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ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
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OPINION

by Prof. Hristo Hinkov, MD, National Center for Public Health and Analysis,

member of the scientific jury, according to order № 170 / 08.04.22

of the director of NCPHA

Subject: Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. "Health and Sports" in professional field 7.1 "Medicine", specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the Department of Health Policy Analysis and accreditation procedures " to the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate - NCPHA) (SG No. 14 of 18.02.2022). The announced competition is for two positions. Two candidates are participating in the competition.

This opinion is for the candidate Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Vladimirova, as it was prepared on the basis of the submitted documents in accordance with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the National Center for Public health and analysis. The candidate's documentation complies with the regulatory requirements.

Brief biographical data

Chief Assistant Milena Krasimirova Angelova-Vladimirova was born on April 14, 1969. In 1997 she obtained a master's degree in social activities and health management from the Faculty of Public Health at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". In 2002 he obtained a bachelor's degree in Pharmacy from the Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2003 he defended his master's degree in public finance at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia. He has a recognized specialty in "Health Economics" (2007, MU Sofia). In 2016 he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at NCPHA, Sofia in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management" with a dissertation on "Approaches to improving the relationship between hospitals and patients." There are over 70 qualification courses and trainings conducted by various organizations, incl. WHO.

The scientific interests of Chief Assistant Milena Krasimirova Angelova-Vladimirova are in the field of health economics, marketing, social medicine, pharmacology, human resources in health care, patients' rights, public finance, pharmacology, health policy, social policy, quality of medical services. He is a member of a number of scientific organizations related to public health, history of medicine, preventive medicine and others.

Evaluation of the submitted materials

According to the requirements of ZRASRB the candidate has submitted references to the required documents, of which the most important are diploma for acquired specialty, diploma for defensive dissertation, references for participation in scientific projects and scientific forums,

certificates for membership in scientific organizations, full list of scientific publications, abstracts, self-assessment of scientific contributions, etc. Two monographs are presented, one of which is a major habilitation thesis on the topic of human resources in health care and another related to patient satisfaction, as a continuation of the dissertation topic of the candidate. In addition, the candidate has participated in two chapters and another collective monograph on homeopathic treatment.

It is evident from the reference that Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova has one publication in a refereed scientific publication with impact factor and another 39 publications and reports in non-refereed journals with scientific review (in the summary table for the number of points on the minimum requirements for associate professor 25 publications and reports are presented). Out of the total number of publications, 5 are related to the topic of the habilitation thesis "Main aspects of the research on patient satisfaction, which meets the requirements.

The report from the Central Medical Library shows that the candidate has been cited 37 times in Bulgarian publications. No citations were found in foreign publications.

Quantitative indicators.

In terms of quantitative indicators, the candidate covers and exceeds the required minimum of 400 points for the academic position of associate professor.

Group of indicators	Doctor	Points	Minimal requirements for academic position Associate Professor
Contents	50		50
A Indicator 1			
B Indicator 2			100
In Indicator 3		100	
In Indicator 4			200
D Sum of indicators from 5 to 9		592,50	50
E Sum of indicators from 10 to 12		140	-
E Sum of indicators from 13 to the end		80	
Total		912.50	50

Teaching and research activities

The report on the teaching and research activities of the candidate shows participation in two research projects "Joint Action" of the European Union, the project topics are related to the main scientific development of the candidate - planning and forecasting human resources in health and patient safety and quality of care. The candidate has not submitted a report on teaching activities.

Scientific contributions

The presented materials and references for the scientific achievements of the candidate are rather confirmatory and scientifically applied. In the main monograph "Human resources in health - policies and challenges", which is presented as a habilitation thesis, the important issue of human resources in health is discussed in detail and consistently. The author has included in his research the experience of his participation in research projects related to the topic and has made good recommendations regarding the improvement of systems for planning and forecasting human resources in health care.

Of particular interest, however, is the study of patient satisfaction with homeopathic treatment, which has found a place in the monograph on patient satisfaction and especially in the collective monograph on homeopathic treatment in Bulgaria. This topic is quite controversial from a purely scientific point of view, given the basic principle in medicine for evidence-based science. In purely practical terms, however, the topic has the potential for further research in terms of patients' subjective perceptions of treatment. What is special in this case is that in registered and accredited medical institutions there is no such therapeutic practice and in this sense the presented data on the satisfaction of patients with homeopathic medicine are of particular interest. The topic deserves attention and further development precisely from the point of view of the discrepancy of the subjective perceptions of the patients regarding the therapy and the objective medical benefit from it.

In conclusion, based on the submitted documentation and evidence of the scientific activity of the candidate Milena Krasimirova Angelova-Vladimirova, I believe that it meets the minimum requirements for holding the academic position of associate professor. Given the comments made above regarding the potential for research on the topics covered in the candidate's research output, as well as the presence of more than the required number of points according to the criteria under PPZRASRB gives me reason to vote positively for her election to this position.

09.05.2022 г. Prof. Hristo Hinkov, NCPHA