

## **STATEMENT**

By: Prof. Krasimir Borisov Gigov, MD, PhD

General Director of the Red Cross - Bulgaria, professor with Medical University „ Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“ – Varna, Department of “Disaster medicine and Marine Medicine“, internal member of the Scientific jury, according to Order No № R-109-701/20.09.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna.

Subject: Contest for the occupation of the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education “7. Health and Sport ”, professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the specialty “Disaster Medicine”, promulgated in State Gazette issue 54/ 23.06.2023 for the needs of the department of “Disaster medicine and Marine Medicine“ at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”-Varna.

### **Brief information about the competition**

The competition procedures are all met, as it was announced in accordance with the Development of the Academic Staff Law in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University - Varna.

In the present competition there is only one candidate – Ch. Assistant Professor Maria Nikolaeva Panteleeva-Popova, MD, PhD, department of “Disaster medicine and Marine Medicine“ at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”-Varna. The candidate presented all necessary documents as required by the Development of the Academic Staff Law in the Republic of Bulgaria, The Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University - Varna and they meet the criteria laid down in it for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

### **Brief data on the candidate's career development**

Dr. Panteleeva was born on September 20, 1961 in the city of Varna. She graduated from First Language School - Varna with English language in 1980. She graduated as a medical doctor in 1986 at the Higher Medical Institute - Varna. From 1987 to 1993, she worked as a resident in HEI - Shumen; since 2004 she has been working as a resident in the Organizational-Information Department at HEI – Varna. From 2005 to September 2013, she was successively Senior Expert, Chief Expert, Chief Inspector in the Directorate "APFSO" of RIOKOZ / RZI - Varna. From September 2011, she was a part-time assistant in the Department of Hygiene, Disaster Medicine and Epidemiology. In September 2013 she was appointed as a full-time assistant after a contest. In September 2018 following a successful defence of a doctoral thesis: "Possible environmental risks in the Varna region and the role of pharmacists in industrial accidents and chemical terrorism" at the Medical University - Varna Dr. Panteleeva was awarded with a PhD in the specialty "Disaster medicine". In 2019 r. after a contest she was appointed as a chief assistant in the Department of Disaster Medicine and Marine Medicine, where she is still working.

Since 2020, she has a diploma in Medicine of disaster situations (catastrophes) specialty.

Dr. Panteleeva has excellent foreign language knowledge, she is proficient and fluent in English and Russian in her professional activities, and at a lower level she uses Spanish, French and German.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association (BMA); Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health (BSSPH); Bulgarian Medical Homeopathic Organization (BMHO); Bulgarian Nuclear Society (BgNS). From April 2022, she was elected as the chairman of BgNS - Varna branch and a member of the Board of BgNS.

### **Additional Qualifications of the applicant**

Dr. Panteleeva took part in training seminars and lecture courses (according to the curriculum of the Doctoral School – Medical University - Varna in 2015-2018):

1. A cycle of 3 seminars "Statistical methods for data processing and analysis", Medical University - Varna, Doctoral School, E. Mutafova 28. - 29.10.2015.
2. "The successful presentation", Medical University - Varna, Doctoral School, M. Georgieva
3. A cycle of 5 seminars - "Working with SPSS", Medical University - Varna, Doctoral School, I. Mircheva, 4-12.11.2015
4. "Ethical norms when developing a dissertation", Medical University - Varna, Doctoral School, B. Galunska, 29.03.2017.

She participated in the international seminars on counter-terrorism in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, organized by Medical University - Varna, University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna in cooperation with the University Hospitals in Jerusalem and Haifa and the Embassy of Israel in Bulgaria.

Dr. Panteleeva also participated in other trainings:

1. Training on working with the StrikePlagiarism platform, held on June 27, 2023.
2. "Training of Instructors" course of the Maritime Administration - 2022.
3. "Assessment, testing and certification of seafarers" course of the Maritime Administration - 2022.

### **Scientific indicators**

The scientific indicators of Dr. Panteleeva are in accordance with the requirements of the Development of the Academic Staff Law in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University - Varna. A total of 31 scientific works are presented in the Academic Reference. Of them, 23 works participate as evidentiary material for fulfilling the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", according to the Development of the Academic Staff Law in the Republic of Bulgaria, 2010, amended 2022. Two more publications are also presented, outside of the evidentiary material for fulfilling the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

The scientific works of Dr. Maria Panteleeva, used in this reference, include:

- Dissertation thesis for the award of the educational and scientific degree "PhD" - 1 issue
- Habilitation work - monograph - 1 issue
- Disaster Medicine study guide (co-author; not attached to the Academic Reference) – 1 issue
- Scientific publications in periodical scientific journals – 29, among them
  - scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Web of Science and Scopus) – 5 issues;
  - in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes: 24 issues (4 of them are presented for acquisition of a PhD).
- Participation in 29 national and international scientific events, with 59 reports and 17 posters (total of 76 participations).

All publications are correctly described and attached in full to the competition materials. A total of 5 works – the dissertation work and 4 publications are related to the procedure for awarding the PhD.

From the presented scientific works for participation in the competition, the candidate is the first author of 13 publications, and in 16 she is the second or third, which shows independence both in



the setting of the scientific issues and in the presentation of the obtained scientific results and their final publication.

### **Scientific-research and scientific-applied activity**

The scientific publications of the applicant can be structured thematically in the following directions:

- Presentation of the main terms used in disaster medicine and other related disciplines. Classifications. Basic characteristics of disaster situations and recommended actions for survival. Survey studies.
- Management and organization of the protection of the population in disasters.
- 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 experimental animals and epidemiological studies.

In 2023, the candidate published a monograph "Characteristics of some major disasters and recommendations for correct behavior. Natural disasters," with a volume of 214 pages. Against the background of frequent disasters worldwide, the monograph examines the most common of them, their origin and gives suggestions for the correct behavior of the population in order to reduce the risk of injuries.

A general geographical profile of the Varna region with territorial distribution of the population, built-up area, relief, water bodies, climate, precipitation, industry, road infrastructure, railway lines and stations, airport, ports is presented. Disasters characteristic of the region are discussed. Attention is paid to the strategic sites in the area in relation to possible disaster situations of a natural and anthropogenic nature.

The candidate's scientific contributions are of a theoretical and practical - applied nature, presenting original and confirming existing scientific knowledge. The specified contributions are correctly defined and well differentiated in thematic directions. The applied scientific works reasonably support the relevant directions. The wide range of topics and the relevance of the issues discussed in the publications are visible.

According to the official Academic Reference, submitted by the candidate, scientific works of Dr. Panteleeva have been cited in 12 publications by Bulgarian and foreign authors.

### **Educational and teaching activities**

Dr. Panteleeva has almost ten years of teaching experience as a full-time assistant and Ch. assistant professor at MU-Varna. For two consecutive years before that, she taught in Bulgarian and English as a part-time lecturer in Disaster Medicine.

Since 2013, she has been conducting lectures and practical seminars on the academic disciplines "Disaster medicine" in Bulgarian and English language, „Medicine of catastrophes“, „Medical provision in disasters“, „First Aid“, „First aid at home and at the office“, „Emergency Medicine“ и „Bioterrorism“.

She teaches students of Medicine, Dentistry, Health Care Management (Bachelors), Health Management, Midwives, Medical Cosmetologist, Physiotherapist, teaching, in addition to Bulgarian-

speaking students, also future doctors and dentists from the foreign language study program at MU-Varna.

From the submitted report on the applicant's study load, it can be seen that in the specified five years, she had consecutively 444, 532, 382, 470 and 493 hours per year, which makes an average of 464.2 hours per year at the 360 hour norm (extremely high study workload).

Dr. Panteleeva participated as a co-author in the creation of a Bilingual Terminological Dictionary (2019) - a study aid for students.

Mobility and teaching activity in other universities and organizations:

1. September 2016 - Ruse University - specialty "Preschool and primary school pedagogy", correspondence course, 2nd year, group 14, 37 people, 16 hours of lectures, discipline "Disaster protection and first aid", exam held - October 2016
2. April 2017 - University of Ruse - specialty "Kinesitherapy", part-time study, first year, groups 52A, 52B, 53, total 44 people, 15 hours of lectures, discipline "Medical assistance", exam held - May 2017
3. 20/05/2017 - The Regional College of Pharmacy - Continuing education of master pharmacists - Varna, topic: "Emergency situations and correct behavior. Special individual/family packages with different focus"
4. 02/11/2017 - Centre of Emergency Medical Assistance - Varna - Lecture on the topic: "Potential risk of poisoning in mass incidents with chemical substances on Varna region territory".

## Conclusion

Based on the presented scientific works, the data on teaching and general education activities and the qualification as a specialist, I give a positive assessment to the candidate and believe that Dr. Maria Panteleeva, MD, not only fully meets, but also exceeds the requirements of Development of the Academic Staff Law in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the criteria of the Regulations of MU-Varna for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor". The scientific output is up-to-date, thorough and sufficient in volume. The thematic scope is wide. Interdisciplinary areas are discussed. The candidate has good organizational experience, as well as teaching and research experience.

The professional development, scientific performances and teaching activity, as well as the scientific contributions of the candidate give me the reason to propose to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to choose Ch. assistant prof. Maria Panteleeva, MD, for an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education "7. Health and Sport", professional field 7.1. Medicine, in the specialty "Disaster Medicine", for the needs of the department of "Disaster medicine and Marine Medicine" at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

  
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