

OPINION

Дж. № 300 / 02. 10. 2020.

Subject: Competition for the position of academic position of **Associate Professor** in the professional field: 7.4. Public Health (Kinesiotherapy) for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, announced in State Gazette, issue 67, dated: 28 July 2020.

By: Prof. Dr. Ludmila Borislavova Ivanova, MD, lecturer at the Medical Faculty of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University and a member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by the Rector's order (RD 38-510, dated: 22 Oct 2020).

The only applicant in the competition is Natalia Petrova Petrova, PhD in pedagogy – a part-time Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology, Psychiatry, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

Applicant's curriculum vitae and academic development

Natalia Petrova was born in 1974 in the town of Nikopol, Northern Bulgaria.

- 1999 – she acquired the BACHELOR educational qualification degree at Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University – town of Blagoevgrad with the specialty of Kinesiotherapy (Diploma, Reg. № 500502/1999).
- 2010 – she acquired the MASTER educational qualification degree in the professional field of Theory of Education Management with professional qualification: Manager in Education (Diploma, Reg. № 514596/2010) at Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University – town of Blagoevgrad.
- 2015 – she acquired the DOCTOR educational qualification degree after defending her thesis on “The role of kinesiotherapy to improve the quality of life in patients with rheumatoid arthritis” at the Faculty of Public Health and Sports of the South-West University with the scientific specialty: Theory and methodology of physical education and sports training (including methodology of Physical Exercise Therapy or Kinesiotherapy), holder of Diploma, Reg. № 0162/2015) at Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University – town of Blagoevgrad.

After graduating her higher education, in the period of 2000-2016 Natalia Petrova worked as an Assistant / Senior Assistant Professor at Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University, Blagoevgrad and at the same time developed her practical professional skills as a Kinesiotherapist in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine at Faith, Hope and Love Individual Outpatient Specialized Center (owned by Dr. Evelina Nikolova) – Blagoevgrad.

- 2017 onwards – she has been a part-time assistant at the Medical Faculty with St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University, teaching students in Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy, Bachelor degree students.

Research and Scientometric Data

The applicant's scientometric data evaluated in their entirety correspond to the criteria and indicators recommended in the assessment protocols when conducting a competition for the title of Associate Professor.

The scientific papers presented for review are in the field of kinesiotherapy, public health and prevention. The applicant has submitted a general list with one independent monograph and one participation in a Manual, 33 publications, two of them in foreign journals (SNIP index), participation in scientific forums with published abstracts – 15, a dissertation abstract, and participation in scientific forums – 12. Natalia Petrova is an independent author of 5 publications and is the first author of 10 publications.

For her participation in the competition, Natalia Petrova has presented a list of 23 publications in scientific periodicals and indexed scientific collections.

From the presented list of scientific publications for participation in the competition, one of the publications (№ 16 in the list) is included in the author's abstract of her dissertation and is therefore not reviewed. Out of the 22 publications presented, 16 are in periodicals and the remaining 6 are in indexed scientific journals. She is the first author of 4 publications.

The applicant has submitted a reference from the Central Medical Library with a list of 30 citations.

The scientific-research and scientific-applied activity of the applicant are in the field of kinesiotherapy and occupational therapy of a number of diseases of the musculoskeletal system: rheumatoid arthritis, postoperative recovery of traumatic injuries of the knee joint, knee joint arthrosis, disc herniation, ankylosing spondylitis, etc. The applied approaches for prevention of spinal deformities in children and students and the assessment of obesity through anthropometric methods and weight control strategies also add to her work.

The applicant has contributed to the use of innovative physiotherapeutic methods and kinesiotherapy in patients with diseases of the musculoskeletal system; complex application of shock wave therapy, deep oscillations, kinesiotherapy, occupational therapy, kinesiotaping; therapeutic effect in different stages of the diseases. In addition, she widely applies methods for studying the quality of life of patients with rheumatic diseases, enhancing their kinesiotherapy program with elements of occupational therapy and ergonomics, application of the latter at work and at home. All this is of particular importance for the rehabilitation and recovery of the working capacity of the population and a contribution to public health.

The applicant's experience in the field of kinesiotherapy and rehabilitation in pediatric practice and especially rehabilitation of children with neuro-motor developmental delay is also significant.

Project Participation

Within the period 2008-2015, the applicant participated in three research projects, two of these were funded by the Scientific Research Fund – the Ministry of Education and Science and Neophyte Rilski Southwestern University, and one by the Human Resources Development Operational Program..

Teaching and Lecturing

Natalia Petrova is a part-time assistant at the Medical Faculty of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University since 2017 and teaches students in Medical Rehabilitation and Occupational Therapy in the Bachelor's Degree programs in the following subjects: Occupational Therapy and Ergonomics - Part I, II, III; Massage; Kinesiotherapy in Internal Medicine – Part I, II. She has covered the following volume of teaching/tutoring sessions for the period after 2017:

- 2017/2018 academic year – 180 hours of exercises
- 2018/2019 academic year – 60 hours of lectures and 150 hours of exercises
- 2019/2020 academic year – 165 hours of lectures and 75 hours of exercises.

Compliance with the Minimum National Requirements for the Scientific and Teaching Requirements of Applicants for acquiring a Scientific Degree and for Occupying the Academic Position of Associate Professor in the Professional Field 7.4.: Public Health:

Group of indicators	Associate Professor	Applicant: Natalia Petrova, Ph.D.
A / A	50	50 points
Б / B	-	-
B / C	100	100 points
Г / D	200	260.5 points
Д / E	50	230 points
E / F	-	-

The documents submitted by Natalia Petrova, Ph.D., meet the minimum national requirements and criteria of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field: 7.4. Public Health.

CONCLUSION

The scientific-practical and teaching activity of Natalia Petrova Petrova, MD, shows good theoretical and hands-on training in the field of kinesiotherapy. A special advantage of the applicant is her practical training as a physiotherapist, as well as her pedagogical background.

The submitted documents meet the minimum national requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University for holding the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field: 7.4. Public Health.

I strongly recommend to the honorable members of the Scientific Jury to resolve on the election of Natalia Petrova Petrova, Ph.D. to become an Associated Professor in the field: 7.4. Public Health (Kinesiotherapy) and hold this academic position at the Faculty of Medicine of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University.

Member of the scientific jury:

Prof. Dr. Ludmila Borislavova Ivanova MD