

ACADEMIC REFERENCE LETTER

**By Prof. Biyanka Lyubchova Tornyova
Vice dean of the Faculty of Public Health,
Medical University, Plovdiv**

**Area of Higher Education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy,
scientific specialty “Pedagogy” (teaching medical specialists)”**

Member of the Scientific jury, according to Regulation № P-109-326/07.10.2019 written by the Rector of MU, Varna

In reference to: A competition for the academic position “Professor” in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, specialty “Theory of Education and Didactics” (teaching medical specialists) to meet the needs of the Medical University of Varna, Faculty of “Public Health”, Department of “Health care”, announced in the state newspaper, vol. 62 / 06.08.2019.

Associate Professor Marinella Grudeva, PhD is the only applicant for the position in the competition. She is a lecturer in the “Health Care” Department, Faculty of “Public Health” at the Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov, Varna

I. Career profile of the candidate

Associate Professor Marinella Grudeva was born in 1955. She graduated from “St.Cyril and St. Methodius University” of Veliko Tarnovo in 1982 with a Master’s degree in “Bulgarian philology”. After a successful defence of a dissertation on the topic “Humanisation of relationships in the contemporary school” in 2001, she obtained the Educational and scientific degree “PhD/Doctor of Pedagogy” in the scientific specialty 05.07.01 “Theory of Education and Didactics” (Diploma № 27497/20.08.2001, issued by the Higher Attestation Commission). In 2006 she was elected to the position of an associate professor in the scientific specialty 05.07.01. “Theory of Education and Didactics” (certificate for a science degree Associate Professor № 23629/08.05.2006) by the Higher Attestation Commission.

Since 1996 she has held a certificate for a one-year specialization in Social pedagogy at Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski” Department for Information and In-Service Training of Teachers.

Her academic career began in 2006 as an associate professor at the Technical University in Varna, and since 2008 up to now she holds the academic degree – “Associate professor” at the Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna .

Associate Professor Grudeva is continuously improving her qualification as a scientist and

a lecturer. This can be certified by the diplomas and certificates attached to her documents. These certificates confirm her participation in specializations, courses, scientific fora on a national and international level held both in Bulgaria and abroad.

The most important of them are 2 language courses and 2 courses related to the higher education and teaching medical specialists –“ Pedagogy and psychology in higher education “ – Tula, Russia and “ Contemporary tendencies in the development of the higher medical education”, Moscow, Russia; courses connected to interactive methods of teaching and the methodology of scientific research.

She is a member of the examining board for a state exam in “Medical pedagogy” with a regulation of the Minister of Health in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Associate Professor Grudeva has been a member of the Bulgarian Union of Scientists since 01.10.2002, section “Pedagogy and Psychology” as part of Sofia University “St Kliment Ohridski”, and since 2014, section “Medicine” at the Medical University “Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna and the association of professors from Slavonic countries / APSC/ since 03.09.2011. She participated actively in the academic life of the Medical University, Varna as a deputy chairperson of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Public Health from 2012 to 2016 and as a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health.

Her overall career development is consistent, stable and sustainable. The scientific works that were presented by Associate Professor Grudeva demonstrate an interest in the problems of medical education which fully corresponds to the field of the competition thus announced.

II. General description of the submitted documents for the competition for the position of a Professor

It is obvious that the documents for the competition have been prepared by Associate Professor Grudeva in a most appropriate and accurate way. They contain the necessary information for the implementation of both quantitative and qualitative evaluation of her academic progress. All the necessary documents required by the Act for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Guidelines for application as well as the Guidelines of MU, Varna have been submitted.

III. Evaluation of the applicant’s scientific works and her academic activity

General characteristics of the scientific works attached.

The scientific production of the candidate in the competition is bulky and multifaceted. The papers written after her thesis defence and her associate professor habilitation that were reviewed are 87 in number and have been distributed in the following way:

- individually written monograph -1;
- study in Bulgarian (written collaboratively)-2;
- publications in scientific journals in Bulgarian-21 (of which 5 written individually);
- publications in scientific journals written in a foreign language–13 (of which 2 written individually);

- publications in scientific books of collected papers in Bulgarian – 18 (of which 14 written individually);

- publications in scientific books of collected papers in a foreign language – 26 (of which 15 written individually);

- books, textbooks and handbooks and teaching tools -7, (3 written individually).

The scientific papers are published regularly each year which gives an impression of the purposeful and well-planned scientific progress of the applicant.

She has described her individual contribution to the scientific works properly and she has submitted declarations of co-authorship.

Two thirds of the scientific papers were written by her either individually or as a lead author. The co-authorship with other colleagues proves her qualities as a research worker and her skill for collaboration and interdisciplinary team work.

Four of the publications, one of which has not come out of print yet, meet the Γ-6 Criterion /publications in referred and indexed scientific journals in well-known databases all over the world/. One of them has been published in a magazine, referenced in Scopus, while three more - in Web of Science.

Marinella Grudeva's works contain certain scientific contributions in the area of pedagogical and andragogical theory and practice connected to the teaching of medical specialists. They encompass a broad spectrum of scientific issues, aimed at topical and significant problems in these areas and are fully and directly related to the specialty of the competition announced. The overall scientific research of the candidate in the competition is focused on the following basic fields: Theory and methods of teaching at the higher medical school (medical pedagogy) (*theoretical and practical implementation aspects*). /Γ 7. 14, Γ 7.16, Γ7.17, Γ7.18, E 21.20, Γ 7.8, Γ 7.10, Γ 7.13, Γ 7.21, Γ 7.23, Γ 7.30, Γ 7.31, Γ7.32, Γ 7.39, Γ 7.41, Γ 7.42, Γ 7.45, Γ 7.47, Γ 7.50, Γ 7.51, Γ 7.54, Γ 7.58, E 20.62, E 20.63, E 21.66, etc./

1. Pedagogy (theory of education and didactics), Social pedagogy, Health pedagogy, Early childhood pedagogy) (*theoretical and practical implementation aspects*) /Γ 6.1, Γ 6.2, Γ 7.4, Γ 7.6, Γ 7.7, Γ 7.11, Γ 7.17, Γ 7.20, Γ 7.22, Γ 7.29, Γ7.35, Γ7.36, Γ 7.38, Γ 7.47, Γ 7.52, Γ7.55, Γ7.58, E 20.64, E 21.65, etc./.

2. Andragogical theory and practice /B 3.1., Γ7.10, Γ7.12, Γ7.15, Γ7.37, E 21.65, etc./Her monograph “ Conceptual modelling for pedagogical and andragogical preparation in the medical school” is of a particular importance. It emphasizes the clarification of the problem related to the essence and state of the pedagogical and andragogical preparation in the medical University which emerges even more distinctly as a significant issue both in Europe and in the world. Although it has been put forward to the attention of the state authorities and academic leaders, and it has been investigated and analyzed profoundly, it has not found its global and long-term solution yet.

On the basis of a deep analysis of the problem from three different aspects, associate professor Grudeva comes to the conclusion that it is necessary to take more active steps global wise for its solution, even though only at University level. Such steps have been clearly outlined

in both author models published in the monograph. The first model belongs to a Centre for complex pedagogical and andragogical preparation at the Medical University of Varna, and the second describes a distance learning course.

The scientific contributions of associate professor Grudeva can be summarized in the following fields:

√ Theoretical and methodological problems of teaching in the system of medical education have been developed. The articles are implemented in the process of students' professional preparation and lecturers' pedagogical and andragogical preparation.

√ A conceptual author model has been created structurally and contentwise. It is a model of a centre for complex pedagogical and andragogical preparation of students, doctoral students, postdoctoral students, lecturers at the Medical University of Varna, as well as medical specialists from their practice as healthcare workers on the basis of an approved pilot model, which provides opportunities for application in other Universities.

√ A theoretical investigation has been carried out that focuses on the problem of the essence and specifics of distance learning. The opportunities for its implementation have been outlined in the pedagogical and andragogical preparation of lecturers in the context of University medical education, through designing and adapting of an author model of a course which has been approved at the Medical University of Varna "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov"(Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate).

√ The level of pedagogical preparation of healthcare providers and specialists for working in a crèche has been studied and established. Some guidelines for their further qualification have been outlined. This has been achieved on the basis of some clearly defined functions and roles in the process of realization of effective interaction between both the personal factors in the crèche and the team working in the crèche and the family.

√ The relationship and the conditionality of the humanization and democratization processes of education at the medical school have been analyzed and proved. This was achieved through identification of their specific manifestations in the contemporary educational environment, in the context of the European and national strategies and programs for developing of Higher education.

√ Some other pedagogical, social, psychological and health problems and tendencies have been investigated which become evident in the dynamics of the social relations, connected primarily to the adaptation of the young generation (young specialists inclusive) to the contemporary rhythm and style of modern life.

√ Some theoretical and practical implementation aspects of extracurricular education have been researched and analyzed. Its variety, complexity and interactivity as a pedagogical and social phenomenon have been proved. Its opportunities for spatial measurement and effective interaction between the centres outside the schools with NGOs in the process of child personality socialization have been outlined.

- *Scientific activity*

Associate professor Marinella Grudeva has participated in more than 62 scientific for a both in Bulgaria and abroad (Poland, Russia, Belarus, Slovakia) which guarantees the dissemination of her scientific work. Due to her assistance and guidance as a scientific advisor, 30 papers have been published written by undergraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral students.

- *Participation in projects as a researcher and a leader*

The candidate for the position of a professor took part in 2 projects: the first one – an international scientific research project: “Victim Behavior Prevention in Student Youth in the Global Internet Setting”, organized by Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, as an expert and researcher. The second project was a national one designed and carried out at the Medical University of Varna “Creating a Modern System of Lecturers’ Career Development” at the Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”, Varna BG051PO001-3.1.09-0013 with the financial support of Operational programme " Human Resources Development ", co-funded by the European social fund of the EU and associate professor Grudeva participated in this project both as an expert and a trainer.

- *Doctoral students’ scientific advisor*

Associate professor Marinella Grudeva is a scientific advisor of 3 doctoral students who successfully defended their theses in 2018 and 2019. She was the only scientific advisor of one of the doctoral students while the other 2 doctoral students were advised by more than one scientific advisors and associate professor Grudeva provided joint scientific guidance and advice. The problem areas of the dissertations correspond to the field of the competition for the position of a professor.

- *Citations of the applicant’s publications in the national and international literature (publication impact).*

In the reference of citations a total number of 84 citations have been presented, 50 out of which are in monographs and books of collected papers with scientific reviews, and 34 citations are in non-referred magazines with scientific reviews. Evidence from the information database in Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar and eLibrary.ru has been included, in a document from the Library of MU-Varna.

IV. Evaluation of teaching activities

Associate professor Marinella Grudeva has a long teaching experience. She is a well-known specialist in her professional area and she actively participates in the teaching activities of Education Sector “ Healthcare Management and Logopedy/Speech Therapy” as part of the Department of “ Health care” , Faculty of Public Health, Varna. Her average teaching load for the past three years has been around 365 contact hours of teaching. She organizes lecture courses in 6 disciplines: Pedagogy, Andragogy, Child’s pedagogy, Principles and methods of teaching, Medical Pedagogy, Methods of teaching to trainee students in the professional field of “Health care ”and students from the following specialties: “Health care Management”, “Nursing”, “Midwifery”.

Besides her teaching to students doing Bachelor's or Master's degrees she takes part in various programs for postgraduate qualification as a competent specialist in the respective areas. She was the scientific advisor of 12 graduate students who defended their diploma papers in Master's programs.

V. Personal impressions:

I know my colleague Associate professor M. Grudeva, PhD from participations in scientific conferences. She is a researcher with a profound impact, erudite scholar and a competent lecturer, committed and dedicated to her profession. I wish her successful research in the scientific fields that she finds interesting.

VI. Conclusion

The documents and the evidence materials thus submitted by associate professor M. Grudeva, PhD for participating in the competition fully meet the minimum mandatory national requirements for the academic position of "Professor". Taking into consideration the scientific achievements of the candidate that are appropriate for the competition field, her long teaching career and her reputation, **I am fully convinced that I should give my positive vote in favour of associate professor Marinella Grudeva, PhD and I think that she meets all the requirements for the academic position "Professor"**.

In view of the above mentioned reasons, I suggest the honorable members of the Scientific Jury and the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health at MU, Varna to cast a positive vote and I agree that associate professor Marinella Ivanova Grudeva, PhD should take the academic position of "Professor" in the area of Higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional field 1.2. Pedagogy, specialty "Theory of Education and Didactics" (teaching medical specialists), for the needs of the Medical University of Varna, Faculty „Public Health“, Department of "Health Care".

06. 12. 2019
Plovdiv

Member of the scientific jury:


/Prof. Biyanka Tornyova, PhD/