НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
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OPINION

By Prof. Dr. Karolina Dosheva Lyubomirova

Head of the Department of Occupational Medicine,
Deputy Dean for International cooperation, Faculty of Public Health,
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Member of the Scientific Jury, according to
Order No. RD-180/02.04.2026 of the Director of the NCPHPA

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Hygiene", for the needs of the "Composition of Food and Consumer Products" Department at the "Analytical and Laboratory Activities" Directorate, announced in the State Gazette, issue 15 of 06.02.2026, page 104.

The only candidate in the competition is Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova Petrova, MD

Biographical and professional data:

Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova Petrova was born in 1986. In 2011, she graduated with a Bachelor's degree, and in 2011, a Master's degree in Chemistry, at Sofia University "St. St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Chemistry. In 2019, she obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Hygiene" as a doctoral student in independent training in the scientific specialty "Hygiene" at the laboratory "Chemical substances and mixtures and materials for contact with food", at the National Center for Food Safety and Hygiene with the topic of the dissertation: "Specific migration of monomers from polymeric materials for contact with food, offered on the Bulgarian market". She has acquired specialties in "Medical Sanitary Chemistry" (2020) and "Toxicology" (2024).

Her professional development at the National Center for Public Health includes successive positions in the Public Health and Health Risk Directorate: "Acting Specialist in the Toxicology Department", Expert in the Chemical Substances and Mixtures and Materials for Contact in Food Department", Chief Expert in the Chemical Substances and Mixtures and Materials for Contact in Food Department", and Chief Assistant in the Food and Consumer Products Composition Department, Analytical and Laboratory Activities Directorate. She participated in working groups at national and international level, working on the harmonization of Bulgarian legislation with EU legislation, as well as 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.

General description of the materials submitted for the competition

The materials and documents submitted by Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova Petrova for the competition comply with the requirements for holding the academic position of "associate professor", specified in the Regulations on the terms and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the National Center for Health, Nutrition and Food Safety.

Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works

For participation in the announced competition, Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova Petrova has submitted a total of 26 scientific publications (2 abroad), of which: 15 publications in refereed and indexed publications 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. In 13 of the indicated publications, the candidate is the first author.

According to the Citation Report from the Central Medical Library - Sofia, No. 206/20.02.2026, the following were found:

• 8 citations in international databases Scopus (Elsevier), Web of Science (Clarivate), h-index 1;

• 1 citation in Bulgarian sources from the library fund of the Central Medical Library;

• 2 citations in other foreign freely available sources;

• Additional citation found - 1 .

Има участие с доклади и постери в 21 национални научно-практически конференции с международно участие, симпозиуми и семинари.

Research activity:

Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova has participated in the following topics included in 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.

Her expert activity includes participation in working groups on "Food Additives" and "Flavourings" at the European Commission - an activity related to the evaluation of new toxicological data of EFSA 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).

The candidate has participated in 5 international interlaboratory tests for specific migration of monomers - melamine, formaldehyde and bisphenol A, from materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Teaching activity

For the period 2014 – 2025, Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova has taken part in the following training activities:

• Lecturer in 2 main courses for acquiring a specialty – Medical Sanitary Chemistry (Module 3, Section "Foods") and Nutrition and Dietetics (Module 2 Food Control and Safety);

• Lecturer in 4 courses from the NCPHA program for continuing education of medical and non-medical specialists;

She has conducted 3 individual practical trainings in high-performance liquid chromatography - training of postgraduates under the TAIEX project on the topic "Chemical contaminants in food for employees of the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Macedonia" (2014); practical liquid chromatography training of an intern (2016); practical training (semester internship) of a full-time student from the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands (2017).

The presented report on the scientific contributions of the works and activities of Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova shows that they are directed in several directions in the field of food safety, in particular materials in contact with food, factors affecting the migration of monomers, their identification and quantification, analyses of food additives, as well as expert work on the safety of some ingredients in cosmetic products:

1. Identification and analysis of monomers from polymer packaging and materials intended for contact with food

2. Methods for analysis and hygienic assessment of ingredients in cosmetic products

3. Food additives

4. Participation in an accredited laboratory 03 "Chemical contaminants and additives" at the Testing Center "Health"

5. Training and professional development of specialists in medical sanitary chemistry and nutrition and dietetics

General assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory conditions and mandatory quantitative and scientometric indicators according to the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at the National Center for Public Health Protection and analysis.

The analysis of the submitted documents shows that the summation of the points for the individual indicators exceeds the minimum requirements for the position of associate professor.

Group pf indices	Content	PhD (points)	Chief assisstant (points)	Assoc.professor (points)	Svetla Petrova (points)
А	Indicator 1	50	50	50	(50)
Б	Indicator 2		-	-	
В	Indicators 3 or 4		-	100	(260)
Г	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	30	-	200	(258) 150+108
Д	Sum of indicators 10 to 12		-	50	(165)
Е	Sum of indicators 13 to the end		-	-	*Outside the requirements* (110)

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the submitted documents on the scientific research, expert and publication activity of Senior Assistant Professor Svetla Petrova Petrova gives me reason to state that the candidate meets the mandatory conditions and scientometric criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Hygiene", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine according to the Regulations on the conditions and procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions in the National Center for Health Protection and analysis , the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position.

I vote "Positive" awarding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Hygiene", field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine to Senior Assistant Svetla Petrova Petrova for the needs of the "Composition of Food and Consumer Products" Department "Analytical and Laboratory Activities" Directorate.

Sofia, 15.05.2026.

Заличено на основание
на чл. 5, §1.6 "В"
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Prof. Dr. Karolina Lyubomirova, MD