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by Prof. Dr. Reni Kalfin, Institute of Neurobiology at BAS, Sofia

in a competition for "ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATE" at the Medical College of the Thracian University - Stara Zagora

Field of higher education: 7. Health and sports;
Professional field: 7.3. Pharmacy;
Scientific specialty: "Pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical regulation"
Announced in SG no. 61 of 10.07.2020

The competition is attended by two candidates, who are arranged in alphabetical order of their first names as follows:

1. Dr. Anna Atanasova Mikhailova
2. Dr. Nikolai Mikhailov Gerasimov

After a careful review of the documents of the two candidates, I found a correct and accurate presentation by Dr. Gerasimov, while Dr. Mihaylova made mistakes and inaccuracies, such as the incorrect presentation by the candidate of her publications as such with impact factor or impact-rank, the inclusion of articles from the defense of her dissertation in the competition for associate professor, which in total leads to a misleading impression of the number of points collected by her.

Dr. ANNA ATANASOVA MIKHAYLOVA

A). Biographical data. Anna Mihailova was born on May 24, 1975 in the city of Plovdiv. According to the diplomas attached by the candidate, she graduated from the Medical Institute - Plovdiv in 1995 with a degree in Rehabilitation; in 2004 she became a Master in Public Health and Health Management at the Medical University of Sofia; in 2007 she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medical Pedagogy at the Medical University of Sofia, and in 2009 she became a Master in Pharmacy at the Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2018, Anna Mihaylova defended her dissertation for the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" on "Epidemiological and pharmacoeconomic study of corticosteroid prevention of hyaline membrane disease in premature infants" at the Medical University - Plovdiv.

Dr. Anna Mihailova has worked as a rehabilitator at the University Hospital "St. Georgi" in Plovdiv for one year (1996-1997). Since 1997 and currently she has a main employment contract as a lecturer at the Medical College at the Medical University - Plovdiv. In the period 1997-2009, Mihaylova held the position of "Lecturer", and since 2009 she has been the "Senior Lecturer". Since 2008 and currently, simultaneously with her main contract as a lecturer at the Medical College, Dr. Anna Mihailova has been working as a manager of the pharmacy "Kanto Pharma EOOD", and has not indicated what kind of contract and whether the requirements of the Labor Code for maximum 12-hour working hours are met.

Dr. Mihailova is a member of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Pharmacy, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health and the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria. Uses written and spoken English, spoken - Russian and Italian.

B). Teaching activity. Anna Mihailova worked as a lecturer at the Medical College at the Medical University - Plovdiv from 1997 to 2009, and since 2009 she is currently a senior lecturer at the same college. She conducts exercises and training / clinical practice of assistant pharmacists. Dr. Mihaylova's study load has been increasing progressively over the last three years. In 2017/2018 it was 782 hours, in the academic year 2018/2019 the academic report indicated 872 hours, while in 2019/2020 Dr. Anna Mihailova has a total of 898 teaching hours with a norm of 450 hours for non-habilitated lecturers. . In 2015, Dr. Mihailova conducted practical training for two students from Latvia under the Erasmus program and for two students from Romania under a bilateral agreement. Dr. Mihailova was also an academic mentor in the Student Internships program in 2018 and 2020, where the beneficiaries of the project are the students.

Dr. Anna Mihailova is among the authors of the "Textbook of Medical Devices" and two textbooks - "Guide to Pharmaceutical Care" and "Teaching Practice Part I with test tasks for student assistant pharmacists."

C). Research activity. Thematically, Dr. Anna Mihailova has worked in various fields, including those that have nothing to do with pharmaceutical regulation and pharmacoconomics. After a careful reading of the publications presented by the candidate, I found that the topic of the announced competition in "Pharmacoconomics and Pharmaceutical Regulation" correspond to 18 articles. Dr. Mihailova did not present a separation protocol from all co-authors of her publications in the competition for "Associate Professor".

From the self-assessment of Dr. Mihaylova in the competition for "Associate Professor" must be excluded her three publications in connection with her dissertation, which she has included, because according to Art. 24, para. 3 of ZRASRB, the candidates for the academic position of "Associate Professor" are required, I quote: "to have submitted a published monographic work or equivalent publications in specialized scientific publications or evidence of relevant artistic posts in the field of the arts, not to repeat those submitted for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor of Science". In addition, the candidate in her self-assessment presented her publications as those with an impact factor, which they do not have, also articles are presented by her as referenced in scientific databases, when they are not.

The articles of Dr. Anna Mihailova on the topic of this competition, arranged by years of publication, are the following:

- ✓ Dimov X, Mihailova A, Mihailova K. Study of the prophylactic and therapeutic effect of the product "Sanar", Science & Technologies, vol. II (1), 2012.
- ✓ □Mihailova A, Hadjieva B, Koleva N, Koleva P. The prophylactic and curative effect of Resveratrol in wine therapy, Science & Technologies, vol. II (1), 2012.
- ✓ Dimov X, Mihailova A, Koleva P. Study of the prophylactic and therapeutic effect of the product "Progovital". Yearbook of the Union of Scientists Blagoevgrad, Volume 6, Part 2, 2012.
- ✓ Koleva P, Koleva N, Hadjieva B, Mihailova A. Nutritional supplements - reliable sources for informing the consumer. Science & Technologies, vol. III (1), 2013.

- ✓ Koleva P, Mihailova A, Hadjieva B, Koleva N, The need for pharmaceutical care in advising the patient on the intake of food supplements. *Science & Technologies*, vol. VI (1), 2014.
- ✓ Hadjieva B, Mihailova A, Koleva P, Koleva N. Project "Student internships44 - motivation and opportunities for development of professional skills in students assistant pharmacists. *Management and education*. Volume XI (5) 2015.
- ✓ Mihaylova A, Uchicova E, Parahuleva N, Gueorguiev S. Use of corticosteroids to prevent complications in preterm birth, *Pharmacia*, 63 (4), 42-51, 2016.
- ✓ Mihailova A, Petkova-Georgieva E, Koleva P, Staykova R. Analysis of the costs for therapy in premature children with respiratory complications, *Collection of scientific reports Science and Youth-MU Plovdiv*, 169-175, 2018.
- ✓ Stoyanova V, Staykova R, Petkova-Georgieva E, Mihailova A. Safe and rational drug use during pregnancy: the role of the pharmacist. *Collection of scientific communications Science and Youth - Plovdiv Medical University*, 86-90, 2018.
- ✓ Petkova-Gueorguieva ES, Getov IN, Ivanov KV, Ivanova SD, Gueorguiev SR, Getova VI, Mihaylova AA, Madzharov VG, Staynova R. Regulatory Requirements for Food Supplements in the European Union and Bulgaria, *Folia Medica* 60 (4): 95 - 101, 2018.
- ✓ Mihaylova A, Uchikov P, Staynova R. Study the opinion of pharmacy students on electronic learning. *Knowledge Management*, 26 (2), 565-568, 2018.
- ✓ Mihaylova A, Uchikov P, Uchikova E, Buttigieg G, A study of the pulmonary complications of preterm infants after prenatal corticosteroids prophylaxis in a major Bulgarian hospital, *Malta Medical Journal*, 31, 17-23, 2019.
- ✓ Mihaylova A, Kasnakova P, Gueorguiev S, Petkova-Gueorguieva E, Peikova L. Cost analysis of neonates after prenatal corticosteroid prophylaxis of Respiratory Distress Syndrome, *Pharmacia* 67 (4), 209-214, 2020.
- ✓ Mihaylova A, Hadzhieva B, Career Prospects of Assistant Pharmacist Graduates of Plovdiv Medical University Bulgaria - In The Past and Present. *European Scientific Institute Proceeding*, 26-32, 2020.
- ✓ Petkova EG, Papanov SI, Mihaylova AA, Ivanov IG. Individual work and the attitude of students. *International scientific periodical journal "The Unity of Science"*, 55-58, 2020.
- ✓ Kilova K, Mihailova A, Ganchev G. Application of information and communication technologies in pharmaceutical care. *Collection of reports of USB Plovdiv* (in press)
- ✓ Михайлова А, Каснакова П., Хаджиева В., Аргилашки Д. Stress in the work of the pharmacist in a COVID19 pandemic. *Collection of reports of USB Plovdiv* (in press).
- ✓ Kristina Kilova, Anna Mihaylova, Lili Peykova. Opportunities of information communication technologies for providing pharmaceutical care in the COVID-19 pandemic. *Pharmacia* (in press)

In the evaluation of the citations, only the citations of the above-mentioned articles, which are on the topic of the competition announced by the Thracian University, should be taken into account. In this reference, a total of 18 citations of Dr. Mihaylova's articles were found, of which 3 were in publications referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 15 were in non-referenced scientific publications.

Dr. Anna Mihailova participated in the competition as an independent author with a monograph of 187 pages on "Good Pharmaceutical Practice", which I accept with the remark

that in the title of the cover and on the next title page, the correct spelling is "Pharmaceutical" and not as the author wrote "Pharmaseutical Practice".

For the second published work with two co-authors on "Health economic assessment of the costs of premature babies with respiratory complications" there is no separation protocol for the percentage participation of co-authors and again only a few pages are presented, so the work can not be evaluated and accepted.

According to the two Certificates from the Medical University presented to the documents of the candidate Dr. Anna Mihaylova- Plovdiv, she participated in an internal university project № NO-07/2020 on "Application of immunostimulatory methods to improve the quality of life in children aged 4 to 7 years" and in the National Research Program "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral Students".

Dr. NIKOLAI MIKHAYLOV GERASIMOV

A). Biographical data. Nikolay Gerasimov was born on July 13, 1971 in the town of Dobrich. Gerasimov obtained the Master's degree in Pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Sofia in 1994. For three years (1998-2001) Master Gerasimov participated in a specialization program at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Sofia, where he trains in national and European pharmaceutical and health legislation, marketing and management of drug supply. In 2001 he acquired the specialty "Organization and Economics of Distributor Pharmacy Practice". In 2016 at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Medical University - Sofia Nikolay Gerasimov defended his dissertation on "Medical devices in the pharmaceutical nomenclature - legislative and social aspects of their provision in Bulgaria" and received the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in "Pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical regulation". Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov has worked as a manager of pharmacies in Varna and Dobrich, as well as an assistant at the Medical College at the Medical University - Varna, where he conducted exercises in "Pharmacology" for students majoring in "Nurse", practical exercises and lectures of students majoring in Pharmacy.

Dr. Gerasimov is a member of the Bulgarian Pharmaceutical Union, the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Pharmacy and the International Society of Health Economics and Research. Fluent in written and spoken English, German and Russian.

B). Teaching activity. In 2012/2013 Nikolay Gerasimov was a part-time lecturer at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University - Varna, where he leads exercises and lectures for students of pharmacy. During the period 1997 - 1999 he taught the discipline "Pharmacology" to students majoring in "Nurse" at the Medical College at the Medical University - Varna. In 2018 and 2019, Dr. Gerasimov is the head of the undergraduate state internship for fifth-year students majoring in Pharmacy.

C). Research activity. Dr. Gerasimov participates in the competition for "Associate Professor" in "Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmaceutical Regulation" with 16 articles - 14 of them published and 2 in print. Of these, 11 articles are in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 5 articles are in non-refereed journals. All publications presented by Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov are on the topic of the competition announced by the Thracian University.

The predominant number of developments of the candidate are in the field of medical devices, as the main place among them is given to the studies of hernia sheets - their characteristics and significance, the risks of their use, the occurrence of various complications, reoperations and death. Dr. Gerasimov conducts pharmacoeconomic studies and analysis of medical devices that deliver drugs, analysis of the value efficiency of implanted hernia sheets, which analysis uses as a measure of the outcome quality of life and compares it with the cost of operations. He has also studied the economic characteristics of intestinal gel in patients with Parkinson's disease and clarified the cost-effectiveness of this product for reimbursement purposes.

Dr. Gerasimov has dedicated four of his publications to cardiovascular disease. The applicant has considered the treatment with fixed dose combinations and the opinion of the paying institution regarding their use. In these studies it is established that the therapy is available for patients in Bulgaria, the approaches for reimbursement and the ways for their improvement are clarified. The publication in which Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov discusses and clarifies the main economic and social results related to the consent and clinical benefits of the therapy of cardiovascular diseases is a scientifically applied contribution. The candidate also described and analyzed the economic burden and existing clinical practice regarding the use of drugs to control chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Dr. Gerasimov participated in the competition with a monograph on "Medical devices - legislation and economic analysis", which is a logical continuation of the theme of his doctoral dissertation, defended in 2016, in which he examines the legislation on medical devices in Bulgaria.

In his monograph, published in 2020, Dr. Gerasimov reviews and analyzes the new European legislation, the legislative control in the United States, describes the post-marketing of medical devices in the United States, compares legislation in the United States and the European Union and the impact of different legal approaches on the safety of medical devices. Dr. Gerasimov has examined and analyzed the distribution and financing of medical devices in other parts of the world (China, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia). Two subsections of the monographic work are devoted to the new moments in the development of the Bulgarian legislation, an analysis of the provision and reimbursement of medical devices in Bulgaria has been made. The monograph is an original work in which, after a comparative analysis of the legislation on medical devices in the European Union and abroad, weaknesses in the regulatory framework are discussed and an appeal is made for transparency and traceability of procedures, responsibilities and regulatory requirements to economists.

Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov has very accurately and correctly presented all his documentation and self-assessment for participation in the competition. Attached are two official notes from the Central Medical Library at the Medical University - Sofia regarding found referenced publications in Scopus and / or Web of Science and a search for citations of his publications on the topic of the competition in Bulgarian and foreign sources. The candidate has enclosed excerpts from the public register of the National Center for Information and Documentation regarding the impact rank and the referencing of the journals in which he has published.

Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov has participated in a research project on the topic: "Assessment of the safety of hernia sheets by studying their mechanical compatibility with tissues and the quality of life of patients."

CONCLUSION:

The two candidates have carefully prepared for the competition and have their merits, which is evident from the numerous materials presented by them. Both candidates exceed the minimum number of points required to acquire the academic position of "Associate Professor". The points collected by the two candidates on the topic of the competition announced by the Thracian University were summarized in the following table:

**Compliance with minimum national requirements
of the two candidates for the academic position "Associate Professor"
in the specialty of the announced competition:
"Pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical regulation"**

| Group of indicators | Contents | Required points for "Associate Professor" | Number of points of the candidate Anna Mihaylova | Number of points of the candidate Nikolay Gerasimov |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| A | Indicator 1 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| B | Indicators 3 or 4 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| C | Sum of indicators from 5 to 9 | 200 | 188 | 278 |
| D | Sum of indicators from 10 to 12 | 50 | 155 | 135 |
| E | Sum of indicators from 13 to the end | 0 | 81.6 | 85 |
| | Acquired scientific specialty (on the topic of the competition) | | 0 | 40 |
| | Participation in a national scientific or educational project | | 30 | 15 |
| | Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network | | 13,3 | 0 |
| | Published university textbook or textbook used in the school network | | 8,3 | 0 |
| | Training of interns, postgraduates and doctoral students | | 30 | 30 |
| Total number of points | | 400 | 574,6 | 648 |

The scientific publications and contributions of Dr. Nikolay Gerasimov are purposeful and are entirely in the field of the announced competition in pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical regulation. The scientific contributions and publications of Dr. Anna Mihailova have a variety of topics, but in the field of the announced competition they are less than those of the other candidate.

All that has been said so far does not give me grounds to express a positive opinion about the acquisition of the academic position of "Associate Professor" by Dr. Mihaylova in her research work so far. As can be seen from the attached comparison table for the points received by the two candidates in the specialty of the announced competition, I put in the first place Dr. Nikolai Gerasimov and recommend the esteemed Academic Council to elect him to the position of "Associate Professor" in professional direction: 7.3. Pharmacy in the scientific specialty: "Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmaceutical Regulation" for the needs of the Medical College at the Thracian University in Stara Zagora.

December 18, 2020

Prof. Dr. Reni Kalfin