

# P E E R R E V I E W

BY PROF. Dr. ELENA SHIPKOVENKA, PhD

**REGARDING: COMPETITION FOR AWARDING ACADEMIC TITLE "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7 "HEALTHCARE AND SPORT", UNDER OCCUPATIONAL ACTION 7.4 "PUBLIC HEALTH" AND SCIENTIFIC QUALIFICATION "HEALTH CARES MANAGEMENT"**

The competition for associate professor in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" was announced in the State Gazette, issue 43 of May 31, 2019 by the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University, Varna for the needs of the Department of Health Care, Nursing Sector.

On the basis of Order No. P-109-235 / 26.07.2019 of the Rector of MU-Varna, I have been appointed as an external member of the Scientific Jury for the selection of Associate Professor.

One candidate participated in the competition - **Anna Petrova Georgieva, PhD** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Care, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Varna;

## APPLICANT CHARACTERISTICS

Ass. Anna Georgieva graduated Semi-higher Medical Institute "Dr. Nencho Nikolaev" in Varna in 1991 and received specialty „Nurse“.

He started working as a nurse in a Neurology Department at the United Workers' Hospital - Varna.

From 1992-1998 she was a nurse in a Neurology Department at the Municipal Hospital in Asparuhovo, Varna.

From 1998 - 2006 she was a nurse at the Clinic of Neurosurgery at the Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment „St. Anna“ in Varna.

From 2006 to 2007 she was a senior nurse at the Department of Internal Medicine at the Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment „St. Anna“ in Varna.

From 2007 until now she is a lecturer and then an Assistant Professor at the FPH, Medical University - Varna, Department of Health Care.

Since 2005 she is a Bachelor of Health Care.

She has a master's degree in Healthcare Management since 2007.

In 2014 she received a specialty in „Nursing for Social Activities“.

In 2016 successfully defended her thesis on "Possibilities for optimizing the participation of the nurse in the process of informed consent of the patient" and became a doctor.

In the author's report, Assistant Professor Georgieva noted 53 forms of continuing education.

She has indicated 2 languages for communication - Russian and English.

She is a member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health, the Bulgarian Association for Public Health, EUPHA and others.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY

### 1. Publications

- 1 publication in scientific journal is presented, with references and indexes in world-famous databases of scientific information;
- 25 publications and reports are presented, published in not referenced magazines with scientific review or published in edited common work volumes /included in the National Reference List of National Centre for Documentation and Information/.
- 29 publications and reports are presented, out of the evidence materials included for meeting the minimum requirements for achieving the Associate Professor title. Among them:
  - Full-text publications in Bulgarian scientific journal with ISSN– 10;
  - Full-text publications in scientific collections in Bulgaria with ISSN and IBSN – 13;
  - Full-text publication in scientific journals abroad with ISSN – 1;
  - Full-text publications in scientific collections abroad, without ISSN and IBSN – 5.

The articles from Bulgarian journals presented for review, are published in "Health Cares", "General Medicine", "Health Economics and Management", "Scripta Scientifica Salutis Publicae, Medical University of Varna", etc.

**2. The monograph** of Assistant Georgieva – "Long-term cares – opportunity for innovative nursing practices" (248 pages) studies in detail the possibility for implementation and regulations establishment of innovative nursing practices, providing opportunity for autonomous activity of the nurse in performing long-term cares. Based on the analysis of the regulatory acts in the country, the conclusions from the empirical study carried out and analysis of the existing educational programs for medical nurse specialties, it is proved that provision of comprehensive, timely, qualitative, and effective long-term cares, requires specialized professional competence, in way of training on "Social Activities Nurse" specialty. Suggestions for updating and supplementing the curriculum are developed. The author offers *Model of Long-term Health Care Centre*, adapted on the work of S.Toncheva.

**3. The dissertation** in regard to awarding the academic and scientific title "Associate Professor" is in-depth study of issues related to the process of providing of information by the medical specialists, as an essential element of the entire process of patient's informed consent. The factors hindering the effective fulfilment of the process of obtaining informed consent are identified, and options for their overcoming are described.



#### **4. Scientific Activities**

The applicant has 52 participations in Bulgarian and international scientific forums, of which 5 - abroad.

Applied science activity is well distinguished through participation in two Research and Development Projects of the Ministry of Science and Education financed under EU OP "Human Resources Development" in the field of students' education "Project BG 051P0001 -3.3.07-0002", in her capacity of academic consultant for students from Medical nurse specialty - Phase 1 under OP "Science and Education for intelligent growth" 2014 - 2020. For the period 2014-2017, Assistant Georgieva is an academic consultant for students from Medical nurse specialty.

#### **5. Authorship of publications**

For most of the materials published (71%) A.Georgieva, Assistant, is the leading author (individual participation or first author).

#### **6. Analysis and assessment of scientific achievements of the applicant**

The **contributions** may be presented as follows:

1. *Demonstration of good knowledge on studying the process of asking for and obtaining the informed consent by the patient in the medical care's context.*

This section is significant for the work of assistant A. Georgieva and includes dissertation and publication with №№: A.1, G.7.1, G.8.2, G.8.6, G.8.8, G.8.10, G.8.11, G.8.14, G.8.16, G.8.20, G.8.21, G.8.22, II.1, II.2, II.6, II.9, II.10, II.16, II.17, II.18, II.19 from the list of scientific studies.

The work included in this group is based on studies of the informed consent and the participation of the nurse in it. Contribution of scientific and theoretical nature is the analysis of the existing legislation of Republic of Bulgaria, on basis of which comes the conclusion that the bylaws and regulatory provisions establishing the medical standards on different clinical disciplines lack the clear approach for defining the role of the nurse in the process related to informing the patient. Noted is the need of legal provisions in regard to nurse participation in this process. The author provides specific information that the nurse may provide within the limits of her competences. Studied are also matters related to different aspects for provision of health information to the family and relatives. There is a proposed template of patient's technical sheet (descriptive form) for informed consent about intravenous injection, and developed "Algorithm for obtaining patient's informed consent" for invasive nurse interventions.

The significance of the team approach is proved for optimizing the process of informed consent and the need of active participation and cooperation by all team members.

2. *The long-term cares for elderly people and people with disabilities are important topic in the studies of Assistant Georgieva " (B.3)*

The main challenges are systemized together with the unsolved problems related to organization, financing, and regulatory provisions on long-term care provided in the country for dependent elderly people and people with disabilities. The theoretical contributions come from the empirical tests carried out with patients, future nurses, and experts, thus proving the need of opening a Centre for long-term medical care, where the nurses shall perform autonomous activities. This is the basis on which nurse's functions and roles are further developed in the context of the long-term care. There are proposals for updating the curriculum for specialty "Medical nurse for social activities". The importance of the team approach is highlighted in regard to providing care, with focus on the integration of medical and social care.

3. *The studies in the field of education and training of health care professionals are widely discussed* /G.8.1, G.8.3, G.8.4, G.8.5, G.8.7, G.8.9, G.8.12, G.8.13, G.8.19, G.8.23, II.4, II.8, II.11, II.12, II.13, II.14, II.15, II.24, II.25, II.26, II.28, II.29/, purposed for improving the quality of the medical education. The professional competence of future nurses is reviewed in regard to establishing an effective communication, as well as the need of its constant development in way of continuous training and studying the will of students for participation in humane and activities of public importance. Underlined is the need of professional development that is to be considered as common commitment not only of health specialist themselves, the Bulgarian Association of health care experts and educational institutions, but also of the employers, as part of their policy for human resources development. There are proofs about the need of forming a critical thinking yet at the beginning of the education of the medical specialists, for making fast and adequate decisions on unusual, emergent and stress situations.

The studies on the main sources of stress, stress reactions, as well as the efficiency of stress management strategies used by the students, provide theoretical and knowledgeable contribution.

Contributions in regard to the medical education are the textbooks and handbooks that include specific planning and various teaching materials – cases, examples, ready self-assessment forms, etc.

4. *Organizational and managing aspects of health care* (№№ G.8.15, G.8.17, G.8.18, G.8.24, G.8.25, II.3, II.5, II.7, II.20, II.21, II.22, II.23, II.27).

Contribution with theoretical and knowledgeable nature is the study on the need of introducing innovations in nurse practice. The process essence is discussed in view of improving the quality and efficiency of nurse care, nurses' work optimization, and improving patients' satisfaction. Theoretical and knowledgeable contribution comes from the studies on the turnover management, as one of the main functions of today's health care managers. Research is made on the interconnection and impact of the professional stress and loyal relationship on the turnover of nurses. It is proven that managers who delegate powers for work autonomy to the nurses and



provide option for participation in decision making, succeed in reducing the turnover not only within the medical centre, but also the leakage of specialists in other medical institutions.

In regard to the studies presented for review the following **recommendations and critical notes** can be suggested. It is better to avoid repetition of whole paragraphs in the publications and to limit their number, and instead focus on the more comprehensive analysis and scope of study

### **7. Quotations:**

4 quotations are found in the library of Medical University Varna, in monograph studies, and 23 in non-referenced journals with scientific review.

### **APPLICANT PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY**

Assistant A. Georgieva has 12 years teaching service in the chair of Health Care, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Varna /since 2007 till now, including in her capacity of lecturer – from 2007 till 2011, and assistant – from 2011 by now/.

She is a lecturer on the following disciplines: philosophy and introduction to nurses' care; home nurse care; care for patients with infectious diseases; care for patient with somatic disease; care for patients after surgeries; care for children and adults with disabilities; care for women who have recently given birth, elderly people; people with eye, ear, nose and throat diseases.

For these 9 disciplines she participated in development and updating the relevant curriculums.

The report presented about the teaching activity in the last five years shows high activity level of 783 - 965 hours, including practical lessons, training practice and pre-diploma service.

The applicant's work on development of textbooks and materials is sufficient for the title under assessment – 2 textbooks and 2 handbooks, as co-author.

### ***Personal impressions***

I have no personal impressions and contacts with Assistant A. Georgieva, nor participation in common projects and publications.

### ***Assessment for compliance with the minimum national requirements***

The electronic report attached shows that Assistant A. Georgieva covers the required scientific and metric indicators of the Rules on academic staff development in MU Varna, and meets the conditions and order for being awarded with the academic title "Associate Professor" as per the Law on academic staff development in Republic of Bulgaria.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Taking into account the long-term experience of the applicant in teaching students, as well as the value of her scientific achievements in the field of nurse health care, I am pleased to offer

my positive vote and recommend to the members of the honorable scientific jury to award Assistant Anna Petrova Georgieva, PhD with the academic title "**Associate Professor**" under occupational action 7.4 "Public Health" and scientific qualification "Health Care Management", for the needs of Public Health Faculty, Health Care Department, Nursing Sector, Medical University - Varna.

20.09.2019



Prof. E.Shipkovenska.PhD