



STANDPOINT

worked out by Ass. Prof. Dr. Tanya Paskaleva Stoycheva
Member of a Scientific Jury, subject to Order N: № 3364/29.09.2023,
issued by the Rector of Thracian University - Stara Zagora

Subject: Competition for acquiring an academic degree "Associate Professor", "Healthcare Management" in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional field 7.4. "Public Health", for the needs of the specialty "Kinesitherapy" at the Department of "Healthcare" of the Haskovo Branch of Thrace University - Stara Zagora, staff 0,5, announced in the Official Gazette, N: 52/16.06.2023

I. General presentation of the procedure

Only one candidate has participated in the competition: **Petya Stankova Kasnakova**, MD, part-time lecturer in the "Healthcare" department of the Haskovo Branch of the Thracian University - Stara Zagora and senior lecturer in the "Healthcare Management" department at the University of Medicine - Plovdiv.

The submitted competition documents have been prepared precisely and correctly in accordance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Rules and the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Rules at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora. They specify the information, necessary in order to carry out a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the candidate's overall academic development.

II. Brief biography, educational and career profile of the candidate

Senior Lecturer Petya Kasnakova, MD was born in 1976 in the city of Plovdiv. She graduated the University of Medicine in Plovdiv, the major of "Rehabilitator". She acquired the educational and qualification degree "Bachelor" in the major of "Healthcare", the UM – Plovdiv and continued her development with two master degree academic courses: in 2003 at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. Cyril and Methodius", specialty "Psychology" and in 2004 at the University of Medicine - Sofia, specialty "Public Health and Health Management". She acquired a specialty in "Medical Pedagogy", the UM - Sofia (2006) and "Applied Psychology and Psychotherapy", the UM in Plovdiv (2019). In 2014 she acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" based on a defended dissertation work on the topic: "Pedagogical competences of the academics at a Medical College - a prerequisite for quality training of the medical specialties".

Her career began as a rehabilitator in the Regional Transport Hospital in the city of Plovdiv (1998). Since the following year, she has been working as a part-time lecturer at Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski", the "Theory and Methodology of Physical Education" department and within the period from 2000 to 2022, she was employed as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer at the Medical College, the University of Medicine - Plovdiv, specialty "Rehabilitator".

From 2022 up to now, she has been employed as a lecturer at the Healthcare Faculty of the University of Medicine - Plovdiv, the "Healthcare Management" department. Since 2023 she has been working as a part-time lecturer at the Haskovo Branch of the Thracian University, the major of "Kinesitherapy".

She continuously improves her qualifications, as it is evident from her participation in more than 20 specialized courses. She is a member of prestigious professional organizations – the

Association of the Physiotherapists in Bulgaria, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Scientific Society for Public Health.

The educational and career development of senior lecturer Petya Kasnakova undoubtedly proves that she has considerable teaching experience in her professional field.

III. Evaluation of the presented creative output and scientific contribution

In the competition for "Associate Professor", Senior Lecturer Petya Kasnakova has participated with the works, detailed herein - 1 monograph, 9 chapters of monographs, 21 articles in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information. Of them, 6 have an impact factor and 11 have an impact rank SJR. Total IF=3.543. 70 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes, 4 textbooks and study aids.

Petya Kasnakova's monographic work "Main aspects in the professional formation of the rehabilitator in the training process at College of Medicine" highlights significant topics and covers multifaceted problems of the academic process of the "Rehabilitator" specialty.

In her published work, Petya Kasnakova works as the sole or first author in 72% of the total number of scientific works, which confirms her serious scientific presence as a researcher and scientist. The reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in literature is evident from the presented reference with a total of 106 quotes in prestigious publications, which confirms the quality of her implemented scientific work.

42 article quotes in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of science are presented. Evidence of 24 article quotes in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes is presented. 40 article quotes in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals are described.

Senior lecturer Petya Kasnakova, MD, is an established scientist and university lecturer not only in the Republic of Bulgaria, but also abroad. This is confirmed by her active participation in various university and international scientific forums with scientific reports.

Senior Lecturer Petya Kasnakova has presented an objective and accurate report on her scientific contribution in several leading pathways of her research activity, which I fully accept. In her work as a lecturer and researcher, the candidate focuses on scientific issues aimed at the modern application of rehabilitation and kinesitherapy in the healthcare sector, the quality of medical education, pedagogical theory and practice related to the training of medical specialists, current and significant problems of public health and healthcare, as they are entirely within the topic of the announced competition. They can be divided into the following subjects: The modern application of rehabilitation in public health; Therapeutic/rehabilitative dimensions of public health; Management and therapeutic guidelines of chronic diseases; Training, professional formation of medical specialists and the quality of professional-pedagogical competencies in medical education; Innovative technologies and approaches in medical education and practice; Distance learning and factors influencing learning attitudes in medical professionals; The application of different methods of immunostimulation among the children's population, in different regions of Bulgaria, and the development of a model for the application of complex immunostimulation programs for children in preschool and primary school age.

The specified areas of the candidate's research activity are of an original, scientific and applied as well as practical and applied nature.

The evaluation of the scientific work of the competition candidate, presented by groups of indicators, is as follows:

Table 1. Minimum required score, by groups of indicators, for the academic position "Associate Professor"

<i>Indicator group</i>	<i>Contents</i>	<i>Ass.Prof.Score</i>	<i>Petya Kasnakova's score</i>
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100
C	Amount of indicators from 5 to 9	200	1863,6
D	Amount of indicators from 10 and 12	50	1070
E	Amount of indicators from 13 till the end	-	194

From the reference and comparative table, attached herein, it can be seen that the candidate Senior Lecturer Petya Kasnakova not only meets the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor", but also significantly exceeds the quantitative criteria on a number of indicators. She achieves a total number of 3277.6 score as the required score is 400. This confirms the presence of consistency in her scientific interest and research work, her sustained interest in academic career development.

IV. Contribution to the educational and teaching activities

Senior Lecturer Petya Kasnakova is an established teacher and has more than 23 years of active teaching activity. She conducts 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 optional disciplines ("Kinesitherapy", "Massage Therapy", "Clinical Practice ", "Alternative Therapeutic Methods", "Psychodiagnostics in SPA and Wellness Practices", etc.). The presented report on the teaching activities for the last three years shows an average of 660-680 teaching hours.

Conclusion

Taking into account the scientific achievements and performances of the candidate, adequate to the competition area, her active teaching activity and scientific research status, I confidently give my positive vote and consider that Petya Kasnakova, MD, definitely meets all the requirements in order to occupy the academic position "Associate Professor".

In view of this, I strongly suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and award Petya Kasnakova, MD, the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Healthcare Management", professional area 7.4 Public Health, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, for the needs of the "Kinesitherapy" specialty, at the "Healthcare" department, Haskovo branch, staff 0,5, Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

30.10.2023

This Statement is worked out by:

(Ass. Prof. Dr. Tanya Paskaleva)