

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr. Albena Kerekovska, MD

Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs

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

Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Order No. P-109-313 from 07.10.2019 of the Rector of Medical University – Varna

Subject: Competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" in the speciality "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" (Expertise of working capacity), professional field 7.1. "Medicine", Higher Education Area 7. "Healthcare and Sport", for the needs of Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of Public Healthcare, Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna, declared in the State Gazette issue 62 / 06.08.2019.

According to Order No. P-109-313 from 07.10.2019 of the Rector of MU-Varna, I am included as an internal member of the Scientific Jury, and by the decision of its first meeting, held on 21.10.2019, it was determined to write a review of the competition for academic position "Professor" at MU-Varna in the scientific speciality "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" (Expertise of working capacity). The competition is announced in the State Gazette, issue 62 / 06.08.2019. and complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU - Varna. All procedural requirements related to the announcement of the competition, the deadline for submission of documents and the selection of the Scientific Jury were met.

One candidate is participating in the announced competition - Assoc. Prof. Paraskeva Mancheva Draganova, MD, PhD, DSc. The applicant has submitted precisely all the necessary documents for participation in the competition.

1. Career profile of the applicant

Assoc. Prof. Paraskeva Mancheva, MD, PhD, DSc has graduated Master of Medicine in 1989. After her graduation, she started working as an intern at the Department of Internal diseases at Kavarna Regional Hospital, where she worked for ten years. At that time she acquired a speciality in Internal diseases (1994) and in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (1999). In 1999. After winning the competition, she started working as an assistant at the Medical University - Varna at the Department of General Medicine. In 2001 Paraskeva Mancheva acquired a speciality in General Medicine (2001) and began her expert work as a physician member of the General Medical-labour Expert Commission in Internal diseases, where she worked for six years. The medical-legal problems of people with disabilities provoke her interest in the law, that she is studying as a student at Varna Free University "Chernorizets

Hrabar". She graduated as a Master of Laws in 2014 and acquired legal capacity with the Ministry of Justice in 2015.

In 2014 after defending her dissertation "Legal awareness for legalization of euthanasia and quality of life in polymorbid patients with permanently reduced disability", the candidate acquires the academic degree "Doctor" and in the same year occupies the academic position of "Associate Professor". She manages the Educational Sector "Rehabilitator" since 2014, the University Center for Eastern Medicine of MU-Varna since 2017. In 2018, after successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Medical and social problems of disability in the system of medical expertise", she acquired scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the scientific speciality "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy".

She has completed various postgraduate courses: abdominal ultrasound diagnostics (1993), echocardiography (1993), positive psychotherapy (1999), family planning (2000), depression and anxiety (2008), Ayurveda (2018), Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (2018), Cancer Rehabilitation (2019). In 2019 she undergoes training on the project "Expertise of working capacity", financed under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development", 2014-2020, for the implementation of ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) among specialists in the health and social systems, with the participation of WHO experts.

Her teaching experience includes working for over 20 years with general practitioners, rehabilitation and kinesitherapists, medical students, health management and masters in the field of "Protection and control of public health". As an internationally certified trainer in Eastern medicine, she teaches acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in postgraduate courses at MU-Varna.

Assoc. Prof. Mancheva is a member of the College Council of the Medical College - Varna. She participates in the implementation of a total of five educational and research projects, two of which are international. She speaks and uses English and Russian languages.

The professional development of Assoc. Prof. Paraskeva Mancheva, combining practical medical work, expert experience as a physician member of Medical-labour Expert Commission, participation in judicial expert teams as an expert, research work in the field of polymorbidity and legal competence are serious applications for her participation in competition and guarantee for the practical applicability of creative ideas from the contributing areas.

2. Scientific research and scientific applied activities

The publications and references attached to the competition prove the high scientific productivity of the applicant, the quality and the recognition of the scientific production. The scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Paraskeva Mancheva has been evaluated on the basis of real publications, and the complete list of scientific works contains a total of 61 titles. At the attention of the Scientific Jury were presented 43 scientific publications, of which 29 issues - on the reference for fulfilling the minimum requirements for occupation of the academic

position "Professor" and 14 - outside the supporting material for fulfilling the minimum requirements for occupying the position.

The presented scientific papers are grouped into two parts:

1. Included in the reference form by sample, proving the fulfillment of the minimum requirements for occupation of the academic position of "Professor", according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria from 2018:

- Criterion 'A' Indicator 1: Dissertation for awarding the academic degree "Doctor" – 1 issue;
- Criterion 'B'. Indicator 2: Dissertation for awarding the academic degree "Doctor of Science" – 1 issue;
- Criterion 'B' Indicator 3: Published habilitation work - monograph - 1 issue;
- Criterion 'Г' Indicator 7: Publications in scientific editions, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases – 1 issue;
- Criterion 'Г' Indicator 8: Publications in scientific peer-reviewed journals, not referenced in world-renowned databases of scientific information – 25 issues;
- Criterion 'Г' Indicator 9: Published chapter of a collective monograph - 1 issue;
- Criterion 'E' Indicator 20: University textbook published - 1 issue.

2. In addition to participating in the evidence to cover the minimum requirements for occupying an academic position of "Professor":

- Publications related to the dissertation work for the academic degree "Doctor" - 5 issues;
- Publications related to the dissertation for academic degree "Doctor of Science" - 11 issues;
- Full-text publications in foreign scientific journals - 4 issues;
- Full-text publications in Bulgarian scientific journals - 10 issues.

All full-text publications after acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor are correctly described and enclosed in full in electronic format to the competition materials. A high personal contribution to the scientific works of the candidate has been proved, which is the sole author of 12 of the submitted real publications in magazines (28%); first author in 9 publications (21%); second author - in 15 publications (35%), third and subsequent author - in 7 publications (16%).

The candidate's scientific work focuses on a chronically ill person with a disability who is seeking a way out of his or her vulnerability by moving through the levels of the health care system and the medical expertise. Contributing to this is her professional path - clinical experience in internal diseases, upgraded with expert work at Medical-labour Expert Commission, in physical and rehabilitation medicine, as well as in general medicine as a teaching assistant. Her legal competency enriches the approach to the polymorbid patient with disabilities in finding a solution to the main problems - the need for rehabilitation after the expert decision of the Medical-labour Expert Commission and opportunities for social integration and return to the labor market. The undisclosed possibilities for changing the quality of life on the one hand, and the candidate's own clinical experience on the other hand, outline the possibilities of cooperating with conventional and unconventional (Eastern) methods in a chronically ill person. All this reflects on the medical education and training of specialists who must acquire specific competence to participate in solving the complex problem of a chronically ill person with disability.

The main thematic areas of the candidate's research activity combine the achievements of her entire creative and professional path, centered on the chronically ill person with disability, and are systematized as follows:

1. Medico-social and legal problems of people with disabilities in the system of medical expertise, health and social systems;
2. Investigation of the legal awareness of euthanasia in patients with disabilities from the system of medical expertise;
3. Organization of the system of medical expertise of working capacity;
4. Improvement of the student training (rehabilitation, kinesitherapy and ergotherapy) with the aim of complex rehabilitation of the chronically ill person and restoration of his working capacity;
5. Opportunities for the introduction of Eastern medicine as adjunctive therapy in patients with chronic disabling diseases.

Scientific contributions are predominantly original in nature - of theoretical, cognitive, methodological and practical relevance.

The first thematic area traces the patient's normative path from GP to Medical-labour Expert Commission and outlines the role of the expert decision for the realization of the rights of people with disabilities. The difficulties have been formulated and the possibilities for optimizing the procedure in the conditions of the current legislation are presented. The opinion of patients with disabilities about the functioning of the medical examination system was examined and the absence of a positive change in the situation and quality of life after the Medical-labour Expert Commission decision was found. The underestimated role of the rehabilitation and the absence of the professional and vocational function of the Medical-labour Expert Commission is formulated. The reasons for the inadequate social integration of people with disabilities with the expert decision of Medical-labour Expert Commission have been investigated and guidelines for improving the access and realization of their rights under the current legislation are presented. The need for a new Ordinance on medical expertise was substantiated and a proposal was made to the National Assembly for legislative changes in the direction of unification of the medical and social assessment of disability, the formation of a specialized Children's expert medical commission and referral to the Medical-labour Expert Commission only of working people.

The studies in the second thematic area are original in content and methodology. The first comprehensive euthanasia study was conducted among a vulnerable group of society - polymorphic disabilities with a low quality of life. The results contribute to the theoretical enrichment of the concepts of "euthanasia", "legal consciousness" and "quality of life for polymorphic patients" through their interconnection. An original methodological contribution of practical importance is the development and implementation of the first in Bulgaria toolkit for the study of legal awareness of euthanasia. The results obtained point to a "quality of life" as the legal consciousness category in the debate about the pros or cons of legalizing euthanasia in chronically polymorphically disabled patients. The need to focus the health and social systems on addressing the problems of chronically ill disabled patients with poor quality of life is underlined before legislative changes on euthanasia are discussed.

The candidate's multifaceted and complementary qualifications enable her to direct and pursue the research included in the subject area of the third scientific area. For the first time in Bulgaria the state of the system of medical examination of working capacity is fully analyzed, its main shortcomings are outlined and the official concepts of restructuring of Medical-labour Expert Commission are analyzed. Based on a survey of experts from the institutions concerned, the adverse effects of the separation of the medical from the social assessment were identified, the need for a unified medical and social assessment of disability, the separation of flows of workers, pensioners and children and a unified hierarchical control were formulated. The original contribution of applied importance is the developed conceptual model of complex medico-social assessment of working capacity, adapted to the European experience, which lays down a new hierarchical structure of the system, complex and unified medical-social expertise, timely and adequate social integration. The conceptual model developed can guarantee an increase in the number of people with disabilities with comprehensive rehabilitation, return to work capacity or re-orientation towards retrained work opportunities.

The studies from the fourth thematic area are aimed at improving the student's education in the direction of complex rehabilitation of the chronically ill person and restoring his working capacity. Surveys cover both frames of mind, attitudes, needs and satisfaction with the learning process and the realization of the labor market among rehabilitation students; as well as the satisfaction of users (patients) with the work of rehabilitators and kinesitherapists. Based on the results of the studies, changes have been proposed to adapt curricula such as content, form and methods of teaching, to improve the quality of medical education, to support the complex evaluation of the educational process with a focus on the problems of rehabilitation of people with disabilities and the return of their capacity for qualified work.

The researches in the fifth scientific area are innovative in subject matter and with practical applied nature. The use of Eastern medicine in Bulgaria and the possibilities for its introduction as adjunctive therapy in patients with chronic disabling diseases are unexplored and extremely innovative in the Bulgarian context. The advantages of combining unconventional methods with conventional medicine to improve the quality of life of a disabled chronic polymorbally ill person are highlighted.

I accept the scientific contributions indicated systematically in the applicant's reference. They are correctly defined, delimited by thematic areas and well-grounded in the applied scientific works. The research methodology involves the development of original instruments and guarantees the reliability of the results obtained.

As summarizing characteristics of the scientific works, I emphasize the relevance of the topic, the precise implementation, the yielding character and the potential for practical applicability of the results. Impressive are the depth, the analyticity, the comprehensiveness and systematic approach of the author in researching the problems.

Evidence of the high quality of the publications and their reflection in the Bulgarian scientific literature is presented. The reference of the Medical University - Varna lists 41 citations, after deduction of the citations, which have participated in previous procedures. Three of them are

in scientific journals, abstracted and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, two are in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, and thirty-six in non-refereed journals with scientific review. Assoc. Prof. Paraskeva Mancheva is the scientific adviser of four PhD students, of whom three successfully defended and one - enrolled in 2018.

She participates as a member of the Scientific Jury for the acquisition of the academic degree "Doctor", academic degree "Doctor of Science", and the academic position of "Associate Professor".

She is a reviewer of articles in the scientific journal *Scripra Scientifica Salutis Publicae*.

3. Educational teaching activity

Assoc. Prof. Mancheva has 20 years of teaching experience. Her teaching load is sufficient in volume, and in the last four years has exceeded the much-required standard for teaching work load.

The Candidate's teaching and training activities are in the field of her interdisciplinary training and scientific interests in general medicine, internal diseases, physical and rehabilitation medicine and legal competence. Her many years of teaching experience includes topics that demonstrate the broad competence of Assoc. Prof. Mancheva and gathers in the touch point of the medical and social problems of people with disabilities related to the functioning of the system of medical expertise of working capacity.

The candidate actively participates in the teaching of trainees and students from different specialties, leading lectures and practical training in the disciplines Expertise of work capacity, Labor and social security law, General medicine, Kinesitherapy, Disability rehabilitation, as well as Eastern medicine (acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine).

Her participation in a project "Expertise of the working capacity", funded under Operational Program Human Resources Development, 2014-2020, for the implementation of the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health) of the World Health Organization is an assurance of the readiness of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paraskeva Mancheva to develop a new direction in the teaching and training activity of MU-Varna, namely - Expertise of working capacity.

Assoc. Prof. Mancheva is the author of the first textbook on Expertise of working capacity in Bulgaria - a timely and necessary guide for students, trainees and practitioners.

She participates in the State Examination Committees for a speciality in the health care system in General Medicine and Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.

She is a member of the Program Boards of the Specialties "Rehabilitation" and "Rehabilitation, Sea treatment, Wellness and SPA". She participates in the development and updating of curricula and programs for the specialties "Rehabilitation", "Rehabilitation, Sea treatment, Wellness and SPA" and "Midwife".

4. Expert activity

Assoc. Prof. Mancheva's high qualification contributes to her expertise as:

- expert on Internal Diseases in General Medical-labour Expert Commission;
- expert (internal diseases, general medicine, physical and rehabilitation medicine) in judicial expertise team;
- member of the expert group for accreditation of the specialties "Kinesitherapy", "Medical rehabilitation and ergotherapy", "Health management";
- Member of the Ethics Committee for Scientific Research at MU - Varna;
- Member of the University Committee for Institutional and Program Accreditation;
- Member of the Commission for the development of a credit system for evaluating the continuing training of physicians.

5. Compliance with the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor"

The presented information shows that Assoc. Prof. Mancheva covers and in some groups of indicators many times exceeds the requirements for occupying the academic position of "Professor", in accordance with the Rules for the development of the academic staff of MU - Varna (Table 1.).

Table 1. Compliance with the requirements of MU - Varna for occupation of academic position "Professor"

Indicat or groups	Content	Number of required points	Number of points based on the presented evidence
A	Indicator 1: Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor"	50	50
Б	Indicator 2: Dissertation for the award of scientific degree "Doctor of Science"	-	100
B	Indicators 3 or 4: Habilitation work/ monograph submitted in connection with the habilitation procedure	100	100
Г	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	200	490
Д	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	100	240
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	100	370

6. Personal impressions of the applicant

I know Assoc. Prof. Mancheva as the scientific adviser of her dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", as well as from our joint work in the Ethics Committee of the Scientific Research at MU - Varna.

She is an erudite and highly qualified professional - with versatile and complementary qualifications, an established expert, a respected colleague, a contemporary teacher and researcher with modern thinking and high potential.

My personal experiences characterize her as intelligent, ambitious, consistent and purposeful, responsible, hard-working and highly productive.

Conclusion

The candidate for participation in this competition fully complies with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University - Varna for occupying the academic position "Professor". The overall assessment of professional development, teaching and training activity, the significant scientific appearances and contribution, the credibility built up, the organizational and expert experience of the applicant, give me reason to give a positive opinion and convinced to suggest the members of the Scientific Jury to vote in favor. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paraskeva Mancheva Draganova, MD, PhD, DSc, **to take the academic position of "Professor"**, in the scientific speciality "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" (Expertise of working capacity), professional field 7.1. "Medicine", field of Higher Education, 7. "Healthcare and Sports", for the needs of Department of "Hygiene and Epidemiology", Faculty of "Public Healthcare", Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" - Varna.

Date: 04.11.2019
City of Varna

Reviewer:
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The undersigned Mihaela Ivanova Georgieva, hereby certify the fidelity of the translation, made by me, from Bulgarian into English, of the document enclosed herein – REVIEW by Prof. Dr. Albena Kerekovska, MD. The translation consists of 8 pages.

Translator: Mihaela Ivanova Georgieva