НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
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OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof. Anton Kolev Tachev, PhD – Head of the Department "Food Composition and Consumer Products" at the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA), Member of the Scientific Jury pursuant to Order No. RD-2 / 15.01.2026 of the Director of NCPHA

Regarding: the procedure for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA), in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty Hygiene, for the needs of the Physical Factors Department within the Analytical and Laboratory Activities Directorate, announced in the State Gazette, issue No. 95/07.11.2025, and published on the website http://ncpha.government.bg/ on 07.11.2025

The only candidate in the competition is Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Plamukova Shalamanova, PhD, from the Physical Factors Department at NCPHA.
Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Shalamanova, PhD, completed her higher education in 2002 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", obtaining a Master degree in Engineering Physics with a specialization in Medical Physics. She has a total professional experience of 19 years in her specialty in the field of physical environmental factors. Immediately after graduation, she began working and successfully specializing in scientific research in the field of physical factors of the occupational and ambient environment, including measurement and assessment of exposure to physical factors, classification of laser systems according to risk level, as well as participation in numerous prestigious courses and trainings related to the technical competence of laboratories and inspection bodies, procedures and schemes for interlaboratory comparisons and proficiency testing, validation and verification of methods, measurement uncertainty, and many others.
In 2007, she was appointed as Chief Expert at the Physical Factors Laboratory of the National Center of Public Health Protection (now NCPHA).

In the same year, 2007, she successfully finished her doctoral dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree Doctor (PhD) in the scientific specialty Hygiene (code 03.01.32). In the same year, after completing specialized training, she also acquired the professional qualification Medical and Sanitary Physics.

Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Shalamanova demonstrates the qualities of a highly qualified researcher and, in 2009, following a competitive selection procedure, she was elected to the academic position of Assistant Professor at the Physical Factors Laboratory within the Analytical and Laboratory Activities Directorate of NCPHA. During her nearly 20 years of professional experience at the Center, Assistant Professor Shalamanova has successfully developed her scientific career and is currently one of the leading specialists in Bulgaria in the field of physical factors of the occupational and ambient environment, particularly in the measurement and hygienic assessment of electromagnetic fields (EMF). She has learned modern methods for the analysis of physical environmental factors and professionally interprets research results at a high scientific level, including the preparation of expert opinions for EMF emitting facilities, development and improvement of methods for EMF measurement and assessment, and studies related to electromagnetic fields across various frequency ranges, ultraviolet radiation, lasers, and others. Her professional development has been strongly supported by the large number of courses, trainings, and specializations completed at reputable scientific organizations and institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO), EFOMP, the Bulgarian Accreditation Service, the Ministry of Health, and others. From 2009 to the present, Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, has been the Head of the Inspection Body "EXACT" at NCPHA. She actively participates in international projects and scientific organizations, including:

- WHO Project: "Electromagnetic Radiation: Biological Effects of Static and Time-Varying Electric and Magnetic Fields";
- International project TRANSEXPO;
- "Improvement of control and information systems for risk prevention in healthcare", BG07 Programme Public Health Initiatives, funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (2009–2014);
- Bulgarian Society of Biomedical Physics and Engineering;

- Expert Advisory Council on Protection against Non-Ionizing Radiation – Electromagnetic Fields: Biological Effects of Static and Time-Varying Electric and Magnetic Fields;
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA);
- Bulgarian Public Health Association.

Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, has contributed to a significant number of scientific and functional research outputs, reflected in a total of 37 publications, of which 24 are published in international journals and 13 in Bulgarian journals. She is first author in 10 publications and second author in another 10. Twenty-two of her publications are indexed and abstracted in internationally recognized scientific databases, while 15 are published in peer reviewed national journals or edited collective volumes. This clearly demonstrates her significant personal contribution to the presented scientific output, as well as her ability to work effectively in teams and to lead scientific research groups.

Her scientific publications have been cited in 56 international sources. Her works, including abstracts from prestigious international scientific congresses, have been published in authoritative journals with a high impact factor, with a total calculated Impact Factor of 14.121.

Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, is a highly respected researcher and expert both nationally and internationally, as evidenced by her participation with oral presentations, posters, and scientific communications in 39 congresses, symposia, and conferences, of which 19 were held abroad and 20 in Bulgaria with international participation. She has also participated in five international webinars addressing issues related to the impact of electromagnetic fields on human health.

Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, has made a significant contribution to the educational and teaching activities of the Center. Her primary contribution relates to advanced training of specialists in exposure and risk assessment of physical environmental and occupational factors, as well as trainees in medical physics. She participates in and leads postgraduate education in Medical and Sanitary Physics, as well as specialized courses included in the NCPHA training program:

Methods and tools for measurement and hygienic assessment of electromagnetic radiation;

Assessment and control of telecommunication sources (mobile communications, digital television, etc.). Requirements for local authorities. Risk communication and management;

Methods and tools for measurement and hygienic assessment of electromagnetic radiation. Monitoring by Regional Health Inspectorates. Data entry into electronic registers;

Electronic system for collecting information on electromagnetic radiation sources for the purpose of improving control of population exposure.

Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, has made a significant contribution to the development of medical physics, particularly in the areas of exposure and risk assessment related to physical factors in occupational and environmental settings, as well as in the measurement and evaluation of population exposure to physical agents. She actively participates in the development and implementation of European and national legislation for the protection of workers and the general population from non-ionizing radiation, including participation in the preparation of guidelines for protection against non-ionizing radiation.

Her main scientific contributions may be grouped into the following areas:

- Measurement and exposure assessment to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields;
- Measurement and exposure assessment to extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields;
- Assessment of electromagnetic field exposure in occupational environments;
- Development of methods for electromagnetic field measurement and evaluation;
- Education and professional training of specialists in medical and sanitary physics

The competence of her methods is further evidenced by her participation in prestigious international interlaboratory comparisons for electromagnetic field measurements carried out at leading international laboratories.

My personal impressions of Assistant Professor Shalamanova, PhD, are of a highly erudite researcher, a true professional in her field, and a hardworking, ethical, and principled individual.

All the achievements outlined above in her scientific, professional, educational, and administrative activities are indisputable and fully substantiated. The criteria of the

Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the internal regulations of NCPHA are not only met but significantly exceeded. This gives me firm grounds to confidently recommend to the esteemed Scientific Jury that Assistant Professor Tsvetelina Plamukova Shalamanova, PhD, be elected to the academic position of Associate Professor in the scientific specialty Hygiene for the needs of the Physical Factors Department, Analytical and Laboratory Activities Directorate, NCPHA.

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Assoc. Prof. Anton Tachev, PhD