

OPINION

From Associate Professor Kristina Petrova Zaharieva, Doctor of Pedagogy ,

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About: Competition for the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the specialty "Health Care Management", basic specialty "Nurse", professional field 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports for one full-time position at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna, Sliven Affiliate, Department of "Health Care", announced in the State Gazette, issue 85 of 08.10. 2024.

General presentation of the procedure

By order No. R-109-438/05.12.2024, of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, I am appointed as a member of the scientific jury in the procedure for occupying 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 at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Sliven Affiliate, Department of "Health Care".

The procedure for announcing the competition for the acquisition of the position of Associate Professor has been complied with. The only candidate in the competition is Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva, full-time lecturer in the Department of Health Care, Sliven Affiliate of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna. The materials provided by the candidate contain the necessary information for evaluation, which complies with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna. This statement has been developed in accordance with the requirements for candidates set out in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

Biographical data and professional development

Chief Assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva was born on September 29, 1964, in the city of Sliven. In 1984, she graduated from the "Dr. Petar Beron" Institute of Nursing and Health Sciences, Sliven, majoring in Nursing, and continued her professional development and training as follows: 1994, she obtained a secondary medical education at the Medical Institute of Medicine - Sliven, 1999, a bachelor's degree in "Health Care" at the Medical University of Sofia; 2006, a master's

degree at the Medical University of Sofia and in 2019, she obtained the ONS "Doctor" in the specialty: "Health Care Management" - Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna - Sliven Branch; field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public health on the topic "Hemocontact viral infections - hepatitis B, C, AIDS - occupational risk and prevention among nurses".

Professional development

From 1984 to 1997 she worked in Nursery No. 13 as a nurse in Sliven; 1998 - 2008 - lecturer at Thracian University Stara Zagora, Medical College in Sliven; 2009 -2013 at Central Clinical Hospital - Sliven - EOOD as a head nurse and from 09.2013 to the present as an assistant, chief assistant, administrative assistant - Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Varna; Sliven Affiliate, Department of "Health Care".

Academic development

From 2013-2020 - in the position of "assistant", from 2020 to the present "chief assistant", specialty "Healthcare Management", Department of "Healthcare", Sliven Affiliate of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

Educational and teaching activities

Chief Assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva participates in conducting classes in 13 academic disciplines in the Department of Health Care, Sliven Branch at MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, has completed classroom and extracurricular employment. She has acquired 1 specialization with recognized rights of a specialist in Public Health, participates in the teams of 4 internal university research projects, approved and implemented at the Sliven Branch at MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna in the period 2013 - 2021. Chief Assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva has been awarded diplomas and certificates for participation in 23 scientific forums (10 of them – with international participation), is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals (BAHPG), uses written and spoken English and Russian, has good computer competences and skills with the programs Office Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.

Research activity

Chef Assistant Pepa Dzhedzheva participated in the announced competition for associate professor with 10 publications in Bulgarian (8) and international (2) refereed journals and 1 monograph. Of the total number of publications submitted, she is the sole author of 4, co-author of 8, first author of 5, and second author of 3. Pepa Dzhedzheva indicates 7 citations of her own scientific works (4 in refereed and 3 non-refereed scientific publications).

The presented monographic work "Problem-based learning - an activating educational technology in the training of nurses" deeply and in detail examines the possibilities for applying innovative strategies and technologies for teaching and training in the formation of critical thinking

and critical reasoning skills in the professional training of nurses. Pedagogical and methodological aspects of planning, organizing and conducting problem-based learning in the clinical training of nurses are examined.

The main goal of the monographic work is to substantiate the significance of problem-based learning as a factor for optimizing the effectiveness of the learning process and for forming clinical competencies regarding the clinical assessment of patients' needs and adequate professional behavior.

Thematic focus and contributions of scientific works

The candidate's scientific interests are realized in purposeful, sustainable scientific development and publication activity. Thematically, the scientific works of Chief Assistant Pepa Dzhezheva are in accordance with the professional direction of the announced competition. The scientific research contributions are mainly based on documentary, sociological and statistical research methods and are expressed in the enrichment of knowledge and the application of scientific achievements in practice.

The presented publications and results of scientific research are thematically divided into four scientific areas:

DIRECTION 1: Historical and pedagogical aspects of nursing education (B3, G8.4)

The contributions in this area are of a theoretical and cognitive nature.

The legal framework for training nurses, regulatory documents and strategic decisions according to modern academic standards for higher education in the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Union are presented. The reforms carried out in the education of nurses are reflected. The possibilities for optimizing the learning process by including the problem-solving approach are analyzed. It has been established that the introduction of the problem-solving approach in training increases the activity and motivation of students, develops their creative potential and the skills for independently solving complex tasks.

DIRECTION 2: Innovative educational approaches in the training of nurses (B3, G7.2, G8.8) *The results of this direction are of a theoretical, scientifically applied and practically applied nature.*

The concept of critical thinking and the development of professional competencies of nurses for critical and clinical thinking in relation to patient safety are analyzed. The historical development of problem-based learning is reviewed. The seven main characteristics of problem-based learning according to Burroughs are described. The most commonly used methods of problem-based learning are analyzed. The strengths and limitations of problem-based learning are analyzed. Studies and analysis of the effectiveness of teaching forms in the introduction of the situational method and the attitude, readiness of teachers to apply problem-based learning as a

factor for optimizing the effectiveness of the learning process are conducted. A pedagogical model for training is applied, including a phased introduction of students to complex clinical scenarios and a model for solving situational tasks, clinical cases. A significant place is devoted to a developed methodology for conducting an educational and practical lesson through problem-based learning.

DIRECTION 3: Occupational Safety (A1, B3, G8.3, G8.6) *In this direction, the contributions are of a theoretical, cognitive and practical-applied nature.*

An analysis of the current regulatory framework regarding occupationally transmitted viral infections transmitted through blood – hepatitis B, hepatitis C and AIDS – was conducted. A study was conducted of the activities aimed at preventing infections in healthcare facilities and in a specific professional group, such as nurses and students.

Developed and tested in medical practice are the "Program for the Prevention of the Risk of Hemocontact Viral Infections" and the "Model for Occupational Risk and Prevention of Hemocontact Viral Infections Hepatitis B, C and AIDS". A curriculum for the elective subject "Prevention of Hemocontact Viral Infections Hepatitis B, C and AIDS" and a technical sheet for Selective Coronary Angiography (SCAG) - an algorithm for healthcare in the preparation and recovery of the patient have been developed.

DIRECTION 4: Health promotion, health education and contemporary aspects of health care (A1, G7.1, G8.1, G8.2, G8.5, G8.6, G8.7) *The results in this direction are of a theoretical - cognitive and practical - applied nature.*

The concepts of health literacy, health culture, health education are defined. The conditions on which the effectiveness of the education process of patients and/or their relatives depends are analyzed, as a continuous and two-way process. The self-assessment of students regarding their communication skills and the factors hindering their communication with patients is analyzed. The self-assessment of the knowledge, skills and practical habits of patients with diabetes mellitus is studied. The awareness of parents of children with diabetes mellitus on issues related to the disease is analyzed. The difficulties in the daily activities of patients who have experienced a stroke are studied. An organizational model for health education of the patient by the nurse is proposed, the application of which will contribute to a responsible attitude towards his own health.

The candidate's scientific production in these areas is original and of a contributing nature, and is distinguished by the use of the results in the education of students at the Sliven Affiliate of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

Conclusion

The documents and materials presented by Chief Assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva meet all the requirements of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the

Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna.

After reviewing the submitted materials, scientific papers and analyzing the contributions contained in them, I find it completely justified to give my positive assessment and to propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to elect Chief Assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva as **Associate Professor** in "Health Care Management", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health for the needs of the Sliven Affiliate, Department of "Health Care", MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"-Varna under the announced competition.

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Prepared the opinion.....

(Assoc. Prof. Kristina Zaharieva, PhD)

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