НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
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REVIEW

by Prof. Tsveta Georgieva, PhD

National Center for Public Health and Analysis, Sofia

Member of a scientific jury, appointed with Order No. RD-180/02.04.2026 of the Director of the National Center for Public Health and Public Health

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Hygiene", announced in the State Gazette, issue 15 of 06.02.2026, page 104, for the needs of the Department "Composition of Food and Consumer Products" at the Directorate "Analytical and Laboratory Activities"

The only candidate in the competition is senior assistant Svetla Petrova Petrova, PhD

This review has been prepared on the basis of the submitted documents, in accordance with the required Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis, Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the National Center for Public Health and Analysis, the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations thereto. The documentation fully complies with the requirements.

Brief biographical data

Ch. assistant Svetla Petrova dmgraduated with a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Sofia University "St. St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Chemistry in 2005, and in 2011 received a master's degree in Medical Chemistry at the same faculty. In 2012, she was appointed to the Department of Toxicology, Directorate of Public Health and Health Risk, NCPHA. Since 2013, she has been appointed as an expert in the Department of Chemical Substances and Mixtures and Materials for Contact in Food, to the same directorate. In 2019, she successfully defended her dissertation: "Specific Migration of Monomers from Polymer Materials for Contact with Food, Offered on the Bulgarian Market" and acquired the ONS Doctorate. In 2021, after winning a

competition, Chief Expert Svetla Petrova, PhD was appointed to the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor in the Department of Composition of Food and Consumer Products, Directorate of Analytical and Laboratory Activities. Chief Asst. St. Petrova has two medical specialties: "Toxicology" and "Medical Sanitary Chemistry".

The scientific developments of Senior Asst. Prof. Petrova are in the field of migration of monomers from materials and packaging intended to come into contact with food and their impact on consumer health. Her interests are focused both in the field of materials and objects in contact with food, and in the analysis of food additives, expert and advisory activities in the field of cosmetic products and development of a method for whitening products for oral hygiene, provided by the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS). Her methodological developments are in the field of liquid chromatographic analysis of food additives, materials in contact with food, activities related to work in a testing laboratory, Testing Center "Health", according to the requirements of BDS ISO/IEC 17025. She participates in working groups at the EC on Food Additives and Flavorings. Participation as a lecturer in courses on SDO at the National Center for Food Safety. She works with European and national legislation.

Preparation of expert opinions to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Safety and the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency on cosmetic products and food additives. Participation in the European Network of National Reference Laboratories for Food Contact Materials (FCM) - suitability tests, opinions, participation in the development of FCM methods, annual reports on the laboratory's activities to the EURL-FCM.

Senior Assistant Professor Sv. Petrova is a member of the Bulgarian Public Health Association, the Bulgarian Society of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Bulgarian Society of Toxicology.

Assessment of submitted materials

Quantitative indicators

Senior Assistant Svetla Petrova participated in this competition with a total number of publications26The list of publications included in the competition for associate professor contains 15 publications in refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information and 11 publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes.

Participates with reports and posters in 21 national scientific and practical conferences with international participation, symposia and seminars.

The total number of points for indicators from A to E is 843 (Table No. 1) based on the Certificate of Compliance with the Requirements according to the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria

Table No. 1 - Certificate of fulfillment of the requirements according to the Law on the State of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Education of the Republic of Bulgaria by Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova for participation in a competition for associate professor in the field of 7.1. Medicine

Group of indicators	Contents	Associate Professor	**chief assistant Svetla Petrova Petrova, dm**
A	Indicator 1	50	**50**
B	Indicator 2	-	-
In	Indicators 3 or 4	100	**260**
G	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	**258**
D	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	50	**165**
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	-	***Outside the requirements*** **15. Acquired medical specialty (2x40)** **22. Training of interns, postgraduates and doctoral students (seminars and practical classes) (30)** **110**

The candidate's scientific indicators in the competition exceed twice the required number of points. The candidate meets the criteria for the growth of the academic staff at the National Center for Health and Safety.

The contributions of Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova are mainly scientific-applied and scientific-methodological and contribute to the improvement of health control and the implementation of regulatory requirements in the field of food and cosmetics safety and can be summarized in the following areas:

- Identification and analysis of monomers from polymer packaging and materials intended for food contact
- Methods for analysis and hygienic assessment of ingredients in cosmetic products
- Food additives
- Participation in an accredited laboratory "Chemical Pollutants and Additives" at the Testing Center "Health", National Center for Public Health and Environmental Protection
- Expert activity Participation as a holder in working groups on "Food Additives" and "Flavourings" at the European Commission - activity related to the assessment of new EFSA toxicological data on the safety and efficacy of additives and flavourings and the updating of regulatory documents relating to food additives (Regulation (EC) No. 1333/2008) and flavourings (Regulation (EC) No. 1334/2008).
- Participates in activities related to the work of the European Reference Laboratory for Food Contact Materials
- Educational and teaching activities – according to the attached reference, Senior Assistant Professor Petrova has been actively involved in the training of postgraduates and experts in competency modules for the specialties "Medical Sanitary Chemistry" and "Nutrition and Dietetics" for more than ten years; lecturer in numerous courses for continuing education of higher medical and non-medical specialists and courses for individual training and practical seminars from the program of the National Center for Health Protection and Hygiene.
- Participates in topics from the scientific plan of the National Center for the Protection of Children and Adults: Analysis of UVA and UVB sun protection of Bulgarian cosmetic products for children and adults; Development of analytical and instrumental methods for determining ingredients in cosmetic products, subject to prohibition or restriction, according to Annexes II and III of Regulation (EC) No. 1223/2009 on cosmetic products; Development and application of individual and multi-analytical methods for specific migration of monomers and additives from plastic materials and articles intended for contact with food, of different types and purposes.

The main interests and scientific research of the candidate are multidisciplinary in addressing areas of public health importance through analytical methods for the determination of migrating substances and cosmetics. Optimizing the conditions of analytical methods and studying the influence of various factors in the identification and quantification of migrating substances on the

specific migration of monomers from a variety of polymer packaging is of particular importance for safety assessment. Bisphenol A is classified as an endocrine disruptor and toxic to reproduction. After a number of reassessments by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of the safety of the monomer bisphenol A, the specific migration limit was reduced in 2018 from 0.6 mg/kg to 0.05 mg/kg. In 2011, the use of BPA in polycarbonate baby bottles was banned. In 2024, the monomer is completely banned for use in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food. For the first time in Bulgaria, bamboo products have been tested for specific migration of melamine and formaldehyde. For the first time, the influence of repeated exposure on the migration of the two monomers from melamine products and the stability of the material has been studied in detail. This represents a scientific and applied contribution directly related to the safety and protection of public health in adolescents, as many of these products are intended for feeding children. Disposable tableware and cutlery are extremely popular among consumers. Until 2021, they were often made of polystyrene plastic, which suggests the migration of styrene under certain conditions. A study was conducted on the specific migration of styrene from these tableware and cutlery using a model solution for oily environments and accelerated extraction in 95% ethanol. The data obtained indicate a potential risk of migration of styrene at levels that would lead to a high daily intake.

Senior Asst. Prof. Petrova has made a significant contribution to conducting comparative tests for synthetic sweeteners in beverages (soft, low-alcohol, energy and cola-flavored drinks) offered in our country and on the market in Western Europe in connection with the so-called "double standard". Other studies of the candidate in the field of nitrates and nitrites are food additives permitted for use as preservatives in meat products.

Based on the documents submitted to me for this competition, I believe that Senior Asst. Svetla Petrova is a well-established scientist, which is also proven by the scientific publications, the developed new methods and procedures and her participation in scientific projects and programs. Not without importance is her activity at the expert level in working groups at the national and European level and her participation in the development and implementation of methods for analysis for migrating substances.

In conclusionI can say that Senior Asst. Prof. Svetla Petrova Petrova has made a significant scientific and professional contribution to the field of hygiene and in particular to the study and assessment of the safety of migratory substances, food additives and cosmetics. The candidate's

scientific indicators fully meet and exceed twice the requirements of the PRAS of the NCPHA, ZRASRB and the Regulations thereto.

Based on the above, I confidently vote in the affirmative and recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to award the scientific title of "associate professor" to senior assistant Svetla Petrova Petrova, PhD, in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and Sports", professional direction 7.1. "Medicine", specialty "Hygiene" for the needs of the Department "Composition of Food and Consumer Products" at the Directorate "Analytical and Laboratory Activities", NCPHA

Prepared by:

Prof. Tsveta Georgieva, PhD

TSVETA PETROVA GEORGIEVA

Digitally signed by TSVETA PETROVA GEORGIEVA
Date: 2026.05.27 21:48:28 +03'00'

Sofia, 27.05.2026