

STATEMENT

by Assoc. prof. Svetlana Peneva, PhD
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About: Competition for an Associate Professor academic position in the Public Health Management (Medicinal Product Analysis) specialty, professional sphere 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports; for the needs of TS of Assistant Pharmacist, Medical College at Medical University of Varna.

Information about the procedure

The competition is announced in the State Gazette, issue 41/03.06.2022 and complies with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations to the Law for the Development of Academic Staff (RLDAS) of MU-Varna. Based on the aforementioned legal documents, all procedure requirements for the announcement of the competition, the deadline for submission of documents, and the selection of a Scientific Jury have been met. By an ordinance № P-109-319/29.07.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna and after a decision of the Academic Council of MU-Varna with protocol №49/07.07.2022 I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury and tasked with preparing a statement. The sole candidate is Silviya Georgieva Mihaylova, PhD.

Short information about the career path and qualifications of the candidate

Silviya Mihaylova was born on 03.06.1978 in Varna. In 2003 she graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Sofia, earning a Master's degree in Pharmacy. In 2019, after successfully defending a dissertation titled *Synthesis and Biological Assessment of SMAC-NT Peptide Conjugates with Combined Antineoplastic and Analgesic Activity*, she acquired the academic degree of Doctor in the Bioorganic Chemistry, Chemistry of Natural and Physiologically Active Compounds specialty at the Medical University of Varna. In 2021 she acquired her specialty in Medicinal Product Analysis by Ordinance 1/2015 for the acquisition of specialty in the sphere of healthcare. Her career path started in 2006 as a manager of a pharmacy, Pharmahit LLC, Sofia. From 2010 to 2013 she was a manager of Megapharm 1 LLC, Varna. Her academic career began in 2013 with subsequently being at the academic positions of an assistant professor, chief assistant professor, and head of Training Sector of Assistant Pharmacist at Medical College of Varna. The career path of the candidate is characterized by enriching and expanding her knowledge by upgrading her training and experience both in a professional and research aspect. Her good language skills in English and Russian are a prerequisite for the high quality of her research.

Scientometric indicators presented for the acquisition of the Associate Professor academic degree in the field of 7. Healthcare and Sports, in the professional sphere of 7.4. Public Health

The candidate, Ch. assist. prof. Silviya Georgieva Mihaylova, PhD, presents a total of 29 scientific works of which for review for the current competition are 23: a monograph—1, and

articles in scientific journals and periodicals—22. The distribution of the scientific publications by language is as follows:

- publications in Bulgarian—12;
- publications in a foreign language (English)—11.

Outside the materials presented in order to cover the minimum requirements for the acquisition of the Associate Professor academic degree, she presents one full-text publication available in Varna Medical Forum.

Minimum required points by indicator groups for the Associate Professor academic degree according to LDASRB and RALDASRB

Indicator Groups	Content	Associate Professor RALDASRB (points)	Silviya Mihaylova
A	Indicator 1: Dissertation for the acquisition of a PhD degree	50	50
B	Indicators 3 or 4: Research work, i.e., monograph, presented in regard to a procedure for the acquisition of an academic degree	100	100
G	Total sum of the indicators from G5–9: Publications	200	230.50
D	Total sum of the indicators from D10–12: Citations	50	105

The scientific activity of the candidate has a **total of 485.5 pts.** and completely covers the minimum national requirements of LDASRB and RLDAS of MU-Varna for the acquisition of the Associate Professor academic degree. The topic of the scientific research of Silviya Mihaylova reflects the expanse and richness of public health as a scientific research territory. It can be summarized in the following main fields:

1. Food and nutrition
2. Oncology and rare diseases
3. Prevention, disease management and health system management
4. Peptide chemistry

Ch. assist. prof. Mihaylova is first author in 9% and second author in 36% of the presented for the competition publications. They are used in the training of students from the Assistant Pharmacist program in the compulsory disciplines: Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Social Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Legislation, as well as in the training in the elective

Homeopathy course. They have practical applicability in the direct work of the already graduated health professionals (assistant pharmacists) and are related to their job description.

Contributions related to the main fields of the scientific publications

In the **first field**, Food and Nutrition, the scientific publications reflect an interest in the study of the role of foods in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of various diseases with a focus on those with a high disease load on society. The role of functional foods in the prevention and treatment of hepatic, socially significant oncological and infectious diseases is presented.

In the **second field**, Oncology and Rare Diseases, the research work is focused on the molecular characteristics and potential of short peptides and peptide mimetics as new therapeutic opportunities for the treatment of oncological diseases and oncological pain control. The place of mycotherapy and fungotherapy in patients with oncological diseases is examined.

The **third field**, Prevention, Disease Management and Health System Management, is focused on the concentration of more resources in the strategies for health promotion and prevention of diseases to reduce the impact of risk factors. A research accent is presented—the need of quality care in chronic non-infectious socially significant diseases.

In the **fourth field**, Peptide Chemistry, the main contribution of scientific publications consists of increasing the knowledge of the therapeutic effects which can be achieved by various synthetic processes and related to specific modifications in the structure of peptides. The publications present the achievements of peptide chemistry in the synthesis and improvement of the physicochemical properties leading to an increase of the biopharmaceutical and pharmacokinetic parameters of peptide molecules. Part of the studies is related to design, synthesis, and characterization of new peptides by which the scope of knowledge in the sphere of peptide chemistry is expanded.

Citations

In regard to the presence of the candidate's publications in the national and international literature, a transcript from the Library of MU-Varna is submitted. It indicates 13 citations of which 1 is in scientific journals with peer review and indexed in famous international databases, 6—in monographs and collective volumes with peer review, and 6—in non-indexed journals with peer review. The citations bring a total of **105 points** for Silviya Mihaylova, and her impact factor is **4.162**. Documentation is presented as a proof that the candidate has active scientific profiles in **Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and ORCID**.

Scientific activity

The candidate has participated in 5 scientific research projects and has participated in 10 scientific forums with proceedings, of them two are international. She has also taken part in 5 poster sessions.

The teaching activity of Ch. assist. prof. Silviya Mihaylova, PhD includes classes in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Homeopathy, practice classes, and pre-graduate internship. There is an academic transcript from MU-Varna for her teaching load (№112-194/09.06.2022). The candidate has been part of the training process of students from the Assistant Pharmacist

program in Bulgarian since 2013 and has been contributing to the practice classes and the lecture materials. Since 2018 she has been assisting the practice side of the training process and since 2019 she has had classes related to the pre-graduate internship. She has been part of the examiners of first-, second-, and third-year students from the Bulgarian language program.

Personal opinion

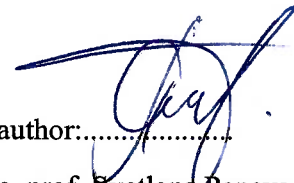
I know Ch. assist. prof. Silviya Mihaylova, PhD as a reliable professional and respected lecturer with aspirations toward continuous development and growth. She is a helpful and honest person with great teamwork skills.

Conclusion

The candidate for the Associate Professor academic degree cover the minimum requirements of RALDASRB and LDASRB. She has contributed through her research work and has a significant teaching activity as well as potential for future development. The overall assessment of her professional development, teaching activity, and her scientific publications give me grounds to give a positive statement and convincingly suggest I suggest that the estimated members of the Scientific Jury vote positively and propose to the Rector of MU-Varna that **Ch. assist. prof. Silviya Mihaylova, PhD obtain the Associate Professor academic degree** in the Public Health Management (Medicinal Product Analysis) specialty, in the professional sphere 7.4. Public Health, in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports for the needs of TS of Assistant Pharmacist, Medical College at Medical University of Varna.

12, October 2022

Statement author:.....



/Assoc. prof. Svetlana Peneva, PhD/