

STANDPOINT

worked out by Ass.Prof. Tanya Paskaleva Stoycheva, DrPH,
Department of Healthcare, Haskovo Branch of Thracian University - Stara Zagora
Member of a scientific jury, subject to Order N: 788/13.03.2023,
issued by the Rector of Thracian University - Stara Zagora
Subject: Competition for an academic position
"Associate Professor", "Healthcare Management",
Professional field 7.4. Public Health,
area of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports
for the needs of the specialty "Clinical Laboratory Assistant" at the College of Medicine
Thracian University - Stara Zagora, published in the Official Gazette, issue 99/13.12.2022

1. General presentation of the procedure

The submitted documents for the competition have been precisely and correctly prepared in accordance with the Regulations for the Implementation of the Academic Staff Development Regulations and the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Rules at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora. The documentation contains the information necessary in order to carry out a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the candidate's overall academic development.

2. Biography, educational and career profile of the candidate

Katya Stefanova Kichukova was born on 19.12.1969 in the town of Kotel. She graduated the trailing course for the major "Medical Laboratory Assistant", secondary-special education at the College for training Healthcare experts with completed secondary vocational education in the city of Plovdiv (1989), and later on she acquired a college education in the same specialty at the Medical College in the city of Sliven (1993). She was awarded a bachelor's degree in "Healthcare Management" at the Faculty of Medicine at the Thracian University - Stara Zagora (2007), and in 2012 a Master's degree in "Healthcare Management" at the University of Medicine - Plovdiv, Faculty of Public Health. In 2022 she acquired the educational qualification degree "Doctor" in Healthcare Management, professional field 7.4 Public Health.

From 1989 to 2001 she worked as a medical laboratory assistant in the Clinical Laboratory of the Municipal Hospital in the town of Kotel. From 2001 to 2009 she continued her career as a medical laboratory assistant at MBAL AD "Prof. Dr. Stoyan Kirkovich" - Stara Zagora - Central Clinical Laboratory. Since 2009 she has been teaching at the Medical College of Thracian University - Stara Zagora, specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant". Since 2016 until now she has been a senior lecturer at the Medical College, Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

Katya Kichukova's educational and career development prove that she has considerable teaching experience and has established herself as a competent expert in her professional field. She is continuously improving her qualifications and has participated in 23 courses and training events under the "Erasmus+" program. She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of the Healthcare Experts and a member of the Addiction Prevention and Information Center at the Municipality of Stara Zagora.

3. Educational and teaching activities

Katya Kichukova has participated in the training, clinical practice and educational-practical classes of the major "Medical Laboratory Assistant" at Medical College - Stara Zagora with a significant annual number of classes for the last five years (518 to 638 academic hours). Her long-term pedagogical experience is related to contribution to the development of learning process with a scientific and theoretical, methodical and practically applied nature.

4. Scientific and research activity

Katya Kichukova has submitted for this competition a total number of 30 scientific publications, distributed as follows: journal referenced in Web of Science – 1 article; publications in magazines and collections, included in the national reference list - 16 articles; publications in journals indexed in secondary databases - 12 articles (of which 1 is to be published); 1 monograph and one book chapter.

The candidate indicates a total of 11 quotes of her own scientific works. The presented monographic work "Lifelong learning for medical laboratory assistants - present and prospects" has a topic with a marked current importance and thoroughly examines the possibilities of continuing education for increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory assistants.

Katya Kichukova's scientific activity is confirmed by her participation in 32 scientific forums - conferences, congresses and symposiums. Her part in research projects is significant - 13 projects. Katya Kichukova's interest in participating in projects is permanent and consistent and covers the last years, in which she has gained considerable experience. The projects in which she has participated made a significant contribution to the field of public health, healthcare and to the innovative approaches in student education.

The evaluation of the scientific material of the candidate, detailed by a group of indicators, is as follows:

Group A: Indicator 1: Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on the topic: Continuing education as a means of increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory assistants - 50 points.

Group B: Indicator 3: Thesis, monograph - Lifelong learning for medical laboratory assistants - present and perspectives, ISBN 978-954-305-634-7 - 100 points.

Group C: Indicators 7, 8: Publications, Total number of publications and reports: 24, total number of points - 209 points.

Group D: Indicators 10, 12: Total number of quotes – 11, total number of points -110.

Group E: Indicators 16, 22: Project participation; training of interns, total for indicators from group E, total number of points -75 points.

Her scientific contribution covers a wide range of topics in the field of public health and laboratory sciences that fully correspond to the specifics of the announced competition. The scientific contribution is systematized with regard to the topics in several main areas:

I. Increasing the professional competence of medical laboratory workers and using the opportunities of continuing education (contribution with a scientific and theoretical, methodical and applied nature) - An in-depth study has been conducted among students, laboratory workers and laboratory doctors with respect to the interest in continuing education,

and in particular in continuing education for medical laboratory assistants. A research among the students regarding the motives to choose the major of a "Medical Laboratory Assistant" and of those working as medical laboratory assistant has been conducted. The achievement motivation of the students from the "Medical Laboratory Assistant" major as well as the influence upon the interest in various forms of lifelong learning have been investigated.

II. Research on the introduction of new indicators and medicine preparations (nutritional supplements) to improve the diagnosis or to influence the treatment of some socially significant diseases. (contribution with a scientific and theoretical, methodical and applied nature) - A pilot study has been conducted to adapt methods for determining serum levels of paraoxonase and arylase activity of PON1 (belongs to the paraoxonase family, consisting of three isozymes PON1, PON2 and PON3). The new aspects of the beneficial action of lactic acid bacteria have been studied.

III. Studies on some of the socially significant and dangerous infectious diseases and the role of the human factor in their circulation. (contribution with a scientific and theoretical nature) - A study of Echinococcosis was conducted in the region of Stara Zagora. A historical overview of the efforts of all institutions in the fight against malaria and the vectors of malaria plasmodia has been made. Some of the significant ancient and emerging diseases that have had a strong impact on human history are reviewed, incl. COVID-19. The main risk factors for the spread of *T gondii* amongst risk groups of the population in the region of Stara Zagora have been investigated.

IV. Innovative approaches and technologies in medical education (contribution with a theoretical and applied nature) - The positive aspects of interactive learning methods are defined. The possibilities of application of the interactive presentation equipment - interactive whiteboard and a document camera in the education of the students of the Medical College are presented. The attitudes of students from the "Medical Laboratory Assistant" specialty, medical laboratory assistants and laboratory doctors regarding the use of electronic forms in the postgraduate training of specialists have been examined.

V. Medical and laboratory sciences (contribution with a theoretical and applied nature)
Oriented to different areas of the wide-based training of medical laboratory assistants - A survey was conducted amongst residents of the Chirpan region concerning the ways of HIV infection and the prevention opportunities. A retrospective study of individuals with clinical manifestations of acute coronary syndrome has also been conducted. A study and analysis of the knowledge self-assessment by the students of the "Medical Laboratory Assistant" specialty at the Medical College - Stara Zagora about tuberculosis have also been worked out. The therapeutic approaches and groups of laboratory analyzes in the various stages of kidney diseases are summarized and systematized. The significance of antiphospholipid antibody testing in patients with recurrent miscarriage, reproductive failure, or other connective tissue autoimmune diseases is reviewed. The most common factors for acquired aplastic anemia are considered - biological, physical, chemical and the symptoms of the disease. Methods for the detection of bacterial toxins in food products are reviewed, with an emphasis on modern and fast methods.

IV. Varia - The psychosocial aspect of natural disasters is discussed. The main aspects in the attitude of students at the medical majors at Thracian University to narcotic substances have

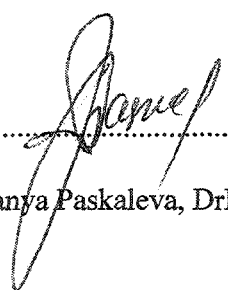
been studied. The risk factors for osteoporosis among women in different age groups have been examined.

For the present competition, Katya Kichukova has provided scientific evidence in a volume that fulfills the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientific indicators, according to the table displaying the Minimum required points, divided by groups of indicators for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor", Professional field 7.4. Public Health.

Conclusion

Taking into account the scientific achievement and performances of the candidate, adequate to the competition field, the active teaching activity, the participation in scientific projects, I am convinced to give my positive vote and consider that senior lecturer Katya Stefanova Kichukova, DrPH meets all the requirements for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor". In view of this, I strongly suggest to the respected members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively and award Katya Stefanova Kichukova, DrPH the title of an ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in the scientific specialty "Healthcare Management", in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, professional area 7.4. Public health for the needs of the major "Clinical Laboratory Assistant" at the Medical College of Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

08.05.20223

This Standpoint is worked out by:.....

(Ass.Prof.Tanya Paskaleva, DrPH)