

EVALUATION REPORT
by Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Pavlova Peneva, PhD
Faculty of Public Health at MU-Varna

Regarding: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” – promulgated in State Gazette, issue 99/13.12.2022 – in Health Care Management, specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician”, professional field 7.4 Public Health, area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician” at the Medical College to Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

1. Information about the procedure

By decision of the Academic Council of Trakia University, Stara Zagora and Order No. 778 of 13.03.2023 of the Rector of Trakia University I was appointed a member of an Academic Jury whose decision, recorded in Protocol No. 1/19.04.2023, assigned me the duties of a reviewer in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Health Care Management, specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician”, professional field 7.4 Public Health, area of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, for the needs of the specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician” at the Medical College of Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

Only one candidate will take part in the announced competition – senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova, PhD.

The applicant has correctly submitted all necessary documents required for participation in the competition, in compliance with the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations on its implementation, as well as with the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

2. Background of the candidate’s career development and qualifications

Katya Kichukova successively graduated the Semi-higher Medical Institute in Sliven in the specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician”. Consequently, she acquired the educational and qualification degree “Bachelor” at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University-Stara Zagora, and a Master’s Degree in Health Care Management from Medical University - Plovdiv. This has largely determined the area of her professional development. In 2022, she successfully defended her dissertation and obtained the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” in Health Care Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health.

The candidate’s professional development began in 1989 as a medical laboratory technician at the clinical laboratory to the municipal hospital in the town of Kotel.

Since 2009 she has been a lecturer, and from 2016 to date present, a senior lecturer at the Medical College to Trakia University-Stara Zagora - specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician”.

She has undergone training to improve her professional qualification and further development, turning her into a well-established professional, lecturer and researcher.

3. Scientific research activity

Quantitative presentation: The total number of research works presented by senior lecturer K. Kichukova amounts to 30 titles, distributed as follows:

Research works covering the minimum requirements for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor”:

Criterion A: Indicator 1. Dissertation work for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor” - 1 item;

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

Criterion G: Indicator 7. Publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in internationally renowned scientific databases - 1 item;

Criterion G: Indicator 8. Publications and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes – 23 items;

Criterion D: Indicator 10. Citations or reviews in scientific publications referenced and indexed in internationally renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective

volumes – 7 items;

Criterion D: Indicator 12. Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review – 4 items;

Criterion E: Indicator 16. Participation in a national scientific or educational projects – 3 items;

Criterion E: Indicator 22. Training of interns, specialists and doctoral students (seminars and practical classes) – 1 item.

The research works submitted for the purposes of this competition have been published in Bulgaria and abroad in the period 2010-2023, and include:

1. Habilitation work – Monograph - 1 item;
2. Book chapter - 1 item;
3. Publications in journals referenced in Web of Science - 1 item;
4. Publications in journals and collections included in the national reference list - 16 items;
5. Publications in journals indexed in secondary databases - 12 items (one of which in print).

All publications have been properly described and enclosed on paper and digitally to the file with application materials.

The active participation of senior lecturer K. Kichukova in national and international scientific forums has also contributed to the presentation of her scientific work.

**Minimum required points by groups of indicators for the academic position
“Associate Professor”**

Group of indicators	Required number of points (associate professor)	Number of points based on the evidence presented by the candidate
A	50	50
B	100	100
G	200	239 (30 points for indicator G7)
D	50	110
E	-	75

The presented scientific materials and academic references, together with the provided citations are proof of the quality of the scientific research, the topicality of the subjects, and the scientific recognition of the author.

4. Characteristics of the monographic / habilitation work

Senior lecturer Katya Kichukova has submitted her habilitation work *Lifelong Learning for Medical Laboratory Technicians - Present and Future* (ISBN: 978-954-305-634-7) consisting of 136 pages, including two reviews. The work comprises 4 chapters which follow the continuing training and education of medical laboratory technicians throughout their entire professional life, by using all opportunities to improve their professional competences, personal and career growth. Changes in their training over different time periods are described chronologically, and the legal and regulatory basis for professional realization is defined. The possibilities of using e-learning resources in postgraduate education are considered. Emphasis is also placed on the prospects for their career development. In this regard, an empirical study has been conducted among students of the specialty “Medical Laboratory Technician”, practicing medical laboratory technicians and laboratory doctors in their role as employers. The work can serve as a tool in the learning process and improve the professional activity of the modern lecturer.

5. Evaluation of the scientific research and applied scientific activity

The research activity and scientific contributions of senior lecturer K. Kichukova are in the field of the scientific specialty of the announced competition. They cover a wide range of scientific issues in the area of public health and laboratory sciences, and are grouped in the following thematic directions: *Increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory technicians and using the possibilities of continuing education; Research on the introduction of new indicators and medicines (nutritional supplements) to improve the diagnosis or influence the treatment of some socially significant diseases; Studies on some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their spread; Innovative approaches and technologies*

in medical education; Medical laboratory sciences; Comprehensive training of medical laboratory technicians.

The candidate's scientific output shows competence in her research field and reflects her professional training, practical experience and interests. Her scientific contributions are predominantly original in nature and with cognitive and practical significance.

Her scientific research is characterized by a precise, scientific style, depth of analysis and practical orientation. Her work in various scientific fields shows that senior lecturer Katya Kichukova is a consistent and conscientious researcher.

Research on the need to increase the professional competence of medical laboratory technicians occupies a significant part of her overall academic activity. Original author's approaches are used in the studies. Interactive teaching methods are analyzed. Up-to-date information and communication technologies are discussed. Her articles are oriented towards different areas of the comprehensive training of medical laboratory technicians. Some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their spread are studied.

6. Educational and teaching activities

The educational and teaching activities of the candidate are in the area of her professional experience and scientific interests. She is a recognized and respected lecturer with many years of teaching experience. She participates in numerous research projects. She teaches compulsory and elective courses, such as "Clinical Laboratory", "Parasitology", "Clinical Practice", "Quality Control in Laboratory Practice" to Medical Laboratory Technician students at the Medical College – Stara Zagora. Her teaching load is high. According to academic reports it amounts to more than 2,000 hours over the last three years.

Conclusion

The candidate in this competition fully meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations on its implementation, and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at Trakia University, Stara Zagora for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor".

Senior lecturer Kichukova shows a strong pursuit of professional development and the potential for a successful academic and scientific career. The applicant offers a sufficient volume of scientific production and has significant teaching and research experience.

The overall assessment of the professional path, the academic and teaching activities, and the scientific contribution of the candidate allows me to express my positive opinion and confidently recommend to the respected members of the Academic Jury to vote in favor of conferring to senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova the academic rank of "Associate Professor" in Health Care Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health, area of higher education 7. Health and Sports, for the needs of the specialty "Medical Laboratory Technician" at the Medical College to Trakia University, Stara Zagora.

Varna
27. 04. 2023


.....
(Assoc. Prof. Stanislava Pavlova, PhD)