

## REVIEW

on the procedure for acquiring the academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 7.4. Public Health (Social medicine), published in the State Gazette, issue 96, November 19, 2021, for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Psychiatry, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, Preventive Medicine, and Public Health.

**Candidate: Assoc. Prof. Diana Krasteva Ivanova, PhD**

**Reviewer: Prof. Lyubomir Dimitrov Spassov, MD, PhD** – Department of Surgical diseases, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Faculty of Medicine, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

The review was prepared based on the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for application of the ZRASRB and the Regulations for the conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and for obtaining academic positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (PURPNSZADSU). It was written and presented, based on order № RD-38-43/20.01.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for appointment of the scientific jury for this procedure, as well as a decision of the scientific jury regarding the procedure.

Documents for participation in the procedure, within the legally regulated period, are submitted electronically by the only candidate: **Assoc. Prof. Diana Krasteva Ivanova, PhD.**

### **1. General description of the submitted materials**

I was given access to the candidate's documents before the first meeting of the scientific jury by the secretary of the jury. The candidate has submitted all the required materials, in accordance with PURPNSZADSU: CV; copies of higher education diplomas; copy of the diploma for scientific degree "doctor"; certificate for professional experience in the academic position "assistant" and "associate professor"; reference for educational workload; list of all publications; list of publications submitted for participation in the procedure; a list of publications, conferences, projects and scientific manuals generated by the "Authors" system; reference for fulfilment of the minimum national requirements, according to the Regulations for application of the ZRASRB; reference for citations; author's reference for the contributory impact of the scientific works; reference on the indicators under Art. 122, para. 2 of PURPNSZADSU, copies of scientific papers; a copy of the announcement in the State Gazette.

### **2. Brief biographical data**

Assoc. Prof. Diana Krasteva Ivanova, PhD was born in 1975 in Sofia. She graduated from the Medical College of MU-Sofia, in 1996 with a degree in Nursing – General Profile. In 2006 Assoc. Prof. Diana Ivanova obtained a Bachelor's degree in Social Pedagogy at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", 2008 – "Master" degree in the specialty "Social Pedagogy" and 2010 – "Master" degree in the specialty "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" at the nowadays Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She defended her doctoral dissertation in Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy on "Organizational model of nursing care for patients with acute myocardial heart attack" in 2014 at the Faculty of Public Health, MU-Sofia.

From 2009 until now Diana Ivanova is a lecturer at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", and since 2014 he has held the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 7.4. Public Health (Social Medicine), and since 2019 she is Vice-Dean.

### **3. Lecturing activity**

From the attached report on the study workload of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova is visible that she has over 500 hours per year, which exceeds the required number of hours at Sofia University.

Assoc. Prof. Diana Ivanova teaches students in the mandatory courses: Philosophy and Introduction to Nursing. Theoretical foundations first and second part; Nursing care for the neurologically ill; Nursing care for the mentally ill; Nursing care for the elderly; Nursing care for infectious patients; Nursing care for children and adults with disabilities; Nursing care at home, as well as four elective courses in the same specialty: Preventive nursing care for patients with cardiovascular disease – risk factors and a plan for nursing care; Nursing care and training of stoma patients; Nursing management concepts; Nursing process management. Administration of documentation in nursing care.

Assoc. Prof. Diana Ivanova is the author and co-author of all curricula in the specialized disciplines for the specialty "Nurse", Bachelor's degree at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". Since 2014, Assoc. Prof. Ivanova has been developing additional group activities with students majoring in Nursing in the following areas: Philosophy and introduction to nursing, Nursing care for patients with somatic diseases, Nursing care at home, Nursing care for children and adults with disabilities.

### **4. Research activity**

#### ***4.1. Science-metric indicators and implementation of minimum national requirements (MNR)***

To participate in the competition, Assoc. Prof. Ivanova presented two monographs "Organizational aspects of hospital treatment for patients with acute myocardial heart attack" and "Medico-social factors in patients with ischemic heart disease" and the total number of publications submitted for the competition is 39, for 26 of which she is the single author. Diana Ivanova has also presented 23 participations at scientific forums, congresses and conferences.

From the reference for the completion of the MNR under art. 2b of ZRASRB for scientific field 7. Healthcare and sports, mathematics and informatics, professional field 7.4. Public Health (Social Medicine), presented by Diana Ivanova, it is evident that the candidate fully meets and significantly exceeds in some groups of indicators, the minimum national requirements for obtaining the academic degree "Professor"

#### ***4.2. Contributions of the scientific works of the candidate***

##### ***- Monographs***

The monograph "Organizational aspects of hospital treatment for patients with acute myocardial heart attack" deals with organizational problems of health care in patients with acute myocardial heart attack during hospital treatment. The study is focused on risk factors in patients with acute myocardial heart attack, comorbidities and lifestyle. The organization of the hospital admission, the speed of the diagnostic process and the adequate care for the patients with acute myocardial heart attack are crucial for the results of the hospital treatment. A medical and social characterization of the acute myocardial heart attack and the need for urgent hospital treatment to control the life-threatening disease of the patient was achieved. The developed organizational model reflects the care needs of patients with acute myocardial heart attack in different stages of hospital care – emergency, intensive, preoperative, postoperative and therapeutic care.

The monograph "Medico-social factors in patients with ischemic heart disease" examines and analyzes the medical and social factors that are the cause of the most common disease among the Bulgarian population – Ischemic heart disease. The monograph is especially relevant and significant due to the fact that the disease is a primary cause of death in our country and is essential for the duration and quality of life of patients and their relatives. The pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, the medical and social characteristics of ischemic heart disease, the possibilities for improving the condition of patients while reducing risk factors are described. An own study is presented, which analyzes the results of morbidity in terms of gender, age, lifestyle, risk factors, heredity, blood pressure monitoring.

- *Scientific publications*

The scientific publications presented for participation in the competition by Assoc. Prof. Ivanova are in three main areas of public health - social and medical field, organizational priorities of health care and methods of professional training, which are summarized as follows:

**I. Special nursing care for patients with cardiovascular disease** (publications 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 15, 19, 20, 30, 31, 33, 36 and 39 from the list of publications submitted for participation in the competition).

Modern nursing practice is based on theoretical conceptual models aimed at delineating the boundaries of the nursing profession in the implementation of specific nursing care. The professional responsibility of nurses must be linked to a specific organization and mechanisms to ensure high quality care in hospital conditions, for prevention or rehabilitation. The dynamics of hospital treatment requires good organization and management of health care to ensure the best possible recovery of patients. Assoc. Prof. Ivanova's research presents well-structured medical data and a description of modern nursing care for ischemic heart disease and acute myocardial heart attack, which can increase the professional qualification of nursing staff from specialized clinics and departments of cardiology, cardiac surgery and intensive care sectors. Cardiovascular disease requires very good professional training of nurses, important for each stage of stay at the hospital.

**II. Related to the theoretical foundations of the training of nurses** (publications 6, 10, 12, 21, 22, 24, 29, 32, 35 and 38 from the list of publications submitted for participation in the competition).

In the study of the theoretical foundations of the nursing profession, conceptual models of nursing care play a key role in forming professional behavior and improving the quality of care. Conceptual models of nursing care are essential in forming the professional behavior and philosophy of students. In this group of publications of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova are reviewed various aspects of the theory and methodology of nursing education for the formation of professional behavior and skills building, and not just providing a certain amount of knowledge, that plays a key role in decision making. The new nursing programs are aimed at creating conditions for the emphasis on decision-making, in accordance with regulated legal responsibilities, which is in line with European training practices, where there is a clear methodology, with established traditions for professional growth and development of health care professionals.

**III. Related to practical approaches to care - development of professional plans for nursing care** (publications 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34 and 37 from the list of publications presented for participation in the competition).

The training of students majoring in "Nurse" in our country is aimed at building and developing professional competencies through a set of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, adequate behavior and habits in the work environment. The presented results in the mentioned scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Ivanova show that a higher level of integration is needed between the theoretical and practical knowledge of the students. Although the training is multi-layered, integrating diverse aspects of medicine, philosophy, psychology and ethics, the main priority is the practical application of theoretical knowledge and mastering the actions and manipulations – an integral part of medical practice. The publications indicate specific professional plans and algorithms for nursing care, tailored to the specifics of the particular disease.

- *University textbooks*

Assoc. Prof. Ivanova presented two university textbooks for the competition: Textbook of Nursing - Planning, preparation and organization of research on the cardiovascular system and Textbook of Nursing - Theoretical aspects of training in nursing.

The textbook on nursing care – Planning, preparation and organization of research on the cardiovascular system, reflects the new trends in nursing care in this large group of diseases of high public importance. Until now, there has been no specialized textbook on this topic in our medical literature, aimed at health care professionals. The textbook focuses on the most important moments of the nurse's actions in the preparation of these patients. The prepared technical sheets cover all the care, manipulations, activities, procedures, tests and interventions that nurses perform for patients with cardiovascular disease during their hospital stay. The wording of the nursing technique is clear, precise and specific, including the use of modern technologies. The structured technical data sheets can be used both for training students in the specialty "Nurse" and to serve as criteria and indicators for the quality of care for these patients.

The textbook on nursing care – Theoretical aspects of nursing education addresses the problems of nursing education aimed at acquiring professional knowledge and skills to assess the needs of care for healthy and sick people. By studying the theoretical aspects of nursing, skills for planning and providing nursing care during illness and recovery are obtained, covering physical, mental and social factors. New trends in the training of nurses in recent years are aimed at studying the theoretical foundations of the nursing profession, which is based on conceptual models.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the materials and scientific papers submitted for the competition, the above analysis of their importance and the scientific contributions included, I confidently give my positive assessment and recommend to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for awarding the academic position “Professor”, in professional field 7.4. Public Health (Social medicine) to Assoc. Prof. Diana Krasteva Ivanova, PhD.

Prof. Lyubomir Dimitrov Spassov, MD, PhD

February 21, 2022

Sofia