

## STATEMENT

by Associate Professor Valya Ivanova Dimitrova, PhD

Department of Nursing Care

Faculty of Public Health

Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna

**Regarding:** procedure for occupying an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.4 Public Health, specialty "Health Care Management" – one for the needs of the "Health Care" Department, Affiliate Veliko Tarnovo, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, according to a competition announced in the State Gazette, No. 07/23.01.2024, with candidate *Chief Assistant Professor Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD*

According to Order P-109-114/22.03.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury and according to Protocol No. 1/01.04.2024 I present a statement.

### **Biographical data and career profile of the candidate**

Chief Assistant Professor Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD, graduated from secondary-special medical education, specialty "Midwife" at Helath Care Cadre Institute "Dr. Nencho Nikolaev" in Varna in 1983 and Semi-graduate Medical Institute "Dr. Varban Genchev" in Veliko Tarnovo in 1995. In 2000 she graduated in Higher Medical Institute – Pleven with a bachelor's degree in "Health Care", and in 2007 she obtained a master's degree in "Health Care Management" at the Medical University of Pleven. After an self-study educational program in the period 2018 – 2020 and a successful defense, she obtained an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" with a dissertation on the topic "Continuing Education of Midwife – Innovative Educational Approaches". In 2023, she acquired a "Public Health" specialty. The applicant submits data on participation in 54 courses to improve qualifications. The professional career of Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska begins immediately after completing basic education at the Branch Polyclinic in the village of Resen, Veliko Tarnovo region, Neonatology and Gynecology Department of MHAT "Dr. St. Cherkezov", Veliko Tarnovo. From 2011 to 2015, she was a senior midwife of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department (OGD) in the same medical institution.

Her teaching activity Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska started in the period 2002 – 2005 as a part-time teacher at Medical College – Veliko Tarnovo, and from 2015 until now she is a teacher of midwives at Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate of MU – Varna. The academic career of Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska started in 2015 as an "Assistant", specialty "Midwife" at the Department of "Health Care" and course leader at the Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate of the Medical University of Varna. From 2021 to the present, after successfully passing the competition, she holds the position of "Ch. Assistant". It is clear from the presented biography that Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska is a member of Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals (BAHCP), and since 2003 she is the

Chairman of the Regional Board of BAHCP – Veliko Tarnovo and she is a Coordinator in the Regional Coordination Council for: National Program for Primary Prevention of Cervical Cancer (2012 – 2016, 2021 – 2024), National Program for the Prevention and Control of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Republic of Bulgaria (2021 – 2025), and National Program for the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis (2021 – 2030). Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska is the winner of the prestigious award, the Lesseskepra statuette for 2014 – first place at the national level in the category “Health Care Manager”. The candidate Ch. Assistant Pavlovska is fluent in English – level B1 and Russian – written and spoken.

### **General description of the submitted materials in the competition**

The submitted documents for the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the specialty “Health Care Management” in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.4 Public Health, have been precisely selected and arranged and meet the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University – Varna.

### **Evaluation of the candidate’s scientific works and overall academic development**

Ch. Assistant Professor Zhana Pavlovska has presented an academic reference issued by the library of the Medical University – Varna, including publications, citations and supported scientific profiles. Their distribution in scientific-metric aspect is as follows:

*Publications and citations meeting the minimum national requirements:*

- A 1. Dissertation work for obtaining the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” - 1 item, 50 points.
- B 3. Habilitation work (monograph) – 1 item, 100 points.
- G 7. Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 2 items, 120 points.
- G 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 5 items, 67.5 points.
- G 9. Published chapter of a collective monograph – 1 item, 20 points.
- Full-text publications in scientific publications and proceedings, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for the appointment of academic position “Associate Professor” – 16 items.

### **Distribution of scientific works by authorship**

Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska is an independent author in 11 of the mentioned publications, which constitutes 42% of the candidate’s publication activity, and in eight of them she is the first author (31%). As the second, third and subsequent author Ch. Assistant Pavlovska is presented in 7 publications (27%).

### **Areas of scientific-research activity and contributions of scientific works**

The presented research activity of the candidate is mainly focused on the field of the competition. The main scientific contributions and research interests of Ch. Assistant Pavlovska are focused in the following areas:

- continuing education of midwives in Bulgaria – comparative characteristics, regulation, organization, problems, innovative educational approaches for assessment;
- history of the midwifery profession and midwifery education in Bulgaria, professional realization of the midwife;
- stress during the training of students from the specialties “Midwife” and “Nurse”;
- healthy nutrition during pregnancy and lactation;
- health care for the elderly.

In the publication activity of the candidate, the in-depth analysis of the current normative documents in Bulgaria and Europe, regulating the continuing education of midwives and the safety of midwifery practices, stands out. An Algorithm for effective continuing education, Model for assessment of continuing education and relevant toolkit – Card for assessment of midwife’s professional development and Professional Portfolio are developed. A comprehensive conceptual model for unified accreditation of continuing education is proposed, which includes an accreditation body, establishment procedure and accreditation standards.

Another direction in which the candidate’s research interests are focused is the historical development of midwifery care and midwifery practices in the Bulgarian lands from ancient times to the present day. The regulation and organization of the profession from the appearance of the first certified midwives, the deployment and expansion of the network of maternity homes and health facilities, which is a prerequisite for the rise of the midwifery profession, is presented. Socio-economic and demographic changes after 1989 that lead to an outflow from the profession are examined. Considering the rich professional path and experience of Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska, which in itself is a reflection of the rapid changes in the practice of the profession, I believe that the publications contribute to justifying the need to rethink the role and functions of midwives in the direction of greater autonomy and clear rules for its application.

The diversity of the other areas presented – stress in first-year students, healthy nutrition during pregnancy and the puerperium, health care for the elderly, sexual education, emergence and development of the pharmacy business in Veliko Tarnovo, etc. are further proof of the candidate’s diverse interests, her broad general and medical culture, and her desire for deepening and detailed study of a chosen problem.

### **Participation in scientific forums**

Ch. Assistant Professor Zhana Pavlovska consistently raises her qualifications as a professional and teacher by presenting evidence of participation in 35 forms of continuing education, of which 7 are international, 8 with international participation and 20 national. The applicant submits data on participation in 54 courses to improve qualifications.

### **Participation in scientific and educational projects**

Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska presents data on participation in four national projects as follows:

- Project BG05M90P001-2.012 “Continues support for deinstitutionalization for children and youth” under the operational program “Development of human resources” 2014 – 2020.
- Project BG05M2OP001-2.013-0001 “Student practices - phase 2” under the operational program “Science and education for smart growth” during the period 2020 – 2022.
- “Social inclusion” for those working in maternity departments and working directly with babies and young children with disabilities, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, 2014.
- Project “Closer to work” under operational program “Development of human resources” – mentor and trainer of midwives and orderlies 2013 – 2014.

### **Evaluation of the study-methodical and teaching activities**

From the presented official reference, issued by MU “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna, it is evident that Ch. Assistant Professor Zhana Pavlovska, Ph. D, p. h. has 40 years, 9 months and 13 days of work experience in the specialty and teaching experience – 8 years, 4 months and 8 days as of 09.02.2024. For the last 4 years, her teaching workload is an average of 715 lessons, exceeding the norm of 360 lessons. Ch. Assistant Pavlovska, Ph. D, p. h. participates in the training of students from “Midwife” specialty, conducting lectures and exercises on basic and profiling disciplines for the specialty – Philosophy and introduction to nursing and midwifery care, Theoretical foundations (lectures – 20 lessons, exercises – 45 lessons), Special care for women giving birth with normal and pathological childbirth (lectures – 16 lessons, exercises – 50 lessons), Special care for women with normal and pathological puerperium (lectures – 11 lessons, exercises – 30 lessons, Special care for pregnant and parturient patients in anesthesiology and intensive care (lectures – 15 lessons, exercises – 15 lessons), Special care for children in neonatology and pediatrics (lectures – 5 lessons, exercises – 30 lessons), Special care for pregnant, parturient and gynecological patients with infectious and venereal diseases (exercises – 5 lessons), Special care for pregnant women with normal and pathological pregnancy (lectures – 10 lessons, exercises 30 – lessons), Special care for pregnant women and women in labour with surgical diseases (lectures – 15 lessons, exercises – 15 lessons), Special care for pregnant, childbirth and gynecological patients with somatic diseases (exercises – 5 lessons), Special care for gynecological diseases (lectures – 5 lessons, exercises – 20 lessons), Obstetric and nursing care for women with oncological diseases (lectures – 3 lessons, exercises – 25 lessons), Study (clinical) practice and pre-diploma internship. She takes an active part in the development and updating of the study documentation concerning the disciplines, as well as in the preparation of teaching and didactic materials for them. Ch. Assistant Professor Pavlovska carries out methodical guidance of students from the Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate of the MU – Varna in participating in scientific forums, publications and organizing events.

### **Personal impressions of the candidate**

I have known Zhana Pavlovska since she joined the Veliko Tarnovo Affiliate team. She is a correct, responsible and competent university teacher who very quickly earned the respect and high appreciation of colleagues and students.

### **Conclusion**

The analysis of the provided materials and the scientific-research and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Professor Zhana Pavlovska, PhD indicates compliance with the required criteria for acquiring the academic position of “Associate Professor”, according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU – Varna. Bearing in mind the above, fully convinced, I give a positive statement and recommend the respected members of the scientific jury to vote positively for this, Ch. Assistant Professor Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD, to occupy an academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.4 Public Health, specialty “Health Care Management” for the needs of the “Health Care” Department, Affiliate Veliko Tarnovo, Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna

25.05.2024  
Varna

member of the scientific jury:  
/Assoc. Professor Valya Ivanova Dimitrova, PhD/

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