

## REVIEW

From Assoc. Prof. Dr. William Viktorov Dokov, PhD  
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Faculty of Medicine, Medical University,  
"Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov", Varna

Regarding: Procedure for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor" in the specialty "Forensic Medicine", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, field of Higher education 7. Health care and sports, for the needs of the Department "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology" at the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna and for the "Forensic Medicine" Clinic at the "Sveta Marina" UMBAL EAD - Varna, announced in the State Gazette, no. 102/23.12.2022

According to order No. P-109-154 /23.02.2023 of the Rector of Varna Medical University, I am included as an internal member of the Scientific Jury, and by decision of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury, held on 03.06.2023, it was decided to prepare review.

One candidate participated in the announced competition, Dr. Emilia Mihailova Kaisheva, PhD, chief assistant at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology" at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna. The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for the competition provided for in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its application.

### **I. Brief biographical data of the candidate**

Dr. Emilia Kaisheva was born on 31.10.1975 in the city of Varna. In 2000, she completed her studies in medicine at Varna Medical University, obtaining a master's degree. In the period 2002-2006, she specialized in Forensic Medicine and Deontology at Varna Medical University, which ended with a successful examination before a state examination commission. From 2014 to 2018, Dr. Kaisheva was a doctoral student at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology", and after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic: "Criteria for determining thermal trauma as bodily injury", she obtained the scientific and educational degree "Doctor".

Her professional path in the field of forensic medicine began in 2007 after successfully passing the competition for an assistantship in the same specialty at the Department of "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology", Faculty of Medicine, Varna Medical University. Dr. Kaisheva successfully combines her academic work with practical work as a medical examiner in the DCC "Sveta Marina" EAD, Varna. In the period 2011 - 2019, she was an assistant in the Forensic Medicine Clinic, from 2019 to 2021, she was a chief assistant, and from 2021 head of the Forensic Medicine Clinic, Saint Marina UMBAL, EAD, Varna.

She uses English and Russian languages.

### **III. Research activity**

#### **Evaluation of quantitative indicators:**

In the current competition, Dr. Emilia Kaisheva participated with 18 full-text scientific papers, which structurally include:

- 1 dissertation work for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"
- 1 monography
- 16 full-text articles and reports

Most of the articles and reports submitted for the competition have been published in English in authoritative scientific journals. Five of the publications are in refereed Web of science periodicals.

In seven of the publications, Dr. Kaisheva is first or independent author. A reference is presented for 9 citations, one of which is in a monography, and the rest in publications in periodicals.

The good visibility of the candidate's scientific work also contributes to her participation in scientific forums, represented by 11 report titles in Bulgarian and 5 in international scientific forums.

The quantitative analysis of the scientific publications of Dr. Emilia Kaisheva shows that they meet the national scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor" for the field of Higher education 7. Health care and sports.

#### **Qualitative characteristics of the candidate's scientific activity**

Thematically, Dr. Emilia Kaisheva outlines 4 directions of her scientific research, in which her publications are grouped:

1. Forensic identification of the person
2. Objectification of forensic medical expertise
3. Traumatism
4. Pathology

Most of the publications are devoted to the first topic "Forensic identification of the person", which also includes the candidate's monographic work. In it, Dr. Kaisheva provides a thorough and comprehensive review of scientific research on the forensic importance of human hairs in the process of identifying a person.

A wide range of methods and techniques for the study of human hairs is presented, as well as the possibilities of micro- and macroscopic studies in their forensic study. The author's systematic approach is evident in the detailed examination of possible hair damage and the specificity of changes as a result of various disease processes or as a result of the action of environmental factors, the assessment of which is an integral part of the process of forensic examination of these physical evidences. The potential for determining the characteristics of the individual, namely ethnicity, gender, blood group, etc accessories, based on the morphological characteristics of hairs, was discussed.

In the same thematic area, the publications evaluating the possibilities of different anthropological methods for determining the medico-biological signs of sex, age and height in the study of different types of body remains, as elements of the identification of the person, are

related. The accuracy of these methods and their possibility of practical application have been evaluated.

In a series of publications, the capabilities of various software programs for the identification of bone remains (FORDJSC, 3D-1D, Cran1D, ThreeSkull, Anthropolog, ADBOU) are considered. Their accuracy has been proven in determining the permanent signs of the individual - race, gender, age, height, etc.

I am satisfied with the fact that Dr. Kaisheva showed interest and made her own contribution to the second thematic area "Objectification of forensic medical expertise" - specific to our structure in Varna. Her dissertation and related publications represent a significant contribution to the field of medicobiological qualification of thermal injuries. My recommendation to her is to continue working to disseminate the potential of objective methods and to effectively introduce them into forensic medical practice throughout the country.

The contributions in the third thematic area "Traumatism" have a confirmatory practical character and guide the efforts of clinicians to adopt a differentiated approach in thermally traumatized adult patients.

Dr. Kaisheva consistently maintains the good forensic traditions of close collaboration with fellow pathologists, which prefigures her contributions in the fourth thematic area, Pathology. I applaud her interest in rare cases in medical practice and her willingness to share forensic findings with the wider scientific community.

The analysis of the scientific works proposed for review in Dr. Emilia Kaisheva shows interesting and well-argued ideas, competence in the researched areas, knowledge and interpretation of current literary sources, well-structured and appropriately shaped in terms of language and style, developments on current topics.

#### **IV. Academic teaching activity**

Dr. Emilia Kaisheva has a teaching experience of 15 years and eight months, which significantly exceeds the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff and the Rules for its Application.

From the presented study load report for the last five years, it is clear that her average annual study load twice exceeds the institutional norms, without including the load for participation in the examination boards for all the specialties she teaches. In the last year before her maternity leave, Dr. Emilia Kaisheva very successfully took over and led the lecture teaching of forensic medicine and deontology to the English-speaking students at the MU - Varna.

Dr. Emilia Kaisheva, PhD also presents a certificate for participation in the qualification course "Pedagogical foundations of academic teaching" under the project "Creation of a modern system for the career growth of teachers at the MU - Varna". At her suggestion and under her guidance, the study documentation was developed and training on the freely optional discipline "Forensic Medicine in Clinical Practice" for medical students from the Medical University of Varna was launched. After acquiring a specialty in forensic medicine, Dr. Kaisheva is also involved in the training of "Forensic Medicine and Deontology" specialists from Eastern

Bulgaria, conducting their specialization in the Forensic Medicine Clinic of UMBAL "St. Marina", Varna.

#### **V. Forensic medical expert activity**

In the last more than five years, after gaining enough practical experience, Dr. Kaisheva has participated and shown herself as a good forensic medical expert in severe complex, commission examinations related to crimes against the person, complex medical cases of traffic accidents, professional actions in the field of healthcare and others. She shows organization, responsibility, precision and competence when preparing the expert conclusions, which makes her a sought-after and respected expert by the judicial authorities at the regional and national level.

#### **VI. Personal impressions**

I have known Dr. Kaisheva since the moment she started working as an assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, I have watched her professional development as a medical examiner, researcher and colleague. She has persistence, resilience, determination, hard work and good organizational skills. Demonstrates collegiality and teamwork in practice.

I am convinced that the mentioned qualities are a guarantee that in the higher academic position for which Dr. Kaisheva is applying, she will develop her potential and contribute to the development and promotion of the structure of forensic medicine in an independent department at the Faculty of Medicine, Medical university - Varna.

#### **VII. Compliance with the requirements of the MU - Varna, for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor"**

**The representative reference shows that Dr. Emilia Kaisheva, PhD covers the indicators for holding the academic position " Associated Professor ", in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Medicine - Varna (table 1).**

Table 1. Compliance with the requirements of the MU - Varna, for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor"


<i>Group of indicators</i>	<i>Demanding number of points</i>	<i>Number of points based on evidence presented</i>
A	50	50
Б	0	0
B	100	100
Г	200	228
Д	50	50
E	0	0

## VII. Conclusion

The analysis of the overall research, teaching and expert activity of Dr. Emilia Mihailova Kaisheva, PhD shows that she is an established expert in forensic medicine and deontology, with good theoretical training and proven practical expertise. Her scientific work covers the requirements for occupying the academic position "Associated Professor" set by the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for its application.

These are my reasons for the **positive assessment of the candidacy of Dr. Emilia Mihailova Kaisheva, PhD for taking the academic position "Associated Professor"** in the scientific specialty "Forensic Medicine" for the needs of the Department "General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology" of the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna and for the "Forensic Medicine" Clinic at "Sveta Marina" UMBAL EAD – Varna.

25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

  
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Assoc. Prof. Dr. William Dokov, PhD