

To  
The chairman of the scientific jury,  
Prof. Dr. Stefan Peev, MD, PhD.  
Defined by order  
No. R-109-264 of 30.07.2026  
of the rector of MU-Varna

**According to Protocol No. 1/ dated 10.08.2026.**

**I present attached: Statement**

Regarding the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Periodontology and diseases of the oral mucosa" announced for the needs of MU-Varna, Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology in the State Gazette, issue 50/02.06.2026.

**Reviewer:** Assoc. Prof. Maria Dimitrova Miteva-Hristova, MD.  
Scientific specialty "Periodontology and diseases of the oral mucosa"  
Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University - Varna

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# Statement

from

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Dimitrova Miteva-Hristova, MD**

*Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology  
Faculty of Dental Medicine Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" -  
Varna*

Member of the scientific jury in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Periodontology and Diseases of the Oral Mucosal", professional field 7.2. Dentistry, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the Department of "Periodontology and Dental Implantology", Faculty of Dental Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, announced in the State Gazette, issue 50 of 02.06.2026.

A candidate in the competition is Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Geroва-Vatsova, MD, who has presented a complete set of materials allowing for a comprehensive assessment of her academic development, research output, teaching and clinical activities.

## **I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile**

Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Geroва-Vatsova graduated from the Medical University of Varna in 2017, earning a Master's degree and a professional qualification "Master's degree - doctor in Dental Medicine".

Her professional and academic development is consistent and entirely related to dentistry and periodontology. Since 2017, she has been working as an assistant professor at the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine of MU-Varna, and since 2024, she has held the academic position of "chief assistant professor".

In 2023, she acquired the educational and scientific PhD in the specialty "Therapeutic Dentistry" after defending a dissertation on the topic "Research on the results of the application of autogenous platelet-rich plasma in regenerative therapy of vertical bone defects".

In the same year, she also acquired a specialty in "Periodontology and Diseases of the Oral Mucosal".

According to the submitted certificates, as of 08.06.2026, the candidate has 8 years, 10 months and 20 days of experience in the relevant specialty and 8 years, 8 months and 3 days of teaching experience.

Dr. Gerova-Vatsova's professional profile combines academic training, extensive teaching and clinical experience, and an enduring research interest in the field of regenerative periodontal therapy.

## **II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition**

The presented set contains the necessary documents for education, acquired educational and scientific degree "doctor" and specialty, certificates of professional and teaching experience, a reference for the study load, an academic transcript from the Library of MU-Varna, a monographic work, summaries of scientific works, a reference for original scientific contributions, publications, evidence of participation in national and international scientific events and a transcript for similarity.

The habilitation thesis "Regenerative Periodontal Therapy" and 19 scientific publications were submitted for participation in the competition. The transcript for scientific contributions lists a total of 21 scientific works, including the dissertation, the monographic work and 19 publications.

The academic record distinguishes the publications submitted for the acquisition of the ONS "doctor" from the scientific production that participates in the current procedure. This allows for an objective assessment of the works and avoids the repeated reporting of the same scientific results.

The materials are systematized and presented clearly and precisely and allow for a comprehensive assessment of the candidate's academic performance.

## **III. Evaluation of scientific works and research activities**

Dr. Gerova-Vatsova's scientific works are thematically consistent, with a clearly expressed clinical focus and direct correspondence to the profile of the competition.

The leading scientific direction is the regenerative treatment of vertical bone defects. The possibilities for the application of autogenous platelet-rich plasma, barrier membranes and enamel matrix derivatives have been investigated. Clinical and imaging results of different therapeutic protocols, as well as comparative analyses of the single and combined application of regenerative agents, are presented.

Scientific developments in this area are a natural continuation of the candidate's dissertation work and demonstrate a sustained and purposeful research interest.

The second main direction covers modern biomaterials and methods for evaluating their effectiveness. Systematic reviews on chitosan-modified bone repair materials and histomorphometric evaluation of non-decalcified, plastically incorporated preparations systematize heterogeneous experimental and clinical data. These developments have methodological value for tissue engineering and for the objective evaluation of bone regeneration.

Other scientific works expand the research profile to the diagnosis and complex treatment of periodontal diseases. Plaque indices, age, gender and local distribution of vertical bone defects, post-extraction alveolar ridge resorption, the influence of smoking, furcation defects, periodontal splinting, the relationship between periodontal diseases and pregnancy, periodontal abscess and the treatment of complex clinical cases have been examined.

The publications include original scientific articles, systematic reviews, review articles and clinical case reports. A significant part of the publications are in English and are published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in Web of Science and/or Scopus.

The academic reference reports a total impact factor of **15.2** for the publications for which this indicator is applicable. According to the submitted reference for scientific contributions, the candidate is an independent author of 9 works, and in 7 of the co-authored publications he is the first author. This indicates an active and recognizable authorial position.

The scientific output in terms of volume, thematic consistency and quality corresponds to the academic position for which Dr. Geroва-Vatsova is applying.

#### **IV. Evaluation of the habilitation work**

The monograph "Regenerative Periodontal Therapy", published by the Medical University of Varna in 2025, is an independent scientific work with a volume of 190 pages.

The topic is relevant and fully corresponds to the scientific specialty and the needs of modern clinical periodontology. Regenerative therapy is one of the most dynamically developing fields, integrating knowledge from cell and molecular biology, dental materials science, periodontal surgery and tissue engineering.

The monographic work examines the biological foundations of periodontal regeneration, the principles of bone remodeling and osteoimmunology, surgical design, soft tissue management, and the application of modern regenerative materials and biological mediators.

An essential quality of the habilitation work is the combination of fundamental biological mechanisms with specific practical guidelines for clinical selection and application of various regenerative approaches.

The systematization of modern materials available in clinical practice, the detailed consideration of a new generation of magnesium and lamina membranes, as well as the presentation of a practically oriented algorithm for choosing a regenerative approach are of a beneficial nature.

The analysis of the RANK/RANKL/OPG interaction and its role in bone remodeling and pathological osteoclastogenesis in periodontitis gives additional scientific and theoretical value to the work.

The formulated basic principles for achieving a predictable regenerative outcome have direct clinical applicability. They support decision-making regarding defect morphology, surgical access, biomaterial selection, and soft tissue management.

The monographic work is a logical continuation and summary of the candidate's scientific interests after the development of the dissertation work. It demonstrates the ability for independent scientific understanding and presentation of complex interdisciplinary material and meets the purpose of a habilitation work.

## **V. Evaluation of scientific contributions**

I accept the main contributions formulated by the candidate, summarizing them in the following groups:

### **1. Clinical-applied contributions**

A comparative evaluation of different regenerative protocols in vertical bone defects was performed and results of the application of autogenous platelet-rich plasma, barrier membranes and enamel matrix derivatives are presented.

The possibilities for regenerative therapy without the use of bone-regenerating material have been investigated, and the clinical situations in which such an approach may be applicable have been outlined.

## **2. Scientific theoretical contributions**

The biological mechanisms of periodontal regeneration and the role of osteoimmunological interactions in bone remodeling are systematized.

The importance of the RANK/RANKL/OPG system for the regulation of osteoclastogenesis and bone destruction in inflammatory periodontal diseases has been clarified.

## **3. Methodological contributions**

A systematization and critical evaluation of histomorphometric protocols for studying bone regeneration using non-decalcified plastically embedded samples has been performed.

The available experimental and clinical evidence regarding the application of chitosan as a modifier of bone repair materials and its influence on biocompatibility, biodegradability, antibacterial properties and osteogenic potential is summarized.

## **4. Practical contributions**

A practically oriented algorithm for selecting a regenerative approach is presented and basic clinical principles for defect management, surgical access, biomaterials and soft tissues are formulated.

These contributions have the potential for immediate application in clinical practice and for use in the training of students, residents, and dentists.

# **VI. Reflection of publications in the national and international scientific literature**

The official academic transcript documents 12 citations of the candidate's scientific works, rated at 150 points with a required minimum of 80 points.

The citations are in scientific publications and include references to developments on chitosan-modified materials, enamel matrix derivatives, guided

bone regeneration, autogenous platelet-rich plasma, and the relationship between periodontal diseases and pregnancy.

This shows that the results of the candidate's research are recognizable and used by other authors.

The presented similarity report reports 8% similarity between the monograph and the dissertation work and 1% similarity between the monograph and internet sources. Different percentages of coincidence are reported for individual publications, mainly related to cited sources and other works of the respective author teams.

The submitted report does not identify any circumstances that would cast doubt on the originality of the scientific production.

## **VII. Comprehensive evaluation of teaching and professional activities**

Dr. Gerova-Vatsova has over eight years of teaching experience in the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology at the Faculty of Dental Medicine of MU-Varna.

She leads practical classes in periodontology and oral mucosal diseases, including English language training. The study load report documents significant classroom and practical workload.

For the academic years with reported activity, the total academic workload amounts to 1871 hours. The two breaks in the report are explicitly reflected as maternity leave.

The presented participations in national and international scientific events, practical courses and qualification formats demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional improvement.

The training topics include reconstructive periodontal surgery, dental implantology, lasers in dentistry, and modern surgical approaches. This complements the candidate's academic training with up-to-date practical competencies.

## **VIII. Overall assessment of compliance with minimum scientometric requirements**

According to the academic transcript issued by the Library of MU-Varna, the candidate meets and exceeds the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor" in professional field 7.2. Dental Medicine:

| <b>Indicator group</b>                      | <b>Minimum number of points</b> | <b>Candidate points</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Group A - dissertation for the ONS "doctor" | 50                              | 50                      |
| Group B - habilitation thesis               | 100                             | 100                     |
| Group D - publications and reports          | 200                             | 464                     |
| Group D - citations                         | 80                              | 150                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>430</b>                      | <b>764</b>              |

The candidate not only meets, but significantly exceeds the minimum quantitative criteria. To this are added thematic integrity of the scientific output, publications in indexed journals, established citations, independent habilitation work, and extensive teaching and clinical experience.

## **IX. Critical remarks and recommendations**

I do not identify any shortcomings that would reduce the candidate's overall positive assessment.

As guidelines for future academic development, I would recommend expanding international scientific collaborations and conducting prospective controlled clinical trials with larger samples and a longer follow-up period.

## **X. Conclusion**

The submitted materials outline a candidate with consistent academic development, clearly expressed scientific specialization, independent habilitation work, publication activity, established citations, and sustainable teaching and clinical experience.

The scientific results of Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Gerova-Vatsova have theoretical, methodological and direct clinical applicability. The candidate's

quantitative indicators exceed the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

On this basis, I give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to support the election of Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Gerova-Vatsova, MD, to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.2. Dental Medicine, scientific specialty "Periodontology and Diseases of the Oral Mucosal".

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

29.09.2026

Prepared the opinion: .....  
**/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maria Miteva-Hristova, MD/**