



**OPINION**

from

**Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Hristova Uchikova, , MD,PhD ,**

**Head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of the Medical University, Plovdiv,**

**about the contest**

**for the occupation of an academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR", in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine,**

**scientific specialist "Pediatrics",**

**announced in SN, No. 35/ 19.04.2024**

The procedure for announcing the competition for the acquisition of academic position "Associate Professor" has been complied. Dr. Penka Vasileva Petleshkova-Angelova, is the only candidate in the competition. The documents submitted under the procedure are in full compliance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Application and the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of the MU-Plovdiv.

**Biographical data and career development**

Dr. Penka Petleshkova was born on 28.07.1966 in the city of Plovdiv. In 1993 she graduated in medicine at the Medical University "I.P. Pavlov" - Plovdiv. She acquired a specialty in Children's Diseases in 2000 and in 2012 specialty in Neonatology. Since 2012 she has been an assistant at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and since 2022 she has been Chief Assistant at the same department. She obtained the educational degree "Doctor" after successfully defending a dissertation on the topic "Procedural pain in full-term newborns - assessment and possibilities of influence with non-pharmacological means". She has conducted numerous trainings and courses related to her acquired specialties. In 2020 she acquired the educational and qualification degree "Master" in Health Management.

From 2010 to the present, Dr. Petleshkova worked as a specialist in the Department of Neonatology at the Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University hospital " Saint George ", Plovdiv. She is also a Republican consultant on necnatology.

**Scientific research activity**

Her overall scientific and research activity includes: Dissertation work for the award of the educational degree "Doctor" on the topic: "Procedural pain in full-term newborns - assessment and possibilities for influencing with non-pharmacological means"; one abstract, one monographic work:

"Current problems of fetal and neonatal pain", published four chapters in two collective monographs. The candidate participates in the current competition with twenty five publications: fourteen publications in refereed and indexed journals only in Scopus and/or Web of Science, seven of them are in IF journals (total IF 6.29). The list of publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes includes eleven scientific papers.

A reference is presented for the citations, which are total 102 nos., 35 in refereed and indexed journals in Scopus and Web of Science. Regarding the scientometric indicators, Dr. Penka Petleshkova-Angelova meets the national requirements for the production of academic position "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" (sum of scientometric indicators 2072 t). H-index 3.

#### **Educational and teaching activity**

Dr. Petleshkova participates in the conduct of exercises and lectures for medical students 4th and 5th year; in the conduct of the Basic Course on Obstetrics and Gynecology for medical interns; also conducting seminars with trainee doctors. She is the supervisor of the specialization of two specialists in neonatology in 2024. She actively participates in examination board for enrollment in the specialty "Neonatology" and in the conducting of state exams in MU-Plovdiv, Department "Obstetric care". Dr. Petleshkova's study load for the last 2 years is 1335 academic hours.

#### **Participation in projects**

Dr. Petleshkova presented documents certifying participation in two scientific and educational intra-university projects.

#### **Scientific contributions**

**Scientific contributions can be thematically systematized in several main directions:**

**I. Neonatal pain** - (Publications number 1,4,6,14 from item 13, number 1,2,4,6 from item 14), as well as the presented monographic work.

**As important contributions, I consider:** For the first time in Bulgaria, a systematic study was conducted on the diagnosis and assessment of procedural pain in full-term newborns. Changes in vital signs - respiratory and heart rate, transcutaneous oxygen saturation and arterial blood pressure, as physiological markers of procedural pain - were analyzed. Standard and non-standard methods of anesthetizing term newborns for procedural pain have been introduced into clinical practice. Knowledge, diagnosis, and assessment of neonatal pain is fundamental to pediatric pain prevention.

**II. Perinatal medicine** - (publ. no. 11,12,13 from item 13).

The in-depth studies on perinatal factors regarding the outcome of the pregnancy and the developing postpartum pathology lead to contributions of a scientific, confirmatory and applied nature (publ. no.

11,12,13 of item 13). For the first time in our country, the relationship between maternal vulvovaginal candidiasis and the colonization of newborns from mothers with this pathology, in the first days of life, was studied as a risk factor for the appearance of skin-mucosal candidiasis and neonatal sepsis in the neonatal period.

**III. Medical education** - (pub. no. 2,5,7,8,9,10 from item 13 and pub. no. 10,11 from item 14).

. In a number of scientific studies, the quality of training during pre- and post-graduate training is analyzed. The role of the mentor in the pre-graduate internship process in this process has been studied and evaluated.

For the first time in our country, the influence of distance learning on the application of modern methods of training medical specialists in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been studied.

**IV. Others** - (publ. No. 3,5 of item 14).

Two clinical cases of right-sided Poland syndrome with dextrocardia are presented. The phenotypic characteristic, which varies significantly among individuals, was analyzed. The development of small for gestational age (SGA) children in infancy and early childhood was studied. Dr. Petleshkova is part of the team of specialists involved in the creation of a program that ensures the timely diagnosis of syndromes and diseases associated with the birth of these children, conducting additional, including genetic research.

**Conclusion**

Dr. Penka Vasileva Petleshkova-Angelova, has extensive knowledge and is an established specialist in the field of neonatology. She has a very good multidisciplinary theoretical and practical training, which enables her to skilfully combine scientific and practical activities. She is able to work in a team and participate in solving multidisciplinary problems.

*I confidently give my positive assessment and propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to award Dr. Penka Petleshkova-Angelova, MD, the academic position " ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ", in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty "Pediatrics", for the needs of MU - Plcvdiv.*

05.08.2024

Prof. Dr. Ekaterina Uchikova, MD, PhD

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