

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Prof. Silviya Borisova Dimitrova, PhD, DSc

Faculty of Public Health

Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“, Varna

**Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Order No. P-109-114 from March 22, 2024
of the Rector of Medical University – Varna**

Regarding: competition for acquiring an academic position „Associate Professor” of specialty Management Health Care, professional direction 7.4 Public Health, in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the Department of Health Care, Affiliate in Veliko Tarnovo, Medical University of Varna, published in the State Gazette, issue 07/January 23, 2024.

I. Resume of the candidate's career development

Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD graduated from the "Dr. Nencho Nikolaev" Institute for Health Personnel, Varna, majoring in "midwife" in 1983. She acquired a post-secondary medical education at the Medical College "Dr. Varban Genchev" in Veliko Tarnovo (1995), and then graduated from the bachelor's program at the Medical Institute Pleven, specialty "Health Care" (2000) and the master's program in "Health Care Management" at the Medical University - Pleven (2007).

After successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Continuing education of midwife – innovative educational approaches" and acquired the educational and scientific degree PhD in the specialty "Management Health Care" at the Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov“, Varna (2020). Currently has a completed specialization in "Public Health" (2023).

The professional realization and experience of Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska started in 1983 as a midwife in the Affiliated Polyclinic - village of Resen, region Veliko Tarnovo, and in the period 1987-2010 works in the neonatology and gynecology of Hospital "Dr. St. Cherkezov" in Veliko Tarnovo.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska has administrative and managerial experience gained in gynecology and obstetrics-gynecology (1995-2015). The academic development began in 2002 as a lecturer at the Medical College - Veliko Tarnovo, and from 2015 as an assistant in the Department of Health Care at the Affiliate of the Medical University - Varna in the city of Veliko Tarnovo. He has been working as a chief assistant in the same department since 2021 and until now.

II. General description of the submitted materials

The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents for the competition for acquiring an academic position „Associate Professor ” in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional direction 7.4 Public Health, of specialty Health Care Management, are in compliance with requirements for holding an academic position of „Associate Professor” according to the Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (DASRBA), the Rules for its implementation and the Rules and acquirement of scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” – Varna.

The documents submitted by the candidate include: CV; copies of diploma for the respective specialties and the doctoral degree; certificate of recognized specialty; monographic work; abstracts of scientific works for the competition; a list of publications and a copy of them; list and copy of the required number of citations; reference from the University Library of a Varna Medical University for the publications and citations meeting the minimum national requirements, full-text publications and citations, outside the minimum requirements for scientometric indicators and the additional requirements defined in these regulations (accompanied by evidence) and other documents certifying the indicators, according to the regulation for acquiring an academic position „Associate Professor” at the Varna Medical University.

I find no omissions in the submitted documentation.

III. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidates for the entire academic development

Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Georgieva Pavlovska, PhD participated in this competition, presented scientific papers proving the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for occupation of the academic position of „Associate Professor" distributed scientometric aspect as follows:

- dissertation for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" – 1 (A1);
- habilitation thesis – monograph – 1 (B3);
- publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information in subgroup G7 – 2;
- publications and papers published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes in subgroup G8 – 5;
- published chapter of a collective monograph in a subgroup G9 – 1;
- full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientific-metric requirements for the academic position of „Associate Professor" – 16;
- submitted publications for obtaining PhD in subgroup G8 - 4;

The scientific and applied contributions of Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD are focused in areas:

- Continuing education of midwives in Bulgaria - comparative characteristics, regulation, organization, problems, innovative educational approaches for evaluation (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 in the training of students of the speciality "Midwife" and "Nurse"(5.,6.,7.,8.)
- Healthy eating during pregnancy and lactation (G9., 15.,16.)
- Health care for the elderly (G8.4,9.)
- Varia (G8.5., 11.,10.,12.,4.)

In the presented reference original scientific contributions cover scientific issues, purposed for current and significant problems in the field of the announced competition.

A theoretical study of the regulation, organization, accreditation, funding and incentives for continuing midwifery education was conducted. An analysis was made of the legal documents in force in Bulgaria and Europe, regulating the continuing training of midwives and the safety of midwifery practice. An algorithm for effective continuing education, a model for evaluating continuing education and a toolkit including a midwife professional development assessment card and a professional portfolio have been developed. The leading motivations for the participation of midwives in continuing education and the attitudes of students for inclusion in the process regarding their professional growth are revealed.

The leading factors hindering the effective continuing education of midwives have been identified. The need to introduce uniform accreditation of continuing education has been identified.

The history of the midwifery profession and midwifery education in Bulgaria has been studied. The activities that the midwife performs, according to her competence during the different periods, as well as the professional realization have been studied. The professional organizations uniting health care professionals with the professional qualification "midwife" are represented.

An analysis of stress factors in the training of students of the specialties "Midwife" and "Nurse" is made. Research is presented on strategies for coping with stress during examination procedures.

Part of the research focuses on the coping behavior of students and the strategies they use to deal with stress, using the psychometric method of Edler and Parker. The results can be used to develop support and intervention programs aimed at improving students' coping skills.

The importance of essential nutrients during pregnancy has been studied. Basic aspects of the effects of vitamins and micronutrients necessary for proper functioning of the body during pregnancy are presented. The need for adequate energy intake for the process of lactogenesis and for meeting the energy needs of the newborn child through breast milk is emphasized.

Information on health care for the elderly is presented, identifying problems and needs of this population group. The main aspects in some of the publications are health problems and impaired autonomy, the needs of medical and social services, as well as the importance of complex and personalized care for the elderly.

Some of the presented publications have been published in refereed and indexed databases (Web of Science).

Academic reference from Medical University - Varna shows 7 citations, of which 3 in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 4 in non-refereed journals with scientific review.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD has participated in more than 30 conferences and scientific sessions on significant topics related to public health. 4 participations in national and regional projects have been presented.

IV. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodological and teaching activities

From the submitted documents it is evident that the Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD has over 8 years of scientific and teaching experience at Medical University - Varna. She participates in teaching the main disciplines - "Philosophy and introduction to nursing and midwife care. Theoretical Foundations" and "Practical Foundations of Nursing and Midwife care " to students of the specialty "Midwife". In the presented reference, the average classroom occupancy significantly exceeds the norm.

V. Conclusion

Based on the positive assessment and the analysis of the whole scientific and pedagogical work, along with the criteria of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in Bulgaria and the Rules of the Varna Medical University, Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD shows that complies with the scientometric requirements for acquiring an academic position „Associate Professor “. In the competition, the candidate presents the necessary number of scientific works, in which significant theoretical and applied contributions stand out. The research activity presents significant achievements in science and practice.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD has a well-formed research profile, theoretical and practical-applied contributions from his work, active work with students as a lecturer and supervisor of research activities. She is a member of prestigious Bulgarian and international scientific organizations, a thorough researcher and a respected lecturer. The candidate presents up-to-date, original scientific production of high quality, global significance, international recognition and significant potential for practical applicability.

After getting acquainted in detail with the documentation provided to me and making a comprehensive assessment of the research and teaching activities of the participant in the competition for the academic position of **„Associate Professor " in specialty „Management Health Care“**, I think that she fully meets all requirements.

All this gives me the reason to propose **Ch. Assist. Prof. Zhana Pavlovska, PhD** to take the academic position of „Associate Professor " in specialty „ Management Health Care“ in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional direction 7.4 Public Health, for the Department of Health Care, Affiliate in Veliko Tarnovo, Medical University of Varna

June 01, 2024

Varna

Statement written by::

/Prof. Silviya Borisova Dimitrova, PhD, DSc/

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

