

**REVIEW**

by

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External member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order No. RD -448/27.12.2024 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional field 7.5. "Healthcare", scientific specialty "Healthcare Management", for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, announced in the State Gazette, issue 91/29.10.2024.

The competition was attended by only one candidate: Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova Stefanova, PhD, lecturer in the Department of Health Care, Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

**I. Candidate's Career Profile**

Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova, PhD, acquired secondary special education with a professional qualification "Nurse" - general profile at the Institute for health professionals with secondary specialized education in Burgas in 1983, and subsequently completed higher education in the same specialty in 1995 at the semi-graduate medical institute - Burgas. In 2003, she graduated from the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas in the specialty "Business Administration" - "Health Management" of the Bachelor's Degree. She completed a master's program in the specialty "Health Care Management" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. Burgas in 2012.

After successfully defending her dissertation on the topic "Competencies of the nurse for integrated health and social care, carried out in the home of elderly people with functional dependence and chronic diseases." in 2024. she received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Health Care Management" at Trakia University - St. Zagora.

The work of senior lecturer Petya Stefanova, PhD as a nurse began in 1983. Until 2015, she worked in a number of medical institutions in the city of Burgas, also holding management positions - senior and head nurse, which enriched her clinical experience and practical skills. From 2015 to the present, he is a lecturer at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, Department of "Health Care" of the Faculty of Public Health, gradually holding the positions of lecturer and senior lecturer. He is a member of prestigious professional organizations - Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health; Chairman of the RC of the Bulgarian Association of Healthcare Professionals in Burgas; Member of the Advisory Council on Healthcare to the Municipality of Burgas.

He actively participates in the academic life of the Faculty of Public Health as a member of the General Assembly of the Faculty and the Faculty Council, as well as the Academic Council of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

He is fluent in Russian (level B2) and uses English (level B1).

The professional and career development of senior lecturer Petya Stefanova, Ph.D. to date are in the field of the scientific specialty for which the competition was announced. The accumulated many years of experience, professional qualifications and results of her work are a positive prerequisite for academic growth.

## **II. General description of the materials submitted for the competition**

The set of documents submitted by Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova, PhD is systematized and allows for an objective and complete assessment of the candidate for participation in the competition for the academic position of "associate professor".

All necessary documents provided for in the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", which allows for a precise quantitative and qualitative assessment of the candidate's overall academic development, are attached. The necessary evidence for the publication activity and citations of scientific works is attached.

A declaration of originality and reliability of the scientific works is presented.

## **III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works**

General characteristics of the submitted scientific works

All scientific works submitted under the procedure are in the profile of the competition, meet the requirements and are accepted for review.

The candidate's scientific production in the competition is represented by a total of 18 scientific works. The works after the defense of the dissertation, which are subject to review, are presented as follows:

### **PUBLICATION ACTIVITY (independently or in co-authorship)**

| <b>SCIENTIFIC WORKS</b>   | <b>NUMBER</b> |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Total number of posts</b>  | <b>18</b>     |
| Monographs  |               |
| • independent   | 1             |
| Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes | 16            |
| Single or first author  | 4             |
| Second  | 8             |
| Textbooks and teaching aids /co-authored/   | 1             |

Petya Stefanova's independent monographic work "Multidisciplinary approach in home palliative care", published in 2024, has a topic that is of particularly current importance in the context of the growing need for adequate palliative care at home. The proposed volume of 145 pages is sufficient for a monographic work, according to the definition of "monography" under the Act on the Protection of Home Palliative Care and the Regulations for its implementation. The volume and content of the monographic work are not an end in themselves, but are dictated by the author's desire to examine the problem in a broad and multifaceted manner.

A comprehensive analysis of the state of palliative care in Bulgaria has been made. Based on this analysis, the author emphasizes the deficit of the proposed models for home palliative health care and services, as well as the lack of standards related to the assessment of integrated care in a home environment for people with functional dependencies. The guidelines for solving the medical and social problems of people with chronic diseases and the role of the nurse in ensuring high quality palliative care for them are presented. P. Stefanova presents a developed model of a multidisciplinary team for palliative care in a home environment, which will contribute to optimizing patient care. The need for the establishment of health care standards and the improvement and updating of the structures for delivering home care for people with chronic diseases is highlighted. Of the 16 scientific publications presented, four are in English. The majority of the works have been published in conference proceedings: International journal Knowledge Scientific Papers; Annual Of Assen Zlatarov University, Burgas; Journal "Management and Education". One publication has also been presented in the journal "Health Care".

In her publication activity, the candidate in the competition appears as the sole or first author in about 70% of the total number of scientific works. Co-authorship with other colleagues in some of the publications is a confirmation of the qualities of Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova, Ph.D. to seek common ground and cooperation in the work with her colleagues.

The list of publications is described correctly and the necessary evidentiary material is attached. The works of Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova contain certain contributions to medical theory and practice, and cover a wide range of scientific issues. They are aimed at current and significant problems in health care, and are entirely within the specialty of the announced competition. A summary of the scientific contributions in several leading areas of scientific research activity is presented. They can be summarized in the following main areas:

**1. Health risk factors, prevention and health promotion** – prevention of oncological diseases; prevention of obesity among children in different age periods; health behavior of students; health education in risk groups of the population; prevention of socially significant diseases; health education in social communities. The results of the contribution in this aspect are of an applied nature. They are a scientific basis for a current scientifically-argued approach to a modern health policy for the prevention of socially significant diseases, the risks of health behavior and health promotion. In scientific papers No. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6,7, 9, current problems in this area with scientific and applied significance are treated.

**2. Quality of life** - bioethical aspects of quality of life and chronic diseases; quality of life in elderly people with diabetes; quality of life of people with functional dependencies; role of non-governmental organizations in preserving the quality of life in people with oncological diseases - No. 3, 10, 14, 15. The presented contributions are of a scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature.

**3. Health care** - management of integrated health and social care for people with functional dependencies and chronic diseases, multidisciplinary approach to palliative home care management; management of the quality of care in pre-hospital and hospital care; telemedicine and health care; individual assessment of needs and care plan for adults at home; quality measures of health care for people with cancer. Contributions and merits in this area are presented in publications No. 8, 11, 12, 13, 17. The needs of the elderly and old people and their families for health and social services have been studied and analyzed, which ensure

quality of care and satisfaction of users. The presented contributions are of a scientific-theoretical and scientific-applied nature.

The implemented and approved author's developments of sample documents "Individual Assessment of Needs", "Care and Social Support Plan" in the implementation of activities under the project "Providing Patronage Care for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities" - Component 2, BG05M9OP001-2.040 are distinguished by their contribution.

• **Scientific activity**

Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova, PhD has participated in national and international conferences and presented 2 abstracts in conference proceedings. She is a member of the organizing committee of the International Scientific Student Session (2019) and the organizing scientific committees of student scientific sessions (2020, 2022, 2023, 2024). She is a member of the Program Committee of the Scientific and Practical Conference "Emergency Medicine in Disaster Situations, Terrorism and Severe Traumatism" (2024). P. Stefanova is an academic mentor of Bulgarian students under the "Student Practices" project and of foreign students under "Erasmus +".

• **Participation in the implementation and management of projects**

The candidate in the competition participated in 8 projects, of which: international - 1; national educational projects - 1; intra-university - 6. Her interest in participating in projects is lasting and consistent, as a result of which she has gained significant experience. The projects in which she participated have contributed to the field of healthcare and public health.

• **Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image).**

The citations report presents a total of 12 citations by Bulgarian authors: two citations in a monograph and 10 in non-refereed journals. The necessary evidentiary material is presented.

• **Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators**

With regard to compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, from the list presented to me and the evidentiary material with scientific works and citations, it is clear that Petya Stefanova meets the required number of points in the individual groups of indicators /Table 1/.

**Table 1. Minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position "Associate Professor" and performance by the candidate:**

| Group of indicators | Contents    | Minimum requirements for Associate Professor AD | Completed Petya Stefanova (number of points) |
|---------------------|-------------|---|--|
| A                   | Indicator 1 | 50 т.   | 50   |
| B                   | Indicator 2 | -----<br>---                                    | ---  |

|              |  |   |              |
|--------------|--|---|--------------|
| V            | Indicator 3 or 4                           | 100 т.<br>(Includes Habilitation Thesis -<br>Monograph) | <b>100</b>   |
| G            | Sum of<br>indicators 5 to 9                | 220 т.  | <b>272,5</b> |
| D            | Sum of<br>indicators 10 to<br>12           | 60 т.   | <b>75</b>    |
| E            | Sum of<br>indicators from<br>13 to the end | 20  | <b>80</b>    |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>450</b>  | <b>577,5</b> |

#### **IV. Assessment of teaching and learning activities**

The teaching and learning activities of Senior Lecturer Petya Stefanova, PhD are related to conducting training - lectures, exercises, clinical practice and exams for students at the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery in the specialties "Nursing" and "Physician's Assistant", as well as for students in the specialty "Healthcare Management". She also actively participates in postgraduate training, conducting training for specialists and paramedics in the structure of the Vocational Training Center. She works actively with students, interns and graduates in the preparation and implementation of publications.

Her average classroom workload over the last 5 academic years is about 800 hours with a standard of 560 hours. This proves that the competition is provided with the necessary teaching load.

P. Stefanova is a co-author of the textbook "Practical Guide to Nursing Care for Patients with Oncological Diseases". Participates in the development of the "Pre-Graduate Internship Diary" for the specialty "Physician Assistant", which is part of the mandatory educational **documentation of the specialty.**

#### **V. Critical notes and recommendations**

I would recommend that the candidate in the competition not limit herself to publications in conference proceedings (yearbooks and proceedings), but also publish in journals that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases. This will lead to greater visibility of her scientific output and increase her citation rate.

#### **VI. Conclusion**

According to the criteria for evaluating candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, senior lecturer Petya Stefanova meets the scientometric indicators. My general impressions of the candidate are that all professional and personal prerequisites for holding a higher academic position are present.

Based on the above, I strongly recommend that the members of the Scientific Jury support the selection of senior lecturer Petya Stefanova Stefanova, PhD. for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Health Care Management", professional field 7.5. Health Care, field

of higher education 7. Health and Sports for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

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city of Plovdiv

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