

REVIEW

Reviewer: Prof. Sonya Koleva Toncheva, PhD, DSC

Deputy Director of Shumen Affiliate, Medical University – Varna

Member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. 109-372/21.08.2023 of the

Rector of MU “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” - Varna

Regarding: Participation in competition for the academic position “Associate Professor”

in the field 7 “Healthcare and Sports”; professional field 7.4. Public Health, “Healthcare Management” specialty, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare – Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” – Varna.

In the present competition for the academic position, “Associate Professor”, promulgated in State Gazette, Issue 54/23.06.2023, the only candidate is **Galina Ilieva Petrova**, PhD – Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Healthcare, Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” – Varna.

According to Order № 109/ 21.08.2023 of the Rector of MU “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” – Varna, I was elected member of the Scientific Jury, assigned to prepare a review following the procedure for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor” in the scientific field 7 “Healthcare and Sports”; professional field 7.4. Public Health, “Healthcare Management” specialty, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare – Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” – Varna.

All the necessary documents prepared accurately by the candidate follow the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on academic Staff Development at the Medical University of Varna.

1. Career profile of the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Galina Ilieva Petrova was born on 21.02.1973 in Beloslav. She graduated from the Semi-Higher Medical Institute in Varna, Bulgaria in General Nursing (1993-1996). She started her career in 1996 at the “Mother and Child” Care Institution in Varna. In the period 1998-2007, she worked in various healthcare structures in Stara Zagora.

She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management (2001-2003) at the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University - Plovdiv, a Master's degree in Healthcare Management at the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University - Sofia (2005-2007) and a postgraduate specialization in Medical Pedagogy (2011-2014) at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

In 2007, she was appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Management at the Faculty of Medicine, TU – Stara Zagora and since 2019, she has

been Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Healthcare at the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University - Varna.

In the period 2015-2016 Galina Petrova was a PhD student in “Healthcare Management” at the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Management, Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora. In 2016, she defended her dissertation thesis on “Development of preventive child healthcare – the role of the nurse” and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

She was engaged in various forms of continuing education on nursing issues, pedagogical and scientific competencies, computer skills and language training.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Healthcare Professionals, Bulgarian Association of Public Health, European Public Health Association, Bulgarian Scientific Society for History of Medicine, Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health.

She has computer literacy and English comprehension skills at level Upper – Intermediate (CEFR B2).

2. General characteristics of the scientific output for the competition

Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova has submitted a list of 23 scientific papers for participation in the competition for Associate Professor, distributed as follows (Table №1):

Table №1. Scientific papers distributed by type and place of publication.

№	Types of Scientific Works	Abroad	Bulgaria	TOTAL
1.	Habilitation thesis Monograph		1	1
2.	Dissertation / abstract		1	1
3.	Publications in journals and collections			
	• Attached for the competition for Associate Professor			23
4.	Distribution of scientific papers by language of publication			
	<i>Publications in Bulgarian - 8</i>			8
	<i>Publications in a foreign language - 15</i>			15
5	Total number of scientific papers			23

The candidate participates with scientific production (articles and reports), of which she is the independent author of 2 publications, first author in 7 publications, 2nd author in 3 publications, 3rd author in 3 publications, 4th and subsequent author in 10 publications. In a

significant part of the scientific works the candidate is the leading author, but her ability to conduct research in teams is also impressive.

Most of the works have been published in our prestigious specialized journals: the Thracian Journal, Social Medicine Journal, Scripta Scientifica Medica, Asklepios, etc. The rest of the works have been published in conference proceedings, 4 of them abroad. A reference for IF 3.123 is provided.

I recommend increasing the publication activity of Chief Asst. Prof. G. Petrova in specialized healthcare and nursing journals. This way, her scientific output will be recognizable by healthcare professionals who read and publish research results.

According to the quantitative indicators of the criteria for the award of the academic position “Associate Professor”, on the basis of the RASD at MU-Varna “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov”, the output presented by the candidate exceeds the requirements for the AP “Associate Professor”.

The applicant has created a profile in Google Scholar and Research Gate and ORCID, where she has visibility of her work in Bulgarian and foreign journals, an indicator of her publication image and the relevance of the topic she is working on.

A reference of 7 citations of the candidate’s works, which has been prepared by the MU-Varna library, is presented.

The scientific activity of Chief Asst. Prof. Petrova is also represented in scientific forums related to healthcare and nursing education, which ensures publicity of her scientific production.

The candidate has submitted a report on participation in 7 projects, 6 of which are funded by the “Scientific Research” Fund at the Trakia University of Stara Zagora and 1 by the “Science’ Fund at MU-Varna:

1. *Research project No. 11/2011 (2011-2012): "Organizational and ethical dimensions of long-term care in general medical practice: status and approaches for establishing good practices";*
2. *Research project No. 12/2011 (2012-2013): "Patient-centred care in general medical practice - issues and challenges";*
3. *Research project No. 21/2013 (2013-2015): "Development of preventive child healthcare for - role of the nurse";*
4. *Scientific project No. 27/2014 (2014-2016): "Equal access to healthcare for children in Bulgaria;*
5. *Scientific project № 11/2017: "Promotive and preventive activities for maternal and child health in primary outpatient care: current assessments and perspectives".*
6. *Scientific project № 4/2017: "Prevention and early diagnosis of spinal curvatures in kindergartens - an innovative element in the practical training of students in the specialty of Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy".*
7. *Scientific project № 21024/2021: "Child mortality in Bulgaria - a source of new approaches for optimizing child healthcare", approved for funding by the Science Fund in the competitive session 2021, Medical University-Varna.*

Chief Asst. Prof. G. Petrova actively works with students as a methodological supervisor, supporting their publication activity.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific research and applied science activity

The submitted 23 scientific works, with which the candidate participates in the competition for the position “Associate Professor”, contain applied science, theoretically cognitive contributions and such with outstanding significance in the following 6 main scientific areas, which in order of importance are presented as follows:

№	THEMATIC FIELD	№ OF THE PUBLICATION FROM THE LIST OF SCIENTIFIC WORKS
1.	HISTORY OF NURSING IN CHILD HEALTHCARE IN EUROPEAN AND BULGARIAN DIMENSIONS	<i>A1, V3, G8.10, IV.3, III.2</i>
2.	DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE IN BULGARIA - HISTORICAL, HEALTH-POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEMS	<i>A1, V3, G 8.10, G8.12, G 8.14, G G8.15, G 8.16, III 1, III 2, IV 4</i>
3.	HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD	<i>V3, G7.2, G7.3, G8.10, G8.14</i>
4.	CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PEDIATRIC NURSING	<i>V3, G 7.4, G8.9, G8.11</i>
5.	ETHICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES OF CONTINUING CARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE	<i>G 8.1, G 8.2, G 8.3, G 8.4, G8.6, G 8.7, G 8.8, G 8.13, II .1, II.2</i>
6.	OTHERS	<i>G7.1, G8.5, II 3, IV 1</i>

THEMATIC FIELD 1: HISTORY OF NURSING IN CHILDHEALTH CARE IN EUROPEAN AND BULGARIAN DIMENSIONS (A1, C3, D8.10, IV.3, III.2)

In this important area of the monographic work “Nursing in Children's Healthcare” can be found for the first time in Bulgaria, the presented and analyzed study results on the participation of nurses in the provision of curative and preventive care for children inpatient and outpatient settings (B3). Important issues of children's healthcare are raised. Historical aspects of pediatric nursing, contemporary autonomous practices, and concomitant problems in their practical implementation are addressed. The problem of family-nurse interaction is discussed. The author shows great sensitivity to the importance of the priority population group, children, and the causes of deteriorated child health indicators.

Contribution of theoretically cognitive significance: the author has identified the reasons for the emergence of child healthcare (18-19 century) - changed views of the child under the influence of new socio-economic conditions, humanitarian and philosophical currents and ideas about the value of the child in the family and community context, high infant mortality.

The most common form of child health protection - children's health advisory stations - a prototype of modern pediatric consultation centers (B3, A1).

Contributions of cognitive importance: The emergence of specialized inpatient nursing care for newborns and premature infants has been outlined by Chief Asst. Prof. Petrova. In outpatient settings, nurses specialize in the care for the healthy child (monitoring physical and neuro-mental development, proper nutrition, protection against infectious diseases, hardening) and communication with the family – improving their health culture (B3).

The role of the NGO Union for Child Protection in Bulgaria (UCPB) in adopting this progressive European practice and uniting the efforts of all institutions interested in children's health in Bulgaria is analyzed. In parallel with the new practice, initiatives to enhance the professional training, including local and international courses of nurse-visitors, are also considered. The positive Bulgarian experience of tackling the shortage of nurse-visitors in villages through the establishment of the institution of teacher-counsellor is revealed; the International Union for the Protection of Children evaluates and recommends this positive practice as an example of work in rural areas with a shortage of health personnel in the 1930s of XX century(A1, C3, D 8.10, IV 3, III 2).

THEMATIC FIELD 2: DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CHILD HEALTHCARE IN BULGARIA - HISTORICAL, HEALTH POLICY AND ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES (A1, C3, D8.10, D8.12, D8.14, D8.15, D8.16, III 1, III 2, IV 4)

Significant part of the scientific production by Chief Asst. Prof. G. Petrova is devoted to this scientific field.

Contributions of cognitive relevance: The relationship between the ideas and vision of Bulgarian doctors as public figures for the development of maternal and child healthcare in the 1930s and the healthcare system established after 1944-1950 in the part “Maternity and Childhood” is researched. Continuity is established between the policies and practices set out in the State Health Plan (1940) and the structures and activities of child healthcare in the post-1950 healthcare system (A1,B3, D 8.10, IV 4, III 1 , III 2).

Bulgaria's place in terms of infant mortality rates among European countries is established. The reasons for the high indicator levels during the socio-economic transition after 1990 and the factors influencing it are analysed (A1, D8.16).

Contribution of theoretical and cognitive relevance: The changes in the medical care of children after the health reform of 2000 are discussed. The author raises the issue of the insufficient use of nursing capacity in the preventive work with children. The unmet needs of groups of families for individualized advice and guidance in raising a healthy child are also demonstrated (D8.12, D8.14, D8.15,).

Contribution of outstanding significance: The development of public health structures and for the treatment and prevention activities of children is examined. The significant role of pediatric nurses in improving child health and reducing child mortality rates is identified. The

role of patronage nurses in pediatric consultations for children aged 0-3 years is highlighted (C3).

THEMATIC FIELD 3: HEALTH AND SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD (C3, D7.2, D7.3, D8.10, D8.14)

This research strand is of particular relevance. Chief Asst. Prof. Petrova, investigating the needs of the youngest patients - newborns and children, identified health and social inequalities as the cause of poor health indicators, correlated to child health. **Contributions of practical importance are made in this direction.**

Based on documentary analysis and empirical research, the author discusses health inequalities in early childhood and the factors that cause inequalities, with a focus on place of residence, education, and ethnicity. The healthcare for children in urban areas is significantly better than in rural areas ($p < 0.001$). Most Romanese children receive inadequate health care ($p < 0.001$). Significant differences in the social and living conditions by ethnicity were found. Differences persisted in a second study after five years in the same nests and with the same methodology. There are unfulfilled maternal needs for individualized counseling, but it remains debatable whether nursing can fill this gap (C3, D7.2, D7.3, D8.10, D8.14).

THEMATIC FIELD 4: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN PEDIATRIC NURSING (B3, D7.4, D8.9, D8.11)

The scientific works of Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova on the contemporary problems of pediatric nurses have **contributions of cognitive and practically applied importance.**

This thematic field presents an overview based on a bibliographic search of the last five years on three important topics: postgraduate training, independent work, and socio-psychological and organizational problems of pediatric nurses. The autonomous role of the pediatric nurse is most often related to screening programs and specific care in the treatment of a number of socially significant diseases. Innovative strategies for coping with burnout syndrome are presented as opportunities for new information with potential for new ideas and directions for research and good practices (B3, D7.4, D8.9).

THEMATIC FIELD 5: ETHICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES OF CONTINUING CARE IN GENERAL PRACTICE (D 8.1, D 8.2, D 8.3, D 8.4, D 8.6, D 8.7, D 8.8, D 8.13, II.1, II.2)

A significant proportion of the output submitted to this competition is devoted to ethical and organisational issues of continuing care in general medical practice. Clearly the author's interest is a result of her clinical practice as a nurse in children's units. Contributions of **cognitive and practical relevance** have been made in this field.

For the first time, the foreign practice of "Advance Care Directive" - ACD, which is not popular in Bulgaria, is studied and presented. Emphasis is placed on ACD as a means of respecting patients' rights in general practice. The analysis presented introduces the medical

community to the theoretical foundations and practical dimensions of ACD (D 8.1, D 8.2, D 8. 4, D 8.6).

The irrelevance of the Advance Care Directive (ACD) form in the Bulgarian context is demonstrated as detrimental to the rights and interests of the patient. Proposals for changes in the documentation and legislation were made and subsequently adopted by the health authorities (D 8.1, D 8.2, II 2).

The role of the nurse as part of the healthcare team and the roles that nurses could play in advance healthcare planning directives were explored: in terms of providing information and emotional support, mediating dialogue within the family or between members of the healthcare team, and paperwork (D 8.3, D 8.13, II 1).

Contribution of methodological and applied nature: The impact of the ethical problems accompanying the healthcare reform in Bulgaria has been studied through an analysis of the complaints received by the Professional Ethics Committee (D 8.7).

The author's focus is on conflicts in nursing practice where ethical aspects are present. Well-known and innovative methods (content analysis, case reports, analysis of student written work on a structured assignment, interviews with elements of observation),(D8.8, D8.13) are employed for discussion and analysis.

THEMATIC FIELD 6: OTHERS (D 7.1, D 8.5, II 3, IV 1)

A small part of the scientific works of Chief Asst. Prof. G. Petrova is included in thematic field Others.

Contributions of cognitive importance: Two publications of historical aspect are included. The activity of Dr. Hr. Bodurov, the first doctor employed by the Bulgarian Municipality in St. Zagora, who examined the population on the principle of "subscription" (D 8.5). Socio-economic factors influencing the job satisfaction of hospital doctors are examined (D8.11).

Contribution of practically applicable relevance: The readiness of industrial workers to deal with disaster situations is examined. The importance of advance information, the means of protection and how to provide first aid are demonstrated (D7.1, II 3).

Contribution of outstanding significance: A review of articles in scientific popular newspapers and journals on the topic - Maternal and Child Health Education is made. The balance between articles with a preventive focus and those presenting advice for childhood illnesses is emphasized (IV1).

4. Evaluation of the candidate's pedagogical training and experience

Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova is a respected lecturer in the field of healthcare with 16 years of teaching experience, of which more than 3 years at the Department of Healthcare, Faculty of Public Health at MU-Varna, and the rest – at Trakia University-Stara Zagora. The accumulated experience builds up Chief Asst. Prof. Petrova as a lecturer proficient in the

practical and theoretical foundations of healthcare and the theoretical and practical training. She has taken part in the development of syllabi of specialized disciplines for the Nursing specialty and has developed didactic tests for training purposes.

A reference to the applicant's tuition hours has been submitted which indicates that their total number is sufficient. The teaching activity of Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova covers a wide range of teaching disciplines in various specialties, realized as an Assistant Professor at the Medical Faculty-Stara Zagora and as a Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Healthcare at MU-Varna. The candidate is currently teaching a total of 9 (compulsory) subjects in the curriculum of the Nursing specialty.

G. Petrova has participated in accreditation procedures of the Nursing specialty, as well as in scientific forums organized by the Department of Healthcare at MU-Varna. The candidate for the competition is related to securing the teaching process and research work in the Department of Healthcare, Faculty of Public Health of MU – Varna - participation in the development of curricula and course supervision in the Nursing specialty.

The presented references on the pedagogical training and experience of Chief Assist. Prof. G. Petrova demonstrate a desire for continuous advance and maintenance of high levels of precision and awareness of the development of modern requirements for healthcare and the managerial and pedagogical aspects in teaching practice.

5. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and scientific metrics of MU- Varna

The volume of the scientific production presented by Galina Petrova, PhD exceeds the basic scientific-metric indicators stipulated in the Regulations of MU- Varna for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. The topicality of the considered subject in the relevant time interval is impressive. The scientific activity and contributions concern both the provision of new information and the formulation of hypotheses and theoretical generalizations. Galina Petrova's research is methodologically well organized, providing theoretical conclusions and practical solutions. Contributions of theoretically cognitive, methodological and applied nature and of confirmatory significance have been made.

The candidate develops her research activity in many areas of healthcare and contributes to nursing professional enrichment.

6. Personal impressions

I have known personally Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova since the competition for the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Healthcare at MU-Varna. I am familiar with the candidate's scientific activity as well as with her professional development as a lecturer. Innovative, with modern thinking, Galina Petrova, PhD does indepth and interesting research and seeks solutions for its implementation in practice. Demonstrating responsibility in the students' training, with a distinctly critical approach and giving her all, she teaches and engages students in various activities related to both gaining knowledge and conducting research. With a marked interest in acquiring new knowledge and exploring best practices in nursing, she continually

seeks ways to optimise healthcare management by clarifying the role and functions of the modern nurse. I respect her curiosity, diligence and willingness to be helpful.

Amiable to colleagues and students, responsive and attentive, Chief Asst. Prof. Petrova has built a reputation as a respected teacher, colleague and professional.

7. Conclusion

On the basis of the positive evaluation of the pedagogical practice and the significance of her scientific works, I find it relevant to propose to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury and the Rector of MU -Varna the candidature of Chief Asst. Prof. Galina Petrova, PhD for the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field 7 “Healthcare and Sports”, professional field 7.4 Public Health, “Healthcare Management” specialty at the Department of Healthcare of the Faculty of Public Health at MU - Varna).



Date: 27.10.2023г.

Reviewer:

Prof. Sonya Toncheva, PhD, DSc