

OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, MD

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas

**Member of the scientific jury, according to order № RD-243/15.09.2022,
of the Rector of the University "Prof. D-r. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas**

Regarding: Competition procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, by professional direction 7.4. Public health and scientific specialty "Kinesitherapy".

In the competition for the academic position " Associate Professor ", announced in the State newspaper, issue № 45/17.06.2022, as well as on the website of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas, one candidate was admitted to participate - Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova Angelova-Popova, PhD - Department of "Health and Pharmaceutical Care" - Medical College and Department of "Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine" - Faculty of Public Health and Health Care at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

By Order of the Rector № RD-243/15.09.2022, I have been designated as a member of the scientific jury and I have been chosen to prepare an opinion on the procedure for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" with a candidate Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova Angelova-Popova, PhD.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova Angelova-Popova, Ph.D. graduated from the "Rehabilitator" specialty at the Medical College of the University "Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov" - the city of Burgas in 2001. In 2005, she obtained the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor", specialty "Kinesitherapy" at the National Sport Academy "Vasil Levski" - Sofia, and in 2011 - "Master" degree, specialty "Business Administration - Health Management" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. In 2018, she successfully defended his dissertation on the topic "Kinesitherapy for fractures of the distal radius" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", in the scientific specialty "Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (incl. Methodology of physical therapy)" in NSA "Vasil Levski" – Sofia.

She began her work experience in 2001 as a rehabilitator at TDKTC OOD - Burgas. She successively worked in the SPA center "Diamond" - Sunny Beach (2006) and SPA center "Rose", hotel "Sol Nessebar Palace" - Sunny Beach (2010). In 2011-2013 she worked as a physiotherapist in the Physiotherapy Center " Vita" - Burgas and from 2022 in General hospital for active treatment "Heart and Brain" - Burgas.

She started her academic career in 2005 as a lecturer in practice at "Medical College", University "Prof. Dr. "Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. Since 2006, she has been an assistant at the "Medical College", University "Prof. Dr. "Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. Since 2019 and currently

she is the Chief Assistant at the "Medical College" and Faculty of Public Health and Health Care at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova-Popova, PhD successfully combines practical work with research and teaching activities in her career. All this guarantees a high level and quality of professional development.

The candidate has gone through numerous specialized courses and trainings (17 in number), which further contribute to her professional development. Among them are: Mulligan's Concept - Mobilization with movement, NAGS, PRP's, etc., PNF Basic Course (PNF1 + PNF2), Muscle relaxation and stretching in manual therapy, Peripheral nerve mobilization, Orthopedic medicine according to Cyriax, Dry kneeling, Osteopathic manipulation techniques and muscle release-Osteo MTMR, Thera-Band Academy" – Elastic resistance, proprioceptive training and myofascial relaxation in physical therapy and sports, Manual therapy techniques for shoulder injuries, Manual therapy techniques for knee injuries, Kinesitherapy for stiffness and contractures of the hand, Kinesiological taping, Neuromuscular taping, Yumeiho therapy, etc.

She has participated in more than 10 scientific conferences with the presentation of reports.

She is a member of the Association of Physiotherapists in Bulgaria (AFB) and the Bulgarian Sports Physiotherapy Organization (BOSF). She speaks English and Russian.

II. Comprehensive qualitative evaluation of the teaching-methodical and teaching activity, incl. scientific guidance of students, doctoral students, specialists

Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova Angelova-Popova, PhD, provides lectures, practicals, practical training and pre-diploma internship in the main disciplines "Kinesitherapy" and "Therapeutic Massage" for students from the "Rehabilitator" specialty, "Prof. Bachelor" in Medical College and from the specialty "Medical rehabilitation and occupational therapy", "Bachelor" from FOZZG at University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas. The report on its average annual workload for the last five years shows a large over-normative academic workload. I believe that Chief Assistant Professor Gergana Angelova Angelova-Popova possesses the necessary qualities and competencies and as a qualified person will support the development of new study programs and the creation of new specialties.

She participated in the development of programmes for "Kinesitherapy", "Medical massage", "Pre-graduate training", "Kinesiology" and "Patokinesiology" for the students of the "Rehabilitator" specialty from the Medical College and the "Medical rehabilitation-ergotherapy" specialty of the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care.

She takes part in the State Examination Commission for the disciplines "Kinesitherapy" and "Therapeutic Massage" - theoretical and practical exam of the specialty "Rehabilitator", "Prof. Bachelor's Degree in Medical College.

The candidate is the scientific supervisor of more than 20 course works of students from the "Rehabilitator" specialty from the Medical College. She also participated as a scientific consultant in 8 scientific reports presented at Student Scientific Sessions, three of which were awarded (1 first and 2 second places).

In summary, the above facts give me reason to believe that the candidate has extensive professional teaching experience.

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works

The works and publications submitted for participation in the competition prove the high scientific productivity of the candidate. A total of 21 scientific works have been submitted for participation in this competition, divided by type, as follows:

- Monographic (habilitation) thesis - 1 number on the topic "Kinesitherapy in subacromial compression syndrome and rotator cuff tears" - 132 pages, ISBN: 978-619-7125-91-7
- Full-text scientific publications - a total of 20 numbers, of which:
 - Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (Indexed in Web of Science) – 2 numbers.
 - Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – 18 numbers.

Of these, 11 are in Bulgarian and 9 in English.

In scientific developments and publications, the candidate is an independent author in 4 of them, with one co-author – 8 numbers and with two or more co-authors - 8 numbers.

All publications are correctly described and an appendix in full volume to the materials for the competition.

The main thematic directions in the scientific research activity and the contributions of Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova-Popova, PhD are in the field of scientific specialty in the announced competition and can be distinguished in the following directions:

- Kinesitherapy for injuries and diseases of the musculoskeletal system and musculoskeletal dysfunctions;
- Rehabilitation for metabolic diseases;
- Impact of balneotherapy in common diseases;
- Studies in children with autism and hypotrophy;
- Telemedicine and telerehabilitation;
- Optimizing the quality of education and the preparation of students;
- Studies in the field of health management.

Project participation/execution and management

Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova-Popova, PhD, provided evidence for participation in 7 research projects, which were funded by the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas.

Attached is a reference with 9 citations, 3 of which are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes.

IV. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

From the attached reference-self-assessment for the implementation of the national minimum scientometric indicators Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova-Popova, PhD fulfills all the conditions and exceeds the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor", laid down in the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, and its rules of application and the regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas (See table 1).

Table 1.

Indicator Group Contents	Fulfillment of requirements for Associate Professor by Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova- Popova, PhD	Minimum national requirements for Associate Professor	Minimum requirements for Associate Professor of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas
A Indicator 1	50	50	50
B Indicator 2	0	0	0
B Indicator 3	100	100	100
B Indicator 4	0	0	0
Г Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	355	200	220
Д Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	90	50	60
E Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	30		20
Total	625	400	450

Conclusion

After analyzing the materials and documents provided, with which the candidate participates in the current competition, I believe that they fully cover all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedures for Acquiring Scientific Degrees and holding academic positions at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" – Burgas.

Based on the scientific production, scientific interests, high professional qualification, experience and work experience, I give a **positive opinion** with full conviction and recommend the members of the Scientific Jury to award Chief Assistant Gergana Angelova Angelova - Popova, PhD academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health care and sport", professional direction 7.4. "Public Health", scientific specialty "Kinesitherapy".

15/11/2022

Reviewer:

Prof. Dr. Hristo Stoyanov Bozov, MD