НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
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OPINION

By Prof. Emil Vlaykov Vodenicharov, MD, PhD

on the scientific and teaching output of Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova, MD, PhD

1. Data on the competition

This opinion has been prepared on the basis of Order No. RD-2 of 05.01.2025 of the Director of the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA) for announcing a competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. "Medicine", scientific specialty "Hygiene", for the needs of the Department "Physical Factors" at the Directorate "Analytical and Laboratory Activities" of NCPHA.

One candidate has been admitted to the competition – Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova, MD, PhD. The candidate has submitted all documents required under the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria. The procedure for announcing and conducting the competition has been carried out lawfully and within the prescribed deadlines.

After reviewing the submitted materials, no evidence of plagiarism has been found. The presented scientific works and developments are original and represent an independent scientific contribution in the field of hygiene and environmental factor assessment.

2. Brief biographical and professional data

Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova graduated in "Engineering Physics" with a specialization in "Medical Physics" at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2002. She acquired the specialty "Medical Sanitary Physics" in 2007. In the same year, she defended her PhD dissertation at the National Center of Public Health Protection on a topic related to the assessment of electromagnetic exposure from mobile communications and obtained the scientific degree "Doctor of Medicine".

Her professional career is entirely related to the National Center of Public Health Protection / NCPHA, where she has successively held the positions of PhD student, chief expert, and chief assistant professor. Since 2009, she has been Head of the inspection body "Exact" at NCPHA, which demonstrates a high level of trust in her professional and organizational qualities.

She has completed 16 qualification courses and training programs in the field of electromagnetic fields, statistical data processing, databases, quality management systems, and language training. She has participated in international interlaboratory comparisons, is a member of three national and one European scientific organization, and is fluent in Russian, Spanish, and English.

Her scientific interests are focused on methods for measurement, modeling, and hygienic assessment of electromagnetic fields in the environment and the workplace, as well as on the training and qualification of specialists from control bodies and laboratories in this field.

3. Scientometric indicators and scientific output

The candidate has a total of 37 scientific publications, of which 24 are in international scientific journals and 13 in Bulgarian scientific journals. In 10 of the publications, she is the first author, which clearly shows her leading role in the research activity.

A total of 22 publications are indexed in the international databases Scopus and Web of Science. The total calculated Impact Factor of these publications is 14.121, which is an indicator of high quality and international visibility of the scientific output.

The citations amount to 33 in Scopus (h-index = 3) and 23 in Web of Science (h-index = 2). The candidate's works are cited in prestigious international journals such as the European Journal of Public Health, Physica Medica, Frontiers in Public Health, Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, and others.

These indicators fully meet and exceed the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

4. Main scientific fields and contributions

A major and lasting contribution of the candidate is the development, improvement, and application of methods for measuring and assessing electromagnetic fields in residential buildings, populated areas, and the working environment, as well as their mathematical modeling using specialized software.

A significant part of these methods has been used in international epidemiological studies, including those related to the possible carcinogenic effect of power-frequency magnetic fields, classified by IARC in Group 2B – possibly carcinogenic to humans.

Her contribution is also substantial in the assessment of electromagnetic exposure in the working environment and in the practical implementation of European legislation, in particular Directive 2013/35/EU. She actively participates in international expert forums and discussions on these issues.

The candidate has also participated in experimental studies with volunteers, as well as in large international epidemiological studies funded by authoritative international organizations. This contributes to the expansion of scientific knowledge about the effects of electromagnetic fields on human health.

In addition, she has publications and expert activities related to the analysis and application of national and European legislation in the field of protection from non-ionizing radiation.

5. Project, expert, and teaching activities

Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova has participated in a number of international and national scientific projects, including projects of the World Health Organization and programs financed by international and national scientific funds. Some of these projects have involved her in a leading role as a principal investigator or responsible executor.

She is an active participant in numerous national and international scientific forums, conferences, and working meetings, where she has presented the results of her research. This contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the Bulgarian scientific school in this field.

Her teaching activities include participation as a supervisor and lecturer in a number of continuing education courses at NCPHA, as well as the training of medical residents and specialists. In this way, she makes a direct contribution to the training of new specialists in the field of medical physics and hygiene.

6. Conclusion and overall assessment

The overall scientific and applied scientific activity of Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova, MD, PhD, is characterized by a high degree of relevance, scientific value, and practical applicability. The presented works are original and contain significant contributions to the development of the methodology for assessing electromagnetic fields and for the protection of the population and workers.

The scientometric indicators, project, and teaching activities fully correspond to the requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" and demonstrate sustainable and consistent scientific development.

On the basis of all the above, I confidently propose Chief Assist. Prof. Tsvetelina Plamakova Shalamanova, MD, PhD, to be elected to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Hygiene" for the needs of NCPHA.

Sofia, 27.01.2026

Reviewer: Заличено на основание
на чл. 5, §1.6 "В"
от Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679

(Prof. Emil Vodenicharov, MD, PhD)