

# STATEMENT

for a competition for the **academic position of “Professor”**  
at Medical University – Plovdiv

**by Prof. Maya Boyanova Georgieva, PhD**

member of the scientific jury appointed by Order No. R-2364/16.04.2026 of the Rector of MU–Plovdiv, in accordance with Art. 4(2) and Art. 29a of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 2 and Art. 61 of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law, in relation to a procedure for occupying the academic position of **“PROFESSOR”** in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sport, Professional Field 7.3. Pharmacy, at the Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, for teaching in Bulgarian and English in the discipline “Pharmaceutical Chemistry”, announced in the State Gazette, issue 13 of 03.02.2026.

The only candidate in the competition is Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Dimitrova Ivanova, PhD.

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

Stanislava Dimitrova Ivanova was born in Plovdiv on 07.07.1985. In 2010 she graduated from the Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical University – Plovdiv, obtaining the qualification of Master Pharmacist. Since 2014 she has been an assistant at the Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, MU–Plovdiv. In 2016 she acquired a specialty in “Drug Product Analysis” and successfully defended her PhD dissertation in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Since 2017 she has been a chief assistant, and in 2022 she was promoted to Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. She has completed specialized training courses in the use of advanced analytical instrumentation, including GC-MS, HPLC-MS, HPLC-UV, and HPTLC. She teaches in both Bulgarian and English, participates in national and European research projects, and is a member of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union and the Bulgarian Scientific Pharmaceutical Society.

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

The submitted documents are complete and fully comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of Medical University – Plovdiv.

The only candidate is Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova, PhD.

## **III. Evaluation of the candidate’s scientific output and academic development.**

According to Scopus/Web of Science, Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova is co-author of **65** scientific publications indexed in these databases. Her current Scopus h-index is **14** (excluding

self-citations). Her scientific works have been cited **678 times in Scopus (excluding self-citations)**, while ResearchGate reports more than **900** citations in total.

Her research is primarily focused on phytochemical studies of plant extracts and essential oils, their chemical composition, and biological effects. In the present competition, she participates with **41** publications indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science, **11** of which are presented as equivalent to a habilitation thesis. The total impact factor of publications after obtaining the position of Associate Professor is **126**.

Her scientific contributions include systematization of approaches for authentication and quality control of fermented red yeast rice products containing monacolin K, with proposals for standardized analytical protocols and regulatory guidelines (Publ. 3). Large-scale meta-analyses summarize the chemical composition and biological activity of essential oils and plant extracts from *S. verticillata* and species of the genus *Echinophora* (Publ. 18, 19). Significant contributions also include studies on the risk of unintentional doping from plant extracts and dietary supplements, and the development of preventive approaches (Publ. 20, 25, 30). In addition, extensive research has been conducted on natural molecules with neuroprotective potential, including  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, xanthohumol, and *Mucuna pruriens*, focusing on their mechanisms of action and therapeutic potential in neurodegenerative diseases (Publ. 2, 4).

Among the applied scientific contributions, studies on plant extracts and natural molecules with potential for weight reduction and modulation of lipid metabolism stand out. For the first time, the anti-adipogenic activity of an extract of *Rhaponticum carthamoides* and its main metabolites has been demonstrated, as well as the effect of *E. tenuifolia* on lipid accumulation in an obesity model (Publ. 1, 6, 29). The potential for modulating ageing processes and increasing stress resistance in the model organism *C. elegans* through plant extracts has also been investigated (Publ. 1, 6). Rapid and sensitive chromatographic methods for the analysis of natural molecules have been developed, applicable both in scientific research and in routine quality control and prevention of unintentional doping (Publ. 1, 6, 11, 20, 25, 26). Significant contributions also include studies on the chemical composition of essential oils from poorly investigated plant species in Bulgaria, revealing their potential for application in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and food industries (Publ. 7, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28).

#### **IV. Evaluation of the monographic work or equivalent publications, submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of “Professor” by the candidate.**

The candidate presents **11** publications equivalent to a monographic work, published in journals indexed in Scopus/Web of Science with high impact factor. The research is focused on modern pharmaceutical analysis and includes chromatographic methods for the analysis of natural and synthetic substances and essential oils. The results contribute to improved quality control and standardization of plant-based products and highlight the potential of natural products in prevention and therapy. The publications demonstrate strong methodological and applied value.

## **V. Citation impact (publication visibility) in the national and international literature (publication impact profile) of the candidate.**

According to Scopus, Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova has an **h-index** of **14** (excluding self-citations). The candidate has **535 Scopus citations** after obtaining the academic position of Associate Professor, exceeding the minimum **requirement of 30** citations according to MU–Plovdiv regulations. The total number of citations in Scopus is **678 (excluding self-citations)**.

## **VI. Comprehensive evaluation of teaching and academic activity, including supervision of students, PhD candidates, and postgraduate trainees.**

Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova has active teaching and research engagement. She delivers lectures and trains students in the Pharmacy program (Master’s degree) in both Bulgarian and English at the Faculty of Pharmacy, MU–Plovdiv. She supervises PhD students and three postgraduate trainees in “Drug Product Analysis” and is co-author of a university textbook in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Between 2022 and 2026, she has completed several specialized training courses in instrumental analytical methods. Her average annual academic workload exceeds 1200 hours. She is a member of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union and the Bulgarian Scientific Pharmaceutical Society, as well as a member of editorial boards and guest editor of international scientific journals. She serves on the editorial boards of *Folia Medica* and *Frontiers in Nutrition*, and as guest editor in *Molecules*, *Plants*, *Pharmaceuticals*, and *Pharmaceutics*. She is also a member of the Management Board of the Scientific Institute of MU–Plovdiv and head of the “Phytotherapeutics” division.

## **VII. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

None.

## **VIII. Overall assessment of the candidate’s compliance with the mandatory requirements and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators in accordance with the Regulations for occupying academic positions at Medical University – Plovdiv, Sections IV–VI: “*Conditions and Procedure for Occupying Academic Positions at MU–Plovdiv*” and “*Evaluation Criteria*” (part of the Rules on the Structure and Activities of MU–Plovdiv).**

Assoc. Prof. pharmacist Stanislava Ivanova fully meets all requirements for the academic position of Professor. Her indicators significantly exceed the minimum requirements. While **1600** points are required according to the regulations, she presents **9973.65** points. Requirements regarding research projects and citations are also significantly exceeded. The candidate holds a Cambridge C1 certificate in English.

Indicator group	Mandatory minimum scientometric indicators of Medical University – Plovdiv for Field 7.3 Pharmacy for the academic position of “Professor”	Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova, PhD
A	50 points	50 points
B	100 points	117,23 points
C	300 points	352,76 points
D	500 points	8025 points
E	150 points	546,66 points
F	560 points	882 points
<b>Total : A - F</b>	<b>1660 points</b>	<b>9973,65 points</b>

The comparative analysis shows that Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Ivanova fully meets the requirements for the academic position of “Professor”.

#### **IX. Conclusion.**

Based on the presented evaluation of the candidate’s teaching and research activity, I consider Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Dimitrova Ivanova, PhD to be an established scientist and educator who possesses the necessary qualifications for the academic position of Professor. Her scientific achievements, teaching experience, and professional qualifications provide a solid basis for a positive assessment and for a confident recommendation to the Scientific Jury to support her appointment as Professor in Field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sport, Professional Field 7.3. Pharmacy, in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Sofia

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prof. M. Georgieva, PhD