

STATEMENT

By Assoc. Prof. Klara Georgieva Dokova, MD, PhD
Dean of the Faculty of Public Health
Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov”, Varna

Re: Competition for acquiring an academic position “Associate Professor” in the area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.4. Public Health; specialty **Disaster medicine**“ for the needs of the department of “Disaster medicine“ at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” Varna, promulgated in State Gazette 43/31.05.2019.

According to Order No P-109-234 /26.07.2019 of the Rector of the Medical University of Varna I was appointed as an internal member of the scientific jury and with the decision of its first meeting held on 12.08.2019 I was appointed to prepare a Statement.

In the present competition there is only one candidate, Nikolina Radkova Radeva, PhD, head assistant at Department „Disaster Medicine”, Faculty of Public Health Medical University of Varna “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov”, Varna. The candidate presented all necessary documents as required by the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for its application.

I. Career development of the candidate

Nikolina Radeva was born on 07.07.1983 in the town of Veliki Preslav. In 2002 she graduated from the Fifth Language School “Joan Ekzarch” with French language. In the period 2002-2008 she acquired consecutively a Bachelor Degree in “Tourism” and a Master Degree in „Corporate Finances“ at the Economic University – Varna and in 2012 graduated from the Medical University of Varna with a Master’s degree in Health Care Management. In 2016 she started her specialization in the specialty “Medical Informatica and health care management” and at present is in the last year of the education process.

Following a successful defence of a doctoral thesis “Prevention of stress as a major problem for risk groups in the case of disaster” she is awarded with the academic degree “Doctor” in the scientific specialty of “Disaster medicine” in 2018.

At the beginning of her professional career Nikolina Radeva obtained four year experience as an auditor of tourist services quality, and after she acquired the Master’s Degree in Health Care Management she redirected her development in the area of health care. In the period 2012-2015 she worked as an expert in international projects and programmes at the homonymous department at the Medical University - Varna, and in 2015 after a competition she occupied consecutively the academic positions: assistant, administrative assistant and head assistant at the Department of Disaster medicine, Faculty of Public Health, MU-Varna. From the beginning of 2019 she is appointed as a Coordinator of the University Center of Maritime Health at the MU-Varna.

Since 2018 she is elected as a member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health.

Nikolina Radeva works intensively for achieving high professional qualification and presents data for participation in a significant number of educational seminars and courses, more prominent among all being the international antiterrorism seminars, with the participation of leading European experts in the field, regular participation in the international activities of the Crisis Management and Disaster Response center of Excellence of NATO. She has finished a postgraduate educational course on “First aid after a terrorist attack”, participated in an international seminar „Dialogue on key health workforce planning definitions”, Budapest, Hungary, courses on interactive educational methods, projects’ development and management, quality management etc.

Nikolina Radeva has active project activities. She took part in 4 municipal projects, directed at the specific needs of people with disabilities which have research components, in 5 nationally funded projects of the Medical University of Varna and one international research project in the framework of the Health Programme of the EU Joint Action on Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting - EUHWForce.

Nikolina Radeva is an active member of the Society of People with Disabilities, of the Bulgarian Public Health Scientific Society, The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and the French Society of Disaster Medicine. She speaks English, French, Russian and German languages.

III. Scientific activity of the candidate

In the present competition Nikolina Radeva participates with 32 full text scientific works including:

- 2 monographs, one of which collectively authored;
- 1 handbook (written in two languages - Bulgarian and English);
- 29 full text articles, published in scientific journals or books with conference proceedings.

The articles of the candidate are published in prestigious scientific journals: Journal of IMAB, Social medicine, General Medicine, Medical Preview, Varna Medical Forum etc. In ten of the scientific articles Nikolina Radeva is a single or first author. There is evidence for 8 citations. Three of the articles are with an impact factor of 0.565, 1.7 in total.

The quantitative analysis of the scientific publications of Nikolina Radeva confirm they meet the criteria for occupying the academic position of Associate Professor in the area of higher education 7. Health and Sports.

Qualitative Characteristics of the Scientific Work

The scientific publications of Nikolina Radeva can be structured thematically in broader than the proposed themes that correspond with her professional development and present the scientific interests of the candidate:

1. Management, planning and organization of preventive activities for the population in the case of a disaster;
2. Studies on the awareness and preparedness of the population and specific groups of the population for disasters: with a priority on people with disabilities and health care professionals;
3. Medical and ecological consequences of disasters with focus on chemic accidents and medico – geographic characteristic of ecological catastrophes;
4. Theoretical bases of the scientific discipline Disaster medicine.

The main part of the publications are dedicated on the first topic “**Management, planning and organization of preventive activities for the population in the case of a disaster**”. They discuss national and international regulative and normative frameworks and plans for population prevention in cases of disaster; models for management and actions for reducing the consequences of disasters in the European union and in Bulgaria more concretely. The method of patients’ triage is discussed as a main instrument for the management in cases of disaster; and successful international practices have been studied.

I highly evaluate the second thematic area directed at „**the awareness and preparedness of specific groups of the population for disasters: with a priority on people with disabilities, health care professionals**“. I accept the defined contributions and practical proposals for identification of groups among the people with disabilities exposed to an extremely high risk, based on the specific features of their functional impairments; I acknowledge the proposal for involving “Contact persons” for providing support and overcoming the barriers for people with disabilities.

The third thematic area of the scientific work “**Medical and ecological consequences of disasters with focus on chemic accidents and medico – geographic characteristic of ecological catastrophes** “ covers studies on the various methods for discovering different types of pollution, analysis on risk of contamination of the Black Sea waters, risks for chemical accidents and contamination threatening the population in Devnya and Varna region, etc.

Related with the last thematic area is the monograph analyzing the organizational structure and the management of activities for population prevention in cases of disaster, based on the requirements of the Disaster Protection Act (latest amendments) and other regulatory documents. The tasks and activities in cases of a mass disaster are developed in detail: medical triage and evacuation, the positions of other authors are critically reviewed and matched with the experience of French, Belgian, German and specialists from other countries.

The bilingual (English and Bulgarian) terminology Handbook including more than 1200 terms and their definitions is a valuable and practical study tool, that can be used by scientists, specialists, experts from the Bulgarian Red Cross, teachers and students and PhD students from medical universities and colleges.

The analysis of the scientific works of Nikolina Radeva provided for review, reveals interesting and well - grounded ideas, competency in the researched area, good knowledge and interpretation of recent scientific sources, good structure, language and style of the scientific work and up to date topics.

IV. Educational Activities

Nicolina Radeva has 4 years and 1 month of teaching experience, which fulfills the requirements of the Academic development Act and the Rules for its application and with the conditions of the present competition as announced in the State Gazette.

The presented information on teaching hours reveals that for the last 4 school years Nicolina Radeva has 340 teaching hours per year on average which does not include the time devoted for mid-term and semester exams which she spends as a member of examination committees in all specialties which she is teaching

Nicolina Radeva is lecturing and providing practical education in seminars, takes part in the development of teaching documents and educational materials for the disciplines: Disaster medicine in Bulgarian and English language, Preparedness for accidents and disasters, Medical provisions in cases of disasters, Preparedness for terrorist attacks and antiterrorism, Medical assurance in the case of a disaster with big number of injured.

Beyond the Medical University of Varna, Nicolina Radeva takes part as lecturer in Bulgarian and international scientific events. In 2018 she gave a lecture on the topic „Mental and emotional health. Mental wellbeing and emotional intelligence” in the course „Stress management and resilience training” organized by the Crisis management and disaster response Center of Excellence and received a recommendation by its Director.

V. Personal Impressions

I know Nicolina Radeva since the time she was a student at the Master Programme of Health Care Management, but more direct professional impressions I have since the time she joined the department of Disaster Medicine as an Assistant. I was impressed with the willingness and energy which she puts into her work with students which very quickly raised their interest in the disciplines that she was teaching. The same interest and activity she shows in scientific forums and administrative tasks, in her role as an administrative assistant at the Department.

During the course of our joint work on tasks with different character I had the chance to observe the precision with which she works and her professional correctness.

I am convinced that those attributes guarantee that Nicolina Radeva will continue to develop her potential in the higher academic position for which she is applying and

will contribute to the development of the Department “Disaster Medicine” at the Faculty of Public Health, MU- Varna.

VI. Compliance with the requirements of MU-Varna for obtaining the academic position „Associate Professor”

The presented information reveals that Head Assistant Nikolina Radeva covers and exceeds in some groups the minimal indicators for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” required under the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff of the Medical University of Varna (table 1).

Table 1: Compliance with the requirements of the MU-Varna for obtaining academic position “Associate Professor”

| <i>Group of indicators</i> | <i>Required number of points</i> | <i>Number of points based on presented evidence</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| A | 50 | 50 |
| Б | 0 | 0 |
| B | 100 | 100 |
| Г | 200 | 314 |
| Д | 50 | 50 |
| E | 0 | 100 |

VII Conclusion

The analysis of the complete research and educational activities of head assistant Nikolina Radeva, PhD proves that she covers the requirements for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor” required by the Academic development Act and the Rules for its application.

Nicolina Radeva has sufficient number of valuable scientific work, prestige of a good lecturer, demonstrates potential for further intensive work.

These are the grounds for my positive assessment of the application of Head Rssistant Nikolna Radeva, PhD for the academic position “associate Professor” for the scientific specialty “Disaster Medicine” for the needs of the Department of Disaster Medicine, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University “Prof. Dr. P. Stoyanov” – Varna.

11.09. 2019

Signed:

/Assoc. Prof. Klara Dokova, MD, PhD/