



## OPINION

from

Prof. Dr. Biyanka Lyubchova Tornyova

Member of the Scientific Jury, according to Order No. 3364/29.09.2023. of the Rector of Trakia University - St. Zagora

Subject: Competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in "Management of health care" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. "Public Health", for the needs of the specialty "Kinesitherapy" at the Department of "Health Care" of the Haskovo Branch of Trakia University - Stara Zagora, half-time employment, announced in the State Gazette, no. 52/ 16.06.2023.

Only one candidate participated in the competition: Petya Stankova Kasnakova, PhD, part-time lecturer in the "Health Care" department of the Haskovo Branch at the Trakia University - Stara Zagora and senior lecturer in the "Health Care Management" department at the Medical University of Plovdiv - Plovdiv.

### **I. General description of the submitted materials for the competition**

Senior teacher Petya Kasnakova, PhD has correctly and precisely prepared the documentation for the competition. All the necessary documents are provided in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application and the Regulations of Trakia University - St. Zagora, which enables a precise quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic development of the candidate.

The necessary evidential material for the publication activity is attached and a list of citations in international databases - SCOPUS and Web of Science, prepared by TSUB, based on the requirements accepted at Trakia University, is presented. In addition to the mandatory documents, the evidential material also contains additional references, certificates, certificates, etc., certifying all circumstances related to the qualification, professional activity and achievements of the candidate.

### **II. Candidate's career profile**

Petya Kasnakova graduated in the specialty "Rehabilitator" at PMI - Plovdiv in 1997. In 1999, she obtained a bachelor's degree in the specialty "Health Care" at the MU - Plovdiv, equivalent to the current specialty "Health Care Management". He has completed two master's degrees: "Psychology" at Veliko Tarnovo University "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" (2003) and "Public Health and Health Management" at MU - Sofia (2004). In 2014, he obtained a doctorate in the scientific specialty "Health care



management" after successfully defending his dissertation on the topic "Pedagogical competences of the teacher in a medical college - a prerequisite for quality training of medical specialists" at the University of Medicine - Plovdiv.

She completed two specializations: in "Medical Pedagogy" at the MU - Sofia (2006) and in "Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy" at the Medical University - Plovdiv (2019).

Dr. P. Kasnakova began her professional career in 1998 as a rehabilitator in the Regional Transport Hospital - Plovdiv. Since 1999 is a part-time teacher at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" at the "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education" department. In the period 2000 - 2022, she successively held the positions of teacher and senior teacher at the Medical College at the MU - Plovdiv. From 2022 to the present moment, he is a senior teacher in the Department of Health Care Management at the Medical University of Plovdiv. From 2021 until now, he has been a part-time lecturer in the "Kinesitherapy" specialty at the Haskovo Branch of Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

Petya Kasnakova, PhD is a member of the Association of Physiotherapists in Bulgaria, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health.

Dr. Kasnakova's educational and career development undoubtedly prove that she has considerable teaching experience and has established herself as a competent specialist in her professional field. She is constantly improving her qualifications as a teacher and scientist. This is evident by the diplomas, certificates and certificates of participation in training courses and in scientific forums in the country and abroad, attached to the documents.

She uses two languages at level B1 according to the European Language Framework - Russian and English.

The professional biography of P. Kasnakova, PhD, as well as the scientific works presented by her show purposefulness and consistency in research, interest in the problems of training in kinesitherapy, which fully satisfies the requirements for the profile and qualification of the candidate for the announced competition.

### **III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works**

General characteristics of the presented scientific works

A total of 110 scientific papers were submitted for participation in the competition for JSC „Associate Professor“, distributed as follows:

- √ one dissertation work,
- √ 4 publications related to the dissertation work;
- √ 91 publications, of which: 21 publications in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases and 70 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes;
- √ 1 monograph;
- √ 9 chapters of monographs;
- √ 4 textbooks and study aids.



A total of 105 works are subject to review. The dissertation work and the publications to it are not reviewed.

It is noteworthy that the distribution of scientific works by year is quite even, which speaks of a purposeful and well-planned scientific development of the candidate. A significant part of the presented publications are in established specialized scientific publications, with 6 of them having an impact factor and 11 having an SJR impact rank. Total IF is 3.543.

The list of publications is described correctly and the necessary supporting material is attached.

The candidate in the competition is a sole or first author of 72% of the scientific works after acquiring the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". The co-authorship with other colleagues in some of the publications is a confirmation of the qualities of Dr. Petya Kasnakova to seek common points of contact and cooperation in the work of an interdisciplinary team.

The works of P. Kasnakova, PhD contain certain scientific contributions to medical and pedagogical theory and practice. An objective and correct reference is presented to the scientific contributions in several leading directions of scientific research activity, which I fully accept. They are a reflection of her research and teaching activities and confirm her erudition and competence. The scientific contributions presented in the reference are in the field of the scientific specialty of the announced competition and cover a wide range of scientific issues aimed at rehabilitation and kinesitherapy.

#### **● Scientific activity**

Senior teacher P. Kasnakova, PhD actively participates in international congresses and conferences in Bulgaria and abroad, which guarantees popularization of her scientific output.

She has carried out six mobilities under the Erasmus+ program in different universities in Macedonia, Belgium, Greece, Poland and Portugal, which implies opportunities for improving language skills and enriching pedagogical experience.

#### **● Participation in project implementation and management**

In connection with the procedure, P. Kasnakova presented 4 participations in national scientific or educational projects. Three of them are under the Operational Program "Science and Education for Intelligent Growth" of the Ministry of Education, "Student Internships" - 2013-2014, 2016-2017 and 2020-2022, as an academic mentor and one for postgraduate training of palliative care nurses care for patients in the last stage of the disease, funded by the "Open Society" Institute - Sofia 2005, as a lecturer and co-author in the "Palliative Care Guide".

#### **● Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image)**



A total of 106 citations are presented in the citation report, and the interest in the candidate's scientific works is from both Bulgarian and foreign researchers. There are 42 citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, which confirms the quality of the realized scientific production of the participant in the competition. Evidential material from the information database of Web of Science and Scopus, certified by the TSU of TrU-St. Zagora. 24 noticed citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes and 40 citations in peer-reviewed non-refereed scientific publications are described.

With regard to compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the Regulations for the conditions and procedures for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the University of Trakia - the city of St. Zagora, from my presented list and evidential material with scientific works and citations, it is clear that Dr. Petya Kasnakova not only meets, but also exceeds the required number of points.

Table 1. Comparative characteristics of the results of P. Kasnakova and the minimum required points for JSC „Associate Professor“ by groups of indicators

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Regulations of Trakia University – St. Zagora</b>	<b>Petya Kasnakova</b>
Indicators A	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
Indicators B	-	-
Indicators V	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
(V) 3. Habilitation work - monograph	-	100
Indicator G	<b>200</b>	<b>1863,6</b>
(G) 7. Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information	-	577,2
(G) 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes	-	1119,7
(G) 9. Published chapter of a collective monograph	-	166,7
Indicator D	<b>50</b>	<b>1070</b>
(D) 10. Citations or reviews in scientific publications referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes	-	630
(D) 11. Citations in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes.	-	240
(D) 12. Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals		200
Indicator E	-	<b>164</b>
(E) 15. Acquired medical specialty		40
(E) 16. Participation in national scientific and educational projects	-	60



(E) 21. A published university textbook or a textbook that is used on the school network	-	64
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#### IV. Assessment of teaching and learning activities

Senior teacher Petya Kasnakova, PhD is a long-time teacher with extensive practical and clinical experience. Her educational and teaching activity is related to conducting theoretical and practical training of students from various bachelor's and master's programs: "Rehabilitator", "Kinesitherapy", "Rehabilitation, wellness, spa and balneotherapy" in various mandatory and elective disciplines ("Kinesitherapy", "Therapeutic massage", "Clinical practice", "Alternative therapeutic methods", "Psychodiagnostics in SPA and wellness practices", etc.). She actively participates in the development of didactic materials - questionnaires, tests, programs, manuals. Her academic load is high. The submitted study load report certifies that for the period, she has realized an average study load of 660-680 study hours. It is clear from the evidentiary material that the competition is provided with the necessary study load.

#### V. Conclusion

After acquainting with the submitted materials for the competition and scientific works certifying significant professional experience and on the basis of the complex assessment for the implementation of the mandatory quantitative scientometric and additional qualitative criteria for scientific activity and educational activity, I consider that the candidate in the competition for JSC "Associate Professor" Petya Kasnakova, PhD fully meets the set requirements for occupying the academic position.

On the basis of the presented scientific production in terms of volume, quality and thematic compliance with the direction of the announced competition, the related indisputable scientific contributions and bearing in mind the nature of the candidate's research and teaching activities, I give a positive vote and confidently recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to Senior teacher Petya Stankova Kasnakova, PhD, to take the academic position of „Associate Professor“ in „Health Care Management“, professional direction 7.4 Public Health, field of higher education 7. Health Care and Sports, for the needs of the specialty „Kinesitherapy“ at the department „Health Care“ of the Haskovo Branch, half-time employment at Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

30. 10. 2023

Prepared the opinion: ...

/prof. Dr. Biyanka Tornyova/