

## **REVIEW**

**by Assoc. Prof. Natalya Usheva, MD, PhD**

**Head of the Department of Social Medicine and Healthcare Organisation**

**Faculty of Public Health**

**Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna**

**Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Order No. P-109-372/21.08.2023 of the Rector of  
Medical University of Varna**

**Re:** Competition for acquiring an academic position "**Associate Professor**" in the area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health; specialty "Public Health Management" for the needs of the Department of "Social Medicine and Healthcare Organisation" at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University "Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov" - Varna, promulgated in State Gazette 54/23.06.2023.

According to Order No P-109-372/21.08.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna I was appointed as an internal member of the Scientific Jury and with the decision of its first meeting (Protokol 1) I was designated to prepare a Statement.

In the present competition there is only one candidate, Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva, MD, PhD. The applicant has submitted all necessary documents for participation in the competition as required by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its application.

### **Career profile of the applicant**

Maria Panteleyeva was born in Varna, where she completed her secondary education at the First Language High School - Varna (1980).

Dr. Maria Panteleyeva obtained her Master's degree with a "Very good" grade in Medicine at the Varna University Medical Institute in 1986.

Dr. Panteleyeva started her professional career in the Department of Hygiene of Childhood and Adolescence of the Hygiene and Epidemiological Inspection in Shumen (1987-1993). After a period of time she returned to work in the structures of the RHI, but already in Varna, passing through the positions of resident, expert, chief expert and chief inspector.

Dr. Maria Panteleyeva started her teaching activity first as a teaching assistant (2011-2013), and after successfully passing the competition for the academic position "assistant professor" in 2013 she was appointed as a full assistant professor. In 2019 she passed a competition and holds the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor" at the Department of Disaster Medicine and Marine Medicine of MU-Varna.

The dissertation thesis on "Possible environmental risks in Varna region and the role of pharmacists in industrial accidents and chemical terrorism", Assoc. Dr. Panteleyeva successfully defended at the Faculty of Public Health of Medical University - Varna in 2018 and obtained the PhD degree in Disaster Medicine.

In 2020 she will acquire the specialty "Disaster Medicine" at Medical University Varna. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health, the Bulgarian Medical Homeopathic Organization, a member of the Board of the Bulgarian Nuclear Society and the President of the Bulgarian Nuclear Society - Varna.

### **Scientific activity of the candidate**

Dr. Maria Panteleyeva submitted for the competition a scientific production that meets the minimum requirements for the scientific activity of the candidates for the academic position "Associate Professor" of MU - Varna and includes the following 31 scientific papers:

- PhD thesis - "Possible environmental risks in Varna region and the role of pharmacists in industrial accidents and chemical terrorism", 2018.

- Monograph - "Characteristics of major disasters and recommendations for proper behaviour. Natural disasters", ISBN:978-616-221-424-1 from 2023 as a habilitation thesis;

- 29 full-text scientific publications in periodical scientific journals in Bulgaria, 5 of which in refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information journals and 24 - in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals. Four of the articles published in non-refereed journals were included in the procedure for obtaining the PhD.

Dr. Panteleyeva has made a significant contribution to the scientific papers submitted for the competition, in nearly 45% of which she is an independent or lead author.

Dr. Panteleyeva's scientific developments are in several areas, with the main part corresponding to the scientific specialty of the given competition - emergency medicine:

- Introducing the basic terms used in disaster medicine and other related disciplines. Classifications. Basic characteristics of disaster situations and recommended survival actions.

- Surveys assessing awareness and preparation of students, master pharmacists and the general population for disaster situations.

- Management and organization of population protection in disaster situations.

- Chemical accidents and consequences for Varna region, health and psychological aspects. Environmental problems.

- The role of pharmacists in disaster situations.

- Nutrition and human health.

- Experiments with animals, epidemiological and other studies.

I accept Dr Panteleyeva's scientific contributions as indicated in the relevant reference. The dissertation thesis and the monograph on the possible environmental risks in Varna region and the recommendations for proper behaviour in natural disasters occupy a leading place. Natural and anthropogenic disasters are the focus of Dr Panteleyeva's research, revealing the untapped potential of pharmacists in them. A study was made of the available drugs in the pharmacy network in Bulgaria, suitable for chemical accidents and incidents. Following a survey of working MSc pharmacists, a deficit in pharmacists' knowledge of disasters, accidents and incidents has been identified, which is the rationale for Dr Panteleyeva's recommendation for the study of the discipline of MBC in the MSc First Aid courses postgraduate curriculum for pharmacists. Another important contribution is the development of the "Algorithm for the correct actions of pharmacists in a mass poisonous chemical incident" and "Guidelines with drugs and supplies". In the monographic work, Dr. Panteleyeva further develops the topic of natural disasters and builds on it with a situational characterization of the strategic sites and disaster preparedness of the Varna region and suggestions for proper behavior are made. Attention is also paid to the provision of psychological assistance, the identification of key moments after disasters and vulnerable populations.

In her work, Dr. Panteleeva explores in depth the contemporary aspects of Civil Protection in Bulgaria through an in-depth study of the management and organization of its activities; selected major industrial and transport accidents at sea and on land that have occurred in the last 60 years are described, discussing the causes and measures taken to eliminate the consequences. An important scientific and applied contribution of the candidate are the developments aimed at: diet, frequency of consumption of certain food groups, application of alternative dietary patterns in pregnant women; analysis of studies conducted on bacterial intestinal pathogens in the microbiological laboratory of the Regional Health Institute for a seven-year period; study of micro-organisms prevalent in coastal marine environments identified as causative agents of human disease; Malaria survey in Varna region and measures in localities for the period 2015-2019.

The interest in the problems of disadvantaged groups is also demonstrated in the publication on the study of eating behaviour and malignancies in people with disabilities, revealing insufficiently varied diets such as consumption of fish, fresh fruit and vegetables.

### **Educational and teaching activity of the candidate**

Dr Panteleeva has over 10 years of teaching experience at the Department of Disaster Medicine, with an average annual teaching load of between 380 and 530 hours over the last 6 academic years. Asst. Dr. Panteleeva teaches seminars to students of the specialties "Medicine", "Midwifery", "Health Care Management" in the disciplines "Disaster Medicine", "Medical Care", etc.

**Compliance with the requirements of MU - Varna for obtaining the academic position "Associate Professor"**

The candidate has acquired the academic degree "Doctor" in the area of the present competition.

The applicant is a distinguished specialist with proven achievements in the practice. She meets the requirement of the art.125, par.1, p.3 of the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna and has acquired medical specialty.

The presented information reveals that Dr. Panteleeva covers and for some indicators exceeds the minimal requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" (Table 1).

**Table 1. Compliance with the requirements of the MU - Varna for obtaining the academic position "Associate Professor"**


<b>Group of indicators</b>	<b>Required number of points</b>	<b>Number of point based on presented evidence</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>275.33</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>155</b>

**Conclusion**

The candidate for participation in the present competition meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedure for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Holding of Academic Positions at the Medical University of Varna for holding the academic position of Associate Professor.

On the basis of the candidate's overall professional development, scientific research and scientific-applied activity, teaching activity and practical experience, I express a positive opinion and propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to elect the head of the Scientific Jury as the holder of the post of Doc. Dr. Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva, PhD for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the specialty "Disaster Medicine" for the needs of the Department of Disaster Medicine at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Varna.

31. 10. 2023 r.  
Varna

Prepared by:   
Natalya Usheva, MD, PhD