

**To the Chairperson of the Scientific Jury
Appointed by Order No. P-109-264/30.07.2026
of the Rector of Medical University – Varna
“Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”**

I hereby submit: ACADEMIC OPINION

regarding the competition for the academic position of
“Associate Professor”

in Higher Education Area 7. Healthcare and Sports

Professional Field 7.2. Dental Medicine

Scientific Specialty: Periodontology and Oral Mucosal Diseases

for the needs of the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology

announced in *State Gazette*, Issue No. 50/02.06.2026

Reviewer: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Blagovesta Yaneva, PhD

Scientific Specialty: Periodontology and Oral Mucosal Diseases

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One candidate has been admitted to the announced competition for the academic position of
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Gerova-Vatsova, PhD

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova graduated from the Faculty of Dental Medicine at Medical University – Varna “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” in 2017, obtaining a Master's degree and the professional qualification of Master of Dental Medicine.

In 2023, Dr. Gerova-Vatsova obtained a specialty in Periodontology and Oral Mucosal Diseases. In the same year, she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled “Investigation of the Outcomes of the Application of Autologous Platelet-Rich Plasma in the Regenerative Therapy of Vertical Bone Defects” and was awarded the educational and scientific degree Doctor (PhD).

Dr. Gerova-Vatsova has proficiency in English.

Since 2017, Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova has been engaged in teaching, scientific research, and clinical activities at the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University – Varna. Since 2024, she has held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor.

II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

The documents submitted for evaluation are complete and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and Holding Academic Positions at Medical University – Varna “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”. They provide sufficient information to assess the scientific, research, and teaching activities of Dr. Tsvetalina Ivanova Gerova-Vatsova and enable me to prepare an objective academic opinion.

III. Evaluation of the candidate’s scientific works in the context of her overall academic development

- General characteristics of scientific output and publication activity

Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova participates in the competition with one monograph and 16 scientific publications.

Of the 16 publications submitted, 9 are published in journals referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases, including 8 publications in journals with an Impact Factor, while 7 are published in non-indexed journals or peer-reviewed scientific proceedings.

Dr. Gerova-Vatsova is first author of 11 of the submitted publications, including 7 publications in Impact Factor journals referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases and 4 publications in Bulgarian and international non-indexed peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova has not submitted documents certifying participation in scientific research projects.

- Scientific achievements and contributions

In the submitted reference report on original scientific contributions, Dr. Gerova-Vatsova presents 9 scientific publications in journals referenced and indexed in international databases, 8 of which have an Impact Factor. Dr. Gerova-Vatsova is first author of 7 of these publications and sole author of 6 of them. She is also the author of one monograph.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Gerova-Vatsova are focused on the following areas: regenerative periodontal therapy; application of autologous platelet-rich plasma in regenerative periodontal therapy; innovative materials used in contemporary periodontology; and refinement of methodologies for their evaluation.

IV. Evaluation of the monograph submitted by the candidate for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor

For participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova presents one monograph entitled “Regenerative Periodontal Therapy”, of which she is the sole author.

The monograph provides an in-depth and systematic discussion of an important and contemporary topic in modern periodontology related to the mechanisms of periodontal bone loss and the possibilities for regenerative treatment of periodontal defects. The content is logically structured and sequentially covers the biological foundations of bone remodeling, the characteristics of different types of periodontal bone defects, the principles and surgical techniques of regenerative therapy, as well as contemporary regenerative materials and therapeutic methods.

A significant merit of the monograph is the integration of fundamental scientific knowledge with clinically applicable therapeutic approaches, which determines its scientific significance, contemporary relevance, and pronounced practical value as a contribution to the field of periodontology.

V. Impact of the candidate's publications as reflected by citations in national and international scientific literature

Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova has 5 citations in scientific publications referenced and indexed in internationally recognized scientific databases, including Scopus and Web of Science.

VI. Comprehensive qualitative assessment of the candidate's teaching and methodological activities, including scientific supervision of students, doctoral students, and postgraduate trainees

The submitted documents demonstrate the active participation of Dr. Gerova-Vatsova in the teaching and methodological activities of the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University – Varna, including a substantial teaching workload.

She holds the position of Chief Assistant Professor and participates in the education of dental medicine students in both Bulgarian- and English-language programmes.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations

As a recommendation for the future academic and professional development of Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova, I consider it appropriate for her to become more actively involved in the development and implementation of scientific research projects at institutional, national, and international level.

Such participation would contribute to expanding her research activity, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and creating further opportunities for new scientific developments and publications.

I would also recommend her active participation in the preparation of textbooks, teaching manuals, and other educational and methodological materials related to the discipline she teaches, thereby allowing her accumulated scientific and clinical experience to be more extensively integrated into the education of students and postgraduate trainees.

These activities would contribute to the further strengthening of her academic profile and to the continued development of her scientific and teaching expertise.

VIII. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, paras. 2 and 3, respectively the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, as well as with the specific requirements of Medical University – Varna for the respective professional fields and clinical units, as defined in the Regulations for Academic Development at Medical University – Varna

The table for assessment of the minimum scientometric requirements at Medical University – Varna “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” in Professional Field 7.2. Dental Medicine clearly demonstrates that Dr. Gerova-Vatsova exceeds the required minimum of 430 points, participating in the competition with a total of 764 points.

IX. Conclusion

Following a detailed review and analysis of the documents submitted for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the Department of Periodontology and Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical University – Varna “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, I consider that the sole candidate admitted to the competition, Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova, PhD, meets the mandatory and specific requirements and scientometric criteria stipulated by the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for Academic Development at Medical University – Varna.

On the basis of the above, I support the appointment of Dr. Tsvetalina Gerova-Vatsova, PhD, to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the scientific specialty Periodontology and Oral Mucosal Diseases.

Date: 26.08.2026

Plovdiv

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Blagovesta Yaneva, PhD/

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