

R E V I E W

from

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External member of the Scientific Jury according to Order No. R-109-438/05.12.2024 of the Vice Rector for "Academic Activities" of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna for Rector.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the specialty "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports for the needs of the Department of "Health Care", Affiliate Sliven

The documents of one candidate have been submitted for participation in the competition – Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva, PhD – Chief Assistant in the Department of Health Care, Sliven Affiliate of the Medical University – Varna.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Ch. Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva graduated from PMI - Sliven, with a degree in "Nurse - General Profile" in 1994. She obtained a bachelor's degree in "Healthcare Management" at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Medical University - Sofia in 1999, and in 2006 - a master's degree in the same specialty. She holds a certificate for a recognized specialty in "Public Health" since 2016. In 2019, she was awarded the ONS "Doctor" in the doctoral program in Healthcare Management at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Sliven branch for defending a dissertation on the topic: "Hemocontact viral infections - hepatitis B, C, AIDS - occupational risk and prevention among nurses."

She began her work experience in 1984 as a nurse in nursery school No. 13 in the city of Sliven. In the period 1998 - 2008 she was a lecturer at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora, MK - Sliven. From 2009 to 2013 she held the position of head nurse at the Central Clinical Hospital - Sliven.

Pepa Dzhezheva began her academic career in 2013 as an assistant professor in the Department of Health Care at the Medical University of Sliven at the Medical University of Varna. After a competition held in 2020, she is currently a senior assistant professor in the specialty "Health Care Management" in the same department. She has a recognized specialty in Public Health.

Ch. Asst. Dzhezheva is fluent in Russian and English. She has participated in various forms of continuing education and qualification courses. She is a participant in 4 national and international projects for student internships and support for students of Roma origin, as an academic tutor and mentor. She is a member of a number of scientific societies and organizations.

The educational and career development of Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva attests to a purposeful pursuit of academic development with a strong interest in the field of healthcare.

II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

The precisely submitted materials for the competition fully comply with the Regulations for holding academic positions at MU - Varna, the Regulations on the structure and activities of MU - Varna and the Law on the Administration of Academic Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The evidentiary material is detailed and contains the necessary references, certificates and other documents certifying the candidate's qualifications and professional development.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works, habilitation work and scientific activity for overall academic development

✓ General characteristics of scientific production and publication activity:

The articles submitted for participation in the competition were made in the period 2014 - 2024. Chef Assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva, PhD participated with a total of 12 full-text publications, one dissertation and one monograph. She is the sole author of 4 of them. She is a co-author of 8 publications, of which she is the **first** author in 5 publications, and as a **second** author - in 3 publications. There are 2 publications in a foreign language (English, Russian). Publications related to the dissertation are not subject to review.

The candidate presents an independent monograph on the topic: *"Problem-based learning - an activating educational technology in the training of nurses"*. It provides a general overview of the specifics and didactic organization of the educational process in higher medical school. The organizational forms and methods of training in the system of medical education are presented.

Scientometric indicators

Minimum required points by indicator groups for the academic position of associate professor

<i>Indicator group</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Associate Professor</i>	<i>Pepa Dzhezheva</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>Indicator 1: Dissertation for the award of the ONS "doctor"</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>Indicators 3 or 4: Habilitation thesis - monograph</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>Sum of indicators 5 to 9: Publication activity</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>220</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>Sum of indicators 10 to 12: Citations</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>55</i>

The scientific materials submitted for participation in the competition exceed the scientometric indicators and the minimum requirements of the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of the Medical University of Varna.

Participation in 13 national and 10 international scientific forums demonstrates the candidate's commitment and professional interests.

✓ *Scientific activity - dissemination and application of the candidate's scientific and practical achievements among the scientific community*

The studies presented by Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva show that she has focused her research work and scientific interests mainly on:

- participation of the nurse in carrying out promotional, preventive and medico-social activities;
- application in practice of new techniques and technologies in the field of health care;
- health education;
- ensuring quality and safety of health care;
- prophylaxis and prevention of nosocomial infections;
- formation of a culture of safety;
- application of innovative educational approaches in the preparation of nurses to identify real and potential problems of a somatic, mental and social nature.

Thematically, P. Dzhezheva's works are directed in several directions:

The first direction is dedicated to **the historical and pedagogical aspects of nursing education** (includes the monograph and publication G8.4),

The monograph "Problem-based learning - an activating educational technology in the training of nurses" is of particular theoretical and cognitive importance, in which the legal framework for the training of nurses, regulatory documents and strategic decisions according to modern academic standards for higher education in Bulgaria and the European Union are presented. The concept of "competence", the relationship between knowledge, skills and their practical application are defined. The main characteristics of the competency-based approach and its application in the educational process are examined. The professional competencies and main functions of the nurse are outlined. The various sectors in the healthcare system for professional career and realization and the opportunities for continuing education of graduate nurses are indicated.

The second direction is in the field of **innovative educational approaches in the training of nurses** (publications - B3, G7.2, G8.8). The results of this direction are of a theoretical, scientifically applied and practically applied nature. The need for innovative teaching and learning strategies and technologies that encourage critical thinking and improve critical reasoning skills is substantiated. The essence and psychology of problem-based learning and the methods that are used are analyzed as a factor for optimizing the effectiveness of the learning process and for forming clinical competencies in the training of nurses. The developed methodology for conducting a teaching-practical lesson through problem-based learning is distinguished by its practical and applied contribution.

The third direction includes contributions of a practical and applied nature related to **occupational safety** (publications A1, B3, G8.3, G8.6). The organizational, psychosocial and individual risk factors and prevention in relation to hemocontact infections - hepatitis B, C and AIDS have been studied. The level of professional competence of nurses and students in observing standard safety measures has been assessed (A1). The "Program for the Prevention of the Risk of Hemocontact Viral Infections" developed and tested in medical practice is of particular contribution.

The last direction concerns **health promotion, health education and contemporary aspects of health care** (publications A1, G7.1, G8.1, G8.2, G8.5, G8.6, G8.7). The main goals in the comprehensive education of patients have been identified, each of which covers a separate phase of health care - promotion and prevention of diseases; restoration of health and coping with impaired

functions. Particularly significant here are the contributions of a practical and applied nature aimed at individual needs, taking into account health literacy and active engagement of the patient. An organizational model for health education of the patient by the nurse is proposed, including the following activities:

- Analysis of patient needs
- Assessment and determination of patient needs
- Setting goals and priorities for training according to the individual characteristics of the patient and his family.
- Determining appropriate training methods, according to the physical, mental or emotional limitations of the patient;
- Applying training methods with the active involvement of the patient and his family in training activities;
- Evaluation of the achieved results of the teaching and training process;
- If necessary, correcting the knowledge obtained and providing additional information.

The candidate has an active scientific profile in Coogole Scholar, ResearchCate, ORCID, ResearcherID, eLibrary, which is an indicator of increasing visibility in the scientific community and strengthening the academic reputation.

The reference for similarity between the candidate's scientific works and internet sources guarantees the reliability and authenticity of the author's production.

✓ *Participation in project implementation*

Ch. Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva participated in the competition with 4 scientific projects:

1. Project "Student Internships" BG05PO001-3.3.007-0002, funded by the OP "Human Resources Development", co-financed by the European Social Fund, as an academic mentor for students of the specialty "Nursing"
2. Project BG05M20P001- 2.002.-0001 of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Practices" - phase 1, funded by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth" 2014-2020 - academic mentor
3. Program BG07 "Public Health Initiatives", Norwegian Financial Mechanism - Management and implementation of a small grant scheme within Output 4 - "Specific challenges for the health of the Roma population"
4. Project "Mentoring support for students of Roma origin studying health sciences" within the framework of the Active Citizens of Bulgaria Fund under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014-2021, as a mentor to students.

Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva actively works as an academic mentor to students, supporting their educational and practical activities. The projects in which she participates are also aimed at mentoring in the education of students of Roma origin.

✓ *Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in national and foreign literature (publication image).*

Evidence of the significance of the scientific works of Chef Assistant Dzhezheva is the reference for the citations of her publications - a total of 7. Of these:

- in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 4
- in non-refereed foreign journals with scientific review – 3

VI. Comprehensive, qualitative assessment of educational, methodological and teaching activities

The total teaching experience of Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva is 21 years, the last four of which were as a Chef Assistant. A reference for the teaching workload for the last five years is presented. Her teaching employment includes leading the LRT, teaching practice and pre-graduate internship of students in the specialty "Nursing", with a total average workload for the last five years being 651.4 hours, which significantly exceeds the requirements for the teaching workload of a non-habilitated teacher, proving a continuous striving to maintain a high level of teaching activity.

VII. Personal impressions

I personally know the candidate, Ch. Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva. She is a competent teacher, fully dedicated to her profession and the desire to convey maximum knowledge and experience to her students. I wish her success and recommend that she continue her scientific activity by publishing the results of her scientific research in journals with an impact factor, which will increase their scientific value.

VIII. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and scientometric indicators of MU – Varna

The volume and evidentiary material of the presented scientific production of Ch. Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva, PhD **fully meets** the mandatory conditions and mandatory scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" provided for in the Regulations of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

IX. Conclusion

After having reviewed in detail the documentation provided to me and made a comprehensive assessment of the professional qualifications, scientific research and scientific-practical, educational and teaching activities of the candidate, I believe that they are grounds **for my positive assessment** and I propose to the members of the Scientific Jury to **award Ch. Asst. Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva, PhD, the academic position of "Associate Professor"** in the specialty "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports for the needs of the Department of "Health Care", Sliven Branch.

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Sofia

Prepared the review:

/Prof. Galina Chaneva, MD/

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