

## OPINION STATEMENT

**By:** Prof. Tzecomir Vlaykov Vodenitcharov, MD, DSc.

Member of the Scientific Jury according to order PK-79/ issued from 16 March 2020 by the Rector of the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas,

**Subject:** Competition for the academic position **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR** in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, Professional Field 7.4 Public Health, scientific specialty of Social Medicine and Organisation of Healthcare and Pharmacy at the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas. Announced in the State Newspaper issue №5 /17 January 2020

By the order PK-79/16 March 2020 issued from the Rector of the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, I was elected as a member of the scientific committee for procedure for holding the academic position **Associate Professor** in Department of Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine of the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare, in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sports, in Professional Field 7.4 Public Health, scientific specialty of Social Medicine and Organisation of Healthcare and Pharmacy.

### **I. General Information about the Candidate**

Svetla Mihaylova Shopova, Chief Assistant, has obtained in 2003 a Specialist's degree of physiotherapist at Medical College by Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas. In 2007 obtained Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Management at the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas, and in 2010 a Master's degree in Healthcare Management by the same university. In 2017 obtained a PhD in the professional field 7.6 Sports in the scientific specialty of Theory and Methodology of Physical Education and Sports Training (including Methodology of Physical training).

During the period 2009-2015 Chief Assistant Shopova has held a position Assistant in the Medical College of the Prof., Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas. Since 2015 she is a currently Chief Assistant in the same college. The candidate participated in 5 scientific and research projects. She speaks French, English and Russian languages, and she has good communication, organisational and digital skills.

## **II. General description of the materials submitted in the competition:**

For participation in the competition Chief Assistant Shopova presents scientific publications that exceed the minimum scientometric requirements included in Regulations for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatatov"- Burgas

## **III. Assessment of the scientific contributions by the Candidate to the overall academic development**

✓ General characteristics of the scientific production and publication Activities

The scientific production of Chief Assistant Shopova features analytical and in-depth thinking. The main fields are: prevention of the health status of patients with bronchial asthma; rehabilitation of socially significant illnesses; applying the SPA&Wellness treatments; optimisation of the quality of education and training of the healthcare specialists; Physiotherapy for vestibular function, etc.

✓ Scholarly activity - dissemination and usage of the scientific and practical achievements of the candidate among the scientific society.

Chief Assistant Shopova participated in numerous national scientific forums, she presents results of researches in Bulgarian and international scientific journals. She has 20 publications and reports in non-referenced journals with scientific peer reviews or published in edited collective volumes. Chief Assistant Shopova has published a chapter in a collective monograph and she participated in two university textbooks. The total number of citations are 12.

✓ Assessment of the candidate's scientific and research activity

The candidate has presented the following list of publications in specialised scientific literature: Publications in non-referenced journals with scientific peer reviews or published in collective volumes; a monograph, co-authored textbooks.

Main fields of the candidate's scientific and research activities are:

Foremost from all is "Rehabilitation of socially significant diseases". The main contributions are in the application of innovative approaches of combined theoretical and practical training in the issues of diabetes and its

complications in cases of diabetic foot syndrome and diabetic polyneuropathy. The candidate took part in two scientific research projects in the Prof., Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas: "Modern approaches and teaching methods for students in Medical College through rehabilitation and prevention of diabetic foot syndrome" and "Innovative approaches of training and qualification of healthcare professionals for prevention of diabetes and its leading complications".

On second place is application of SPA&Wellness treatments. The main contributions of the candidate are related to the promotion of health and disease prevention through these treatments.

The third field of activity refers to *The Prevention of Health Status in Patients with Bronchial Asthma*, where the most important scientific theoretical contributions are defined by a study of the impact of the Physiotherapy programme.

The fourth field relates to the optimisation of the quality of healthcare specialists' training. The scientific contributions are also supported by a project on *Some Modern Methods and Approaches to the Training of Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy Students for Work in a SPA Centre*.

#### **Other fields**

Chief Assistant Svetla Shopova applies her scientific work in other fields as well, such as Use of Studies and Physiotherapy Means of Treatment of the Vestibular Function. She participated in the project *Role and Place of Thalassotherapy and the Balneological Resources in Burgas Area for Prevention and Rehabilitation of Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and the Peripheral Nervous System*.

#### **IV. Monographic assessment or equivalent publications presented by the candidate in competition holding academic positions Associate Professor.**

The candidate presented his participation in a monograph on the topic "tools for therapeutic massage", published in 2020.

#### **V. Comprehensive quality assessment of the candidate's methodological and teaching activity, Including mentoring students and trainees**

Chief Assistant Shopova has participated in curriculum preparation in the "Therapeutic Massage": for the specialty "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy" of the Bachelor's Degree and the "Kinesitherapist" specialty for the "Professional Bachelor", "Spa and Wellness methods for rehabilitation and prevention", as well as in the curricula of "Training Practice and Undergraduate Internship". The candidate's teaching activity exceeds the required minimum of 360 academic hours. She teaches the following modules in Prof., Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas: Therapeutical massage, SPA&Wellness in the following specialties: "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy" of the Bachelor's Degree and Rehabilitator's specialty, Professional Bachelor's Degree.

**VI. Overall assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric requirements according to Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University.**

The presented documentation for competition demonstrated, that Chief Assistant Shopova meets the requirements for holding academic position of "Associate Professor" according to the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, in the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application.

### **VII. Conclusion**

Based on the abovementioned data, scientific and research activities of the candidate, her creative approach and individuality, I give my high assessment and positive vote to Chief Assistant Svetla Shopova for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" in the Higher Education Area 7. Health and Sports, in Professional Field 7.4 Public Health, Scientific specialty of Social Medicine and Organisation of Healthcare and Pharmacy for the needs of the Department of Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine at the Faculty of Public Health and Healthcare of the Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas.

27 June 2020

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