

## OPINION

from

**Assoc. prof. Polina Mihova Mihova – Pavlova, PhD**

**Professional field 7.4. Public Health**

on

**Assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD**

Candidate in an announced competition for the academic position of "Professor" in the field of Higher Education 7. Health and Sport, professional field 7.4. Public Health (announced in the National official gazette No 28 from April 2, 2024)

In the competition announced by New Bulgarian University for a full-time associate professor in the *Professional field 7.4. Public health*, published in the National official gazette 28 from April 2, 2024 participated one candidate – assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD.

This Opinion has been developed in accordance with the requirements for candidates defined by the Regulations for implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 2b. Minimum national requirements of the NBU.

Assoc. prof. Doynovska, out of the required 760 minimum required points for the groups of indicators for the academic position "professor" provides evidence for 864.2 points, which are distributed between monograph - 100 points, sufficient number of scientific publications in indexed, refereed and non-refereed journals (total 261 points), citations - 210 points, scientific supervision of a PhD student - 20 points, participation in national scientific or educational projects - 30 points, as well as citations - 60 points, participation in projects - 40 points, and etc.

On the basis of the above-quoted and officially submitted by assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD report, prepared entirely according to the requirements of the National Centre for Information and Documentation /NACID/, she meets the minimum national requirements under Article 2b of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff

in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the Ordinance on the Development of the Academic Staff of the NBU.

### **Education and qualifications**

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD has many years of experience in medical practice environment and health care management, supported by extensive education in various medical and management fields.

Assoc. Rositsa Doynovska acquired her first qualification in the medical field in 1981 from the Semi-University Medical Institute - Medical Academy in Sofia, where she graduated as a general nurse.

Her Bachelor's degree in Health Care Management assoc. prof. Doynovska obtained from the Medical University of Sofia (1997-1999), where she qualified as a health care manager and teacher in practice.

In 1998 assoc.prof. Doynovska graduated with a Master's degree in Administrative and Health Management and as a major specialty - Social Sciences at the University of Veliko Turnovo "St. Kiril and Methody".

She defended her doctoral degree at the Military Academy "Georgi Sava Rakovski" with a dissertation, entitled: "Challenges of medical personnel management in the Bulgarian Army and directions for their solution".

Assoc. prof. Doynovska graduated with a Master's Degree in Health Management from the Medical University in Varna (2002-2004), where she focused on the management of healthcare processes, quality of medical care and healthcare economics, and additionally in 2004-2006 she obtained a Master's Degree in Health Care from the Medical University in Pleven.

### **Professional experience of assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD**

Assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD has considerable professional experience in the field of health care and nursing education, covering various aspects of teaching, research and management. She has over 35 years of professional experience, 20 of which as a senior nurse at the Clinic of Pneumology and Phthisiology of the Military Medical Academy in Sofia.

From October 2015 to the present moment assoc. prof. Doynovska is the Head of the Department of Health Care at the Faculty of Public Health, Health Care and Sport at Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad, being the second term Deputy Dean for Educational Activities, Accreditation, Attestation and Quality at the same Faculty.

Over the years, she has been involved in various research and infrastructure projects, leading initiatives to modernize the clinical training of students and intensify nursing practice by creating technology-enabled environments. She also serves as an external reviewer for research projects in health care and nursing education. Within educational projects, she has served as an academic mentor for the Student Practice Program - Phase 2 (2020-2023) and Student Practice Program - Phase 1 (2016-2018), as well as a trainer in the national project "Attendant Care for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities" (2019). In addition, Assoc. prof. Doynovska actively participates in various committees and scientific juries for academic and scientific degrees and performs reviews of scientific papers, textbooks and reports for international scientific conferences.

Regarding the **research** activity of assoc. prof. Rositsa Doynovska, PhD, her fundamental contributions in scientific research can be broadly divided into the following three areas, each of which has a sufficient number of scientific publications in peer-reviewed and refereed publications in Bulgarian and English:

**Medical Education and Pedagogy:**

1. Expert training methods and professional preparation of medical students, including the use of clinical simulations, are studied and analyzed.
2. Published several scientific papers that presents models to improve the quality of training and the development of safe nursing practice.

**Public Health, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention:**

1. Published studies on healthy lifestyles and disease prevention are presented, as well as factors that influence population health.
2. The knowledge and skills of future medical professionals in the prevention and control of nosocomial infections have been studied and published as scientific articles.
3. The Brayden scale has been adapted to assess the risk of skin integrity breakdown in clinical practice.

**Health Care for the Elderly and the Aged people:**

1. Research results have been conducted and published to optimize health care for the elderly population and improve their quality of life.
2. Developed strategies for prevention and the need for home care for various diseases.

**Theoretical contributions:**

1. The monographic work "Nursing Profession" provides a comprehensive integrative approach to the professional formation and realization of nurses.
2. The impact of clinical simulations as an educational technology for coping with stress and clinical anxiety is explored.
3. Treatment and quality of life improvement strategies have been developed based on theoretical and laboratory studies.

**Practical-applied contributions:**

1. Development and implementation of modular training for basic mentors of students in medical institutions.
2. Conducting a study and preparing a large-scale analysis of career orientation and motivation for choosing the profession of "Nurse" among students.
3. Ideologist and author of safe learning environments through clinical simulations and formative feedback.
4. Implementation of a study on factors affecting the quality of emergency medical care and identification of fall risk in older adults.

**Awards and honours**

Assoc. prof. Doynovska, PhD has been awarded with a number of national and regional awards, including: first place at the national level in the category "Head of Health Care 2012 - Senior Nurse", a number of diplomas for contribution to the development of nursing and 4 times was awarded with a diploma for merit in the field of health care and professional of the year in the category "Head of Health Care" at the MMA - 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2013.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

After examining the publications, activities and monographs submitted to the competition, I believe that the contributions and scientific achievements formulated in the Contributions Report are largely contained in the submitted materials. They present assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD as a well-established scientific researcher and prominent member of the associations, with enviable clinical experience and professional expertise combined with academic, pedagogical, mentoring and administrative competencies in the field of health care management.

This gives reason to believe that all the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria for occupying the academic position of "professor" in Professional field 7.4 Public health have been met.

I am fully convinced to give a positive opinion and strongly recommend to the esteemed scientific jury the candidacy of assoc. prof. Rositsa Nikolova Doynovska, PhD for the academic position of “professor” in the competition announced by New Bulgarian University.

Sofia city

Drafted the opinion:

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