

Statement from
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Member of the Scientific jury based on an order No. R-109-68/28.01.2026 of the Rector of Medical University-Varna. According to the protocol of the first meeting of the Scientific jury held on 09 February 2026, I am assigned to write a statement

REGARDING: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Professor", announced in State Gazette, issue **102/28 Nov 2025**, for the needs of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy, specialty "Technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy" on a full-time basis – one.

At the competition for "Professor" in Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, only one candidate appeared – Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, MScPharm, PhD.

The set of documents were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), as well as the Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB (RILDASRB) and the Regulations for the terms and conditions of acquisition of academic positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna.

Candidate's acceptance

The first meeting of the Scientific Jury was held on 09 February 2026 and based on the submitted materials for the competition to each member of the Scientific Jury, it was determined and accepted with full unanimity the provided scientific production of the candidate chief Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, MScPharm, PhD for participation in the competition complies with the minimum national requirements according to Article 2b, para. 2 and paragraph 3 of LDASRB as well as with the additional requirements set in the rules for the conditions and order for acquiring scientific degrees and occupancies of academic positions in the Medical University- Varna. The scientific jury admitted the candidate for the competition assessment.

I. Biographical data

Assoc. Prof. Velichka Yordanova Andonova was born on 19th July 1973 in Pazardzhik. She graduated with Master of Pharmacist specialty at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University of Sofia in 1996. In 2014, she obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty "Technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy" at the Department "Pharmaceutical sciences", Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University– Plovdiv. **Title of dissertation:** "Nanoparticles with indomethacin- drug delivery systems for ophthalmic administration".

In the period from 2018 to 2020, she held the position of Head of study sector, "Technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy" " at Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, then in the period 2020-2024 she was a Vice Dean of "Educational activity, accreditation and quality" in the Faculty of Pharmacy of Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna. Subsequently, from 2024 until now, she is the Head of Department "Pharmaceutical technology" at the same department and educational institution.

Specializations

2012: Acquired specialty "Technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy" in the Medical University, Plovdiv.

Foreign Languages

English and Russian

II. Scientific and publication activity

In the competition for Professor, they presented in total 33 publications, 30 of them are referenced and indexed in the world databases Web of Science and Scopus, and 24 out of them with impact factor (Total IF = 93.1). In 28 of the publications, the candidate is the last author, first in one, second in three of them, and only in one is a corresponding author.

Till now are found 374 citations in the database.

The results of the scientific research have been presented at 43 scientific forums in our country, 13 of which are international, and at 12 abroad.

I fully accept the submitted reference for the candidate scientific contributions. The presented scientific production and the candidate's interests can be determined according to their orientation and specificity in the following area: technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy. This is decisive for the field in which the competition is announced, and I believe that the candidate fully meets the set criteria for holding the position of "Professor". The highlights of the contributions are mainly based in the following areas:

✓ **Biologically active substances of natural origin – challenges in their formulation into dosage forms for dermal application and cosmetic products**

Here are presented original data from studies related to the development of innovative dosage forms for application on the skin, including biologically active substances of natural origin, as well as cosmetic products. From the presented academic reference, 3 are strictly in this field, although in almost all of them, different biologically active substances have been used as carriers of biological activity.

✓ **Nanoscale drug delivery systems**

Research related to nanoscale drug delivery systems is the main scientific field in which a large part of the presented publications fall. They can be divided into two subfields:

1. Lipid-based nanoscale drug delivery systems - the provided data show that the obtained results are presented in detail and thoroughly discussed in 11 publications. The focus in these articles is set on solid lipid nanoparticles (SLN) and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLC) as biocompatible and biodegradable drug delivery systems for APIs/active substances, aiming to provide improved chemical stability of the incorporated active ingredients, enhanced bioavailability, as well as targeted drug delivery and controlled release.

2. Silver nanoparticles and their conjugates – the obtained results are presented in 2 publications with the main focus being on obtaining silver nanoparticles (SN) with desired characteristics stable in colloidal solution, using a method that is fast and economical, while also providing the possibility for process scaling-up.

✓ **Nasal and oromucosal drug delivery**

Scientific publications are focused on nasal and oromucosal formulations intended for immune and chemoprophylaxis and their suitability and applicability in local mucosal formulations for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2. In this area there are 4 publications.

✓ **Biologically active substances from aquaculture – methods of extraction and application**

Scientific publications in this field focus on the use of environmentally friendly methods, ensuring high yield and purity, as well as selecting an appropriate path for their introduction and expanding their therapeutic potential. In this scientific field, 4 publications have been realized.

✓ **Ensuring the physical stability and rheological characteristics of liquid and semi-solid dosage forms through the use of natural polymers and lipids**

In this area, 4 publications have been produced, divided into the following sub-directions:

- Proposed composition of an oral suspension with NTF for magistral prescriptions;
- Formulation of physically and thermodynamically stable SDEDDS with NaALD;
- Development and characterization of cosmetic creams

III. Teaching and learning activity

Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, MScPharm, PhD has got at about 28 years of specialty experience and 20 years of teaching activity as assistant, chief assistant and Assoc. Prof. During the last 4 academic years, the candidate has a mean auditorium load of 409 hours.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I consider Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, MScPharm, PhD as a highly qualified scientific researcher and lecturer. The submitted research and lecturing activity fully complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and RILDASRB as well as to the qualitative and quantitative criteria set for the development of the academic staff laid out in the Regulation of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna regarding the acquisition of the academic position "PROFESSOR". The minimal scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position "PROFESSOR" are fully covered and on some of the indicators the collected points exceed the ones laid out in the Regulation of the Medical University-Varna.

All of this gives to me a full consideration to grant a **POSITIVE ASSESSMENT** as well as to recommend to the members of the respected Scientific jury to vote for awarding the academic degree "PROFESSOR" to Assoc. Prof. Velichka Andonova, MScPharm, PhD at the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy at Medical

University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" – Varna, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy, specialty "Technology of dosage forms and biopharmacy".

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/Prof. Krum Stefanov Kafedjiiski, PhD/