

STATEMENT

by

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External member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order No. R 109-438/05.12.2024 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna for determining the members of the scientific jury under the procedure.

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health, scientific specialty "Health Care Management" for the needs of the Department of "Health Care" of the Sliven Branch of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, announced in the State Gazette, issue 85 /08.10.2024.

The competition is attended by a single candidate: Chief Asist. Pepa Miteva Dzhedzheva, PhD, lecturer at the Sliven Branch of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

I. Candidate's Career Profile

Chief assistant Pepa Miteva Dzhedzheva, PhD was born in the city of Sliven. She obtained secondary special education with a professional qualification "Nurse" - general profile at the Institute for health professionals with secondary specialized education "Dr. Petar Beron" in the city of Sliven in 1984, and subsequently higher education at the Post Graduate Medical Institute- city of Sliven in the same specialty. In 1999, she graduated from the Medical University of Sofia, Faculty of Nursing with a Bachelor's degree in "Health Care" and with a professional qualification "Head of Health Care and Lecturer in Practice at a Medical College". She completed a master's program in the specialty "Health Care Management" at the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University of Sofia in 2006 with a professional qualification "Health Care Manager". She obtained a specialty in "Public Health" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna in 2016.

P. Dzhedzheva successfully defended her dissertation on the topic: "Hemocontact viral infections - hepatitis B, C, AIDS - occupational risk and prevention among nurses" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" in 2019.

She began her professional activity in 1984 as a nurse in a nursery, where she worked until 1997. After winning a competition, from 1998 to 2008, she was a lecturer at the

Medical College - Sliven at the Trakia University - St. Zagora. From 2013 to 2020 she was an assistant, and from 2020 Currently, he is a chief assistant in the Department of Health Care of the Sliven Branch of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

The above-mentioned lines from the professional biography of the candidate in the competition show two sustainable trends in her career development: for professional affirmation as a medical specialist and for her pedagogical improvement as a lecturer in a higher medical school. These trends find real expression in the educational and career development of chief assistant P. Dzhezheva, and undoubtedly prove that she has significant professional experience.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Healthcare Professionals.

II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition

It is impressive that chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva, Ph.D. has prepared the documentation for the competition correctly and precisely. All necessary documents provided for in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna are presented, which allows for a precise quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic development of the candidate.

A declaration of originality and reliability of the scientific works is presented.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works and scientific activity

General characteristics of the submitted scientific works

Chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva, Ph.D. is presented in this competition with scientific production sufficient in volume and content, which corresponds to the attached evidentiary material.

The works that are subject to review in this procedure are distributed as follows:

PUBLICATION ACTIVITY of Senior Assistant Professor Pepa Dzhezheva, PhD (independently or in co-authorship)

SCIENTIFIC WORKS	NUMBER
Total number of posts	15
Dissertation work	1
Publications related to the dissertation	3
Monographs	
• independent	1
Publications in refereed and indexed publications in	2

world-renowned databases of scientific information (Web of Science)	
Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	8
Single or first author	8
Second	3

A total of 11 papers are subject to review. The dissertation and its publications are not reviewed.

The list of publications is correct and the necessary supporting material is attached.

The candidate in the competition is an independent or first author of 75% of the scientific papers.

The papers of chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva contain certain scientific contributions to medical theory and practice, and cover a wide range of scientific issues.

They are aimed at current and significant problems in the field of public health and healthcare, and are entirely within the specialty of the announced competition. An objective and correct report on the scientific contributions in several leading areas of scientific research activity is presented, which I fully accept. They are a reflection of the research and teaching activities of Chief Asist. P. Dzhezheva and confirm her competence. The main areas of scientific research work are related to:

- 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.

The main directions of scientific works are:

1. Historical and pedagogical aspects of nursing education [B3, G 8.4].
2. Innovative educational approaches in the preparation of nurses [B3, G7.2, G 8.8].
3. Occupational safety [A1, B3, G 8.3, G 8.6].
4. Health promotion, health education and contemporary aspects of health care [A1, G 7.1, G 8.1, G 8.2, G 8.5, G 8.6, G 8.7].

The candidate in the competition has a profile created in "Google Scholar", ResearchGate and ORCID, where there is international visibility for her works in Bulgarian and international journals, an indicator of her publication image and the relevance of the issues she works on.

• **Scientific activity**

Chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva, Ph.D. has 10 participations in scientific forums, of which 9 - in national forums, 1 - in international ones, which presupposes the popularization of her scientific production.

• **Participation in the implementation and management of projects**

Highly appreciated is the active participation of Chief assistant Pepa Dzhezheva in project activities. She has participated in the following projects:

- Project "Student Internships" BG051PO001-3.3.07-0002, financed under the OP "Human Resources Development" co-financed by the European Social Fund. In the period 2013-2014 - participation as an academic mentor to students of the specialty "Nursing".

- Project BG05M20P001-2.002-0001 of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Internships - Phase 1" funded by the Operational Program "Science and Education for Smart Growth" 2014-2020. In the period 2016-2017 - participation as an academic mentor to students of the specialty "Nursing".

- Program BG 07 "Public Health Initiatives", Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 - "Management and implementation of a small grant scheme within Outcome 4 "Specific challenges for the health of the Roma population" - mentor for the academic year 2014/2015, 2015/2016.

- Project "Mentoring support for students of roma origin studying health specialties" within the framework of the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria under the Financial Mechanism (FM) of the European Economic Area 2014-2021 - mentor.

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

The total number of noted citations in Bulgarian and foreign scientific sources is 7, distributed in the following categories:

- Citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 4
- Citations in non-refereed journals with scientific review - 3.

The candidate in the competition has attached a correct list of citations.

IV. Assessment of teaching and learning activities

Chief Assistant Professor P. Dzhezheva teaches students of the specialty "Nursing" in the Sliven Branch. In accordance with the competencies she has, she conducts lecture courses and practical exercises in the following subjects - "Philosophy and Introduction to Nursing. Theoretical Foundations" Part I and II (110 hours/year); Nursing care for patients with surgical diseases (50 hours/year); Nursing care in pediatrics (30 hours/year); Nursing care for neurological patients (30 hours/year); Nursing care for postpartum women and newborns (20 hours/year); Nursing care for eye, ear, nose and throat diseases (20 hours/year); Nursing care for the elderly (40 hours/year); Nursing care at home (40 hours/year); Nursing care for patients with somatic diseases (55

hours/year); Nursing care in resuscitation and intensive therapy (30 hours/year); Nurse behavior in emergency situations (10 hours/year) and Clinical practice.

Participates in the development and updating of the curricula for the specialty "Nursing" of the Bachelor's Degree Program, as well as in the conduct of semester and state exams. The presented official report indicates a high annual study load (average 650 hours, for the last 5 years), including lectures, exercises, pre-graduate internship and clinical practice, and covers the specified norm of 360 study hours per academic year for a senior assistant. This proves that the competition is provided with the necessary study load. From the provided documentation it is clear that chief assistant P. Dzhezheva, Ph.D. is actively involved in the preparation for program accreditation of the specialty "Nursing".

V. Personal impressions

I know the candidate in the competition personally from her participation in scientific forums. My impression is that she is a competent teacher, dedicated to her profession. She has invested a lot of energy and strength in her professional development and has achieved significant results. Her academic career to date is a natural result of her overall scientific and teaching activity.

I wish her successful development of the scientific directions to which she has directed her research interest.

VI. Compliance with the minimum requirements for the scientific and teaching activities of candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.4. Public Health

With regard to compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, from the list presented to me and the evidence with scientific papers, and the cited ones, it is clear that Chief Asist. Pepa Dzhezheva meets the requirements of the standards in the individual groups of indicators.

Table 1 Minimum required points by indicator groups for AD "Docent"

Group of indicators	Contents	National minimum requirements for Associate Professor AD	Candidate points
A	Indicator 1	50 т.	50
B	Indicator 2	-----	---
V	Indicator 3 or 4	100 т. (Includes Habilitation Thesis - Monograph)	100
G	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200 т.	220

D	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	50 т.	55
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VII. Conclusion

Based on the presented scientific production in terms of volume, quality and thematic compliance with the direction of the announced competition, the related indisputable scientific contributions and taking into account the nature of the candidate's research and teaching activities, I give a positive vote and strongly recommend to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to support Chief Assistant **Pepa Miteva Dzhezheva, PhD** for the academic position of **Associate Professor in the scientific specialty "Healthcare Management"**, professional field 7.4. Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports for the needs of the Department of "Healthcare" of the Sliven Branch of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

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Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion:

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