

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kalin Mihov, Ph.D.

Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics and Traumatology, Member of the Scientific Jury

Subject: Competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health, majoring in Public Health Management, for the needs of the Department of Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Sea Treatment and Occupational Diseases, Training Sector in Kinesitherapy, at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Varna, published in Government paper No. 86 of October 6, 2020

By order of the Rector of MU-Varna №P-109-558 / 04.12.2020 I am included in the Scientific Jury, and based on Protocol № 1 / 11.12.2020 from a meeting of the SJ I am appointed to prepare an opinion.

One candidate participates in the announced competition - Assoc. Prof. Gergana Boncheva Nenova, DSc.

The candidate has submitted precisely all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, corresponding to the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for development of the academic staff of Medical University - Varna.

Brief data on the candidate's career development

Gergana Boncheva Nenova successively obtained the "bachelor's" (1998) and "master's" (1999) degrees in Kinesitherapy at the Angel Kanchev University of Ruse, and in 2014 she completed a "master's" degree in Health Management at the Medical University -Varna. She began her career as a physiotherapist and spa manager in 2000. In 2009 she started working as a physiotherapist at the University Hospital "St. Marina" Varna, and in 2011 she was appointed as a kinesitherapist in the clinic of Orthopedics and Traumatology of the University Hospital, where she continues to work in present.

The academic development of Assoc. Prof. Nenova began in 2014 when she was a part-time assistant at the Department of Sea Treatment, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University of Varna. In 2016 she was enrolled as an assistant at the Board of Rehabilitation of the Medical College at MU-Varna. In the same year she defended her dissertation on "The place of the physiotherapist in public health and the development of integrated care." During the period 2017-2018 she acquired the academic position of "Associate Professor" and Head of the Board of Kinesitherapy, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Varna. During these periods, Assoc. Prof. Nenova took several advanced training courses in the field of kinesitherapy.

Assoc. Prof. G. Nenova teaches the disciplines "Massage" and "Kinesitherapy" to students from different specialties at the Medical University of Varna. Regularly participates in scientific forums and with publications in scientific journals in Bulgaria and abroad: Journal of IMAB; Health economics and management; Social medicine; Varna Medical Forum; Medical Script; LAP Lambert Academic Publishing et al

She is a member of the Association of Physiotherapists in Bulgaria, a member of a working group on European issues in ER WCPT. Assoc. Prof. Nenova is fluent in written and spoken Russian, English and German. She has extensive practical experience in the field of kinesitherapy, especially for patients with diseases of the musculoskeletal system.

General characteristics of the research and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

For her participation in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Nenova applies a total of 35 scientific papers - distributed by types as follows:

- Dissertation work for awarding Ph.D , presented with an abstract - 1 issue;
- Dissertation for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Science" - 1 issue;
- Published habilitation thesis - monography - 1 issue;
- Publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - 6 issues;
- Publications in journals with scientific review, not referenced in world-famous databases with scientific information - 10 issues.
- Published chapter of a collective monography - 1 issue.

There are also 15 titles of full-text publications outside the participants in the evidence to meet the minimum requirements for the academic position of "professor". I accept for review 26 scientific publications and developments, of which 18 on reference for compliance with the minimum requirements and 8 - outside the evidence to meet the minimum requirements.

All publications are correctly described, and the publications after acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor", "Doctor of Science", "Doctor" degrees are attached in full to the materials for the competition.

The research covers a wide range of scientific issues in the field of public health. The main directions of the candidate's research activity can be divided as follows:

1. Satisfaction with integrated care in kinesitherapy practice
2. The specialized kinesitherapeutic approach in orthopedic practice
3. Kinesitherapy in the complex rehabilitation of chronic debilitating disease
4. Improving the student training in kinesitherapy and rehabilitation

The scientific contributions are of original and confirmatory nature, of theoretical and practical-applied significance. The scientific contributions indicated in the reference of the candidate are precisely separated and are clearly arranged by groups in the attached documents.

Satisfaction with the integrated care in the kinesitherapeutic practice is one of the main directions on which the work of Assoc. Prof. Nenova is focused. Emphasis is placed on the importance of the kinesitherapist in public health and in the development of integrated care (IA_1 / 1, IG_8 / 2, IG_8 / 5); the international and Bulgarian experience in providing integrated care (IIB_5, IIB_3) and the shortcomings of the current healthcare system (IIB_1, IG_7 / 3). The close interaction of the physiotherapist with the patient, the individual approach to each disease and the desire for satisfaction with their mutual work are impressive. Assoc. Prof. Nenova introduces a method with high reliability for studying the satisfaction with the work of the physiotherapist and this basis is studied the satisfaction of patients with chronic diseases and emphasizes the importance of the physiotherapist in the model of team rehabilitation in outpatient, hospital and home environment (IG_7 / 2 IG_7 / 4, IG_7 / 5, IG_8 / 1, IIB_3).

The specialized kinesitherapeutic approach for the treatment of patients with hip arthroplasty with an individual femoral stem is innovative both for Bulgaria and internationally. Practically and theoretically, the stages in kinesitherapy of patients with large joint arthroplasty are indicated. A detailed analysis was made on the possibilities of the specialized kinesitherapy program on the functional result, the satisfaction and the expectations of the patients at recovery (IB_2 / 1, IB_3 / 1, IG_7 / 6, IIG_3). The scientific papers IG_8 / 6, IIB_1, IIB_4, IIB_5 and IIG_1 present the kinesitherapeutic behavior in many common orthopedic diseases, with a multidisciplinary approach.

Another aspect of the candidate's work is related to the place of **kinesitherapy in the complex rehabilitation of chronic debilitating disease**. The problems facing the medical specialists-kinesitherapists when working with chronically ill patients are presented and guidelines for their overcoming are given (IG_9 / 1, IG_8 / 10, IIG_2). The consequences of insufficient kinesitherapeutic care and their significance for public health are considered (IIB_2). Assoc. Prof. Nenova also works in less popular areas such as the consequences of chronic diseases, disability and their psychophysiological impact on the patient. (IG_7 / 1, IG_8 / 3, IG_8 / 7, IG_8 / 8, IIG_4).

The fourth area is "**Improving student training in kinesitherapy and rehabilitation**", which includes teaching methods, topics in the curriculum and opportunities to update their equating to leading European and world models. The results of the candidate's work with the students in the specialty "rehabilitator" and their subsequent realization in the field of healthcare are impressive. On this basis the curriculum has been updated. An analysis of the teaching methods, the topics included in the curricula and the modernization of the two specialties - rehabilitation and kinesitherapy (IV_8 / 4, IV_8 / 9, IIA_1, IIB_2).

In summary of the scientific contribution of Assoc. Prof. Nenova, I emphasize the relevance of the subject, the original nature and practical potential. The provided reference contains a total of 110 points of positive citations by Bulgarian and foreign authors with a due date of 100 points, which is a certificate of relevance of the subject and the recognizability of the candidate from the Bulgarian and foreign scientific community.

Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate

Assoc. Prof. Nenova is an established lecturer in the field of the announced competition at the Medical University - Varna. Her workload corresponds to the normative for teaching employment adopted at the University. The candidate actively participates in the teaching of students from different specialties with a degree of "professional bachelor", "bachelor" and "master", leading lecture courses in "Kinesitherapy". The candidate is a co-author of a textbook published in English.

Conclusion

Full compliance with the requirements of the Law for development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria (2018), the Regulations for its application and the Regulations for development of the academic staff at the Medical University of Varna, the qualitative characteristics of the candidate's scientific activity and significant contributions from cognitive-theoretical, methodological and practical nature, as well as her teaching experience are the basis for my positive assessment.

I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote also positively and to propose to the Rector of MU-Varna Assoc. Prof. Gergana Boncheva Nenova, DSc. for the academic duty "Professor" in Public Health, majoring in Public Health Management, for the needs of the Department of Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation, Sea Treatment and Occupational Diseases, Kinesitherapy Training Sector, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Varna.

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Varna