

STATEMENT

Written by Professor Doctor Maryia Anastasova Semerdzhieva, MD
Dean of the Social Health Faculty at the Medical University – Plovdiv

REGARDING: a competition for the occupation of the Associate Professor Academic position in the field of the Higher Education 7. Health Protection and Sports, Professional direction 7.4. Healthcare on the scientific specialty in Social Medicine and Health Protection and Pharmacy Organization, announced for the needs of Public Health and Healthcare Faculty at Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas – SG, issue N.87/192.12.2021.

The only candidate who participates in the competition is Katya Eftimova Popova, Chief Assistant Professor at Healthcare Department, Public Health and Healthcare Faculty of Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas.

I. **Analysis of the Applicant` career profile.**

Katya Eftimova Popova has acquired her Secondary specialized education of Nursing – general Profile at the INSTITUTE FOR PREPARATION OF HEALTH STAFF – Burgas in 1982 and in 1995 - the Medical College Education, at the College of Medicine in Burgas She was awarded two Master degrees: in Biology and Chemistry, at Paisiy Hilendarski College of Medicine in Plovdiv (in 1993) and in Healthcare Management at the Faculty of Public Health of the Medical University in Sofia (in 2016). In 2017 she acquired the specialty in Medical Pedagogy at Medical University – Sofia.

In 2019, after a successful dissertation thesis defense, she was awarded the Educational Scientific Degree of Doctor in Social Medicine, Healthcare and Pharmacy Organization specialty.

Katya Popova`s professional qualification and the subsequent acquiring of the scientific degrees are proofs for her ascendant development. Her professional path began in 1982 as a nurse at the First-Rate District Hospital (nowadays, University Multi-Profile Hospital for Active Treatment in Burgas), Since 1990 she has been working as a lecturer at Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas, after occupying step by step the positions of the Assistant Professor and the Chief Assistant Professor. Within the period 2000-2008 she occupied the position of the Deputy Director of Medical College in the town of Burgas.

She is a member of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health. She participates in the Management Structures of Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas - in the General Assembly of the Social Health and Healthcare Faculty; the Faculty Council and the Commission of Quality at the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare.

She has a Russian command, both written and oral, and uses also French.

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

The Applicant has submitted all the documents necessary for the occupation of Associate Professor Academic Degree and in compliance with the requirements of the Act

for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulation for its implementation and the Rules Rules on the conditions and procedure for acquiring science degrees and holding academic positions in Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas. The materials for the competition provide in full volume the necessary information for conducting There have been submitted all the necessary document of proof.

Assessment of the Applicant`s scientific works for the entire academic development

In the papers submitted by the Applicant for covering of the obligatory scientometric criteria there are 44 scientific works available, of which: 3 schoolbooks, 2 monographs, 5 publications in reference journals and symposia.

The articles in which Katya Popova is a sole or the first author are 20 (45.5%). Her scientific- research activity is also related to her active participation in 18 projects, of which: International projects: 1; National Educational ones: 7; Intra-University: 10, being she a leader of one of them.

Chief Assistant Katya Popova has submitted her reports on 17 scientific forums, of which: 2 National and 15 International congresses and conferences. She has been invited as a moderator on an International Conference. She has participated in the organized scientific committees of the students` scientific sessions being a scientific advisor of 16 students` reports presented at scientific sessions.

The main directions of K.Popova`s scientific research activity can be systematized in general, as follow:

- 1. Public health, risk factors for health, health prevention and promotion:** health needs, prevention from socially significant diseases; children`s and pupils` health protection; quality of life of risk groups of the population; bioethical aspects in health protection; health education in the social communities.
 - The leading risk factors among the different groups of the population have been analyzed: intended, the factors predisposing to or causing socially significant diseases.
 - Insufficient interaction has been ascertained in promoting a health way of life among the young generation and creating skills for an informed healthy choice, a control on and a responsibility to own health.
 - An interdisciplinary mobile team has been approved in which students of Healthcare professional direction participate in.
- 2. Healthcare – integrated medical-social care for elderly people, people with chronic diseases, healthcare organization and management, healthcare quality.**
 - The elderly and older people and their families` needs of health and social services have been examined and analyzed, in order to ensure quality of care and satisfaction of users.
 - A Model of organization of elderly and older people integrated care has been created, which ensures qualitative healthcare end supporting services, focusing on the social community.
 - Methodical guidelines have been elaborated for a Geriatric Care Expert in the social community, which main role includes the organization and the management of the process in order to provide qualitative care.
 - The health assistance difficulties and faults have been outlined and especially for the

vulnerable groups of the population

- Proposals have been made for the improvements and the interaction in the healthcare team: specialists and patients with institutions, with the purpose for improvement of the healthcare quality for prevention from and prophylactics of socially significant diseases.

3. **Quality of medical education** - professional preparation of the healthcare specialists in compliance with the strategies for quality and the increased needs of the society. Some significant proposals, applicable to practice, have been made, in order to obtain a quality increase of the medical education.

- A Trainee's Diary has been worked out, in order to guarantee quality of the pre-graduate internship organizing, conducting and assessment.
- Methodical guidelines have been proposed on Nursing practical bases, in order to assist students with mastering of the theoretical knowledge and its application to a real working environment.
- Innovative methods have been applied to the practical training, which ones are related to the insertion of the students into research projects, extramural classes and other pro-active methods.

Assessment of the monographic works

Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova participates in the competition with two monographs: one authored and the other co-authored. The monograph Geriatric care – realities and perspectives is extremely actual, taking into account the ever-growing number of elderly people in Bulgaria. The single elements of its content are very aptly chosen: elderly and older people's need and systems of healthcare organization for them; international and national strategies, policies and legislation in the geriatric care field and a Research on the geriatric care quality in the Region of Burgas, The author presents her own Model of organization of elderly and older people integrated carer, which is a proof for the good knowledge of the subject-matter.

In her monograph Quality of life, related to health of people suffering from chronic diseases, the interrelation has been examined between the qualitative health-social care and services and the level of satisfaction with quality of life of people suffering from chronic diseases. The character of this scientific work is its practical applicability. There have been also elaborated programs for training of people who suffered from chronic non-infectious diseases, with the purpose of prevention from complications and the increase of the motivation for the control and the management of such disease.

Reflection (citation) of the Applicant's publications

The significant importance of the scientific-applicable results consists in their reflection in the works of other researchers. According to the list which has been submitted to me, the Applicant has 29 positive citations: 27 in scientific publications and 2 ones in school appliances.

III. Complex qualitative assessment of the didactic-methodical and lecturer's activity

Chief Assistant Professor Katya Popova, MD, has been actively participating in lectures, exercises, clinical practice and pre-degree internship of the students of Public Health and

Healthcare Faculty on the specialties in Nursing, Obstetrician, Physician Assistant and Healthcare Management, teaching eight subjects. She is inserted into the post-graduated training; she is a member of the State Examination Board of Nursing specialty. The Applicant's average workload in the last four years include 77 classes of lectures, 369 classes of exercises and 161 classes of clinical practice. It is a proof that the required workload is ensured for the competition.

IV. Total assessment of the Applicant's conformity to the obligatory conditions and obligatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

Group of indicators	Contents	Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University criteria	Katya Popova
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	---	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of the indicators from 5 to 9	220	744
E	Sum of the indicators from 10 to 12	60	165
F	Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end	20	265

The volume of the submitted scientific production exceeds multifold the number of the requirements on the part of Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas for the occupation of Associate Professor Academic position.

V. Conclusion

Katya Popova is a complete lecturer actively participating in the preparation of pre- and postgraduate students at Professor Doctor Asen Zlatarov University – Burgas. On the basis of the scientific works submitted by her, their contributions and the entire assessment her didactic activity as a lecturer, I am proposing to the Honorable Scientific Jury to elect Katya Popova awarding her a Degree of Associate Professor in Social Medicine and Health Protection and Pharmacy Organization scientific specialty at the Public Health and Healthcare Faculty.

On February 10th 2022

In the city of Plovdiv

/Professor Doctor M.Semerdzheiva MD/