

**STATEMENT OF OPINION**  
**Of Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Pavlova Peneva, MD**  
**Faculty of „Public Healthcare“ at Varna Medical University**

**Regarding:** Competition for the academic position of Associate Professor - announced in the State Gazette, issue 52 of 16.06.2023 in "Health Care Management", professional field 7.4 Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, for the needs of the specialty "Kinesitherapy", at the Department of Health Care, Haskovo Branch, 0.5 position, Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

**1. Information about the procedure**

At a meeting of the Academic Council of Trakia University, Stara Zagora, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Commission by the Academic Council of the University of Stara Zagora pursuant to Order No. 3364 of 29.09.2023 of the Rector of Trakia University, and pursuant to Minutes of meeting No.1/09.10.2023, I was assigned with the task to prepare a statement of opinion regarding the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in Healthcare Management, professional field 7.4 Public health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, for the needs of the specialty "Kinesitherapy", at the Department of Health Care, Haskovo Branch, 0.5 position, Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

One candidate - senior lecturer Petya Stankova Kasnakova, Ph.D. – participated in the competition.

The candidate has duly submitted all the necessary documents for participation in the competition, complying with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its Application, as well as the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

**2. Brief details of the applicant's career development and qualifications**

Petya Stankova Kasnakova studied at and graduated from the following educational institutions: Medical College Plovdiv, Major: Physical Rehabilitation Therapy (1997); Medical University of Plovdiv, Medical College, Major: Professional Bachelor of Rehabilitation Therapy (2004); Medical University of Plovdiv, Major: Health Care, awarded Bachelor's Degree; 'St.St. Cyril & Methodius' University of Veliko Tarnovo, Major: Psychology, Master's Degree; Medical University of Sofia, Major: Public Health & Health Management, which significantly determined the sphere of her professional development. She specialized in Medical Pedagogy at Medical University of Sofia, and in Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy at Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2014, she successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded Ph.D.

The applicant's professional development started in 1998 as a physical rehabilitation therapist at the District Transport Hospital in Plovdiv. In 1999 she became a guest lecturer at the Department of 'Theory & Methods of Physical Education', 'Paisiy Hilendarski' University of Plovdiv. From 2000 to 2022 she was a lecturer and senior lecturer at the Medical College, Medical University of Plovdiv. Since 2022, she has been a lecturer at the Faculty of Public Health. Since 2021, she has also been a guest lecturer at Haskovo Branch of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

All the courses for improving her professional qualifications and career that she has successfully completed have contributed to the development of the applicant into a highly qualified professional, lecturer and researcher. She is a member of APRTB, ASB – Plovdiv, BSSPH, SMSPD-MU-Plovdiv.

**3. Scientific research activity**

Quantitative indicator: Senior lecturer Petya Kasnakova, Ph.D. has written over 102 works, divided as follows:

*Scientific output meeting the minimum requirements for the academic position of Associate Professor:*

Criterion A: Indicator 1. 1; Dissertation for being awarded a Doctoral Degree – 1;

Criterion B: Indicator 3. Published habilitation thesis-monograph - 1;

Criterion D: Indicator 7. Publications and reports published in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - 21;

Criterion D: Indicator 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or

published in edited collective volumes - 70;

Criterion D: Indicator 9. Published chapter of a collective monograph - 9 published chapters of a collective monograph.

Criterion E: Indicator 10. Citations or reviews in scientific publications, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes - 42;

Criterion E: Indicator 11. Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes - 24 items.

Criterion E: Indicator 12. Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals - 40;

Criterion F: Indicator 16. Participation in a national scientific or educational project - 4;

Criterion F: Indicator 21. Published university textbook or textbook used in school network - 4 items;

Criterion F: Indicator 22. Training of trainees, postgraduate students and PhD students (seminars and practical sessions) - 140.

*The scientific papers submitted for the competition have been published in the country and abroad in the period 2008-2022 and include:*

1. Habilitation work - Monograph - 1 issue;

2. Book chapters - 9;

3. Publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information - 21;

4. Publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes - 70;

All publications are correctly described and attached in full in electronic format to the competition materials. Total IF - 3,543.

For the good visibility of the scientific work of Sr. Pr. Kasnakova, Ph. D. contributes to her active participation in national and international scientific forums.

#### **Minimum required scores for groups of indicators for the academic position of "Associate Professor"**

| Groups of Indicators | Required score /number of points/ (associate professor) | Number of points on the basis of the body of evidence submitted by the applicant: |
|----------------------|---|---|
| <b>A</b>             | <b>50</b>   | <b>50</b>   |
| <b>C</b>             | <b>100</b>  | <b>100</b>  |
| <b>D</b>             | <b>200</b>  | <b>1863,6 (of indicators from 5 to 9)</b>   |
| <b>E</b>             | <b>50</b>   | <b>1070</b>   |
| <b>F</b>             | <b>T. 15-40</b>   | <b>194 (of indicators from 13 to the end)</b>                                     |

According to the submitted scientific materials, academic references, along with citations are evidence of the quality of research, relevance of topics, scientific recognition and validation of the author.

#### **4. Characteristics of the monographic/habilitation work**

Senior lecturer Petya Stankova Kasnakova, Ph.D., has presented a habilitation thesis on "Key moments in the professional formation of rehabilitation therapists in the process of training in a medical college" with ISBN 978-619-90575-2-0 in 174 pages. It is structured in 9 chapters addressing multifaceted problems of the training process of students from the specialty of "Physical Rehabilitation Therapy". The theoretical-empirical research focuses on the training of the PRT student. Motivation, attitudes and expectations for future realization; methods, forms and means applied in the training process; possibilities of transforming theoretical knowledge into practical skills by combining different methods and means are discussed in detail. Emphasis is also placed on the practical training of students as a major factor for professional development. The work can serve, as a tool in the learning process of students and for optimizing the professional activity of the modern teacher.

#### **5. Evaluation of the scientific research work and the applied-science activity**

The scientific research work of Petya Kasnakova, PhD, is in the field of the scientific specialty of the announced competition. The scientific contributions presented in the reference cover a wide range of scientific issues, focused on physical rehabilitation and kinesitherapy in health care, medical education, pedagogical theory and practice, grouped in the following thematic areas. The candidate's

scientific output shows competence in the research field, reflects professional training, practical experience, interests. The scientific contributions are predominantly original - of cognitive and practical-applied importance. The scientific works are characterized by precise scientific style, depth of analysis and practical orientation. The articles are oriented to different areas of the rehabilitation therapist's broad training.

Teaching competencies have been thoroughly, comprehensively and purposefully investigated. A detailed analysis of the impacts of current concepts and best practices in rehabilitation education that impact the learning process is made. Positive attitudes towards individual learning opportunities have been identified. Author's methodologies are used in the studies. A model for the application of a complex immunostimulating program in preschool and primary school-aged children has been developed. The research of the professional competence of the physical rehabilitation specialist is the subject of a significant part of scientific works in the overall academic activity.

#### **Teaching experience**

The candidate's teaching experience is within the scope of her professional training and research interests. She is an established and respected teacher/lecturer with many years of teaching experience. She has participated in national and international research projects. She has performed collaborative work with students in research projects and joint publications, and conducted theoretical and practical training of students from various Bachelor and Master programs "Physical Rehabilitation Therapist", "Kinesitherapy", "Rehabilitation, Wellness, SPA and Spa Therapy", in various compulsory and elective disciplines ("Kinesitherapy", "Therapeutic Massage", "Clinical Practice", "Alternative Therapeutic Methods", "Psychodiagnostics in SPA and Wellness Practices", etc.). She has taken part in the development of educational and methodological materials - questionnaires, tests, programs, manuals. Her teaching load is high. Her accomplished teaching workload according to the academic transcript has been over 3 000 hours for the last three years.

#### **Conclusion**

The candidate participating in the present competition fully meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application, the Regulations for the Development of Academic Staff of the University of Thrace, Sofia, for the academic position of associate professor.

Senior lecturer Petya Kasnakova, Ph. D. has demonstrated a marked aspiration for development and potential for academic and scientific career. The candidate presents a sufficient volume of scientific production, with significant teaching and research experience.

The overall assessment of the professional development, teaching and scientific contribution gives me sufficient grounds to give a positive opinion and to confidently propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for Petya Stankova Kasnakova, Ph.D. to take the academic position of Associate Professor in Health Care Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health and Sport, for the needs of the specialty of "Kinesitherapy", at the Department of Health Care, Haskovo Branch, 0.5 post, Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

**Varna**  
**25. 10. 2023**

  
  
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**(Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Pavlova, Ph.D.)**