

STATEMENT

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External member of Scientific Committee, under Order No. 1334/19.04.2023 of the Rector
of *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora

REGARDING: Competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in Health Care Management, main specialty *Medical Laboratory Technician*, field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health, announced for the need of specialty *Medical Laboratory Technician* full-time position at Medical College at *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora, in SG issue 26/21.03.2023.

The only candidate in the competition is Pavlina Penkova Teneva, senior lecturer in specialty *Medical Laboratory Technician* at Medical College at *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

In the year 2000, Pavlina Teneva acquired specialty *Medical Laboratory Technician* at Medical College at *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora. In 2003 she received a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Activities Veliko Tarnovo University *St. St. Cyril and Methodius*. Later (2009) she graduated from the Medical University *Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov*, Varna with a Master’s Degree in Health Care Management. She defended a Doctoral educational qualification degree in scientific specialty Health Care Management at the Healthcare Department of the Sliven Branch of Medical University - Varna with topic “Practical training of medical laboratory workers for the forming of professional skills and competencies” in 2023.

P. Teneva has a long-term experience (13 years) as a Medical Laboratory Technician, which is a guarantee of good professional competence and high quality of teaching at the Medical College. She began her professional career in 2001 as a Medical Laboratory Technician at University Multi-Profile Hospital for Active Treatment Stara Zagora EAD, sector Central Clinical Laboratory, and at the same time also worked in the same position at TRANSPORT DIAGNOSTIC AND CONSULTING CENTRE EOOD

Stara Zagora, EOOD on a second employment contract. In the period 2012 - 2014 she was a Medical Laboratory Technician at at *Beroe* Medical Complex - Stara Zagora. Since 2009 she has been appointed as a lecturer in specialty *Medical Laboratory Technician* at the Medical College at *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora, and simultaneously is Head of the specialty.

In 2016, she became a senior lecturer, and in 2020, Deputy Director of the Medical College at *Trakia* University - Stara Zagora.

P. Teneva has almost 10 years of experience as a university teacher and scientific researcher in the field of health care, socially significant diseases and student education.

In her effort to continuously upgrade her knowledge, she participated in more than 10 different national training courses organised by, organised by the Bulgarian Association of Healthcare Professionals - quality in the clinical laboratory; automation in the clinical laboratory; innovative educational technologies and distance learning; current issues related to HIV/AIDS; examination of cerebrospinal fluid; transfusion hematology - immunohematological diagnostics in patients with upcoming blood transfusion in emergency and planned conditions, etc. In the period 2013 - 2019, she had five specialisations, implemented under the Erasmus Programme in Macedonia, Austria and Latvia.

Over the years, she has been awarded for her contribution to the establishment and development of the *Medical Laboratory Technician* specialty at the Stara Zagora Medical College and for her significant contribution to the publication activity and rating of *Trakia* University.

She has competences in English (level B1) and Russian (level A1).

II. General description of the submitted materials for the competition

The materials submitted by the candidate for the competition provide in full the necessary information for a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic development. Detailed and clearly organised documentation is provided in the form of references, lists and evidentiary material. A total of 26 scientific works were submitted for review: 1 dissertation, 24 publications and 1 monograph. A total of 25 are subject to review. The dissertation work is not subject to review.

1. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development

The scientific output of P. Teneva covers the minimum national requirements and those of *Trakia* University – Stara Zagora for academic position “Associate Professor” (table 1).

Table 1. Minimum required points by groups of indicators for academic position “Associate Professor”

Indicators	Regulations of Trakia University – Stara Zagora	P. Teneva
Indicator A	50	50
Indicator B	-	-
Indicator C	100	100
(C) 3. Habilitation work - monograph	-	100
Indicator D	200	266
(D) 7. Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information	-	60
(D) 8. Publications and reports in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals	-	206
Indicator E	50	50
(E) 12 Citations or reviews in non-refereed peer-reviewed scientific journals	-	50
Indicator F	-	15
(F) 16 Participation in national scientific and educational projects	-	15

The publications are grouped precisely according to the guidelines for covering the minimum national requirements for holding the position of “Associate Professor” in field 7. Health care and sports.

The publication activity of the candidate is distributed evenly over the years, which is proof of systematic and persistent research activity and is an expression of upward scientific development. A significant part of the presented publications is in established scientific publications: Journal of Hygienic Engineering and Design, International Journal Knowledge, Trakia Journal of Sciences, Science and technologies, etc.

In her publication activity, the candidate in the competition appears as the sole or first author in 32% of the total number of scientific works, most of them from recent years, which is proof of active research activity.

The scientific research activity of P. Teneva can be systematised in three main directions:

- A particular focus of a significant part of P. Teneva's scientific output is the training of students from the *Medical Laboratory Technician* specialty. The entire cycle has been studied - from the motivation for choosing the profession through the organisation and quality of training to their professional realisation. (No. 2,5,7,8, 11,12,14, 15,16,18,22,24)

The factors that influence professional orientation, choice and attitudes towards the future profession Medical Laboratory Technician have been analysed. Studies have been conducted on the most frequently used interactive methods applied in practical training and their role in shaping the future professional appearance of the specialties in the Medical College.

The need for a change in the way of conducting clinical practice and pre-graduate internship has been proven. The main factors determining clinical practice as the leading form of training for medical laboratory workers have been analysed. The satisfaction of the users with the overall preparation of the students of the specialty was studied.

- Protection of public health (No. 4,6, 9,10,13,17,19)

Public awareness of issues such as the widespread use of antibiotics, possible complications after getting measles, attitudes towards vaccines in general have been studied.

A number of studies have been conducted with health care students regarding competencies and their role in preventing behavioural risk factors in the community; their attitude towards the use of narcotic substances; their awareness of human papillomavirus and the vaccine against it.

The relationship between systemic motor activity and the processes of growth, development and maturation among adolescents has been studied.

Based on these studies, targeted campaigns can be introduced to raise public awareness and prevent a number of negative health consequences.

- Research contributions in the field of clinical laboratory and multidisciplinary scientific studies. (No. 1,3,20, 21, 22, 23)

The changes in clinical laboratory parameters in a number of pathological processes and socially significant diseases have been studied, which is essential for the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

A review of sleep-regulating hormones and serum vitamin D levels has been conducted.

The review of P. Teneva's scientific output creates an impression of good theoretical preparation, skills for analysis and derivation of specific practical recommendations.

2. Evaluation of the monographic work

The candidate submits for review a monograph "The pre-analytical stage - a guarantee of the reliability of the laboratory result". The monograph is intended for a wide range of healthcare professionals involved in the blood collection process. It is dedicated to the pre-analytical phase, the most vulnerable part of laboratory activity. The research paper outlines the basic rules regarding blood collection, the most common reasons for unacceptable samples and how to avoid unwanted results during the blood collection process and the post-processing procedures of the samples after their collection.

The monograph is extremely interesting and of great practical significance, as reliable results from clinical laboratory analyses are the basis of effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of patients. Theoretical knowledge and practical skills to comply with the requirements for the conditions and technique for performing the procedures described in the monographic work would significantly reduce errors in the pre-analytical stage and support the activities of clinical specialists.

3. Scientific activity

Senior lecturer Teneva has 22 participations in national and international scientific forums, which ensures wide popularization of her scientific output.

4. Project activity

P. Teneva has participated in the implementation of 9 projects, one of which was national. Her interest in participating in projects is persistent and consistent, as a result of which she has gained considerable experience. The projects in which she participated made a significant contribution in the field of public health and innovative approaches in student education.

5. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications

In the reference for citations, a total of 12 citations are presented, and the interest in the scientific works of the candidate is only from Bulgarian researchers. Two self-citations are not peer-reviewed.

III. Complex, qualitative evaluation of the educational-methodical and teaching activities

P. Teneva has a long teaching experience at the Medical College of *Trakia* University - Stara Zagora. Actively participates in the education of students from the *Medical Laboratory Technician* specialty, leading exercises in the Clinical Laboratory discipline and clinical practice of all courses.

She has a busy classroom schedule (660 classroom hours), which significantly exceeds the regulatory requirements.

IV. Critical notes and recommendations

I would recommend the candidate to publish her research in a variety of journals, thereby ensuring greater exposure to the results of her research.

V. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory conditions and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientometric indicators

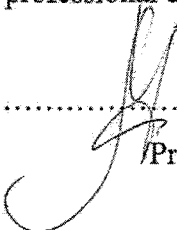
The volume and quality of the presented scientific output fully meets the requirements for occupying the academic position "Associate Professor" according to the Regulations for the structure and activities of *Trakia* University - Stara Zagora, the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations for its application. The scientific output of Pavlina Teneva has indisputable contributions to the protection of public and individual health.

VI. Conclusion

My general impressions of the candidate are that she has all the professional and personal prerequisites for holding a higher academic position - she is thorough and systematic in her work, there is a high sense of responsibility and consistency in the search for novelties in the chosen scientific field. After familiarising myself with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, analysing their significance and the scientific and applied contributions contained in them, I vote in favour and recommend to the honourable Scientific Committee to award Pavlina Teneva the academic position "Associate Professor" in Health Care Management, field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.4. Public Health.

01.06.2023

The City of Plovdiv

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/Prof. Dr. M. Semerdzhieva, DM/

