

STATEMENT

by

Prof. Silviya Borisova Dimitrova, PhD, DSc

Faculty of Public Health

Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov"- Varna

on dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Field of higher education: 7. Health Care and Sport

Professional field: 7.4 Public Health

Speciality: Health Care Management

Topic: „Contemporary Models, New Approaches and Perspectives in Training Students of the Medical Laboratory Technician Speciality”

Author: Yordanka Yordanova Mihaylova

Form of education: full-time form of study

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Emiliya Georgieva, PhD

1. Procedure Details

In accordance with Order No. R-109-508 issued by the Rector of MU-Varna on November, 04, 2020, Yordanka Yordanova Mihaylova was enrolled as a doctoral student in an full-time form of study to obtain an educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the area of higher education: 7. Healthcare and sports, Professional field 7.4 Public health, Speciality: Health Care Management. A protocol for successfully passing the doctoral exam has been submitted. Based on the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health, Protocol No. 214 dated November, 22, 2023, regarding readiness for public defense and the appointment of a scientific jury, Yordanka Mihaylova has been enrolled with the right to defend with the Order of the Rector of MU-Varna No. R-109-511 dated November, 29, 2023.

The submitted set of documents complies with the Rules for the development of the academic staff at the Medical University „Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna and includes a dissertation, abstract, autobiography, list of publications related to the topic of the dissertation, copies of publications, declarations, and other relevant documents.

2. Brief biographical data of the PhD student

Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova graduated from Medical College - Varna, with a degree in "Medical Laboratory Assistant" (1990) and program "Pharmacist's Assistant" (2006). Obtained a master's degree program "Social Pedagogy" at Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen (2007) and program "Health Management" (2001) and "Health Care Management" (2015) at "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" Medical University, Varna. Yordanka Mihaylova has a degree specialization in "Public Health" from 2022.

The career development of Yordanka Mihailova, related to university education, began in 2012 as a teacher in Training sector "Medical Laboratory Assistant" at the Medical College - Varna.

There are over 20 scientific publications, participation in national and international conferences.

He is an academic mentor of students in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant" under the project of the Ministry of Education and Science "Student Practices". He also participated in an international project "Creation of a multidisciplinary educational environment for the development of personnel with integral competences in the field of biomedicine and health care", Turin, Italy.

3. Evaluation of Topic Relevance

Laboratory diagnostics is a complex specialty that includes various directions. Technological and scientific changes in the field of medicine affect the activities of clinical laboratories and laboratory diagnostic techniques. In specialized laboratories (clinical, microbiological, histological, parasitological and others) - key components of health facilities, research institutes and other laboratories, the medical laboratory technician is the main performer of a wide range of tasks. The high requirements of practice require a change in the competence profile in the training of professionals in the field of laboratory diagnostics. The doctoral student, in his work, examines modern models, new approaches and perspectives in the education of students from the "Medical Laboratory Technician" specialty. In the laboratory profession, a quick and adequate professional response is necessary. Patients expect high quality, professional and secure service. This creates a prerequisite for improving knowledge in the field of technology, new software products used in laboratory practice.

Professional training, knowledge and skills for work in the pre-analytical, analytical and post-analytical stages of laboratory research are mandatory for full realization.

In connection with the above facts, I believe that the topic chosen by Yordanka Mihailova is relevant and significant. The aim is adequately formulated in relation to the material included in the dissertation, the tasks are also fully and accurately set. The chosen topic allows to draw substantiated conclusions, proposals and to formulate contributory aspects.

Exploration of modern models, new approaches and perspectives in the training of students of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant" in the dissertation of Yordanka Mihaylova topically, prospectively and practically proves its scientific place in health care management.

4. Characteristics and Evaluation of the Dissertation

The dissertation, developed by Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova, is 130 pages long, structured according to the standard requirements, including: Introduction, Literature review, Methodology and organization of the research, Results of own research, Model of a master training program, Conclusions, recommendations and contributions. It is richly illustrated with 33 figures and 10 tables and 4 appendices. The bibliographical reference includes 158 sources, 96 in Cyrillic and 62 in English.

The author provides an analytical review of the literature, examining the role and place of the medical laboratory technician in the healthcare system. In a logical sequence, Yordanka Mihaylova analyses the historical development of the specialty of medical laboratory technician, professional activities, and the impact of turnover on the quality of medical diagnostic laboratories. The importance of methods and means applied in the training process is highlighted. The experience and knowledge of the PhD student contribute to the correct and thorough analysis of resources in the learning process. The competencies of the medical laboratory technician in performing professional activities are analyzed.

The main aim and objectives are specifically formulated. The PhD student uses a range of methods adequate to achieve the aim. The structure and content of the developed toolkit are subordinated to the specificity of the information gathered from the respective group of respondents.

Documentary and sociological research methods were used. In order to reveal the essence of the observed phenomena and their interdependencies, statistical methods of data analysis and interpretation were applied.

The survey instrumentation was self-developed and included questionnaires to investigate the opinions of practicing medical laboratory technicians and students of the same specialty regarding professional competence and career suitability.

A semi-structured interview questionnaire was developed to explore the views of laboratory service users on the professional competence of medical professionals.

The dissertation presents results logically organized and structured in chapters three, four and five. It presents the results of the conducted research on competences for successful professional realization. The organization of the learning process concerning the acquisition of knowledge and skills for successful realization is studied.

The opinion of the heads of medical diagnostic laboratories on the theoretical and practical training of medical laboratory technicians was studied.

The need for the formation of critical thinking and independent decision-making skills was identified.

The doctoral student analyzes modern electronic methods of training in the specialty of "Medical laboratory assistant". A need for scope of peculiarities of the modern environment, which can be defined by intense dynamics and rapidly growing information, is established. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of using electronic methods in training are identified.

Yordanka Mihaylova studies the professional capabilities and competences of medical laboratory technicians to work with modern medical equipment for the analysis of samples and biological material; the discovery of new markers, etc., making the work of laboratory technicians more and more precise and diverse.

The doctoral student identifies the causes of medical laboratory technician turnover in the workplace. Based on extensive research, both personal and professional challenges to professional competitiveness are identified.

The opinion of students regarding their attitude and desire for continuing education is explored. According to them, a good approach is to increase the hours of practical training, as well as opportunities for summer internships during the studies.

The competencies of medical laboratory technicians in different areas of the educational process are highlighted.

The results of the study define the basic prerequisites for the development of a master's program profiled in the laboratory diagnostic field.

The SWOT analysis for the development of a Master's degree programme in Medical Laboratory Management outlines the opportunities for expanding knowledge and skills in the field of medical laboratory management, laboratory information systems, health care, and working with specialized medical equipment.

The developed version of the curriculum for training in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Management" in the study by Yordanka Mihailova is an attempt to create a profiled master's programme.

The statement of contributions presented with the dissertation reflects objectively the real achievements of Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova. The contributions in the dissertation are in theoretical and practical-applied aspects, which I accept.

The presented six main conclusions, clearly and precisely formulated, characterize in detail the results obtained from the fulfillment of the set tasks and purpose of the dissertation.

The formulated recommendations and contributions of the dissertation are the ones made on the basis of the own data of the scientific research.

The dissertation is written in good language, precise in terms of terminology.

The abstract faithfully reproduces the content of the dissertation. It is written in clear, understandable language and in a scholarly style, reflecting the main points of the dissertation and giving a clear picture of the doctoral student's achievements.

5. Assessment of Publications and Personal Contribution of the Doctoral Candidate

The PhD candidate has submitted four full-text publications on the topic of the dissertation in Bulgarian journals. In three of them he is the first author, and in one he is an independent author, which reflects the contribution to the scientific work.

6. Conclusion

Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova's dissertation outlines modern models, new approaches and perspectives in the training of students in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant".

On the basis of the overall assessment of the documentation provided to me, I consider that Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff at Medical University - Varna.

I give my affirmative vote for the award of the academic and scientific degree of Doctor in speciality Health Care Management to Yordanka Yordanova Mihailova.

23.01.2024
Varna

Statement written by:
Prof. Silviya Borisova Dimitrova, PhD, DSc

Заличено на основание чл. 5,
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