

STATEMENT

**on a competition procedure
for the academic position of Associate Professor
in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport,
professional field 7.4. Public Health,
scientific specialty Health Care Management
for the needs of the Department of Health Care,
Faculty of Public Health, MU-Varna
Published in State Gazette No 54/23.06.2023**

By Order No. P-109-372 of 21.08.2023 of the Rector of Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and on the basis of Protocol No. 210/14.08.2023 of the meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public health at Medical University -Varna I have been elected as a member of the Scientific Jury for the said procedure. By Protocol No. 1/04.09.2023 of the first absentee meeting of the Scientific Jury I have been appointed to prepare an opinion.

The only candidate in the competition procedure is chief assistant Galina Ilieva Petrova, Ph.D. from the Department of Health Care of Medical University - Varna

1. **Brief biographical data and career development of the candidate.** She was born on 21.02.1973 in Beloslav. *Education.* She graduated from the Medical University - Varna with the specialty "Nurse - General Profile" in 1996, Bachelor - Health Care at the Medical University - Plovdiv in 2001-2003, Master - Health Care at the Medical University - Sofia in 2005-2007. PhD student at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Management of TrU - St. Zagora 2014-2016. On 24.02.2016 she defended her dissertation thesis on "Preventive care for children - the role of the nurse" and obtained her Ph.D. Her *professional career* began in 1996 as a nurse in the Home "Mother and Child" - Varna, continued until 1998 in the Children's Polyclinic Department of the District Hospital - Varna. She worked at the University Hospital "Prof. Iv. Kirkovich - St. Zagora" until 2001, with two years - in an individual practice for primary medical care and from 2006 to 2007 she was a senior nurse of the Home for medical and social care "Dr. An. Golovina" - Stara Zagora - . *Her academic development* began in 2007 when after a successful competition she was appointed as an assistant professor at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Management of TrU - Stara Zagora. She worked in this position until 2019, after which she has been a senior assistant professor at the Department of Health Care of the Faculty of Health

Care, MU-Varna. **Participation in scientific projects** - has participated in five projects (four at TrU-St. Zagora and currently in one at MU-Varna). Three of the projects are closely related to prevention in child health care. **Foreign languages and membership in organizations.** Fluent in written and spoken Russian, and English at B 2 level. She is a member of the scientific organizations: the Bulgarian Association of Public Health (BAOPH) and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health (BSSPH), the Bulgarian Society for the History of Medicine, member of its leadership. Membership in professional organisations: the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals (BAPCP). Summary. Chief assist. Galina Petrova has proved in her 25 years of professional experience, including 16 years of academic career, aspiration for professional and scientific improvement, active participation in scientific projects and research experience on the problems of child health care.

2. Scientific research activity - comparison with the scientific metric requirements for the position of Associate Professor according to the Law on Development of academic staff of Republic Bulgaria and the Rules of MU-Varna from 2021.

Chief assist. Galina Petrova participates in the announced competition procedure with the following scientific production:

- Dissertation for Ph.D. degree - 1 issue-50 points;
- Habilitation thesis - monograph, 162 pages - 1 issue-100 points;
- Publications in scientific journals, refereed or indexed in world-known databases, WOS or Scopus - 4 articles - 82,5 points and presence of Impact factor -3,123;

Publications and papers in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals and/or published in peer-reviewed collective volumes in full text - 16 items - 126.2 points;

Citations - 6 - 55 points

The comparison of the number of points achieved by the candidate 413,7 with the minimum number of points required by the Law on Research and Development for the position of Associate Professor shows that she not only fulfils the above requirements, but also exceeds them.

The presented scientific production of ch. assist. Galina Petrova is in the subject area of the competition. The dissemination of the results of the candidate's research work is carried out both through publications in appropriate journals and through participation in a number of scientific events. The attached list includes 10 international scientific forums and 21 national ones.

3. Qualitative characteristic of the candidate's scientific research output.

Evaluation of the habilitation work. The monographic work "Nursing in children's health care" is the first in our scientific literature that deals with the problems, historical and

contemporary, of a certain group of nurses. The reasons for this choice are strong because nurses working with children are the first to have the chance to work with equipment (premature infants) to provide both inpatient and outpatient care, combining curative and preventive activities. It is written over 162 pages, refers to 214 references and is structured in four chapters. The first chapter, "Historical Aspects of Children's Nursing," presents the most important moments in the history of children's nursing in Europe and the United States, placing them in the context of humanitarian movements for social justice, children's rights, and the strengthening of the role of medical science, without which public health achievements in the 20th century would not have been possible. It shows the way in which the practice of health monitoring of young children with the involvement of nurses is quite rapidly becoming the standard in almost all European countries. Together with this, it contributed to form for the first time a professional group of nurses with the knowledge and skills to work with children in the field of prevention.

The second chapter is devoted to contemporary issues in children's nursing, focusing on three themes: postgraduate training, independent or relatively independent nursing practice and social, psychological and organisational issues for nurses working with children. The studies presented, highly relevant, only from the last 3-4 years, can become a source of ideas for research work in the three areas under consideration, and also for developing strategies to deal with problems concerning the health, performance and professional satisfaction of nurses themselves. Chapter Three synthetically presents the evolution of child health care in Bulgaria from the 1920s to the present, revealing the role of nurses through the institutions in which they work. The significance of the Children's Health Centres and Visiting Nurses in the 1920s/40s for the modernisation of society is highlighted. Drawing on a wealth of documentary material, the author not only presents new or little-known facts, but advances new explanatory hypotheses. With her own research, she advocates the continuity of the ideas on the development of children's health care of public health physicians in the pre-war period and the health care system built after 1950. Visiting nurses in the extensive network of children's consultations have as their prototype the visiting nurses. The author raises the question of the absence of the nurse from the Children's Consultation at the present time for discussion. In relation to this, in chapter four she presents results from her own research which confirm the need for further research in this area.

The monographic work "Nursing in Children's Health Care" by Galina Petrova, PhD is a thorough study that has cognitive significance, contains guidelines and ideas for future research work and deserves high praise.

Evaluation of scientific contributions.

Chief assist. Galina Petrova, Ph.D. presents 30 full-text scientific publications, well

formatted, printed in reputable publications. A merit of the scientific production is the application of appropriate for the purposes of the studies research methods, both quantitative and qualitative (in-depth interviews, content analysis of written case studies, etc.). A wide range of statistical methods were used and adequately interpreted in the discussions. Contributions in specific articles are well designed.

I agree with the submitted statement of research contributions. In addition to the contributions from the problem area of "Child Health and Nursing", I would like to note in the candidate's subject area the presence of "Ethical and Organizational Issues of Continuing Care in General Practice", a significant and promising area on which she has nine publications. Significant, unrecognised until now, but also with capacity for the future, are the contributions in 'Health and social inequalities in early childhood'.

The contributions of the research work of G. Petrova are both theoretical-cognitive and practical-applied.

Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activity .

In her 16 years of teaching experience Galina Petrova has gained a great deal of experience in working with different types of students and teaching a wide range of subjects. As an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine of TrU-Stara Zagora she has been involved in teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Health Care Management. Along with practicals, seminars and pre-degree internship, she has been assigned to conduct lecture course after obtaining PhD by the decision of the Faculty council. In the Department of Health Care of MU-Varna she teaches a significant number of courses from the curriculum of the specialty of nursing: Philosophy and Introduction to Nursing; Nursing Care of the Neurologically Ill; Nursing Care of the Eye, Ear and Nose and Throat; Nursing Care of the Infectiously Ill; Nursing Care of the Somatically Ill; Nursing Care of the Surgically Ill; Nursing Care of the Homebound; Nursing Care of Children and Adults with Disabilities; Nursing Care of Adults; and Teaching Practice. Participates in curriculum updates in these disciplines. Course Supervisor.

According to the attached reference on the teaching workload it is evident that in the last 4 years, ch.assist. Galina Petrova has had an annual workload of 749, 713, 702, 743 hours, which consistently exceeds the accepted norm of 360 hours.

G. Petrova takes constant care to improve her pedagogical qualification through participation , including in virtual courses in the last guilds of epidemiological situation.

Personal impressions. I have known Galina Petrova since she was an assistant professor at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Care Management at TrU-Stara Zagora as a dedicated and beloved by the students lecturer, collegial, responsive person, excellent team worker, who

knows how to bring balance and calm to the team. As her dissertation supervisor, I was impressed by her hard work for scientific and professional improvement, conscientiousness, self-drivenness and as a result progress and growth as a researcher. Her performances at MU-Varna confirmed the persistence of these impressions. Her commitment to the noble causes of public health and to the activities of the Bulgarian Society for the History of Medicine, in which she has long participated, also proved enduring.

Conclusion

The analysis of the overall scientific research and teaching activity of chief assist. Galina Petrova, Ph.D. shows that she is an accomplished lecturer and researcher with significant contributions of theoretical-cognitive and practical-applied nature. She meets the criteria of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of development of academic staff of Medical University -Varna for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. The new academic position will enable the development of her knowledge and skills for the success of the Health Care Department at MU-Varna. All of this is the reason for my positive evaluation and with conviction to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury to vote for chief assist. Galina Ilieva Petrova, PhD to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health, specialty Health Care Management, for the needs of the Department of Health Care.

01.11.2023г.

Member of SJ:

Assoc. prof. Nevyana Feschieva, md