

### STATEMENT

## by Prof. Dr. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, PhD

Faculty of Public Health and Health Care, University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas,

of the materials submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health (Occupational Therapy), scientific specialty " Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy "

In the competition for "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", announced in the State Gazette, issue 45/17.06.2022 and on the website of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, submitted documents and admitted for participation is one candidate - Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD.

By Order № RD - 259/15.09.2022 of the Rector of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas I am appointed as the Chairman of the Scientific Jury.

## General presentation of the materials received

The Submitted, by Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD printed set of materials is in accordance with the "Regulations for the conditions and procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas", "Law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria", Regulations for the implementation of the law on the development of academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria", and includes the following documents:

- 1. Application to the Rector for admission to the competition.
- 2. Copy of the advertisement in the State Gazette.
- 3. Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- 4. A document proving the length of service referred to in paragraph 1, point 2.
- 5. A copy of the "Doctor" diploma.
- 6. A copy of the diploma for the specialty "Occupational Therapy".

- 7. Certificates for completed courses and additional qualifications.
- 8. Copies of scientific papers.
- 9. Educational and Teaching documents.
- 10. Documents for participation in research projects.
- 11. List of scientific forums in which the candidate has participated.
- 12. Reference to fulfilment of minimal requirements.
- 13. Full list of publications.
- 14. List of publications for the competition.
- 15. Author's note on scientific contributions.
- 16. Citation reference.
- 17. Declarations in accordance with paragraph 15 of the abovementioned Regulations.

The candidate Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD has submitted a complete list of her scientific publications and a list for participation in this competition, including 15 scientific works, 1 monograph and 14 full-text scientific publications. The scientific works in the competition are outside the dissertation.

It is clear from the submitted documents that the candidate's professional qualifications and quantitative indicators of scientific development meet the requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health (Occupational Therapy), scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy". The materials are complete and carefully arranged.

## Brief biographical details of the applicant

Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD was born in. Sredets, ob. Burgas in 1971, where she finished her secondary education with a gold medal. In 1992 she graduated in Rehabilitation at PMI - Plovdiv. In the period 2001 - 2003 she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Health Care with a professional qualification "Health Care Manager and Teacher in Medical College" at the Medical Faculty of the Medical University - Plovdiv, and in 2007 she obtained a Master's degree with a professional qualification "Health Management" at the Medical University - Sofia. In 2014 she obtained a PhD in Social Medicine and Organization of Health

Care and Pharmacy at the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, Medical University
- Plovdiv. This year she also received a Master's degree in Occupational Therapy in the
Community at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care of the University of Ruse "Angel
Kanchev".

She started her professional career in the summer of 1992, as a rehabilitation therapist at the Clinic of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of the University Hospital "St. Georgi Plovdiv. Until the health care reform in July 2000 she worked as a rehabilitation therapist at the 1st Municipal Polyclinic - Plovdiv. In 2004 she started working in the pharmaceutical industry and has been working there ever since. Currently she holds the position of "Key Account Manager". Since 2016 she has been on the academic staff of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University - Burgas, and in 2019 she acquired the administrative position of Senior Assistant Professor.

The candidate has made continuous and focused efforts to establish and grow professionally as a professional, researcher and teacher. This is evident from her numerous certificates and additional qualifications. She is a member of the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health (BSSPH), Association of Bulgarian Occupational Therapists (ABET), and her active participation in the scientific forums of these organizations is a good prerequisite for the successful combination of clinical medicine and scientific research.

## General description of the applicant's activities

# Evaluation of the candidate's teaching and pedagogical activity

According to the submitted Report on teaching and learning activities in the last six years, Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD has been teaching students from the specialty "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy", specialty "Health Management", specialty "Balneo Spa and Wellness Management" at the Faculty of Physical Therapy, specialty "Rehabilitator" and specialty "Pharmacist Assistant" at the Medical College.

Courses taught: Ergotherapy and Ergonomics, Methods for Functional Assessment in Medical Rehabilitation and Ergotherapy, Therapeutic Massage, Medical Statistics, Medical Ethics and Deontology. Conducts practice and pre-degree internship of trainees of the specialty "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy".

## Evaluation of the candidate's scientific and applied activity

Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD participated in the competition with 15 scientific papers, distributed as follows:

- 1 monographic (habilitation) work;
- 14 full-text scientific publications.

Of the 14 scientific papers submitted for the competition, 7 are independent and 7 are coauthored, in national and international publications. All publications are peer-reviewed and indexed.

The scientific activity of Chief Assistant Sonia Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD is proved by participation in a number of forums. She has participated in 13 international and national conferences.

For the realization of his scientific activity Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD participated in 4 scientific research projects - 1 international and 3 funded by the University, one of which she is the head.

# Scientific and applied contributions and citations of the candidate

Contributions and scientific interests of Chief Assistant Sonia Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD in the scientific production submitted for participation in the competition are scientifically applied and original in the field of public health and occupational therapy:

- Health Promotion.
- Prevention of diseases and complications,
- Prevention of socially significant diseases, health awareness and education of patients and their relatives as part of the occupational therapy process.
- Integrated medico-social care and ethical aspects of healthcare for people with chronic diseases.
  - Quality of life and health care.

- Monitoring and evaluating the quality of medical education and professional training of health care professionals.
- Role of rehabilitation and chronic disease management; impact of diet and oral health on quality of life in older adults from an occupational therapy perspective.

The monographic work "Ethical Problems in Palliative Care", ISBN 978-619-7353-47-1, published by Baltika-2002, Burgas, 2021 addresses the problem of the contemporary application of palliative care in Bulgaria. The importance of the multidisciplinary team and the important role of the occupational therapist, at this important time in each person's life, in improving the quality of health care, including management and lifestyle, is emphasized.

The scientific results obtained from the presented research have been reported personally by the candidate at numerous specialized scientific conferences and congresses.

# Evaluation of the personal contribution of the candidate

I believe that the contributions formulated and the results obtained are to a large extent a personal merit of the candidate. The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD is also evident from the fact that in most of the scientific papers submitted for the competition she is the sole or first author.

### Critical comments and recommendations

I recommend the Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD to direct her efforts more actively to the promotion of her results in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information.

#### Conclusion

Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD has a rich practice with proven achievements among her colleagues. The long and uneasy path of her formation as a specialist has helped her development as a teacher and researcher.

The overall scientific production of Chief Assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD is in accordance with the professional field and is in the scientific specialty of the announced competition.

The documents and materials submitted by assit. Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD meet all the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria), the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria) and the Regulations for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University Burgas. They meet, and in some of the indicators exceed the minimum quantitative requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov". I believe that sufficient scientific and applied contributions have been obtained.

After getting acquainted with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysis of their significance and scientifically applied and original contributions contained in them, I give a positive assessment and recommend the Scientific Jury to prepare a proposal report to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care for the election of the Chief assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD for the academic position of Associate Professor at Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health (Occupational Therapy), scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy".

03.11.2022 г. Reviewer: ... (Prof. Dr. Hristo Bozov, PhD)