

## REVIEW

Reviewer: Prof. Rinaldo Savov Shishkov, MD, PhD

by competition for the academic position of Professor  
in the specialty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry  
and Medical Psychology to the Faculty of Medicine of the Medical University  
Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stovanov - Varna

Regarding: competition for the academic position of professor in the scientific specialty Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine, for the needs of the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology to the Faculty of Medicine, MU - Varna, announced in SG no. 28/28.03.2023

Candidate (single): Associate Professor Petar Milchev Petrov, Ph.D.

Member of the Scientific Jury under order No. R-109-270/25.05.2023 of the Rector of the MU - Varna, designated as a reviewer.

### **I. Biographical data, Professional and Academic Development**

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov PhD completed his medical education in 1995 at the Higher Medical University - Varna. After the promotion he works at:

1995/1996 General Practitioner – village of Kazashka reka

1996/2000 Consultant at Pharmaceutical company

2000/2004 General Practitioner – city of Varna

2004/2006 Psychiatrist – Diagnostic and Consultative Centre Asparuhovo;

2005/2008 Psychiatrist – University Hospital St. Marina

2008/2016 Head of Dept. Child and Adolescent Psychiatry - University Hospital St. Marina

2016/ and cont. Head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Clinic - University Hospital St. Marina

The academic development of Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov is as follows : 2010/2011 Part time Assistant Professor at Varna Free University; 2011/2013 Part time Assistant Professor at Medical University Varna; 2013/2014 Assistant Professor at Medical University Varna; 2014/ 2015 Chief Assistant Professor at Medical University Varna; 2015 and cont. - Associated Professor at Medical University Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov acquired a specialty in Psychiatry in 2004r., Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 2010 and Forensic Psychiatry in 2016r. In 2012, he defended a dissertation on the topic "A study of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder". In 2018, he defended his second dissertation on the topic "10 years prospective follow up of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Varna Region" and acquired a scientific degree "Doctor of Medical Science".

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov is a member of Bulgarian Medical Association, Bulgarian Psychiatric Association and is a President elected of Bulgarian Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions.

Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov has excellent command of written and spoken English.

## II. Quantitative scientific indicators

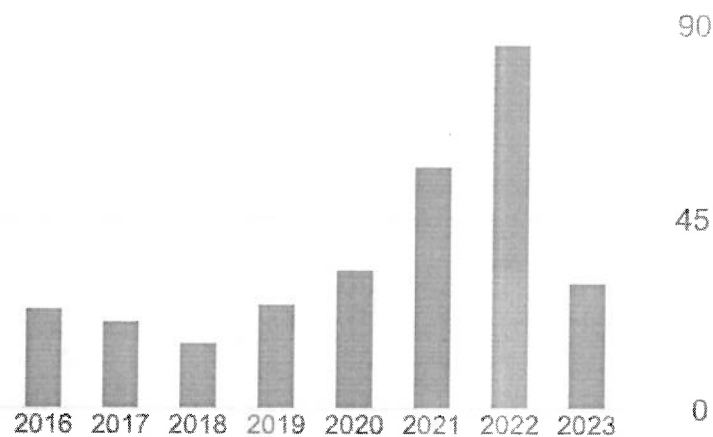
The total number of scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov is 51 and contains:

- Abstract of PhD dissertation
- Abstract of second dissertation
- Two Monography works
- Full-text scientific publications - 42
- Textbook chapters and Abstracts at international and national scientific forums - 10

From the Full-text scientific publications – 13 are in English and 10 of these relate to international projects in ICMH Study Group.

In the presented scientific works, Assoc. Prof. Petar Petrov is the first author of 12 publications in journals and 6 of the chapters in textbooks.

Cited by	VIEW ALL	
	All	Since 2018
Citations	307	247
h-index	10	10
i10-index	10	10



All of Assoc. Prof. Petrov's works are in the scientific fields - Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Medical Psychology.

The Impact factor of the scientific works is IF 91.367 according to the reference provided.

## III. Scientific activity

Assoc. Ph.D. P. Petrov, Ph.D. participated in the competition for professor with a total of 51 scientific works in five formally designated areas:

- ADHD;
- Eating disorders in children and adolescents;

- Multinational studies of certain problems in child and adolescent age in the general population;
- General presentation of the features in the field of child psychiatry;
- Others

## **1. ADHD**

In this section, the author presents two dissertations and has 8 scientific publications. Both theses, for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree of Doctor and Doctor of Medical Sciences of Associate Professor Petar Petrov, are related to the most common behavioral disorder in child and adolescent psychiatry. The first of them is a result of the only epidemiological study carried out so far in our country on the prevalence of "Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder". The second, is a result of a 10-year prospective study, examines the risk factors for the development of late consequences of the untreated disorder.

The publications presented in this section are extremely valuable as they are from just the few in Bulgaria, on the one hand, on the other hand, they are of unique value due to the large, ten-year prospective period and cover a cohort that is currently the largest in the world (as a percentage of the population). In this regard, at the moment, they are one of the most valuable studies with scientific and scientific-applied value.

## **2. Eating disorders in childhood and adolescence**

In this section, 5 scientific publications and one monograph are presented. The actuality and social significance of eating disorders is determined by their growing number, lowering of the age of the onset, up to about 10 years of age, and high mortality.

Learning the triggers to unlock eating disorders, as well as actively looking for co-occurring suicidal and non-suicidal self-injurious behaviors, greatly improves the chances of timely diagnosis and therapeutic success.

In the monographic work included in this section, Associate Professor Petrov has presented in detail the methodology for the use of standardized tools for the assessment of eating disorders in children and adolescents. The theoretical part is illustrated by the excellently presented clinical cases. On this basis, a complete therapeutic algorithm is presented. It could be said about this section that, apart from theoretical and practical aspects, it has an organizational methodological value with a view to structuring and implementing diagnostic and therapeutic model, as well as developing a standard of care and treatment in eating disorders in children and adolescents.

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

This section is related to areas of child and adolescent psychiatric pathology in both clinical and populational aspects. Ten scientific publications are presented here, as well as the monographic work of Assoc. Prof. Petrov - "Locus of control, psychotraumatic events and depressive and anxiety symptoms in adolescence". All of them are part of international projects within the ICMH Study Group. They cover a 10-year period of cooperation with child psychiatrists from different countries. The studies were carried out among the "general population" of children and adolescents in 10 countries, which also allows a transcultural assessment of the studied diseases and phenomena.

Research published so far is related to:

- The relationship between Locus of control, negative life events and the manifestation of psychopathological symptoms in adolescents
- The relationship between Locus of control, exposure to cumulative traumatic events and post-traumatic stress symptoms in adolescents
- The relationship between alcohol and Drug use and quality of life in adolescents
- The role of personal and family factors in the use of alcohol and drugs in adolescents
- Transcultural features in the use of several screening tools in the general adolescent population:
  - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire
  - Adolescent Self-Report on the Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory
  - Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale
  - ESSENCE-Q: Slavic language versions for developmental screening in young children
  - UCLA PTSD reaction index for DSM-5 (PTSD-RI-5)

The application of the presented tools in our country allows assessment of their applicability and subsequent validation. This makes it possible to implement screening protocols in childhood and adolescence, which is related to both prevention and early diagnosis.

The research methodology in these multinational and transcultural studies is also applied in the other presented sections of the scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petrov.

#### **4. General presentation of the specifics in the field of child psychiatry**

This section includes 7 scientific publications related to various aspects of the specifics of psychiatric and psychological pathology in children and adolescents. These publications presents the experience of Associate Professor Dr. Petrov and his team in the direct clinical work of the Clinic he leads.

#### **5. Other**

Posts in this section are related to:

- ✓ Various aspects of general and forensic psychiatry considered the fact that the author has all three specialties in the field of psychiatry:
  - Schizophrenia
  - Affective disorders
  - Suicide
- ✓ Interdisciplinary publications that examine various psychiatric and psychological aspects of somatic diseases – oncological, rheumatology and COVID-19.

**In Summary**, it could be said that the scientific activity of Prof. Petrov in the presented publications is both scientific and scientific-applied, as well as methodological in nature. In addition, especially those in the field of child and forensic psychiatry, and especially child-forensic psychiatry, are among the few and are valuable educational and practical aids for those working in these fields. They are of interest not only to doctors and psychologists, but also to lawyers.

The results of the ADHD study with a ten-year prospective period are particularly valuable. The presented clinical experience regarding diagnosis and management of eating disorders is a real clinical-therapeutic and scientific contribution. Here, the use of publications and the experience of

specialists from other countries, due to the cultural characteristics of the disease, is not reliable enough. For this reason, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petrov's contribution, apart from diagnostic and therapeutic, is also organizationally methodological, laying the foundations and frameworks as part of a future standard in "child psychiatry".

#### **IV. Teaching activity.**

Assoc. Prof. Petrov's teaching activities are related to Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry and Medical Psychology. For each of these disciplines, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petrov has led a full course of teaching to medical, healthcare, dental and medical college students. He's teaching is also related to the training of postgraduates, doctoral students, psychiatrists and general practitioners. Participated as a presenter in thematic training seminars and congresses of ESCAP and IACAPAP. Over the years, Assoc. Professor Dr. Petrov has established himself as an excellent teacher and lecturer. In recent years, he has been among the main lecturers of the training modules of child and adolescent psychiatry.

#### ***Guidance of doctoral students and specialists***

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petrov has so far been the supervisor of five interns who acquired a specialty in Child Psychiatry. He has also been the supervisor of three PhD students and is currently the supervisor of two - in the process of training.

#### ***Textbooks and study handbooks***

Assoc. Prof. Petrov has contributed to 10 chapters of 4 textbooks related to the education of child-adolescent psychiatry for students of medicine, health care and interns in psychiatry and child and adolescent psychiatry. Topics are related to neurodevelopmental disorders, anxiety and depressive symptoms in childhood (including preschool) and adolescence, non-suicidal self-injury in adolescence, alcohol and Drugs use in adolescence.

#### **V. Qualification**

Assoc. Professor Dr. Petrov is the only psychiatrist in the country, currently, with acquired specialties in Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry and Child Psychiatry. This enables the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology to develop in all regulated areas of psychiatry and to train both specialists and doctoral students in these specialties. He is trained and certified in the application of test methods in psychiatry, and in clinical/scientific research methodology by international certification organizations.

#### **VI. Therapeutic and diagnostic activity**

Assoc. Prof. Petrov has 28 years of medical experience, 18 of which as a psychiatrist, and 15 of which in the inpatient clinic of children and adolescent psychiatry in the University hospital "Sveta Marina" - Varna. He is an established specialist with extensive clinical experience, routinely using biological - psychopharmacotherapeutic and electroconvulsive methods of treatment. In his practice, Assoc. Professor Dr. Petrov applies a number of individual and group psychotherapy techniques. As an experienced diagnostician, he is a sought after and valued consultant in the field of psychiatry and child psychiatry. Assoc. Prof. Petrov is also the only forensic medical expert specializing in child and forensic psychiatry in the country, which is why he is also the preferred

forensic medical expert in cases involving children and adolescents. He has prepared over 60 forensic medical examinations.

The candidate is an experienced researcher in all phases of clinical trials, knows and systematically applies various diagnostic and psychometric techniques, incl. clinical scales, structured and semi-structured interviews: MINI, YMRS, PANSS, BPRS, AIMS, BARS, SAS, ADAS, HAM-D, HAM-A, MADRS, CGI, PSI, SCL-90, C-SSRS, for which is repeatedly licensed and certified.

### **VII. Participation in national examination boards:**

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

### **VIII. Participation in international projects**

Ten years of participation in the ICMH Study Group, as Assoc. Prof. Petrov is the only Bulgarian scientist included in this group, whose only field of work is child and adolescent mental health. He has also participated in several projects financed by the Science Fund of the Medical University of Varna, related to child and adolescent psychiatry.

### **IX. Organizational skills**

As head of a clinic and supervisor of interns and doctoral students, Assoc. Prof. Petrov shows excellent skills as an organizer, administrator and coordinator both in his medical and scientific teaching activities.

### **X. Conclusion**

Based on what has been presented regarding the scientific, teaching, therapeutic and organizational activities of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petar Milchev Petrov, the requirements of the law and its regulations, as well as the Regulations of the MU-Varna, I find it reasonable to propose to the Scientific Jury, the Scientific and Academic Council of MU-Varna Assoc. Dr. Petar Milchev Petrov to take the academic position of "Professor" at the Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna in the specialty "Child Psychiatry" at the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology at MU-Varna.

Varna, 26.Jun.2023

Reviewer:

(Prof. Rinaldo Shishkov, MD, PhD)

