

OPINION

by Associate Professor Dr. Nikola Georgiev Shopov, MD

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About: Contest for occupation of the academic position, “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health, in the specialty "Medicine of Disaster Situations" for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health, Department of Medicine of Disaster Situations and Maritime Medicine, promulgated in the State Gazette, issue 43 from 31.05.2019.

According to a decision of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Public Health, entered in protocol № 141/12.07.2019 and Order № P-109-234 of 26.07.2019 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, I have been selected as an external member of the Scientific Jury under the procedure for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" at the Medical University - Varna. I am tasked with drafting an opinion on the competition in which the sole candidate is **Ch. Assistant Professor Nikolina Radkova Radeva, PhD.**

The documents provided to me are in accordance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation and meet the requirements for holding the said position. The assessment of the applicant is complex and includes the research, teaching and practical activity of the applicant according to the Rules for the development of the academic staff at the Medical University - Varna.

I. Short details of the applicant's professional career

Chief Assistant Professor Nikolina Radkova Radeva graduated from the Fifth Language School "Joan Exarch" in Varna with French in 2002. After that, she graduated from the Varna University of Economics with a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and consistently obtained two Master's Degrees in „Corporate finance” and “Health Management”. In 2018, he obtained the Doctoral Degree in Medicine in the field of Disaster Situation, successfully defending the thesis "Stress prevention as a significant problem for groups at risk in disaster situations".

The professional development of the applicant goes through the following positions: auditor for the quality of services provided in Spain, an expert on international projects and programs at MU-Varna, administrative assistant in the Department of Disaster Medicine and Maritime Medicine, assistant professor in Medicine of Disaster Situations. As of August 2018, she is the Chief Assistant in the same department and is currently the Coordinator of the University Center for Maritime Health at MU-Varna.

II. Research and scientific contributions

The research activity of Ch. Ass. Prof. Nikolina Radeva is evaluated according to the minimum and additional scientifically-measurable requirements specified in Appendices 1 and 2 of the Rules for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna on the basis of the submitted real publications. Scientific activity in scientifically-measurable aspect can be summarized as follows:

1. Total number of scientific publications

The candidate's total scientific activity includes **81** publications:

- dissertation and abstract - 2 pieces;
- monographs - 2 pieces;
- study guides - 2 pieces;
- articles in scientific journals, included in the submitted academic reference from the Medical University of Varna, reg. No. 379/26.07.2019 - 36 pieces;
- other scientific publications, accompanied by a certificate from the publisher, other than those from the academic report - 4 pieces;
- conference reports - 35 pieces.

Of all the publications, **45** correspond to the category "research", with the exception of dissertation and reports from various scientific conferences.

Out of these publications, **28** issues participate as evidence in the report on the fulfillment of the minimum occupying requirements of academic position "Assoc. Prof.", according to the LDASRB of 2018.

The publications submitted by the applicant for participation in the competition, in terms of number and categories, fully comply with the recommended quantitative criteria for the occupation of AP "Assoc. Prof." accepted at MU-Varna.

2. Authorship

Of the 45 scientific publications presented in 14, Dr. Radeva is the first author (31.1%), in 11 of the articles is the second author (24.5%), and the third or subsequent author is in 20 publications, representing 44.4% of the total.

3. Impact factor

Three of the articles were published in foreign journals with an impact factor of 0.565, with a total IF of 1.7.

4. Number of citations

The prepared academic reference from the Medical University - Varna with reg. No. 362 /24.07.2019 shows that Dr. Radeva was cited 9 times:

- in monographs and collective volumes with scientific peer review - 1 citation, (D11);
- in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review - 8 citations, (D12).

5. Characteristics and contributions of scientific publications

Dr. Radeva's scientific publications cover the following fields:

- "Medicine of disaster situations"
- "Health provision in disaster situations"
- "Disaster and emergency preparedness"
- "Preparation for terrorist attack and counterterrorism"
- "Health provision in disasters and crises with a large number of victims"
- "Disaster Medicine"

As Dr. Radeva's the monographic-habilitation work "Current Aspects of Population Protection in Disaster Situations" is properly peer-reviewed, I will only emphasize that this work has significant practical and applied character. It gives the characteristics of disasters, cross-analyzes the terms - disaster, crisis and emergency. Disaster risk shall be investigated and guidelines shall be given for its management. The monograph analyzes current approaches to protecting the population in the event of disasters and the tasks of health provision in the event of such events.

"The bilingual terminology dictionary" co-authored by Dr. Radeva is of exceptional practical focus. This glossary is a great and useful study guide for medicine of disaster situations.

An important part of the applicant's scientific studies are those related to the problems of eco-catastrophes, environmental problems of pollution of the sea, chemical and other industrial accidents, which cause a number of health and environmental problems.

Several surveys examine and evaluate the awareness and training of medical personnel and the population in disaster situations. Risk groups and especially the group of people with disabilities are examined. Psychological problems and stress in disaster situations are explored. Experiments with experimental animals are very interesting and representative.

Dr. Radeva is one of the few researchers in Bulgaria who, in her publications, makes a medico-geographical characteristic of various disaster situations and systematizes the consequences of them. She does extensive researches on the floods, fires, landslides, earthquakes and other disasters.

Although not subject to peer review, the applicant's numerous participations in national and international conferences and scientific forums (51) are also considered as scientific activity. She has given 35 presentations at these conferences. This further demonstrates her high activity and diverse scientific interests.

6. *Significance of contributions to science and practice*

Dr. Radeva's research has made a significant contribution to science in Bulgaria. This applies to the fullest extent to the coverage and study of various problems in the field of medicine of disaster situations. The publications presented show the broad knowledge and scientific interests in the field of medical specialty, in which she is also a teacher.

In summary, it can be concluded that the scientific contributions of Dr. Radeva are indisputable, cover the qualitative and quantitative criteria and meet the requirements for an occupation of Associate Professor at the Medical University - Varna.

III. Educational activity

It is evident from the academic report No. 112-166/15.07.2019 that Dr. Radeva started teaching in May 2015. In the last 4 years she conducts lectures and exercises, with an average academic load of 339 student hours, which is slightly below the accepted standard of 360 hours. But given her involvement in more than 10 national and international scientific and educational projects, it can be concluded that Dr. Radeva is a teacher with a high enough academic load. She is also involved in the preparation of study programs and tests, actively participates in exam committees for semester exams.

Proficiency in Dr. Radeva's English, French, German and Russian languages at a high communicative level is an important additional factor in raising her awareness and working with scientific literature, and is no less important as a key prerequisite for teaching international students. I consider the above as a reliable foundation for a qualitative further educational and teaching realization by occupying from AP "Assoc. Prof."

IV. Practical activity

Dr. Radeva has a high level of professional competence, has a considerable number of additional qualifications and skills, for which she has presented relevant certificates and documents. She is a member of The French Society for Catastrophe Medicine, The Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health, The Union of Scientists, The Society of Disabled Persons - Varna.

She has participated in courses and trainings at home and abroad as a lecturer and moderator, receiving official letters of thanks from the Navy, from the NATO Center for the

Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence. Dr. Radeva is actively involved in promoting maritime health care in the Republic of Bulgaria and providing assistance at sea.

She possesses excellent computer and statistical skills, exhibits collegiality and tolerance, ability to work in a team.

V. Critical notes and recommendations

I believe that the visibility and recognition of the interesting and significant results of the research of the Assoc. Prof. Nikolina Radeva would have grown if she had expanded the range of scientific journals to which she directed her articles in her future publishing activity. I recommend, if possible, that these publications to be in English.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the whole scientific and teaching activity and its correspondence with the LDASRB, I have a “**positive**” opinion on the competition and the qualities of the candidate Dr. Radeva. I believe that she is a specialist, researcher and teacher, and possesses the professional skills and academic potential to occupy the position of Associate Professor. In this regard:

I propose to the Honorable Jury to award an academic position of **Associate Professor** in the field of higher education **7. Healthcare and sports**, professional field 7.4. Public health, in the specialty “**Medicine of Disaster Situations**” by **Nikolina Radkova Radeva, PhD.**

05.09.2019.
Varna

HAS MADE THE OPINION:



Assoc. Prof. Nicola Shopov, MD