

STATEMENT

by Associate Professor Teodora Nikolaeva Evtimova, PhD

Health Care Department, Affiliate Shumen
Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna

Regarding: Procedure for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" in specialty "Health Care Management" in the professional field 7.4 Public Health, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport – for Health Care Department, Affiliate Veliko Tarnovo to Medical University – Varna, announced in the State Gazette, No. 07/23.01.2024.

I am included in the composition of the Scientific jury of the current competition according to Order No. R-109-114/22.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University – Varna. According to Protocol No. 1/01.04.2024 from the first meeting of the Scientific jury, I am appointed to prepare a statement on the procedure.

One candidate takes part in the competition – Chief Assistant Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD

Brief details of the candidate's career profile

Chief Assistant Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD, graduates from secondary-special medical education, specialty "Midwife" at Health Care Cadre Institute "Dr. Nencho Nikolaev" in Varna in 1983 and receives medical education in Semi-graduate Medical Institute "Dr. Varban Genchev" in Veliko Tarnovo in 1995. She obtains bachelor's degree in "Health Care" specialty from Higher Medical Institute – Pleven (2000) and little bit later master's degree in "Health Care Management" at the Medical University of Pleven (2007).

On 2020 she defences a desertion work on the topic "Continuing Education of Midwife – Innovative Educational Approaches" on Health Care Department, Public Health Faculty, Medical University – Varna and acquires educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management". Ch. Assistant Zhana Pavlovska has a specialization in Public Health Care (2023).

The professional realization of Ch. Assistant Zhana Pavlovska starts in 1983 as a midwife in a branch polyclinic – Resen village, Veliko Tarnovo region, and in the period 1987 – 2015 she is a midwife in the Neonatology and senior midwife of the Gynecology Department and Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of MHAT "Dr. St. Cherkeзов", Veliko Tarnovo. In the period 2002 – 2005, he is a part-time teacher at the Medical College – Veliko Tarnovo.

Her academic development begins in 2015 as an assistant and course leader, specialty "Midwifery", Health Care Department at the Veliko Tarnovo's Affiliation, and from 2021 she is appointed as the chief assistant.

Continuously improves her qualifications, participating in various forms of continuing education.

Coordinator of National Programs (for primary prevention of cervical cancer 2012 – 2016 and 2021 – 2024; for prevention and control of HIV and sexually transmitted infections in the Republic of Bulgaria 2021 – 2025; for prevention and control of viral hepatitis 2021 – 2030).

Member of the Regional Health Care Commission for the compilation of the Regional Health Card – 2016, 2018, 2023.

Member and chairman of the Regional Board – Veliko Tarnovo of the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals (BAHCP). She holds first, second and third professional qualification certificates of the association.

Uses English at B1 level.

Evaluation of scientific-research work

For participation in the procedure, Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska has presented scientific production, distributed according to scientometric requirements as follows:

- Dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (Indicator A1) – 1;
- Habilitation work – monograph (Indicator B3) – 1;
- Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Indicator G7) – 2;
- Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes (Indicator G8) – 5;
- Published chapter of a collective monograph (Indicator G9) – 1;
- Full-text publications in scientific publications and anthologies, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for holding the academic position “Associate Professor” – 16;
- List of citations covering the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" (Indicator D 10-12) – 7.

The candidate has active scholarly profiles in Google Scholar, ResearchGate ORCID, ResearcherID and eLibrary.

The presented scientific production meets the minimum scientometric requirements for this competition.

Characteristics of the candidate's scientific activity

Evaluation of the monographic work

The monographic work “The Profession of Midwife in Bulgaria – Historical Development, Education and Realization” has the following contributions of cognitive importance:

- Examines in retrospect midwifery care and midwifery practices in the Bulgarian lands from ancient times, during the Middle Ages, the Ottoman rule and the Renaissance. The regulation and organization of the profession after the Liberation (1878) is presented; the process of its validation before and after the deployment and expansion of the network of maternity homes. Socio-economic and demographic changes after 1989 that lead to an outflow from the profession are examined.
- The activities that midwives perform according to their competence during the different periods have been studied – in the Health Counseling Stations, through patronage care, to the modern ambulatory-polyclinic obstetric-gynecological and hospital care. A generalized professional image of the midwife is presented, characterized by marked independence,

determination and expediency, built thanks to the high demands on this profession in our country.

- Biographies of the first certified midwives who worked in post-liberation Bulgaria (21 in number) are presented. Some of them also appear as talented publicists, bearers of new ideas, contributing to the modernization of society. Midwives – donors or worked for noble causes are represented; as well as midwives, participated in various periods of the revolutionary struggles as couriers, executioners or direct participants.

- The development of midwifery education in Bulgaria, its placement on a scientific basis, the chronology of midwifery training from the establishment of the first Midwifery School at the Alexandrovska Hospital, passing through various political influences and periods of restructuring to the acquisition of the educational qualification “Bachelor” at the current stage is examined in detail. All training institutions for midwives are presented, as well as the opportunities to upgrade the education.

- The professional organizations of midwives, the first independent organization “Midwife”, the subsequent mergers in progressive unions up to the modern organizations – BAHCP and Alliance of Bulgarian midwives (ABM) are presented. The activity of the midwifery section, the requests made to improve maternity care and health care, the active protection of professional and material interests are reviewed.

- The problems and difficulties that midwives and managers have when implementing continuing education activities have been identified, through their own empirical research. A statistically significant difference is found – managers are more motivated to train and acquire new competencies, regardless of their age and length of professional experience.

- The initial period of professional realization of the nurses and midwives who graduated from the first class of the Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate of the Medical University of Varna and the choice of workplace made by most of them, already during the training, is analysed. The period of adaptation is investigated, which is found to be directly dependent on good theoretical and practical training, the support of senior midwives, midwives mentors and doctors.

The monographic work contains 216 pages and includes: preface, 3 chapters, conclusion, afterword, sources, used literature and 2 annexes. The text is illustrated with 22 photographs, 18 figures and 11 tables. The bibliographic list includes 208 literary sources, of which 181 in Cyrillic, 9 in Latin and 18 Internet addresses.

Evaluation of scientific publications

The presented 26 full-text publications (2 of which are in print in the journal “Nursing Affairs” for 2024) are printed in journals and collections with a professional health focus, grouped in the following main directions:

- Continuing education of midwives in Bulgaria – comparative characteristics, regulation, organization, problems, innovative educational approaches to assessment (A1.; G8.2.; G8.3.)

- History of the midwifery profession and midwifery education in Bulgaria, professional realization of the midwife (B3.; G7.1.; G7.2.; G8.1.; 1.; 2.; 3.; 13.; 14.)

- Stress during the training of students from the specialties “Midwife” and “Nurse” (5.; 6.; 7.; 8.)

- Healthy nutrition during pregnancy and lactation (G9.; 15.; 16.)

- Health care for the elderly (G8.4; 9.)

- Varia (G8.5.; 11.; 10.; 12.; 4.)

From the presented scientific works, Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska, is the independent author of 11 out of a total of 26 publications (42%), first author of 8 publications (31%), second author of 6 publications (23%) and third and subsequent author of only 1 publication (4%). This proves the high personal contribution in the scientific works of Ch. Assist. Pavlovska and her affiliation to authors' collectives.

The scientific publications of Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska are of a theoretical and practical-applied nature.

Study-teaching activity

It is clear from the submitted documents that Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska has over 40 years of work experience, of which 8 years of teaching experience at the Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate. Leads lectures, exercises, clinical practice and pre-graduate internship for the students of the "Midwifery" specialty.

She participates in the teaching of basic profiling study disciplines: "Philosophy and introduction to nursing and midwifery care. Theoretical foundations" and the disciplines from the section "Practical foundations of nursing and midwifery care for pregnant, parturient and gynecologically ill women".

The average annual study academic employment in the last 5 years of Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska is 715 lessons, which significantly exceeds the norm for her academic position of chief assistant.

The participation of Ch. Assist. Zhana Pavlovska in various forms of continuing education related to the history of medicine and midwifery in particular, courses for pedagogical competence, distance courses are an expression of her desire for continuous professional and pedagogical development.

The great practical experience in the field of midwifery care, participation in scientific events and national programs, make Chief Assistant Pavlovska respected and erudite teacher with an empathetic attitude towards her students.

Conclusion

Based on the fulfillment of the minimum scientometric requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Varna, the presented scientific publications, teaching and professional experience give me the basis for my positive vote and I am convinced to offer the respected Scientific jury – Ch. Assist. Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health, in the specialty "Health Care Management", for the needs of the Health Care Department, Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate of Medical University – Varna.

30.05.2024г.

Member of the Scientific jury:
/Associate Professor T. Evtimova, PhD/

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
§1, б. „В“ от Регламент (ЕС)
2016/679