

To
The Chairman of the Scientific Jury, determined
by Order № RD-170 / 08.04.2022 of the Director
of the NCPHA, Acad. Ivan Geshov "- Sofia

OPINION



FROM PROF. DR. YULIAN IVANOV RAINOV, MD, PhD

*Head of Hematology Clinic, Military Medical Academy, Sofia.
Scientific specialties: clinical hematology, oncology, internal medicine, military therapy.*

The opinion is on a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", for the needs of the Department of Health Policy Analysis and Accreditation Procedures at the Directorate for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, with two candidates for two positions, one of which is chief assistant Milena Krasimirova Vladimirova, PhD

Chairman of the Scientific Jury: Prof. Dr. Plamen Stoyanov Dimitrov, MD, Ph.D.

DEAR CHAIR,

Based on a decision of the Scientific Council of the National Center for Public Health and Analysis (NCPHA) - protocol №16 / 08.04.2022, a competition was announced for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Higher Education 7, Health and Sports, Professional 7.1. Medicine in "Social Medicine and Health Management". The competition was published in the State Gazette. No. 14 / 18.02.2022. After order № RD-170 / 08.04.2022 of the Director of the NCPHA I was appointed an external member of the Scientific Jury (SJ). At the first meeting held on April 20, 2022, I was proposed and elected to prepare an opinion on the competition.

1. General presentation of the procedure:

The requirements of Articles 107 and 108 for the terms and conditions for holding academic position "Associate Professor" in the NCPHA have been met. The procedure for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" was opened by a decision of the Scientific Council to hold a competition on the proposal of the Director of NCPHA and motivated for the needs of the unit proposal of the head of the primary structural unit. The competition was announced in the State Gazette and on the NCPHA website. All stages of the procedure are lawful and the election of academic position "Associate Professor" can be initiated. The opinion was prepared in accordance with the criteria and indicators for evaluation by the SJ when conducting competitions for the award of scientific degrees and holding academic positions of the NCPHA. The candidate chief assistant Milena Krasimirova Vladimirova, PhD covers the minimum national and of NCPHA - Sofia requirements for acquisition of academic position "Associate Professor". There is no legally proven plagiarism in scientific papers.

2. Brief biographical data of the applicant:

Chief Assistant Milena Krasimirova Vladimirova, PhD graduated from the Medical College at MU - Plovdiv as a Bachelor of Pharmacy. She has a master's degree in social activities and health management and has a second specialty: administrative management, Faculty of Public Health, University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius". Milena Krasimirova Vladimirova also has a Master's degree in Public Finance from the University of National and World Economy, and has a recognized specialty in Health Economics from the Medical University of Sofia. In the period 2012 - 2014 she completed a basic course in social medicine and health management at NCPHA. As a free doctoral student at the NCPHA she defended her dissertation on "Approaches to improving the relationship between hospitals and patients" at the NCPHA and acquired a PhD degree in "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy"- 03.01.53, diploma № 12 / 26.06.2014.

Her research interests are multifaceted: in the fields of health economics, health marketing and management, social medicine, health and social policy, etc. Fluent in English (B2), Russian, speaks French. He is a member of many scientific organizations: the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Public Health Association, the European Public Health Association, the History of Medicine, the Society for Preventive Medicine.

3. Analysis of the candidate's career profile:

Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD has over 20 years of work experience, higher education master's degree, specialty economics of education and PhD degree. At each stage of the career development of Ch. Assistant Professor Milena Krasimirova Vladimirova, PhD there is scientific maturity and growing professionalism. The biographical reference convincingly reveals her career development in the field of pharmacy, social medicine, health management, public health. She has worked as a senior expert in Sofia's large municipality to the office of the deputy mayor for health, social activities in the social assistance agency at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, in the marketing and advertising department of Lozenets University Hospital. Chief Expert and Chief Assistant in the Department of Health Policy Analysis and Accreditation Procedures at the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate at the NCPHA. She has participated in numerous projects in various state institutions and NCPHA. She has passed dozens of courses and qualifications under the WHO at home and abroad in health economics, financing and strengthening of health systems, specialization in marketing.

4. General description of the competition materials:

The presented set of documents is in accordance with the requirements of Art. 108 of the Rules for awarding academic position "Associate Professor" of NCPHA. All required documents are available and neatly arranged.

5. Evaluation of scientific papers for the overall academic development:

The evaluation of the candidate for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" Ch. Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD is complex and presents my opinion and reasoned position as a member of the SJ in the competition. It was assessed on the basis of the adopted objective scientometric indicators and the qualitative criteria for the development of the academic staff of the NCPHA (Appendix 3).

The general characteristics of the scientific production and publication activity are presented in a list of all scientific papers, publications and scientific assets.

■ **Defended dissertation:** "Approaches to improving the relationship between hospitals and patients."

■ **Participation in the monograph** - Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD has participated in 5 monographs, of which 1 abroad (39). Vladimirova, M "Human Resources in Healthcare - Policies and Challenges", 2022; (ISBN 978-619-7503-19-7); Vladimirova, M "Patient Satisfaction - Contemporary Trends, Problems and Prospects", 2022; (ISBN 978-619-7503-20-3); Vladimirova, M "Homeopathic treatment in Bulgaria. International studies in the field of homeopathy. "Regulatory positions and financing", chapter of the collective monograph "Homeopathic treatment in Bulgaria", 2021, pp. 40-49; (ISBN 978-954-8404-58-7); Vladimirova, M., N. Danova. "Satisfaction of patients, homeopaths and dentists in Bulgaria", chapter co-authored in a collective monograph, "Homeopathic treatment in Bulgaria", 2021; pp. 124 -137 (ISBN 978-954-8404-58-7) and Kostadinova, D., G. Manliev, M. Vladimirova, N. Fescieva. „Health reform in Bulgaria, part in monographia“, In Health reforms in Central and Eastern Europe (obstacles, Limited Outcomes), Eds.Borkman, J., J.Nemec, Eleven, Unt. publ., ISBN 978-94-6236-063-1, 2013, printed by Netherland, p.49-69 (chapter of a collective monograph). She is the sole author in 3, second in 1 and third and subsequent in 1 monograph.

■ **Publications in scientific journals** - the publications in refereed and non-refereed journals are a total of 39. According to the author's place, Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova PhD. is the only author in 8 (20.52%), first in 22 (56.41%), second - in 8 (20.52%), third and subsequent - in 1 publication (2.56%). The candidate is a leading author in 30 (76.93%), which is an excellent indicator of his personal participation. One publication is in a magazine with an impact factor of 1,142 (34).

■ **Citation** - the assessment is based on the attached reference from the Central Medical Library – Sofia. 37 Bulgarian citations have been searched and a list with their bibliographic description is attached.

■ **Research projects** - Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, MD participates in many projects, some of great importance for the country: "You choose the campaign"; "Professionalization of services for the elderly and addicted"; "Protection of human rights through the prevention of discrimination at work"; "Women ask"; "European Year for Active Aging". It organizes, participates and coordinates projects of the NCPHA, the most important of which are the "European Union Network for Patient Safety and Quality of Care"; "Planning and forecasting of human resources in health care"; "Joint Action - A Comprehensive Cancer Strategy - CANCON"; "Second Joint Action on Health Technology Assessment"; "Ongoing dialogue of all stakeholders; European Network of Health Human Resources Experts ", etc.

6. Information on the applicant's contributions:

The scientific contributions of Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD are presented in the attached habilitation certificate. They are derived in accordance with the requirements of the regulations of the NCPHA. They are her personal work and enrich existing knowledge, theories and methods. These contributions represent Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD as a professional with outstanding qualities that allow her to make responsible opinions and decisions on important issues in the field of health economics, health marketing, social medicine, health management, health and social policy. The contributions from the scientific works can be systematized in the following thematic directions:

■ **Health policies** - generalized policies and / or good practices aimed at improving the health status and well-being of the population have been described (P 1,3,4,5,7,30,34,35,36).

■ **Patient satisfaction with treatment** - the first theoretical study of patient satisfaction in the international aspect in the last four decades and identified patterns of determinants, approaches, methods and guidelines for applicability in hospital management - a contribution to the theoretical, cognitive nature. For the first time, the results in different types of hospitals in our country have been analyzed through our own methodology, and opportunities for improving the relationship with patients have been identified - methodological and scientific-applied contribution. For the first time, reports from expert commissions on hospital accreditations were analyzed in the area of patient satisfaction, methodological and scientifically applied contributions. Satisfaction with homeopathic treatment based on significant empirical material was also considered (P 2,12,17,18,27,28,29,38).

■ **Human resources in healthcare** - a rich palette of studies, national and international, is summarized, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of human resources in healthcare, which coincides with the new reading of WHO and European Commission documents. A detailed analysis of the national health strategies, legislative initiatives, as well as an analysis of the implementation of the measures by the principal was performed (P 22,23,24,25,26,31).

■ **Training and education** - discussion and unresolved issues have been raised about the continuing education of some medical professionals. It is proposed to strengthen the practical training in preventive medicine and the proven urgent need for new teaching techniques (P 11,14,32).

■ **Health security** - health security and its expansion in public health are considered as an important element of the national security of the country in accordance with WHO documents (P 19,37).

■ **Inequalities and socio-ethical issues** - the serious problems of access to care for the elderly and impaired health are integrated health care, volunteering, patient safety, alcohol abuse and others (P 16,21,33).

6. Notes:


I have no critical remarks or general publications with the candidate.

7. General assessment of the compliance of the applicant with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively to the requirements under Art. 2b, para. 5 of the Law on Academic Development of the NCPHA and the specific requirements in the Regulations for Academic Development of the NCPHA. My general assessment of the qualities and scientific works of the candidate for the academic position Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, PhD is positive and is in compliance with the minimum national requirements - under Art. 2b, para. 2 and 3, respectively to the requirements of the NCPHA.

8. Conclusion:

I believe that the candidate in the competition, Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, Ph.D. meets the mandatory, specific conditions and scientometric criteria for holding the academic position "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Department "Analysis of Health Policies and Accreditation Procedures" at the Directorate "Health Promotion and Disease Prevention" of NCPHA.

My final assessment **is positive**. I call on the members of the esteemed scientific jury to vote positively and award the academic position "Associate Professor" to Chief Assistant Milena Vladimirova, Ph.D.

Prepared the opinion: 

Prof. Julian Raynov, MD, PhD

Date: 02.05.2022