TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY DETERMINED BY ORDER No. R-109-373/21.08.2023 TO THE RECTOR OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - VARNA ASSOC. PROFESSOR NIKOLINA RADEVA, PhD.

### **REVIEW**

# by Professor Nikola Georgiev Shopov, MD, PhD professor in the Department of "Aviation and Marine Medicine" at the MMA

<b>Concerning:</b>	Contest for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" in the
	scientific specialty "Medicine of disaster situations" in the field of higher
	education 7. "Health and sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", for the
	needs of the department "Medicine of disaster situations and marine medicine"
	at the Faculty of "Public Health" of the Medical University "Professor Dr.
	Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

#### I. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPETITION

According to Protocol No. 1/04.09.2023 of the first meeting of the Scientific Jury (SJ), appointed by Order No. R-109-373/21.08.2023 of the Rector of the MU "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna I am appointed to prepare this review in the capacity of an external member of the Scientific Jury. The recruitment competition for AP "Associate Professor" was announced in accordance with the report with entry. No. 102-1708/13.07.2023 of the Head of the Department of "Disaster Medicine and Marine Medicine" and decision under protocol No. 209/28.07.2023 of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health, and promulgated in issue 54 /23.06.2023 of the State Gazette.

The only candidate for him is Chief Assistant Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva-Popova, MD, PhD. The procedure for announcing the competition is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RILDASRB).

The documents provided to me related to the contest are in accordance with the LDASRB and the Regulations for its application and meet the requirements for occupying the specified position. The set of documents for the contest is provided in an electronic medium and contains all, as well as some additional materials, reflecting the professional and scientific activity of the candidate, and they fully meet the requirements of Art. 126, para. 1 of the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (RDASMU). The attached evidence is not repeated with the one presented for the acquisition of the ESD "Doctor", which is in accordance with the requirements of Art. 126 par. 3 of RDASMU.

I have no remarks or comments on the presented documents.

The evaluation of the candidate is complex and includes her research, teaching and practical activities, according to Art. 129 of RDASMU.

### II. BIOGRAPHY AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

#### 2.1. Brief biographical information

Chief Assistant Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva-Popova, MD, PhD was born on September 20, 1961 in the city of Varna. She completed his secondary education in hers hometown in 1980 at the First Language High School with teaching in English.

During the period 1980 - 1986, she was a student at the Higher Medical Institute – Varna (now the Medical University "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov – Varna) and after graduation she received a master's degree in medicine.

In 1987, she began hers professional career as a resident in the "Child and Adolescent Hygiene" department at the HEI - Shumen, where she worked until 1993.

Due to hers excellent command of the English language, in the period September 1994 - June 1995, she taught English in the community center "Otetch Paisiy" - Varna. From July 1995 to December 2003, she had a private medical practice. In September 1999, she registered as a sole trader with the business of teaching English.

In 2004, she started working as a resident in the "Organizational-Information" department in the Hygiene and Epidemiological Inspection (HEI) - Varna. After the restructuring of the HEI into the Regional Inspection for Protection and Control of Public Health (RIPCPH), and later into the Regional Health Inspection (RHI) from 2005 to September 2013, she was successively a senior expert, chief expert and chief inspector in the "Administrative-legal, financial and business services" directorate.

From September 2011 to May 2013, she was a part-time Assistant in the Department of Disaster Medicine, and from September 2013, after a competition, she was selected as a full-time Assistant. From 2019 to the present, Dr. Panteleeva is the Chief Assistant in the Department of "Disaster Medicine and Maritime Medicine" of the Medical University of Varna.

#### 2.2. Postgraduate qualification and acquired specialties

Chief Assistant Dr. Panteleeva has numerous specializations and courses in various areas of medicine, mostly related to Disaster Medicine. She has an excellent command of English and uses Russian, German, Spanish and French languages at a good communicative level.

#### **Specializations**

- from May 1996 to July 1996 Center for training doctors in general medicine at the Ministry of Health Basic course in "General Medicine";
- from 2000 to 2002 at the MU Sofia Basic two-year course in "Homeopathic Teratia" C.E.D.H.;
- in 2005 at the MU city of Varna training on "Health Information Systems in Europe";
- from 2016 to 2020 at the MU city of Varna specialization in "Medicine of disaster situations".
- 2017 and 2018 at the MU Varna doctoral studies in an independent form of study.

#### Medical specialties

From the presented copy of the diploma, it is clear that Chief Assistant Dr. Panteleeva holds a medical specialty in "Medicine of disaster situations (catastrophes)", which has been recognized since August 8, 2020.

#### Habilitation

In 2018, Dr. Panteleeva defended the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Medicine of disaster situations", and the topic of her dissertation work was: "Possible environmental risks in the Varna region and the role of pharmacists in industrial accidents and chemical terrorism". The dissertation was defended before a Scientific Jury (SJ) composed of: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Christiana Romanova, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rostislav Kostadinov, Prof. Dr. Krasimir Gigov, Prof. Dr. Veselin Ivanov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vili Zahariev. In their reviews and opinions regarding Dr. Panteleeva's dissertation work, the members of the SJ gave a very high assessment of the scientific and practical significance of the dissertation.

#### 2.3. Professional experience

Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Panteleeva has rich and diverse professional experience as a doctor and medical expert. As a freelance doctor, she gained invaluable experience in clinical medical practice, treatment and prevention of both adult patients and children.

During her work at the RHI, she organizes the post-graduate training activities of the doctors from the Varna region, summarizes information, provides references and reports for the Ministry of Health for the post-graduate training. Prepares assessments of the level of competence of the medical facilities and summarizes information regarding the possibility of training and specialization according to the requirements of the specialization programs. This work gives her the opportunity to acquire broad knowledge and a clear picture of the processes of training and specialization of health personnel, based on an excellent knowledge of the regulatory documents and the administration of this process.

In the next period of her professional growth, Dr. Panteleeva was dedicated to the problems of Disaster Medicine. As an Assistant and Chief Assistant at the Medical University - Varna, she actively participates in the teaching activities of the "Medicine of disaster situations and marine medicine" department. She gives lectures, leads practical exercises, participates in conducting exams in Bulgarian and English in disaster medicine for medical and dental students.

Dr. Panteleeva has high professional knowledge and experience. During her professional career as a medical expert and academic teacher, she shows dedication and competence, which is appreciated by her colleagues and direct supervisors. Has excellent computer, language and statistical skills, shows collegiality and tolerance, ability to work in a team.

#### Participation in scientific forums and research projects

Chief Assistant Panteleeva participates in a number of scientific forums and research projects, some of which are:

- At all annual editions of the "Sea and Health" Festival of MU Varna from 20.05.2015 until now;
  - Third Black Sea Symposium for Young Scientists in Biomedicine, 26-29.03.2015;
  - Scientific conferences of the International Medical Association Bulgaria (IMAB);
  - Scientific conferences of the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health (BSSPH);
  - Conferences of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria;
- XIII National Conference on Aviation, Marine and Space Medicine of the Bulgarian Association of Aviation, Marine and Space Medicine, Varna, 2022;
  - 15th European Public Health Conference, Berlin, Germany, 9 12 November 2022;
  - 3rd World Conference On Public Health, WCPH 2022, Sri Lanka, 9-10.12.2022.

#### III. RESEARCH ACTIVITY

The research activity of Chief Assistant Maria Panteleeva is evaluated according to the minimum and additional scientometric requirements specified in Appendices 1 and 2 of RDASMU - Varna on the basis of the actual publications presented. Scientific activity in a scientometric aspect can be summarized as follows:

#### 3.1. Total number of scientific publications

In the current competition, the candidate presented the following scientific production, which totals **109 titles**:

- dissertation and abstract 2 copies;
- monograph 1 issue;
- participation in a study guide 1 item;
- articles in foreign scientific journals with IF 5 issues;
- articles in peer-reviewed Bulgarian scientific journals and anthologies 24 issues;
- participation in scientific congresses and forums 76 numbers.

For participation in the competition, I accept only **28 titles**: dissertation work (which is a requirement under LDASRB) and **27 scientific works**, which were not presented in the competition for the award of the SED "Doctor". All these publications correspond to the category "scientific research activity". I exclude the dissertation from review in this competition, as it was evaluated in a previous competition, but I respect the 50 points it contributes to the calculation of the scientometric indicators. The 27 scientific papers subject to review are evaluated according to state requirements as follows:

- habilitation thesis monograph 1 issue 100 points;
- participation in a textbook 1 pc. -5 points;
- publications in foreign journals with IF 5 issues -92.5 points;
- publications in Bulgarian peer-reviewed journals 20 issues 207.83 points;

Total number of points for the publications subject to review: 405.33 points.

After adding 50 points for the dissertation work, the total scientific production that I consider for this competition is **455.33 points**, which exceeds the minimum requirements defined in RDASMU. Also, of the required minimum of 200 points from indicators G5-9, of which not less than 80 points are from indicator G7, the candidate collects 305.33 (92.5 are from indicator G7).

Although not peer-reviewed, Dr. Panteleeva presents the titles of 76 papers presented at various scientific congresses and forums, as well as numerous certificates attesting to her participation. These events can also be attributed to the candidate's scientific output, confirming her active and diverse research activity.

As a summary, it can be said that the publications presented by Dr. Panteleeva for participation in the competition, in terms of number and categories, fully correspond to and exceed the recommended quantitative criteria for holding the AP "Associate Professor" accepted at the MU "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

#### 3.2. Authorship

When reviewing the 28 peer-reviewed scientific publications, it can be seen that:

- in 12 of them, Dr. Panteleeva is the sole or first author, which represents 42.87% of all publications;
  - in eight of the articles she is the second author, which is 28.57%;

- in 8 publications out of the total number (28.57%) she is the third or subsequent author.

The analysis of these facts emphasizes the leading role of the candidate in the presented scientific works, as the first or second author in 71.44% of the publications.

#### 3.3.Impact factor

From five articles published in foreign journals:

- 4 publications are in the journal "Journal of IMAB" with Scientific Journal Impact Factor for 2020 (7.998), for 2021 (8.039), for 2022 (8.238);
- 1 publication is in the journal "European Journal of Public Health" with Web of Science Impact Factor 3.367.

#### 3.4. Number of citations

In the attached citation reference, which was prepared in the Library of MU - Varna with reg. No. 486/07.07.2023, it can be seen that Dr. Maria Panteleeva is **cited 12 times**, as follows:

- citations according to indicator D10 3 items total 45 points;
- citations according to indicator D11 4 items total 40 points;
- citations according to indicator D12 5 items total 25 points.

The total number of points from all citations of Dr. Panteleeva is **110 points**, which covers the required 50 points for the minimum number of points under criterion "D" - citations.

In conclusion, it is clear that the presented publications and the indicated evidence for the indicator of scientific activity **fulfill and exceed** the requirements of the minimum and additional scientometric requirements specified in Appendices 1 and 2 of the RDAS of MU "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.

#### IV. SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The scientific contributions of Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Panteleeva are related to the main areas in the discipline "Medicine of disaster situations". They have both scientific-research and practical-applied contributions, which are summarized in the following directions in which she teaches:

- "Medical provision in disaster situations";
- "Preparation in the event of a terrorist attack and counter-terrorism";
- "Medical insurance in case of disasters and crises with a large number of victims";
- "First aid at home and office";
- "Physician assistance";
- "Disaster medicine".

At the same time, with the aim of greater visibility of own research searches, as well as studying the experience and scientific achievements of foreign authors, Dr. Panteleeva has active profiles in some of the largest medical information databases, such as Google Scholar, Research Gate, ORCID.

#### 4.1. Monographs

For the contest, Dr. Panteleeva presents a monograph, which was published in 2023 by the publishing house of MU - Varna. It has been duly reviewed by two established specialists in the field - Prof. Romanova and Prof. Gigov, and here I want to briefly highlight some of its scientific merits and contributions to medical science and practice.

The monograph "Characteristics of major disasters and recommendations for correct behavior" is presented as a habilitation work. The monograph thoroughly touches on a particularly topical topic. Disaster situations are characterized by sudden, irreversible medical losses, as well as the lack of human and material resources to eliminate the consequences. In this regard, it is extremely important to prepare the population for correct behavior in the event of a real disaster. In 220 pages, the author successfully highlights all the most significant components of these complex natural disasters and their impact on the health of the population. A reading of the seven chapters of the monograph impresses with the great depth reached in different areas of clinical, social and preventive medicine, so it could be argued that interdisciplinarity is a key feature of the monograph.

Dr. Panteleeva reflects the classical understandings of the subject, the latest from the scientific literature recently (214 bibliographic references are cited in the list of sources used, of which 130 sources are in Latin), having included information and contributions from her own studies (an important place in which surveys on disasters and their effects on the population - a survey on earthquakes and survival preparedness, and a survey of pharmacists on accidents and terrorism). The monograph offers, in addition to a theoretical overview of key concepts and situations in the medicine of disaster situations, also synthesized and summarized recommendations of various authors for correct actions in various risk situations.

Applied relevance has penetrated the essence of most of the chapters, and what is presented in them can be used as a reliable manual for behavior in the occurrence of various types of disasters. I highly appreciate the practical orientation of the monograph. I believe that it has a significant contribution to the validation of good medical practice in the field of Disaster Medicine.

### 4.2. Basic characteristics of disaster situations and recommended actions for survival. Terms, classifications.

This is the main direction in which Dr. Panteleeva directs her research. The problems of the medicine of disaster situations, with their characteristics, terms and classifications, are the subject of research in the publications with the numbers:  $\Gamma$ 7-2,  $\Gamma$ 7-4,  $\Gamma$ 8-7 and the monograph "Characteristics of basic disasters and recommendations for proper behavior". Important issues are considered, such as modern methods of protecting the population in the event of a disaster, classifications of disaster situations, information is provided not only about natural disasters, but also about those that occurred as a result of human activity.

### 4.3. Management and organization of the protection of the population in disaster situations

A large part of Dr. Panteleeva's studies are devoted to the problems of the organization of the protection of the population from various disasters and accidents. This topic is widely covered, as Dr. Panteleeva is an established researcher in the field of disaster medicine, having extensive professional and practical experience in this field. The articles devoted to these aspects are: D8-1, D8-3, D8-9 and D8-18. Contemporary aspects of Civil Protection in Bulgaria are examined through a thorough study of the management and organization of its activity. The organization of medical assistance in crisis situations is described, including and medical triage. The organization of the emergency rescue system in the Federal Republic of Germany is compared with that in our country. To strengthen disaster prevention and preparedness, various approaches have been proposed to reduce the effect of disaster situations.

## 4.4. Chemical accidents and their consequences, health and psychological aspects. Environmental problems

Another important part of the candidate's research topics are the studies aimed at identifying the characteristic features of various accidents (especially in the danger of chemical accidents), various environmental problems and some psychological aspects among the victims. These problems are explored and discussed in articles numbered: D8-2, D8-6, D8-8, D8-10, D8-12, D8-16 and D8-17. The main causes of modern severe chemical accidents are analyzed. Some bioagents are reviewed, showing the interactions of various pathogens with the environment. The emergence and eventual successful overcoming of a number of psychological problems occurring among disaster victims is discussed. The psychological support provided to victims after chemical accidents is researched and analyzed. Medical insurance for victims of chlorine intoxication is also among the researched topics. Anthropogenic air pollution is examined - current trends and directions for overcoming this global problem. Evidence is presented that the effect of harmful emissions in the air affects not only the health of the population, but also the material heritage - historical buildings, architectural monuments and others. There is also an effect on the environment, which poses a risk of future harm and impact on biological diversity.

#### 4.5. Nutrition and human health

Important health and social problems such as the way of eating and the health of the population are also the subject of research in Dr. Panteleeva's publications. These important indicators for public health are the focus of the articles numbered: D7-3, D7-5, D8-11 and D-20. Nutrition is considered as the basis for the development of osteoporosis, which is a global health problem. The questions surrounding the nutrition of pregnant women as determinants of the intrauterine development of the fetus and the health status of the offspring are studied. The role of vitamin K in human health is highlighted. The leading strategies in the field of food policy discussed at a number of international nutrition conferences are indicated, such as: improving the nutrition of risk population groups in a socially disadvantaged position, promotion of healthy eating, etc. It is emphasized that nutrition plays a major role in the formation of tumors of the mammary gland, gastrointestinal tract, liver, skin, endocrine organs, etc.

### 4.6. Surveys to assess awareness and preparedness of the population for disaster situations

To study important processes and conditions related to the readiness of the population to react in the event of the occurrence of various disaster situations, Dr. Panteleeva successfully uses various statistical techniques, especially survey methods. It conducts wide-ranging surveys among students, pharmacists and other population groups, with which it looks for addictions and illuminates the status of a number of important issues regarding prevention and preparedness for responding to crises. The conclusions she makes through the use of survey methods are presented in studies with the numbers: D7-5, D8-5, D8-13, D8-14 and D-19. Students with Bulgarian and English studies were surveyed about their knowledge of disaster situations, what prior information they have about dealing with them and from what sources, as well as their wishes to further expand their knowledge. The willingness of pharmacists to protect their own lives and the lives of their colleagues in case of chemical accidents was analyzed using a survey method. Another survey examines the readiness of pharmacists in the Varna Region to provide medical assistance to the affected population in the event of a major chemical accident or

disaster. An internal survey was conducted among students from the 1st and 2nd year of the MU and MK - Varna about their attitude towards the use of homeopathic remedies.

#### 4.7. The role of pharmacists in disaster situations

As a teacher of pharmacy students, Dr. Panteleeva is aware of the special role that the pharmaceutical industry plays in strengthening and protecting the general health of the population. Pharmacists are a key element in the general system of civil protection, as well as in the prevention and response of the population to crises and disasters. Scientific articles numbered  $\Gamma$ 8-13,  $\Gamma$ 8-14 and  $\Gamma$ 8-15 are devoted to the role of pharmacists in the process of managing disaster situations. Since overall analyzes show a relatively low level of readiness of pharmacists to actively participate in a major chemical disaster and provide medical assistance to the population affected by a chemical disaster, Dr. Panteleeva points out effective measures to improve the awareness and readiness of this important class group for increasing preparedness to respond to disaster situations.

#### 4.8. Experiments with experimental animals, epidemiological and other studies

An interesting part of the candidate's scientific studies are those with experimental animals. In principle, this type of research contributes significantly to the discovery of important aspects in medicine, biology, physiology, genetics and other sciences, because the studied models come very close to those of humans. This is especially valuable in cases where ethical considerations do not allow studying these processes in humans. Results from studies based on animal models were used in publications G7-1 and G8-4. Changes in precipitation and metabolism in 15 organs of experimental rats subjected to heavy physical exertion and treated with protein hydrolyzate and vitamin C were monitored. Bacterial pathogens in fecal samples were investigated: Salmonella, Shigella, Escherihia coli, Vibrio cholerae, typhoid and paratyphoid in a seven-year period.

#### 4.9.Basic original scientific contributions

In general, the theoretical-methodological and practical-applied contributions in the scientific works of Chief Assistant Dr. Maria Panteleeva can be systematized in the following main thematic areas:

#### Contributions of an original scientific nature

- 1. The possible environmental risks of industrial accidents in the Varna region have been studied;
  - 2. An analysis of environmental risks of seawater in the Varna Region was carried out;
- 3. The role of pharmacists for proper response, assistance and protection of the population in the area of the incident with chemical poisonous substances is defined;
- 4. An analysis of the role and tasks of pharmacists during disasters in Bulgaria was carried out according to the normative documents;
- 5. An analysis of the role and tasks of pharmacists during disasters in other countries according to normative and professional documents was carried out;
- 6. An analysis of the available medicines and consumables, suitable for providing first aid in the event of chemical incidents and chemical terrorism, was carried out in the pharmacy network in Bulgaria and in the pharmacy networks of neighboring countries;

- 7. A survey was conducted of the awareness and knowledge of assistant and master pharmacists in dealing with accidents with chemical substances in the Varna region;
- 8. Recommendations have been developed for increasing the importance and defining the role of pharmacists in industrial accidents and chemical terrorism to the Ministry of Health, medical universities, the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union and the pharmacy network.

#### Contributions of a practical-applied nature

- 1. An interactive map of pharmacies in the Varna region has been prepared;
- 2. Guidelines for necessary medicines and consumables for emergency measures in the pharmacy of victims in a mass accident with various chemical substances have been systematized;
- 3. A Protocol has been drawn up for the preliminary training of pharmacists for proper behavior and protection in the event of a mass incident involving chemical substances;
- 4. Leaflets with Algorithms for proper behavior and protection of pharmacists in the event of a mass incident with chemical substances have been developed;
- 5. A summary and systematization of the mandatory medications for urgent and emergency medical care in acute poisonings in the bag of the EMC doctor was carried out.

It can be seen that the scientific works presented for the current competition and the results of the research work of Dr. Panteleeva have a significant scientific contribution and a practical-applied character, being thematically separated in different scientific directions, which are mainly in the field of "Medicine of disaster situations".

In summary, it can be said that Dr. Maria Panteleeva's scientific research has made a significant contribution to science in Bulgaria. This is especially true for studies that focus on various issues in the field of Disaster Medicine. At the same time, the spectrum of its scientific output is wide enough. It includes screening studies, organizational methodological and thematic analyses, and direct applied research and analysis in the field of Disaster Medicine. The publications presented show the presence of broad knowledge and scientific interests in the field of this medical specialty, in which she is already an established research scientist.

#### V. TEACHING AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

Dr. Panteleeva's teaching activity began in 2011 as a part-time Assistant at the "Professor Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Medical University of Varna. After showing excellent professional qualities and winning a competition, her teaching career developed as an Assistant (from 2013) and subsequently as a Chief Assistant (2019) in the Department of Disaster Medicine and Marine Medicine at the Faculty of Public Health at MU – Varna.

Dr. Panteleeva is one of the most active members of the department. She conducts practical exercises, gives lectures, conducts seminars in Bulgarian and English. Teaches medical and dental students, health care professionals, midwives, medical beauticians, etc. She teaches "Medicine of disaster situations" - specialties Medicine, Medical cosmetologist; "Medicine of catastrophes" - bachelor's specialty; "Medical insurance in disaster situations" - specialty Midwife; Disaster Medicine - Medicine, Dental Medicine; Elective course "First Aid at Home and in the Office" - Medicine, Dental Medicine; freely chosen discipline (FCD) "Bioterrorism" - specialty Protection and control of public health; FCD "Emergency Medicine" Medical School - specialty Medicine; Elective course "Emergency Medicine" - Medicine; "Physician assistance" - Kinesitherapy specialty.

From the attached academic reference for the study load with ex. No. 112-325/10.07.2023, it is evident that with a standard of 360 hours, the total annual classroom employment of Dr. Panteleeva over the last five academic years is as follows:

- academic year 2017/2018 444 hours;
- academic year 2018/2019 532 hours;
- academic year 2019/2020 382 hours;
- academic year 2022/2021 470 hours;
- academic year 2021/2022 493 hours.

These data emphasize that Dr. Panteleeva has a much higher classroom workload, including lectures and exercises, although, according to her colleagues' assessments, she conducts with enthusiasm and competence.

I consider the above as a reliable foundation for quality further educational and teaching realization by occupying AP "Associate Professor".

Dr. Panteleeva also develops significant social activities. She is a member of:

- Bulgarian Medical Association;
- Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health;
- Bulgarian Nuclear Society (BNS).

From 2022, she was elected as the chairman of BNS - Varna branch and a member of the Board of BNS.

She is also a sought-after lecturer for various events and thematic courses in various fields of medicine. In 2016-2017, she was a lecturer at "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse in "Premedical Care" courses for students majoring in "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" and "Kinesitherapy". She gave lectures to a specialized audience (doctors from EMC - Varna, master pharmacists from the Regional Pharmaceutical College - Varna, etc.)

Her successful presentation as a teacher and lecturer is helped by the fact that Dr. Panteleeva possesses the necessary computer literacy for scientific and teaching activities, using various specialized statistical, visualizing and word processing computer programs.

#### VI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CRITICAL NOTES

From the competition documents presented to me, I was convinced that the presented monograph and scientific articles were the result of the candidate's independent, purposeful and in-depth research activity. During the careful reading of all the materials on the procedure, I did not find any signs of plagiarism or incorrect citation of foreign sources. I believe that the visibility and recognition of Dr. Panteleeva's scientific publications is available. The candidate has in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the specialty Medicine of disaster situations.

But there is no doubt that the interesting and significant results of her scientific research and future publication activity would increase after her election as an "Associate Professor", especially in the field of Disaster Medicine, expanding the circle of scientific journals to which she can direct her articles. Given the excellent command of the English language, I recommend the candidate to publish her research primarily in English and especially in foreign scientific journals. This will to a much greater extent contribute to the easier expansion of the audience of readers and will more quickly increase the impact factor of its scientific production.

I have no substantive critical remarks about the competition procedure, the candidate's qualities and the submitted publications.

#### VII. **CONCLUSION**

Chief Assistant Dr. Panteleeva is a researcher and teacher with high authority and undoubted personal qualities. Her scientific works generally contain scientific-applied, scientifictheoretical and scientific-educational contributions to the development of Disaster Medicine. In this regard, as well as based on my personal impressions of Dr. Panteleeva, I have a "positive" opinion on the competition and the qualities of the candidate. I believe that she is a well-rounded specialist, researcher and teacher, and possesses the professional qualities and academic potential to occupy the position of Associate Professor.

This allows me to confidently recommend and propose to the members of the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the Academic Position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1. Medicine; in the scientific specialty "Medicine of disaster situations" of Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva-Popova, MD, PhD.

02.10.2022.

Varna

REVIEWER: Prof. Nikola Shopov, MD, Ph.D.