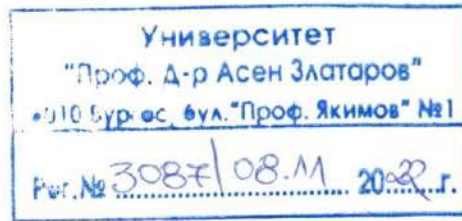


To: The Chairman of the Scientific Committee
authorized in Decree № RD– 259/15.09.2022
of The Rector of the University of Burgas
“Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov”



OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Ioannis Papathanasiou, MD, Ph.D

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Medical University - Sofia

According: Competition for the academic position “ Associate Professor” in the area of high education 7. Health care and sport, and Professional field 7.4. Social Medicine, Health Care, and Organization Pharmacy announced in State Gazette, issue № 45/17.06.2022, for the needs of the Department "Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine" at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care in the University of Burgas “Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov”.

By order № RD - 259/15.09.2022, issued by the of the Rector the University “Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov” Burgas i was authorized as an external member of the Scientific Committee. Documents for participation in this competition were submitted from one candidate, Ass. Prof. Sonya Kostadinova Nencheva, PhD, which met the criteria and necessary requirements included in Regulation for the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific decrees and holding academic positions (RLSDASB) at the University “Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov” of Burgas.

Brief biographical data and academic development of the candidate

The Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, was born in the town of Sredets, region of Burgas in 1971. In 1992 she graduated from the Medical College of Plovdiv, as a Physiotherapist. In the period 2001 - 2003, she acquired a "Bachelor's" degree in "Health Care", with the professional qualification "Head of Health Care and became a lecturer in a Medical College" at the Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2007, she acquired her Master's degree with a professional qualification in "Health Management" at the Medical University of Sofia - Medical University.

In 2014, she acquired a master's degree in "Social medicine and organization of health care and pharmacy" at the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, in the Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University of Plovdiv. In the same year, she acquired a Master's degree in occupational therapy in the community at the "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse. The applicant has submitted multiple certificates and additional qualifications.

She started her professional career in 1992, as a physiotherapist at the Clinic Orthopedics and Traumatology of the University Hospital of Plovdiv "St. Georgi", and continued to work until July 2000, in the 1st Municipal Polyclinic - Plovdiv. In 2016 Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., became a member of the academic staff at the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", and in 2019 she became an assistant professor.

Evaluation of the candidate's qualitative and quantitative indicators

The candidate Sonia Kostadinova Nencheva, Ph.D., presented evidence containing lists, references, and abstracts of published papers after the acquisition of the academic position "assistant professor", as well as certificates, diplomas, references for citations, and declaration of originality and authenticity of the submitted documents. Additionally, there is evidence for quantitative and qualitative assessment of the overall academic evolution of the candidate. Table 1 presents an assessment of the candidate's compliance with the required conditions and the minimum quantitative criteria and the scientometric quantitative criteria and indicators according to the Regulation for the implementation of the LADASRP and the Regulations for holding the academic position "Assoc. Professor" at the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" as well as the minimum national required points.

Table 1

Minimum required points for holding the academic position "Assoc. Professor" in the area of high education 7. Health care and sport, and Professional field 7.4. Public Health the Regulations for holding the academic position "Assoc. Professor" at the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" and the points obtained by the candidate.

Indicator groups	Required points for the academic position "Assoc. Professor according to the LADASRP and RLSDASB	Required points for the academic position "Assoc. Professor" at University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov"	Points of the candidate
A Indicator 1	50	50	50
B Indicator 3	100	100	100
C Indicator 5 - 9	200	220	250
D Average of indicators 10 - 12	50	60	120
E Average of indicators 13 till the end		20	50
Overall:	400	450	570

Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., submitted for review in the competition for "Assoc. Professor" a total of 19 papers, published in indexed and non-indexed journals with scientific peer review or published in edited scientific volumes. Out of a total of 14 scientific papers presented for the competition, 7 are single-authored and 7 are co-authored, in national and international journals. All journals are peer-reviewed and indexed. The presented scientific works with which Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D. participates in the current competition do not overlap with the publications that she presented during the defense of the dissertation thesis for the academic "Doctor of philosophy". The candidate has submitted evidence for 7 participations in conferences, of which 6 are international, as well as 4 participations in scientific projects, of which 1 was international project and 3 were University-funded, and in one of them she was the project manager.

Main directions of the candidate's publication activity

The presented scientific articles of the candidate have the following thematic distribution:

1. Public health - health promotion, prevention of diseases and their complications, prevention of socially significant diseases, health awareness, and patients education and their relatives, as part of the occupational therapy process;
2. Integrated medico-social care and ethical aspects of health care for individuals with chronic diseases;
3. Quality of life and health care;
4. Quality of medical and professional education of healthcare professionals;
5. Health management and management of healthcare services.

Quantative assessment of candidate's teaching activity

According to the report presented for the last six academic years, is seen that Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., participates in the education of students from the specialty "Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy", "Health Management", "Balneology Spa and Wellness Management" specialties educated at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care, "Physiotherapist" and "Pharmacist Assistant", both specialties educated at the Medical College and has average academic workload 366 equiv. hours (per ½ staff). The teaching disciplines by her are: Occupational therapy and ergonomics, Methods for Functional assessment in medical rehabilitation and occupational therapy, Therapeutic massage, Medical statistics, Medical ethics, and deontology. Additionally, she provides practicals and pre-diploma internship stages for the specialty "Medical Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy".

The presented report on employment workload is in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations for holding the academic position "Assoc. Professor" at the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

Critical issues and recommendations

Despite that the candidate satisfies the scientometric indicators contained in the Regulations of the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", for employment in the academic position "Assoc. Professor", I would recommend Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., to direct her publication activity in international journals indexed databases, such as PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science, which significantly will increase the visualization of her published articles, and respectively will contribute to their higher citation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., meets all the scientometric requirements for holding the academic position "Assoc. professor", listed in the LADASRP, the Regulations for its implementation, as well as the Regulations of the University of Burgas "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov". In view of the above-mentioned, I give my positive vote on her election as "Assoc. professor" and i recommend the members of the honorable scientific committee to award Asst. Prof. Sonia Nencheva, Ph.D., the academic position of "Assoc. professor" in the area of high education 7. Health care and sport, and Professional field 7.4. Social Medicine, Health Care, and Organization Pharmacy, for the needs of the Department "Rehabilitation and Marine Medicine" at the Faculty of Public Health and Health Care in the University of Burgas "Prof.Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

01.11.2022
Sofia

Prof. Dr. Ioannis Papathanasiou, MD, PhD