



In **2025**, she acquired a doctoral degree in “Medical Genetics” from Medical University – Varna.

## II. Research activity

The activity has been assessed in accordance with the minimum national requirements for ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR pursuant to Art. 26 of DASRBA of 23.12.2022 and Art. 125, Art. 126 and Art. 127 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna.

1. Requirement under indicator A (50 points): acquired educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty of the announced competition;

**fulfilled** – 50 points – Dr. Mari Ara Hachmeriyan-Andreeva has acquired the educational and scientific degree DOCTOR in the scientific specialty “Medical Genetics” after successful defense of a dissertation entitled “Genetic counseling in patients with a suspected tumor-predisposition syndrome” (Doctoral diploma No. 758/17.12.2025, MU – Varna).

2. Requirement for group of indicators B: minimum 100 points through a habilitation thesis or equivalent scientific publications that are referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases; for area of higher education 7.1, the publications must be not fewer than 10.

**fulfilled** – **total of 101.74 points** – of the 10 publications equivalent to a habilitation thesis, 9 are referenced in Scopus and 1 in Web of Science.

3. Requirement for group of indicators G: minimum 200 points.

**Fulfilled** – sum of indicators 5–9 with a **total of 201.26 points**, as follows:

Indicator 5 – no monograph

Indicator 6 – 40.00 points from a published book based on a defended dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Indicator 7 – 136.95 points acquired from abstracts, articles and reports published in scientific journals referenced and indexed in international scientific databases.

Indicator 8 – 24.31 points acquired from articles and reports published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes.

Indicator 9 – no published chapter in a collective monograph

4. Requirement for group of indicators D: minimum 80 points from citations

**Fulfilled** – under DASRBA and the requirement of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna for a minimum of 5 citations in foreign databases, the indicator is fulfilled with a total of 7 citations in foreign databases and a total of **105 points** for the indicator.

### Scientific achievements and contributions

Dr. Mari Hachmeriyan-Andreeva has consistent research activity in the field of medical genetics, with main interests in several areas: oncogenetics and hereditary tumor-predisposition syndromes, prenatal



diagnosis and genomic technologies, cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics in oncohematology, clinical dysmorphology and rare genetic diseases, as well as medico-genetic counseling.

The author's reports present current scientific topics with a clearly expressed applied orientation toward the diagnosis, prevention and counseling of patients and families with genetic diseases. I consider the presented publications and developments in the following main areas to be significant contributions:

*Oncogenetics and hereditary tumor-predisposition syndromes.*

In this area, the candidate addresses the problems of medico-genetic counseling in patients with suspected hereditary tumor-predisposition syndrome. Emphasis is placed on the role of detailed family history, criteria for referral for genetic testing, and cascade counseling of relatives at risk. Data are also presented on the application of targeted panel testing through next-generation sequencing in hereditary breast and ovarian cancer and Lynch syndrome, including detection of pathogenic variants in genes with moderate penetrance such as PALB2, CHEK2 and ATM.

*Prenatal diagnosis and genomic technologies.*

In this area, algorithms for prenatal screening and the diagnosis of chromosomal abnormalities are analyzed. Based on substantial practical experience, the effectiveness of biochemical screening in the first and second trimester has been evaluated, with emphasis on the role of combined screening for the detection of trisomy 21. The introduction of non-invasive prenatal testing in Bulgaria is also discussed, including patients' attitudes and the need for qualified pre-analytical genetic counseling.

*Cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics in oncohematology.*

The contributions in this area are related to the application of a combined cytogenetic and interphase fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) approach in hematological neoplasms. The importance of FISH for detecting prognostically significant aberrations in multiple myeloma, including del17p13 and IGH rearrangements, which are relevant for risk stratification of patients, has been demonstrated. The practical value of identifying constitutional chromosomal abnormalities incidentally detected during testing for acquired hematological diseases is also noted.

*Clinical dysmorphology and rare genetic diseases.*

A substantial part of the publications is devoted to rare genetic syndromes and complex diagnostic cases. Publications are presented on Kabuki syndrome, Cornelia de Lange syndrome, Bardet-Biedl syndrome, 16p11.2 duplication syndrome, double aneuploidy 48,XXX,+21, and hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. These works contribute to refinement of clinical diagnosis, phenotype-genotype correlations and the differential-diagnostic approach in rare and clinically heterogeneous conditions.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Mari Hachmeriyan-Andreeva are complex in nature and combine clinical genetics, cytogenetics, molecular diagnostics and genetic counseling. They are aimed at improving the diagnostic process, personalizing medical management and increasing the quality of counseling for patients and families with genetic diseases, hereditary tumor risk and reproductive problems.



### III. Teaching activity

Dr. Mari Hachmeriyan-Andreeva was appointed as a regular Assistant Professor in the discipline "Medical Genetics" in the Educational Sector of Medical Genetics at the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Varna, in 2012, and as Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Medical Genetics in 2018. She teaches in both Bulgarian and English, and her average teaching workload at the Department of Medical Genetics of MU – Varna for the previous five active academic years (2019–2025) is **241.8** hours, which is above the required minimum of 100 hours annually.

The requirements for this activity under both DASRBA and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna, Art. 125, item 3, have been **fulfilled** (at least 5 years holding the academic position of "Assistant Professor" or "Chief Assistant Professor").

### IV. Professional experience

The candidate has professional experience in the field of medical genetics from 2012 to the present. From 2012 to 2019, she worked as a physician at the Laboratory of Medical Genetics, St. Marina University Hospital – Varna, and since 2019 she has held the position of Physician – Head of the same laboratory.

In 2018, she acquired the specialty "Medical Genetics", reg. No. 021463/20.02.2018, diploma No. 3926.

Her professional activity is related to diagnosis, interpretation and medico-genetic counseling of patients and families with genetic diseases, rare syndromes, chromosomal abnormalities, reproductive problems and hereditary tumor risk.

Academically, from 2012 to 2018 she was an Assistant Professor, and since 2018 she has been a Chief Assistant Professor in "Medical Genetics" at the Department of Medical Genetics of MU – Varna.



## Conclusion

Based on all of the above, I consider that the admitted participant in the present competition fulfills the criteria for scientific, professional-qualification and teaching activity and possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the field of medical genetics. The candidate meets the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at MU – Varna, and I hereby give my positive evaluation for her appointment to the academic position of “Associate Professor”. This gives me grounds to recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote positively for awarding the academic position of “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR” to Dr. Mari Hachmeriyan-Andreeva, PhD, in area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine and scientific specialty “Medical Genetics” for the needs of the Department of Medical Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine of MU – Varna.

26.05.2026  
Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury (opinion):

/Assoc. Prof. Trifon Chervenkov/

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