

OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Maria Anastasova Semerdjieva, PhD

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REGARDING: Competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Health Care and Pharmacy", announced for the needs of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas in no. 45 of 17.06.2022

The only candidate in the competition is **Sonya Kostadinova Nancheva**, chief assistant - ¼ staff in the Department of Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine, Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare and ¼ staff in the Department of Internal Medicine, Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Social Medicine, Disaster Medicine, computer technologies and Latin language" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas.

**I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.**

Chief Assistant Sonya Nancheva, PhD, graduated from the "Rehabilitation" specialty at the PMI in Plovdiv in 1992, and in 2002 from the "Bachelor's College", specialty "Health Care". She continued her professional development with two master's degrees: "Health Management" (2007) and "Community Occupational Therapy" (2022).

After a successful defense of her thesis in 2014, she was awarded a doctorate in the scientific specialty "Social medicine, organization of health care and pharmacy" in 2014.

The labor activity of Chief Assistant Sonia Nancheva, PhD started in 2004 as a Medical Representative in the Pharmaceutical Industry. At the moment, she takes position of Key Customers Manager.

From 2016, she was initially appointed as a part-time lecturer at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov" - the city of Burgas, after which she gradually occupies the positions of Assistant and Chief Assistant Professor at various departments of the university.

The candidate constantly improves her qualifications as a professor, lecturer and scientist. This is evidenced by the diplomas, certificates and certificates of participation in specializations, qualification courses and trainings attached to the documents. She is fluent in

written and spoken English at B1 level.

She is a member of prestigious professional organizations - Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health and Association of Bulgarian Occupational Therapists.

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

It is noticeable that Chief Assistant Sonya Nencheva, PhD, prepared the documentation for the competition correctly and precisely. All the necessary documents stipulated in the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov ", which enables a precise quantitative and qualitative assessment of her overall academic development.

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

### *General characteristics of the presented scientific works*

The scientific output of the candidate in the competition is represented by a total of 14 scientific papers presented as follows:

Table 1. Scientific output

<b>SCIENTIFIC PAPERS</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
<b>Total number of posts</b>	<b>15</b>
Monograph - independent	1
Publications and reports published in non- refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	14

The independent monographic work of Sonia Nencheva "*Ethical Issues in Palliative Care*" is on a topic that has a prominent current importance in the context of the growing need for adequate palliative care. The sources of the ethical problems in offering this type of care are identified: the specifics of the environment, the personal characteristics and the professional training of the staff.

An attempt has been made to give recommendations for effectively dealing with ethical problems in the provision of palliative care.

Of the 14 scientific publications presented, seven are in international editions, of which three are in English. In her publication activity, the candidate in the competition is the sole or first author in 62% of the total number of scientific works.

A significant part of the presented publications are in established scientific publications: " International Journal Knowledge ", "Management and education", " Collection of scientific

works of SUB - Plovdiv", etc. The list of publications is described correctly and the necessary supporting material is attached.

The works of Ch. assistant professor S. Nencheva, PhD are aimed at current and significant problems in the field of public health, and they are entirely in the field of the announced competition. An overview of the scientific contributions in several leading directions is presented, which could be summarized in the following main directions:

**1. Quality of life of risk groups of the population.** The contribution results in this aspect are of an applied nature. They are a scientific basis for an up-to-date scientifically proven approach to a modern health policy to improve the quality of life of risk groups. Comprehensive medical, health and rehabilitation programs are recommended to improve physical and general health. **Current problems in this direction with** scientific applied importance are treated in the scientific works Nos. 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13.

**2. Health awareness and training of patients and their relatives as part of the occupational therapy process.** Contributions and merits in this direction are presented in publications No. 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 14. The needs of different groups of patients and elderly people from health and social services to ensure quality of care and satisfaction of the users. It emphasizes the need for a multidisciplinary approach in determining the treatment plan and maintaining optimal health and quality of life in these patients.

**3. Quality of medical education and professional training of healthcare professionals.** The importance of the professional training of medical specialists is emphasized, in accordance with the strategies for the quality of education and the increased needs of society. A comprehensive theoretical-practical innovative model of health care training for applying a medico-social approach to socially significant diseases has been developed. Contributions to pedagogical theory and practice stand out in publications No. 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14

● *Scientific activity*

Ch. assistant professor S. Nencheva, PhD, has participated in 7 scientific forums, including one Bulgarian and 6 international conferences, which guarantees popularization of her scientific work.

● *Participation in the implementation and management of projects*

Chief Assistant Sonya Nencheva, PhD has participated in one international and three intra-university projects, one of which she is the leader of. The projects in which she participated made a significant contribution to the field of public health and rehabilitation.

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

In the bibliographical reference a total of 14 citations are presented, 3 are in monographs, 6 in a textbook, 1 in a practical guide and 4 in peer-reviewed publications.

With regard to compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov " - the city of Burgas from the list presented to me and evidentiary material with scientific works and citations it is clear that Ch. assistant Sonya Nencheva, PhD **corresponds to the required number of points in the individual groups of indicators.**

Table 2. Minimum required points by groups of indicators for scientific degrees and academic positions

<i>A group of metrics</i>	<i>Content</i>	<b>Docent (number of points) Minimum national</b>	<b>Docent according to the rules of a university "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov " - Burgas city</b>	<b>Sonya Nencheva (number of points)</b>
<b>A</b>	Indicator 1	50	50	<b>50</b>
<b>B</b>	Indicator 2	-	-	-
<b>IN</b>	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100	<b>100</b>
<b>D</b>	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	220	<b>250</b>
<b>D</b>	Sum of indicators from 10 and 12	50	60	<b>120</b>
<b>Well</b>	Sum of the indicators from 13 to the end	-	20	<b>50</b>

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

The educational and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Sonya Nencheva, PhD are related to lectures, exercises, training practice and pre-graduate internship of students from the specialties " Balneo, SPA and Wellness Management", "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy ", "Health Management", "Rehabilitator" and "Assistant Pharmacist" " in eight academic disciplines. She actively participates in drafting on educational programs in " Ergotherapy and ergonomics".

The submitted report on academic employment certifies that for the period from 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 academic years Chief Assistant Sonya Nencheva has realized 406 hours of academic teaching activities with students from the relevant specialties. This proves

that the competition is provided with the necessary academic load.

## **V. Conclusion**

According to the requirements of the national mandatory criteria and the criteria for evaluating candidates for the academic position "Associate Professor" at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov " - Burgas, Assis. Prof. Sonya Nencheva, PhD, is in charge of the scientometric indicators.

Taking into account the scientific achievements and performances of the candidate, complying to the standards and direction of the competition, the active teaching activity and the participation in scientific projects, I confidently offer to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to award the academic position " Associate Professor" to Ch. assistant Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD, in the scientific specialty "Social medicine, organization of health care and pharmacy", professional direction 7.4. Public health, area of higher education 7. Health care and sports for the needs of the National Health Service at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov " - Burgas city.

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city of Plovdiv

Prepared the opinion: ....  
/prof. Dr. }