

STATEMENT OF OPINION

by Prof. Vanya Gospodinova Hristova. PhD., VFU Chernorizets Hrabar
Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Order P-109-444 from December 5, 2024 of
the Rector of Medical University - Varna
for scientific works and teaching activities
of asst. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, Ph.D., submitted for competition for the academic
position of Associate Professor in scientific field 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences,
professional field 3.2. Psychology (Specialty Medical Psychology), announced by MU
"Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna - one position, 0.5 full-time position for the
Department of Health Care, Veliko Tarnovo and 1 full-time position for the Fourth
Clinic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Hospital "St. Marina",
Varna, EAD

I. Competition Data.

This opinion has been prepared on the basis of documents received under a competition announced by MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna in State Gazette No. 85 of 08.10.2024 - one position, 0.5 full-time post for the Department of Health Care, Veliko Tarnovo Branch and 1 full-time post for the Fourth Clinic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Hospital "St. Marina EAD.

The documents submitted for the competition comply with the requirements of the Law on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Filling Academic Positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna. The competition procedure was correctly followed.

The only candidate in the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, professional field 3.2. Psychology (Specialty Medical Psychology) is prof. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova from Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

II. Details of the applicant.

Principal asst. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova was born in 1982 in Veliko Tarnovo. She is born in 1982 in Plovdiv. In 2005 she obtained her Bachelor's degree in Psychology, followed by a Master's degree in Clinical and Counselling Psychology in 2007 at Sofia University. Kliment Ohridski" and PhD in the scientific specialty 3.2. "Medical Psychology" at MU-Varna "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in 2016.

For the period from 2005 to 2009, the candidate worked as a pedagogical advisor-psychologist in the Primary School "Zahari Stoyanov" - town. She was a teacher at the school of St. Stephen's College in Varna. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova started her professional career at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna in 2010, as a clinical psychologist at the University Hospital of St. Peter and St. John. From 2010 to 2017 she was Assistant Professor, specialty "Medical Psychology" at the Department of Health Care - Veliko Tarnovo Branch, MU-Varna; from 2017 to 2024 she was Senior Assistant Professor, specialty "Medical Psychology" at the Department of Health Care - Veliko Tarnovo Branch, MU-Varna.

From the references submitted for the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" it is established that prof. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova participates in international research and educational projects and forums.

III. Description of scientific works.

The description of the scientific works of Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova was prepared on the basis of the data submitted by the candidate for the academic position of Associate Professor.

For participation in the competition, Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova has submitted a list of scientific works, including 1 monograph and 28 articles and reports, both independently and co-authored.

Firstly, in quantitative terms, in accordance with Article 2b of the Law on Publications of Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, PhD, the publications exceed the minimum legal requirements.

Second, in terms of the structural characteristics of the studies done include:

Monograph - 1 issue stand-alone paper of 140 standard pages, structured in four chapters. In it, the author examines the specifics of different family patterns and their change through the eyes of teenagers, in norm and pathology. The emphasis of the monograph is on the specific behaviors and family influences that lead to the emergence of adolescent distress. In addition to theoretical aspects related to the study of adolescence and family relationships, clinical cases from the author's practice are problematized.

A kind of continuation of the ideas presented in the previous monograph is made in the subsequent publications of the candidate.

The total number of articles and papers submitted for the competition is twenty-eight, both alone and co-authored, and express her quest for the appropriately assigned topic. In the mentioned scientific works, on the one hand, the current trends related to research in the field of child and adolescent development in health and disease are discussed. On the other hand, in a large part of the publications the author's methodologies related to the study of child anxiety, family and parent-child relationships and inpatient psychotherapy are developed.

The presented scientific production complies with the minimum national requirements under Article 2b, Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Law on Psychology and Psychology and the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedure for Occupying Academic Positions at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov", Varna.

IV. Scientific contributions.

From the scientific production submitted for the competition by the candidate, Assoc. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, the following scientific and applied contributions could be highlighted in several directions:

Strand 1: Study of the problems, phenomenology, diagnostics and symptomatology of anxiety, stress, and psychological trauma in both childhood and adulthood (publications № 4,5,20,24,25):

- ✓ The specifics of diagnosing anxiety in preschool children are discussed.
- ✓ Methods for the study of anxiety in preschool children have been adapted.
- ✓ A model of clinical-psychological research in posttraumatic stress disorder is conceptualized.
- ✓ An author's methodology for the study of anxiety in preschool children is approbated.

- ✓ The parameters of personality functioning in extreme conditions were organized and studied.
- ✓ Studied the possibilities of applying projective research methodologies in children who have experienced psychological trauma.

Strand 2: Research findings related to working with children on the autism spectrum (publications 3, 9, 14,18, 23):

- ✓ Existing knowledge regarding the psychological model for the study of the parameters of children with autism is enriched, with a focus on body image.
- ✓ A consultative model for working with parents of children with autism and their involvement in the therapeutic process is constructed.

Strand 3: Psychological diagnosis, counselling and psychotherapy of adolescents in clinical settings (publications No. 1, 6, 11, 15):

- ✓ A contemporary study of the reliability and validity of classical adolescent personality research methodologies adapted to clinical settings is proposed.
- ✓ The specifics and predictors of prepsychotic states, in adolescence, are revealed.
- ✓ The course of family dynamics in girls with eating disorders - anorexia is presented.

Strand 4: Publications in the field of psychotherapy and personality research, and the relationship between the personality of future medics and their skills in establishing therapeutic rapport (publications 2,7,8,10,12,13,16,17,19).

- ✓ A comparative analysis is presented on the factors of group dynamics, group cohesion and patients' experiences in low and high functioning groups.
- ✓ A content analysis of the experiences of psychotic patients during group psychotherapy in a hospital setting is presented.
- ✓ An authored scale was validated for the degree of effectiveness of psychotherapy in psychotic patients.
- ✓ A model for group psychotherapy in inpatient settings with psychotic patients is presented.
- ✓ A method for assessing the authenticity and level of communication of the psychotherapist, based on Bujenthal's theory, is applied.
- ✓ The possibilities of applying Bulgarian folk tales in working with young women and girls who have experienced violence are presented.

Strand 5: Publications in the field of child clinical psychology and diagnostics (publications No. 17,21):

- ✓ Developed a brief battery to examine intelligence in children with mental and behavioral disorders - a clinical sample.
- ✓ Standardized norms for the age range 12-14 years, working with Raven's color progression matrices, for a clinical sample are derived.

V. Teaching.

From the submitted curriculum vitae, teaching experience certificate and teaching workload report for the teaching activity of Asst. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova for the period from September 2019, it is evident that the candidate is engaged in the teaching of students in the Master's degree with several disciplines.

The quantitative and qualitative parameters of the candidate's teaching work based on the submitted references and documents give grounds to express a very good assessment of her professional level in terms of classroom and non-classroom employment.

VI. Conclusion

The detailed acquaintance with the scientific production submitted for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", as well as the teaching and pedagogical activity in the Department of Health Care, Branch Veliko Tarnovo at MU "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, presents the head as. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, as an accomplished researcher and established university lecturer.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and the scientific, scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I give my positive evaluation and recommend the Scientific Jury to award to Assoc. prof. Dr. Veronika Andreeva Ivanova, the scientific title "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.2. Psychology (Specialty Medical Psychology), field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences for the needs of the Department of Health Care, Branch Veliko Tarnovo, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University Varna and the Fourth Clinic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University Hospital "St. Marina EAD.

January 21, 2025

Prepared the opinion:

(Prof. Vanya Hristova, PhD.)

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