

To the President of the Scientific Jury

Appointed by Order No RK 2142/21.06.2024.

of the Deputy Rector of Medical University - Plovdiv

Attached please find: Position

On the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Pediatrics", announced for the needs of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Medical Faculty at Medical University - Plovdiv, announced in the State Gazette No. 35/19.04.2024.

Candidate. Dr. Penka Vasileva Petleshkova-Angelova

Senior Assistant Professor of Neonatology at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical University - Plovdiv

POSITION

by prof. Hristo Nikolov Mumdzhev, PhD

Scientific specialty: pediatrics, neonatology

University Hospital "Prof. St. Kirkovich" AD – Stara Zagora

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Заличено на основание
Чл.5 §1, б."В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

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The submitted documents comply with the requirements of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Conditions and Procedures for the Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Academic Positions at MU - Plovdiv. The presented scientific production is comprehensive and includes a list of scientific publications before and after the acquisition of the PhD degree, as well as a list of scientific papers presented at scientific forums in the country and abroad, with abstracts published in the relevant collections. References on contributions and citations are provided.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile.

Dr. Penka Vasileva Petleshkova-Angelova graduated from the Higher Medical Institute in Plovdiv in May 1993. In June of the same year she started her medical internship as a resident in the children's outpatient department of the Pazardzhik Hospital, where she worked for two years. In the period 1995-1998 she worked as a resident in the children's ward of the same hospital. In 1998, she was appointed as a resident in the neonatology department of the Hospital in Pazardzhik, where she worked until 2010, for twelve years. In February 2010 she started working as a resident in the Neonatal Unit of the University Hospital "St. George" - Plovdiv. Three years later, in 2012, she was appointed as an assistant professor at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical University - Plovdiv. Her career development includes successive positions of assistant professor 2012-2022 and chief assistant professor from 2022. The total medical experience of the candidate is 31 years.

Dr. Petleshkova has acquired specialties in pediatrics (2000) and neonatology (2012). An additional qualification is the specialty in "Health Management" acquired by her in 2020 from VUARR - Plovdiv. Her postgraduate training includes participation in Salzburg-Columbia seminars on Abdominal ultrasonography; Transfontanel ultrasonography, as well as courses on neonatal neurology, maternal-fetal infections, problems of neonatal intensive care, etc.

She is very fluent in English and Russian.

The candidate's doctoral dissertation on "Procedural pain in preterm neonates - assessment and possibilities for treatment with non-pharmacological agents" was successfully defended in 2020.

Dr. Petleshkova's varied activities are complemented by active membership in the Optimist Club International - Plovdiv; Bulgarian Neonatology Association; Union of Scientists - Plovdiv; Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health /BSPH/. Since 2022 he is a member of the Board of the Bulgarian Neonatology Association

II. Teaching activities.

Dr. Petleshkova has been a lecturer in neonatology at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of Medical University - Plovdiv for 12 years. She actively works with students of the Medical Faculty and participates in examinations of midwives and nurses of the Medical Faculty of Medical University Plovdiv. He teaches postgraduate students and trainees in neonatology, including lectures in English. The average annual teaching load of the candidate for the last three years is 445 hours. For the academic year 2020/2021 - 457 hours; 2021/2022 - 379 hours; 2022/2023 - 499 hours, of which 349 hours - training of students, interns and postgraduates and 150 hours of scientific work.

The candidate supervises two current postgraduate students in neonatology.

Dr. Petleshkova is co-author of the textbook "Neonatology" ed. Lax Book, 2013. She is a co-author of the university textbook "Tests in Neonatology" (published by Lax Book, 2013).

III. Research interests, publication activity and evaluation of contributions.

The scientific interests of Dr. Petleshkova cover a wide spectrum of neonatal problems:

- Prevention and treatment of neonatal pain - 8 publications, 4 of which are refereed in world databases. The candidate's dissertation is also on this topic.
- Training and professional realization of nurses and midwives - 8 articles, of which 6 in refereed journals.
- Studies on the impact of perinatal factors on pregnancy outcome and postnatal adaptation 3 publications in refereed journals.

Other areas of the candidate's scientific search are:

- Early childhood development
- Complications of neonatal intensive care
- Neonatal pharmacology.
- Rare diseases and syndromes

Of the original contributions of Dr. Petleshkova's scientific activity listed in the attached references, her work in the following areas should be particularly highlighted:

1. Establish a protocol for the diagnosis and assessment of procedural pain in newborn infants. Two validated scales are used, the multimodal Neonatal Infant Pain Scale (NIPS) and the unimodal Neonatal Facial Coding System (NFCS) scale. The clinical applicability of both scales in Bulgarian conditions is confirmed by proving their reliability and validity with modern statistical methods, which is a significant original contribution. Scientific contribution is the independent monograph "Current problems of fetal and neonatal pain" (published by Lax Book Ltd. ISBN:978-619-189-1).

2. Problems of surrogacy. The development of assisted reproductive technologies (ART) has opened up a whole new range of options for infertile couples around the world, but for some of them the only chance is surrogacy, which raises many legal and ethical issues. Research on this topic is sporadic, which is why Dr. Petleshkova's study can serve in establishing the legislative foundations regulating this activity in our country.

3. Early childhood development in high-risk infants. A significant scientific and applied contribution on the topic of "early childhood development" is the "Program for timely detection and follow-up of preterm and premature infants born LBW", introduced into clinical practice. The study is ongoing under the auspices of the Varna Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and the Bulgarian Neonatology Association. The Program serves for early detection of preterm and preterm LBW children, ensuring the timely diagnosis of syndromes and diseases associated with LBW birth conducting additional, including genetic testing.

III. Science metrics.

A total of 25 publications, beyond those for the PhD degree, were submitted as follows:

- 14 publications in scientific journals, refereed and indexed in world-known databases of scientific information (Scopus and Web of science only). Of these:
- publications with impact factor - 7 , total IF 6.29;

- publications with impact rank - 7

- publications in Bulgarian and international peer-reviewed journals - 11;

The candidate is first author in 8 of the scientific papers (3 in IF journals, 1 in refereed journals in Scopus and Web of science, and 4 in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes). Scopus H index - 3.

Dr Petleshkova is second author in chapters of 2 collective monographs.

With 200 points required for an Associate Professor in the publication activity section (paragraph D, appendix 3), Dr Petleshkova has significantly more - 266 points.

Reference to WEB OF SCIENCE, SCOPUS and other databases reveals 102 citations. With the required 100 points of citations (paragraph E, appendix 3), the scientific reference reflects 885 points - many times exceeding the requirements.

Dr Petleshkova has participated in one international and 4 national research projects, carrying 20 and 60 points respectively. With the required 60 points for participation in scientific projects and co-authorship of textbooks (paragraph F of appendix 3), the applicant submitted 231.6 points.

With a total of 810 points required for associate professor at MU Plovdiv (in Appendix 3) from scientific and teaching activities, Dr. Petleshkova presents many times more - 2072.6 points. Her significant science metric score is a reflection of the candidate's high publication activity and teaching experience.


IV Critical remarks.

The candidate's work as a researcher and lecturer significantly exceeds the requirements for Associate Professor at MU Plovdiv. Dr. Petleshkova is an established neonatologist, erudite researcher and lecturer. With more extensive participation as an author and co-author in textbooks and monographs on neonatology, she could share her knowledge with a much wider range of physicians and medical specialists.

V. Conclusion

As a member of the Scientific Jury, I express my positive evaluation and consider that Dr Petleshkova fully meets the requirements and criteria for the academic position of Associate Professor.

13.08.2024г.



.....Prof. Mumdzhev, PhD

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