

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

By Prof. Dr Hristo Vasilev Kozhuharov, PhD
Medical University “Prof. Dr P. Stoyanov” Varna
Head of Department of “Psychiatry and Medical psychology”

Regarding:

Competition for occupation of academic title “Professor”, in the higher education area 7. „Healthcare and sport”, Professional direction 7.1. “Medicine”, and scientific specialty “Child psychiatry” in Department of “Psychiatry and Medical psychology” with the Faculty “Medicine” at Medical University Varna, for the needs of the Child Psychiatry Clinic at UMHAT “St. Marina” Varna, announced in State Gazette 28/28.03.2023.

In accordance with Order № P-109-270/25.05.2023г. of the Rector of Medical University Varna, in line with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of MU-Varna and protocol №2/04.05.2023 of the Faculty meeting of Faculty “Medicine” and Protocol №1/07.06.2023 from the meeting of the scientific jury I have been allocated the duty to prepare a scientific review.

In the current competition, documents for participation were submitted by one candidate: Assoc. prof. Petar Milchev Petrov, DSc from MU-Varna, Department of Psychiatry and Medical psychology and Head of IV Clinic “Child and Adolescent Psychiatry” at UMHAT “St. Marina” Varna.

I. Brief biographical data

Assoc. prof Petar Petrov was born on 3rd of Nov 1971. In 1989 he graduated Mathematics high school in Varna. In 1995 he completed Medicine in Medical University “Prof. Dr P. Stoyanov” Varna”.

II. Education and academic titles

1995 – Master in Medicine – Medical University Varna
2004 – Acquired specialty in “Psychiatry”
2010 – Acquired specialty in “Child Psychiatry”
2012 – Educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Medicine
2016 – Acquired specialty in “Forensic Psychiatry”
2018 – Educational and scientific degree “Doctor of Science”

III. Professional development

- 1995-1996 Physician in Kazashka reka and Yunak, Varna region
1996-2000 Pharmaceutical company consultant
2000-2004 General Practitioner
2004-2006 Ambulatory psychiatrist in DCC "Asparuhovo" Varna
2005-2008 Psychiatrist in child and adolescent psychiatry Ward at UMHAT "St. Marina" Varna.
2008-2016 Head of Child and Adolescent psychiatry Ward at UMHAT "St. Marina" Varna
From 2016 – cont. Head of the newly formed Clinic for Child and Adolescent psychiatry at UMHAT "St. Marina" Varna

IV. Academic development and teaching experience

- 2010-2011 Honorary assistant to Varna Free University
2011-2013 Honorary assistant with Department of Psychiatry and Medical psychology at MU-Varna.
2013-2014 Assistant with Department of Psychiatry and Medical psychology at MU-Varna.
2014-2015 Chief Assistant with Department of Psychiatry and Medical psychology at MU-Varna.
Since 2015 – cont. Assoc. prof with Department of Psychiatry and Medical psychology at MU-Varna.

Assoc. prof Petar Petrov teaches Psychiatry, Child psychiatry and Medical Psychology. His teaching engagements are beyond the normative requirements. He has supervised five trainees in child psychiatry, as well as three successful PhD students, and currently supervises another two PhD candidates.

V. Membership in organisations and scientific profiles

Assoc. prof Petar Petrov is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Psychiatric Association, and is the Chair of the Bulgarian Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Allied Professions.

The candidate has active research profiles in:
SCOPUS Author ID -56041364500
ORCID -0000-0002-6107-1879
Google Scholar
ResearchGate

VI. General characteristics of scientific-research production and publication activity

Assoc. prof Petar Petrov provides a reference of the minimal national requirements and the requirement from the Regulations of Medical University Varna, issued by the Library of MU-Varna, in accordance with the Regulations on the application of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the University of Varna. According to the reference Assoc. prof Petar Petrov, DSc complied with the scientific-metric criteria for the attainment of the academic position "Professor".

The overall scientific research activity of Assoc. prof Petar Petrov includes:

- Summary of dissertation for the attainment of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
- Summary of dissertation for the attainment of educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Science"
- Habilitation thesis - monography – 2 items
- Scientific publications in journals with/without SJR and/or IF - 42 items
- Participation in research forums – 10
- Chapters in University textbooks – 10 items
- Number of citations, reflecting scientific and research activity – 115 in indexed journals in international research data base and 308 in Google Scholar

From the full-text scientific publications in journals – 13 are in English, 10 of which are associated with international projects in ICMH Study Group.

In the presented scientific works Assoc. prof. Petrov is first author in 12 journal publications and in 6 of the textbook chapters

All of Assoc. prof. Petar Petrov's publications are in the scientific fields of Psychiatry, Child psychiatry, Forensic psychiatry and medical psychology. The total impact index of the publications, as an author and co-author is IF 91.367.

The research fields of the published works and theses are: Научните направления на публикуваните научни трудове са в областите:

1. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
2. Eating disorders in childhood and adolescence
3. Multinational studies of certain issues related to childhood and adolescent age in the general population.
4. General overview of the specifics in the field of Child psychiatry.
5. Other

Four different thematic areas can be outlined in Assoc. prof Petrov's publications, which highlight his wide interests and capability as a researcher and clinician.

1. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

In this section, the author presents two dissertations and 8 scientific publications. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is the most common behavioural disorder in child-adolescent psychiatry and perhaps the most commonly diagnosed disorder overall in this age group. The candidate's first dissertation is dedicated to the only epidemiological study conducted so far in our country on the morbidity of Hyperkinetic disorder with attention deficit disorder. The second examined a 10-year prospective follow-up of children and adolescents diagnosed with ADHD and the risk factors for developing late sequelae of the untreated disorder.

The use of DSM diagnostic criteria will be valid for our conditions with the implementation of the new ICD-11 classification. The results obtained in the two dissertations and the related publications will be of increasing value in the coming years, because they confirm, in our conditions, data from foreign publications, according to which at least half of the patients diagnosed with the disorder in childhood continue to have symptoms in adulthood. The negative consequences associated with untreated Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder have a huge social cost.

In general, this is a disorder that until now is considered mainly in the field of child-adolescent psychiatry, but it is attracting more and more attention in adult psychiatry, as in this field Assoc. Prof. Petrov's experience and knowledge would be very useful for future collaborative projects.

2. Eating disorders in child and adolescent age

In this section, 5 scientific publications and one monography by the author are presented. Death rates in the patient group with eating disorder continue to be among the highest in psychiatry. The imposition of the image of a fashionable and desirable thin figure is happening at an ever earlier age. The pursuit of perfectionism in terms of appearance and body image is becoming more and more common in today's young society. A large portion of eating disorders debut precisely in childhood and adolescence. Studying the risk factors and triggers for unlocking eating disorders, as well as actively looking for co-occurring suicidal and non-suicidal self-injurious behaviours, greatly improves the chances of timely diagnosis and therapeutic success. In his monograph, Associate Professor Petar Petrov, presents in detail a clinical sample of patients with anorexia nervosa in childhood and adolescence and a

methodology for the use of standardized tools for the assessment of eating disorders in this age group. Illustrative clinical cases are presented. The rich personal and clinical experience of the author allow him to present a complete therapeutic algorithm.

Engaging public attention, as well as discussing a wide range of environmental factors, which include perinatal complications, personality characteristics, family relationships, socio-cultural attitudes and others, provides strong opportunities for the development of prevention programs, such as the use of appropriate information sources (internet, social networks) for children and adolescents and can increase awareness of eating disorders and support early help-seeking.

Two clinical cases of anorexia nervosa in adolescence have been published, drawing attention to the seriousness of this disorder, its potential lethality, and the need for a multidisciplinary team to treat it.

3. Multinational studies of certain problems in childhood and adolescence in the general population

In this section, the author presents 10 scientific publications, as well as the monographic work on "Locus of control, psychotraumatic life events and depressive and anxiety symptoms in adolescence". All 10 scientific publications and the monograph relate to international projects in collaboration with the ICMH Study Group and to date research in the field of Child Psychiatry in the general population involving 10 countries. The use of appropriate tools in outpatient settings allows the development of methods for the prevention and prophylaxis of mental disorders in children and adolescents, which is one of the main functions of the specialty. The diversity of countries involved in these projects also allows some culturally specific phenomena to be assessed.

Among these 10 publications, there are 5 on the application of screening tools:

- Adolescent Self-Report on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
- UCLA PTSD reaction index for DSM-5
- ESSENCE-Q: Slavic language versions for developmental screening in young children
- Adolescent Self-Report on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory

They demonstrate some transcultural peculiarities in the use of these screening tools in the general adolescent population, while at the same time showing specificities of our country.

4. General presentation of the peculiarities in the field of child psychiatry

Included are 7 scientific publications related to various aspects of the specificity of psychiatric pathology in children and adolescents. The most significant of these are the two publications related to non-suicidal self-injurious behavior in the adolescent population. Anxiety and depressive symptoms in childhood and adolescence (for which there are still no specific criteria in the classifiers) are examined.

5. Others

This section includes publications on a variety of issues in psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, as well as interdisciplinary issues related to oncology, rheumatology and COVID.

It is appropriate to conclude that Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov successfully combines his knowledge as a doctor, with thoroughly presenting his broad theoretical interests in a skilful practical integrative approach and knows how to work in a team, both with specialists from his own and similar fields, as well as with specialists from the wider range of applied sciences.

Assoc. Dr. Petar Petrov has contributed to 10 chapters of textbooks related to child-adolescent psychiatry training for students of medicine, health care and specialists. Basic aspects of child-adolescent psychiatry are reviewed in their entirety.

VII. Qualification and Participation in state examination boards

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov holds specialties in Psychiatry, Child Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. This gives him the opportunity to train both specialists and doctoral students in these specialties.

Assoc. Prof. Petrov participates in the state examination commission as a member for the acquisition of a specialty in Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry and is the Chairman of the commission for the acquisition of a specialty in Forensic Psychiatry.

VIII. Conclusion


Assoc. Prof. Petar Milchev Petrov, PhD is an experienced educator, researcher and clinician. The presented indicators for scientific research, teaching and organizational activity meet the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of Medical University - Varna.

In conclusion, I give a positive opinion and propose to the other members of the scientific jury to vote positively for awarding the academic position "Professor" to Associate Professor Petar Milchev Petrov, PhD, in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", in the scientific specialty "Child Psychiatry", for the needs of the Department of "Psychiatry and Medical Psychology", Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University - Varna and the Fourth Clinic "Child and Adolescent Psychiatry" at UMBAL "St. Marina" EAD - Varna.

10.08.2023

Varna

PhD


Prof. Dr. Hristo Kozhuharov, MD,