# **REVIEW**

## from

assoc. prof. Margarita Dimitrova Stankova, MD, PhD New Bulgarian University, PD 7.4 Public Health on scientific work for participation in a competition for the academic position of professor in professional fieled 7.4 Public health - 1/8 staff, announced by the New Bulgarian University in GN no. 28 of April 2, 2024, with candidate associate professor Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD

# I. Assessment of compliance with the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the New Bulgarian University

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD graduated from the Medical Institute at the Medical Academy, Sofia in 1981. specialty "nurse - general profile". She practiced the profession of nurse and senior nurse until 2015 at the Sofia Military Medical Academy.

In 1999, assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD graduated from Medical University - Sofia with a graduate degree in "Health Care Management".

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD also acquired the following master's degrees, completed with honors: "Administrative and Health Management" and second specialty "Social Activities" at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodii" Veliko Tarnovo in 1998; "Health Management" - Medical University - Varna with a diploma for honors of the graduating class in 2004; Master's degree in "Health Care" from the Medical University - Pleven with a certificate for the honors of the graduating class in 2006.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD defended a PhD thesis on the topic "Challenges to the management of medical personnel in the Bulgarian Army and directions for their resolution" in 2012 and obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor".

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD holds the academic position of "associate professor" at South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad since 2016. Since 2017 she is the head of the "Health Care" department, and since 2019 she is the deputy dean on the educational activities, accreditation and quality of the Faculty of Public Health, Healthcare and Sports.

The works presented by assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD - for publications, citations and scient metric indicators show fulfillment of the minimum national requirements and the requirements of the NBU. They exceed the minimum national and additional requirements of the New Bulgarian University for holding the academic position "professor".

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD participates in the competition with one habilitation thesis - monograph, two textbooks and one manual in co-authorship, 16 publications (6 of them in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information) and 10 publications in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

108 citations in Bulgarian and foreign sources are presented for the competition.

A dissertation and three related publications, two independent monographs, one textbook with the first author assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD, one co-authored textbook are presented.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD declared a total of 864.2 points, which exceed the required number of points for occupying the academic position "Professor" and those required for the New Bulgarian University.

The candidacy of Associate Professor Dr. Rositsa Doinovska is in full compliance with the priorities of the Department of Health and Social Work and the future development of professional field 7.4 Public Health.

### **II. Research activity and results**

**1.** Evaluation of the monographic work or other publications corresponding in volume and completeness to a monographic work, including an evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions of the author.

The monographic work presented by assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is on the topic of "Nurse Profession". The development has a volume of 142 pages, and the bibliography contains 157 literary sources.

The monograph is organized into 8 chapters. In the monograph, a historical review of the profession has been done, the elements of the nursing profession were examined - education, organization of nursing work, personnel training and scientific work, continuing education, requirements for the nurse's personality, professional competencies. The third chapter of the monograph includes the philosophy of nursing as a profession and conceptual models of nursing, in the fourth chapter – conceptions of nursing, in the fifth – metaparadigm of nursing, in the sixth – the duties of the nurse, in the seventh – regulations regulating the training and acquisition of legal capacity for the nursing profession and in the eighth – motivation for choosing the nursing profession.

A special place in the monograph is devoted to the personal qualities necessary for the performers of the nursing profession, the philosophy of nursing as part of the philosophy of medicine, the preservation of health as a human value and health care as part of medical care and the equality of all people in the process of receiving health care. The ethical principles of the nursing profession are affected.

The monograph emphasizes the attitude of the young generation towards the profession. A study of online learning is presented. A project focused on training stimulators for students in medical profession, through which students expand their professional competences and get opportunities to engage in research work, is reviewed.

The monograph was peer-reviewed by two medical experts.

The presented monographic work represents a broad coverage of the nursing profession, including theoretical aspects and practical applications of nursing education. The work meets the requirements for a monographic work and can be applied in the current competition.

# **1.** Evaluation of the contributions in the other publications done after the appointment of the academic position "associate professor".

In the publications section, assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD presents 16 publications, of which 6 publications are in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information and 10 in non-refereed journals with scientific reviews. Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is a member of scientific committees in the scientific conferences held at the South-West University in Blagoevgrad.

All publications of assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD are in the focus of the professional and teaching path and the current competition.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD also presents three textbooks in the competition: Doinovska, R., D. Velichkova-Hadjieva, M. Bacheva, 2021, Nursing Care, ISBN 978-954-00-0275-0, University Publishing House "Neofit Rilski Blagoevgrad; Doinovska, R., D. Velichkova-Hadjieva, M. Bacheva, 2021, Nursing care. Practicum, ISBN 978-954-00-0274-3, University Publishing House "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad; Doinovska, R., D. Velichkova-Hadzhieva, M. Bacheva, 2019, Guide for basic mentors of vocational students 7.5. Health Care, ISBN 978-954-00-0209-5, University Publishing House "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad

These textbooks and study focuses present basic topics and basic knowledge in the field of Health Care. They can help students in nursing, midwifery and physician assistant programs. The textbooks and teaching directions present modern methods of teaching in the field of health care, they are well illustrated and comply with the principles of good medical practice. Learning directions include upgrading the knowledge of health care professionals and present hands-on activities and manipulations in a way that students can understand. They also address mentoring in health care. They can be a good tool to increase student motivation.

# The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rositsa Doinovska in the research activity are located in three directions:

• Medical education and pedagogy - the specifics of the training and professional training of students with medical specialties from the professional field of Health care are presented in detail; own studies have been carried out and findings have been made, approaches have been implemented to increase the quality of education by applying clinical simulations to create a safe

learning environment for students in mastering the principles of nursing and midwifery care by increasing the general and practical competence of students for the development of safe nursing practice; the scientific research activity of students from the professional field of health care has been studied and analyzed.

• Public health, health promotion and disease prevention - data from own studies on forming habits for a healthy lifestyle, proving preventable risk factors in terms of nutrition, physical activity, working environment for the health of the population, professional- ethical, behavioral and psychological issues affecting the quality of life of people with various health problems, self-assessment of health professionals for incident preparedness related to the prevention of injuries and diseases of large population groups, the knowledge and skills of future medical professionals are studied for the prevention and control of nosocomial infections, as criteria for safe health care. The adaptation of the Braden scale to assess the risk of skin damage in clinical practice has a high prognostic value and could be used as active prevention to help patients and their families.

• Health care for the elderly - includes original empirical studies conducted with the aim of optimizing health care for the elderly population, improving the quality of life of the elderly, planning effective nursing strategies for prevention, the need for home care for various diseases such as an essential element of palliative care.

#### **Theoretical contributions**

• Through the developed monographic work "Profession of a nurse" a comprehensive integrative approach to the professional formation and professional realization of nurses has been realized based on a historical overview of the profession, professionogram, psychogram and professional profile of the modern nurse. Various philosophical concepts of nursing that form its scientific basis are examined, and the metaparadigm of the profession is presented in detail. An analysis has been made of both classical and modern models of nursing care provision, career development opportunities, forms of post-graduate training, requirements for the nurse's personality and the professional competencies they must possess. The monograph can be used in the teaching of Nursing students in the Philosophy and Introduction to Nursing course. Theoretical Foundations'.

• The impact of clinical simulations as an educational technology, through a planned experiment, to address stress and clinical anxiety in nursing and midwifery education was investigated and established. The results after the completion of the simulation program show lower levels of stress, anxiety and fewer physical complaints compared to the same indicators before the inclusion of the students in the simulation program.

• Scientifically based conclusions and strategies for developing modern treatment methods and improving the quality of life have been drawn. Theoretical studies and laboratory studies have been conducted and interrelationships have been established between various biological and natural factors that positively or negatively affect healing and health.

• The motivation and satisfaction of students' participation in project-based research activities were studied, as well as proof of the need for active strategies to stimulate research activity. The factors that motivate students have been identified. Evidence-based practice is a problem-solving approach to health care delivery while helping to fulfill one of the primary functions of the modern nurse - health promotion.

• Specific recommendations have been developed to increase the quality of education for students with medical specialties.

#### **Practical-applied contributions**

• The analysis of the professional orientation and motivation for choosing the profession "Nurse" among 220 students from the "N. Rilski" - Blagoevgrad for the period 2018-2023, presenting the demographic characteristics of the students and the leading reasons for choosing the profession.

• Modular training was developed and implemented in practice for basic mentors of students from "Nursing" and "Midwifery" specialties in medical institutions after the implementation of a scientific research project. Proving the importance of the relationship student - basic mentor, student - academic mentor in practical training. A modular training program for base mentors was developed and implemented.

• A safe learning environment is created for students through the integration of clinical simulations and formative feedback.

• The factors that influence the preparation and quality of emergency medical care in accidents with a large number of victims have been investigated and established. The factors

hindering the professional activity of medical specialists working in emergency departments have been studied in detail and recommendations have been developed to improve working conditions.

• A multifactorial analysis was made to identify the risk of falling, in elderly and old people, users of long-term health care in Blagoevgrad district. The fall risk assessment tool developed, based on the American Nursing Association standards for the nursing diagnosis "Fall Risk," had high predictive value and was administered within one year among social service users and members of their families.

• The health and social problems of the elderly and old people have been studied and practical recommendations have been made to improve the quality of life and health care of the elderly and old people living alone or with their families.

As a summary, the following serious contributions can be noted in the presented textbooks and teaching manuals: strong practical orientation, compliance with modern forms of training, compliance with the requirements for the necessary competencies of health care specialists, focus on motivation and ethical aspects of the profession, with which the author presents not only the necessary facts, but also brings the positive emotional aspects of learning in general, but also learning in particular, in this very altruistic and valuable profession of nursing.

### 1. Citation from other authors.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD presents the following citations for her participation in the competition:

- a total of 126 citations
- 96 citations in Bulgarian journals
- 33 citations in foreign editions Scopus (9), Web of Science (9)
- 15 citations in other foreign freely available online sources.

In summary, the candidate provides a sufficient number of citations for the competition, all of which are related to publications on the topic of the competition.

4. Evaluation of the results of participation in research and application of the obtained results in practice.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD has participated in 15 educational and research projects. She has been the leader of four projects and the academic mentor of over 20 students in two of the educational projects.

All projects that are presented in the competition in the field of training of specialists in medical professions.

In summary, Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD presents participation in a large number of projects, educational and research related to the field of the competition.

# **III.** Learning and teaching activity

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is a teacher with a long experience at SWU in Blagoevgrad. She has over 10 years of teaching experience with the following activities:

• lecture courses on 12 academic disciplines, 8 compulsory and 4 optional for undergraduate students.

• semester exams of students from "Nurse" and "Midwifery" specialties.

• 5 compulsory lecture courses and semester exams with graduate students in the specialties "Health Management" and "Health Care Management".

• chairpersons and member of commissions for the state examination of students from the "Nurse" and "Midwife" and "Health Care Management".

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD conducts a general education course for knowledge on the topic of "Human Health" from the academic year 2023/2024 at NBU.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is the supervisor of a successfully defended doctoral student in the doctoral program "Health care management" and of two full-time doctoral students in the doctoral program "Organization and management outside the sphere of material production (social and cultural sphere)", one of which he is exempted with the right of defense.

She is the academic supervisor of eight graduates who have successfully defended their diploma theses and acquired a master's degree from the Academy of Medical Sciences in the specialties of "Health Management" and "Health Care Management".

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD has numerous joint scientific publications with students and doctoral students.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD has implemented teaching mobilities under the "Erasmus+" program - Italy, Albania and Serbia. She holds continuing education certificates from the class organization.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD presents an impressive record of teaching activities related to lectures, practical activities, scientific supervision of bachelors, masters and doctoral students, teaching mobility, as well as results of joint activities with students.

### **IV.** Administrative and public activity

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is a member of the following professional organizations:

- a regular member of the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals
- Bulgarian Public Health Association
- Union of Scientists in Bulgaria
- National Association for Preventive Medicine

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is a member of the editorial board of the "Health Care" journal.

- Member of the publishing board of the SWU in Blagoevgrad, area of higher education Health care and sports, professional field 7.5. Health care.
- Member of the Scientific Advisory Board as a reviewer of the journal BALKAN Military Medical Review – official Journal of Balkan Military Medical Committee - 2014 – 2016.
- He is the chairman of the University Committee on Academic Ethics of the SWU.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is the head of the "Healthcare" department, deputy dean for educational activities, accreditation and quality of the "Public Health, Healthcare and Sports" Faculty.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD held the following positions and received awards for the following merits

• Chairman of the association of Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals for the period 2010-2015.

• certificates of merit in the field of health care and "Professional of the Year" in the category "Health Care Manager" in the MA - 2007, 2009, 2010, 2013. Certificate for contribution to the development of nursing and professional qualification above the required regulated level in the "Health care manager" category for proven professionalism from the Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals for 2012.

• Diploma from Bulgarian Association of Health Care Professionals for first place at the national level in the category "Health care manager 2012 - senior nurse".

• Certificate for first place in the National Student Competition "Learning to Help" - team "Nurses" - SWU, team leader, 2024

## V. Personal impressions of the candidate

My personal impressions of assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska - she is an exceptional professional, sensitive both to the duties and commitments of the difficult profession of a nurse, and to the ethical aspects, the moral concepts of the role of the health professional and the position of the medical nurse in the process of communication with the patient.

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD places a strong emphasis on the motivation of young people for the profession and seeks new approaches to contact with students in order to discover new methods of attracting moral, honest and dedicated new specialists.

# VI. Opinions, recommendations and notes on the activity and achievements of the candidate

As a recommendation, I would note that more emphasis should be placed on research work with students and PhD students to prepare products - projects, publications in the field of health care.

# Conclusion

My evaluation of the academic activity of Assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD is positive. I fully recommend that the Academic Council of the NBU choose assoc. prof. Rositsa Doinovska, PhD for professor in professional field 7.4. Public Health.

25.07.2024

Signature Assoc. prof. Margarita Stankova, MD, PhD