

WRITTEN STATEMENT

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Subject: *Contest for academic position "Associate Professor" in professional field: 7.4. Public health, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare and Social Work of NBU*

By order № 3-PK-156 / 29.04.2021 of the Rector of NBU Prof. P. Doinov, DSc, I have been appointed a member of the Scientific Jury, and at the first meeting I was appointed to prepare a written statement on a contest for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field: 7.4 Public Health, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare and Social Work of NBU, announced in SG, issue 23 / 19.03.2021.

One candidate participates in the announced competition - Senior Assistant Professor Polina Mihova Mihova – Pavlova, PhD

I. Brief information about the candidate

Senior Assistant Professor Polina Mihova Mihova – Pavlova, PhD is a graduate of the Department of Medical Biological Sciences at NBU: she holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Systems and Technologies in Medicine (2004) and a Master's degree in Computer Technologies in Biomedicine (2006). She also obtained a second master's degree in Rehabilitation in Language and Speech Pathology (2020). She was also an assistant under code 02.21.10 "Application of the principles of cybernetics in various fields of science - medicine, biocybernetics." Since 2005 she has been the director and full-time lecturer in the bachelor's program "Natural Sciences", module "Medical Cybernetics" at NBU. She has completed the full course of CISCO Academy, in 2013 she graduated Health Information Networking at CISCO Academy and obtained ECDL certificate № BG 000463 / May 8, 2013. She has defended his dissertation on "Telemedicine functions of the Medical Information System", and since 2010 she has held the academic position of "Senior Assistant Professor" at the Department of Healthcare and Social Work and official representative of NBU for the Bulgarian Institute of Standardization (BDS). From October 1, 2016 she was appointed Director of the Program Council at the Department of Healthcare and Social Work.

II. Evaluation of research activity

For the current competition Polina Mihova, PhD has presented 27 scientific papers, divided as follows:

- Habilitation thesis - Monograph: Applied software solutions in healthcare. ISBN 978-619-221-7586-11-4, 161 p.
- Publications and reports in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in a global database with scientific information - 7 pcs.
- Publications and reports in scientific journals with scientific review - 18 pcs.
- Co-authorship in a collective monograph - 1 pc.

The contribution of the candidate Polina Mihova, PhD in the publications is significant. According to the summary of her scientific works, in almost half of them she is an independent or first author (12 works - 44.44%), in 15 works (55.66%) - second author.

Most of the candidate's actual publications have been published in national and international journals in the fields of public health, social medicine and healthcare organization. I would like to award the publications in the following journals: Acta Medica Bulgarica, Archives of the Balkan Medical Union, International Refereed Journal of Engineering and Science and Bulgarian Journal of Public Health. The scientific work of P. Mihova, PhD is available not only to the engineering and medical scientific community, but also to specialists in the field of public health, as well as to the wider medical audience at home and abroad.

According to their thematic focus, the printed articles are divided into 4 (four) main areas:

1. *Telemedicine and medical informatics;*
2. *Online teaching and learning platforms;*
3. *Development and introduction of specialized information platforms and applications in healthcare and medicine;*
4. *Specific aspects of public health and health risk assessments.*

Among the most important contributions to the scientific works of Polina Mihova, PhD I would like to point out:

- For the first time in our country a Conceptual Framework for Anthropomorphic Simulation of a Human Face for Interactive Therapeutic Applications for Telepresence has been created.
- For the first time in Bulgaria a web application for health data for vitamins with antioxidant action has been developed and put into practice.
- The comparative analysis and the determination of the parameters for evaluation of online training platforms.

- Systematization and determination of the most important applied aspects of information and communication technologies in applied scientific fields such as speech therapy and rehabilitation of emotional-behavioral disorders.
- Analysis of the attitude towards telemedicine and the desire to use it among young people.
- The performed analysis of the WHO documentation for the sanitary norms of EM pollution and health risk assessments at exposure to low frequency radio frequency fields.
- The analyzed is an application of open source software libraries for processing specialized medical images.

I highly appreciate the originally developed monograph "*Applied software solutions in healthcare*", which examines the development of IT in medicine and healthcare, as well as an extensive study and consolidation of available information resources dedicated to research and proof of the hypothesis of the benefits and advantages of using IT solutions in medical practice, in particular in Bulgaria. I am convinced that this will be a very valuable training and practical tool for computer scientists, doctors and health managers.

Citations. A reference for a total of 17 citations is presented: 4 of them are found in Bulgarian sources and 13 in foreign databases.

III. Evaluation of teaching and educational activities

Polina Mihova, PhD has more than 15 years of teaching experience. Since 2006 she has been training students in general computer literacy (compulsory general education course for all newly admitted students at the New Bulgarian University), as well as teaching students from all bachelor's and master's programs at the Department of Healthcare and Social Work in applied areas such as information and communication. technologies in the field of medicine and healthcare, work with databases, computer solutions in the field of speech therapy practice, etc.

In her capacity as Director of the Program Council at the Department of Healthcare and Social Work, Polina Mihova, PhD has participated in the administrative preparation of 4 new programs - in regular and remote form, both in Bulgarian and in English. She also participates in over 10 thematic courses for group and individual training of bachelors and masters in speech therapy, and masters in health management.

Polina Mihova has been an Erasmus coordinator of the Department of Healthcare and Social Work since 2016, and for the same period there are 4 concluded contracts, as well as 10 ERASMUS students from a total of 15 programs at the Department.

Personal impressions. I know Polina Mihova, PhD from our joint work on several research and training projects, and I can say that I am impressed by her organization, precision and commitment in the learning process and extracurricular work with students..

CONCLUSION

Senior Assistant Professor Polina Mihova Mihova – Pavlova, PhD is presented in the announced competition with a significant number of original real publications, 1 monograph and citations. Her publications cover a wide range of issues in the field of public health, telemedicine, medical informatics and the organization of healthcare. The scientific works of P. Mihova, PhD contain significant scientific-theoretical and applied contributions. The candidate has many years of teaching experience and study load, which in the last two years exceeds 350 hours per year, and its required hours are a minimum of 180 hours. With all these data Polina Mihova, PhD fully covers and exceeds the uniform minimum requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor", according to ZRASRB, the Regulations for its implementation and the Ordinance on the development of the academic staff of NBU.

Everything stated so far gives me a reason to vote positively and fully convinced to propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to choose Senior Assistant Professor POLINA MIHOVA MIHOVA-PAVLOVA in the academic position "Associate Professor" in the professional field: 7.4. Public health, for the needs of the Department of Healthcare and Social Work of NBU.

Varna

14 July 2021

Member of the Scientific Jury:.....

(Assoc. prof. Evgeni Evgeniev Grigorov, MScPharm, PhD)

By signing here, I declare that I am not related to the candidate and that I have no private interest that may affect the impartial and objective performance of the opinion given in the present contest for the academic position "Associate professor".