

OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gena Georgieva Penkova, MD, PhD

Concerning the competition for the position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4. Public health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sports for the needs of the Department of Health Care, Faculty of Public Health, MU-Varna, announced in State Gazette No. 54/ 23 June 2023

By Order No P-109-372 of 21.08.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna I was elected as a member of the Scientific Jury under this procedure and by Protocol No 1 / 04.09.2023 of the first online meeting of the Scientific Jury I was appointed to prepare an opinion.

One candidate participated in the announced competition – Galina Ilieva Petrova, PhD, Chief Assistant Professor at the Department of Health Care, Nurse Training Sector. The candidate has submitted all the necessary documents, arranged accurately in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University - Varna.

I. Career development of the candidate

Chief Assist. Prof. Galina Ilieva Petrova was born on 21.02.1973. Beloslav.

She has gone through all stages of academic education for health care professionals: semi-higher medical education in the specialty "Nurse – general care" (1993-1996) at the Semi-higher medical institute "Dr. Nencho Nikolaev"-Varna; Bachelor's degree in Health Care Management (2001-2003) at the Faculty of Public Health, MU-Plovdiv; Master's Degree in Health Care Management at Faculty of Public Health, MU-Sofia; Postgraduate specialization in "Medical Pedagogy" (2011-2014) at the Medical Faculty Chief of Trakia University of Stara Zagora.

In 2015-2016, Galina Petrova is a PhD student in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Management, Medical Faculty, Trakia University of Stara Zagora. In 2016 she defended her dissertation on the subject "Development of preventive health care for children - the role of the nurse" and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova has extensive professional experience with a total work experience of 25 years, of which 9 years as a nurse and 16 years as a teacher. He started his career in 1996 in the Home "Mother and Child" in Sofia. Varna, and in the period 1998-2007 he worked in various health care structures in the town of Stara Zagora (University Hospital "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich AD; individual primary health care practice; senior nurse at the Anastasia Golovina Home for Medical and Social Care).

Since 2007 he has been an assistant professor at the Department of Social Medicine and Health Management at the Medical Faculty of the Trakia University of Stara Zagora, and since 2019 she was appointed as Chief Assist. Prof. at the Department of Health Care at the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University of Varna.

Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova has a very good research activity: she is the author of a monographic work; 35 articles and 31 reports in national and international forums and participated in 7 research projects.

She has been involved in various forms of continuing education in nursing issues, pedagogical and scientific competence, computer literacy and language qualification.

The teaching activity of Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova covers a wide range of academic disciplines in different specialties, realized as an assistant at the Medical Faculty in Stara Zagora and as an assistant professor at the Health Care Department at the Medical University of Varna.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals, the Bulgarian Public Health Association, the European Public Health Association, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of the History of Medicine, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health.

She has good computer literacy and good command in English at B2 level.

II. General characteristics of scientific publications

Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova has presented extremely precisely the information about her scientific production according to the requirements of NACID.

List of scientific works in a form proving the fulfilment of the minimum requirements of NACID for the academic position "Associate Professor":

= Criterion A. Indicator 1. Dissertation for awarding the PhD – 50 points;

= Criterion B. Indicator 3. Published habilitation work — monograph in volume of 162 pp. – 100 points;

= Criterion G.

Indicator 7. Publications in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 4 articles with a total of 82.5 points;

Indicator 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (included in the National Reference List of NACID of contemporary Bulgarian scientific journals with scientific review) – 16 articles with a total of 126.2 points.

Total 208.7 points of the obligatory criteria G5-9 with Impact Factor – 3.123 Citations – 7 with a total of 55 points.

The candidate fully meets the minimum requirements for taking the academic position of "Associate Professor" with a total of 413.7 points from the obligatory criteria.

2. List of full-text publications in scientific journals and collections, beyond the minimum scientometric requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" - 10 publications in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited scientific volumes – 87.4 points.

In general, Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova presented herself with **30 scientific publications**, of which she collected **501.1 points**, thus exceeding the minimum requirements of 400 points for the academic position of "associate professor".

The general characteristics of the candidate's research activity include another 31 participations in scientific forums (10 in international scientific events and 21 in scientific forums

in Bulgaria), not reviewed and evaluated according to the criteria of NACID, testify to the systematic and consistent research activity of the candidate.

III. Characteristics of the scientific activity of the candidate

Evaluation of the monographic work

The choice of the topic of the monographic work "Nursing in Child Health" is proof of the awareness of the importance of one of the most topical problems on a global level – child-care at an early age, where the role of the nurse is irreplaceable, both in the implementation of continuous and systematic monitoring of children's development, even more important in the implementation of prophylactic and preventive care.

The monographic work is structured in 4 chapters, logically related to each other as the material in each chapter is presented in well-formed subsections, reflecting the most important aspects in the development of health care for children.

In the first three chapters, the development of nursing and child nursing from their inception to the current state of the problem is discussed in a systematic sequence. Based on a wide range of literary sources, the beginning of nurses' education, the beginning of hospital and outpatient nursing for children, the development of children's nurses' education, postgraduate education, etc. are presented. Of particular interest is the historical consideration of child-care: the emergence of the Union for the Protection of Children in Bulgaria (1925) and the role of prof. Stefan Vatev; the establishment of children's deliberative stations as a form of preventive childcare and the participation of nurses; the role of teacher counsellors in the care of rural children; the development of policies for children's health in the periods 1930-1950, 1950-1990 and in the conditions of the post-1990 reform.

The fourth chapter represents a wonderful conclusion in addressing the problem by presenting results from one's own studies on the role of cooperation between nurses and children's families.

The monographic work of Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova is the first attempt in Bulgaria for a systematic in-depth study of nursing in children's healthcare and the autonomous role of nurses in child care. The essence, main principles, tasks and basic aspects of child nursing, as well as ethical and psychosocial problems, are well understood. A number of good foreign and Bulgarian practices in the field of preventive childcare are presented and the professional competencies of the nurse as a team member and coordinator in the provision of health care for children are outlined. The needs of families and mothers of children for support and advice on strengthening children's health are also studied.

The monographic work is an extremely interesting and fully completed scientific work written in a very good academic style with rich creative use of archival materials, publications of Bulgarian and foreign authors and materials from her own studies. For the overall writing of the work 213 sources (80 in Bulgarian and 133 in Latin) were used, quoted according to the requirements of publication ethics. All this turns the presented material into a real monograph, meeting all the requirements for such scientific work.

Evaluation of scientific publications

It is worth emphasizing that the presented scientific works of Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova are predominately a result of personal work of the candidate herself or with a significant personal contribution, which is evidenced by the distribution of authors by place in the authors' collectives. She is an independent and first author in 13 out of 30 publications (43.4%), a second author in 4 works (13.3%) and a third and subsequent author – in 13 works (43.33%). The presented 30 real full-text publications are printed in professionally appropriate scientific journals and cover a wide range of scientific problems that I would group in the following thematic areas:

- I. Healthcare of children and the role of the nurse – 10 publications;
- II. Historical development of child health care and history of health care – 6 publications;
- III. Ethical problems of healthcare - 5 publications;
- IV. Organizational and management aspects of health care – 9 publications.

Scientific publications in all 4 thematic areas are written in a very good academic style, have well-formed bibliographies and accurate citations of the sources used. The publications use a variety of research methods of analysis (historical; documentary; case analysis; quantitative and qualitative sociological methods as individual and group survey, standard and in-depth interview; statistical methods; SWOT-analysis, etc.). Eight out of the 30 scientific publications were published in English (2 in international journals and 8 in the Trakia Journal of Sciences). Theoretical and applied contributions can be found in each publication.

V. Evaluation of pedagogical activity

Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova has a long 16-year teaching experience. Her teaching activities cover a wide range of disciplines from the "Nursing" section of the academic plan of MU-Varna for the specialty "Nursing" and at the same time she actively participates in the development and updating of the curricula in these disciplines: philosophy and introduction to nursing; nursing care in neurologically ill patients; nursing care for eye, ear and nasal-throat diseases; nursing care in infectious diseases; nursing care in somatically ill; nursing care in surgically ill people; nursing at home; nursing care for children and adults with disabilities; nursing care for the elderly; training practice.

According to the report on the workload issued by MU-Varna, the average annual workload over the last 3 years of the candidate is equal to 749 hours (2020/2021 – 713 hours; 2021/2022 – 792 hours; 2022/2023 – 743 hours).

The aspiration of Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova to the continuous improvement of teaching and professional experience is supported by the evidence of participation in 40 different forms of continuing education on issues of nursing, pedagogical and scientific competence, computer literacy and language qualification, including 12 virtual courses provided by the Bulgarian association of health care professionals.

VI. Personal impressions

I have known the candidate Galina Petrova for several years and have wonderful impressions. She manifests herself as extremely diligent and dedicated to the learning process and to research, very modest as a person, with a highly developed sense of responsibility and collegiality. She perfectly coordinates the participation of the team of the Department in the

activities of the Bulgarian and the European Public Health Association. For me, her achievements over the years are completely legitimate and the result of her high intelligence and persistence.

CONCLUSION

Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova applied in this competition with a sufficient number of real publications exceeding the minimum requirements for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of MU-Varna. Her publications are in-depth, purposeful and devoted entirely to the wide-ranging field of nursing. The presented monographic work and the main part of real publications are dedicated to one of the most current problems of health care – early childhood nursing. Her publications contain theoretical and applied contributions. The candidate is an established lecturer with 16 years of teaching experience and long enough professional experience in the practical delivery of health care in various health structures.

After a thorough review of the documents provided to me and the evaluation criteria under the Law on Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at the Medical University of Varna, I conclude that Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova, PhD, fully meets the requirements for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor.

All this allows me to propose to the respected Scientific Jury to vote positively for awarding of the academic position "Associate Professor" to Ch. Assist. Prof. Galina Petrova in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" for the needs of the Training Sector "Nursing" at the Department of Health Care at the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Parashkev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Reviewer:



(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gena Georgieva Penkova, MD)

24 October 2023
The town of Pleven