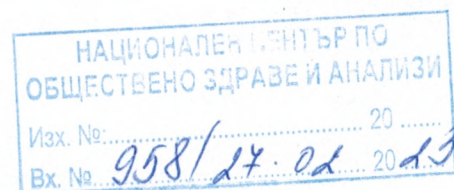


REVIEW

of Prof. Petar Marinov, MD, PhD, DSc
specialist in psychiatry,
specialist in forensic psychiatry
Medicine faculty at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Medicine faculty at Thrakia University



Regarding: Competition for the occupation of the academic position „Associate professor“ in the scientific specialty "Social Medicine and Health Management", for the needs of the "Mental Health" department at the Directorate "Mental Health and Prevention of Addictions" in the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA), promulgated in State Gazette No. 90 of 11.11.2022.

Information on the procedure: With Order RD-14 of 09.01.2023 and Report with entry No. 299/19.01.2023, as well as Contract GD-7/20.01.2023, I am assigned to participate in jury, as at the first meeting I have been selected as a reviewer.

Information about the candidate: Dr. Vladimir Nakov is a psychiatrist with a rich medical and academic career. He graduated from the mathematics high school in 1991, then the Pleven Medical University in 1997, majoring in medicine. He acquired the specialty of psychiatry in 2002. In 2015, he acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", specialty of social medicine, as the topic of his dissertation is: "Epidemiological study on suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria". Since 2007, he has been working at NCPHA. He was a fellow at the University of Berkeley, USA from 2012 to 2015.

As a psychiatrist, he works in various psychiatric services: Levski Municipal Hospital, UMBAL "G. Stranski" Pleven, MHC "Prof. N. Shipkovenski", outpatient services. He was an honorary lecturer in a number of universities, including "St. Kliment Ohridski University" and Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad. From 2018 to today he is a full-time lecturer with a highest position of chief assistant at the National Center of Public Health and Analyses. The activities he is engaged professionally, are scientific, expert, normative, legislative, organizational, logistical.

Diplomas:

Medicine, 1997 at the Pleven Medical University
diploma series MIEN-97, registration number 000182.

In 2002, he acquired the specialty "Psychiatry" at Pleven Medical University (reg. No. 0078844, 24.01.2003, VMI-2002 series No. 0525, Pleven).

In 2015 he successfully defended his dissertation "Epidemiological study of suicide attempts in the Republic of Bulgaria" (Diploma No. 016/20.01.2015 of the assistant at NCPHA) and obtained an educational and scientific degree "doctor" in the specialty "Social medicine and organization of health care and pharmacy".

Compliance of the applicant with the Rules for Development of Academic Company of NCPHA:

The minimum requirements for an associate professor are 400 points. These include a dissertation, monograph, publications, citations and reviews in refereed and indexed global databases.

The candidate has presented a total of 75 scientific papers. Among them there is a dissertation, 3 monographs, of which Dr. Nakov is the first or only author in two of them. The Impact Factor article reference shows that the candidate has 8 such publications in world-class publications/journals.

To date, the citations of his works in journals with an impact factor, are 103, which is a very serious performance.

According to the requirements of the regulations for the development of the academic staff:

Item A (Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor"). A total of 50 pts.

Item. C (Habilitation work - monograph) total 100 pts.

Item D (Publications) $169.03+161.79 = 330.82$ pts.

Item E (Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes) - a total of 2145 pts.

TOTAL POINTS A+C+D+E = 2860.82	2860.8
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Reference teaching:

According to a reference from "St. Kliment Ohridski" University for a lecturer in the department of "Speech Therapy" from 2017/2018 to 2022/2023 academic year, discipline "Fundamentals of Psychiatry" - 30 hours of lectures, II year.

Educational and lecturer activity

Dr. Nakov's university lecturar activity dates back to 2013, when he led a master's course in "Social Activities" at Southwestern University "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad. He is currently a honorary assistant at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the specialty of speech therapy, leading the subject "Fundamentals of Psychiatry" and is included in the master's program of the Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski" in "Bioethics, Society, Culture". He also teaches in the annual CME courses, organized by NCPHA, participates in the training conferences of the Preventive Information Centers and in other trainings, organized at their request.

Basic directions in the development of the candidate

Research direction

1. Modern suicidology

Dr. Nakov's most significant achievements are concentrated in this field. Gradually, but steadily, he investigated the problem of suicides in Bulgaria and analyzed it in different aspects. From the epidemiological study of suicides in Bulgaria to the historical analysis, in the light of actual problems, in his latest scientific work, Dr. Nakov reveals not only the analysis of the frequency, but also the motives and mechanisms of suicides in our country.

In his research, the author always compares the parameters of suicides in Bulgaria

with those in developed and less developed countries. He also pays attention to the ethical dilemmas of suicide in Bulgaria.

In summary, Dr. Nakov's contribution to the development of modern suicidology is undoubted. This is confirmed by dozens of publications on the topic, presented by the candidate.

2. Organization of the health care, and in particular the psychiatric care, legislation, patients' rights and stigma in patients with mental diseases.

Dr. Nakov participated in projects for assessment of the rights of the patients with mental diseases as an expert, evaluation of institutions for long-term accommodation of persons with mental illnesses, participates as a state expert in the field of dementia at the international level, in various working groups and expert councils /for the fight against doping, on the issues of the application of the Convention to Protect the Rights of People with Disabilities, Expert council on narcotic substances, National council on mental health/. This area of candidate development is supported by a series of publications, some of which are in impact factor journals.

3. Clinical therapeutic and clinical diagnostic studies

Publications, presentations and participation in scientific meetings in this field are numerous, covering a wide range of psychiatric diseases and diagnostic problems, and over the years the focus of interest has shifted from the particular to the general. The guidelines are mainly in the field of general practitioners.

4. History of medicine and psychiatry.

In the field of psychiatry history, in addition to tracing the establishment of the psychiatric network, personnel, activities, etc., many "white spots" are filled and questions are raised about the role of the state in the poor functioning of the psychiatric services today, as a result of wrong decisions.

So far, these studies have been presented at several conferences in Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Romania. A public lecture on the subject is forthcoming at the Center for Academic Research.

The topic continues to be developed, with research in the field of alcoholism, forced and compulsory treatment, forensic psychiatry, child psychiatry, pharmacological and other non-pharmacological treatments, sexology.

5. International scientific cooperation

Dr. Vladimir Nakov is an organizer, co-organizer and participant in a series of scientific events in Bulgaria and abroad, which present data from European countries on a number of psychiatric and medical problems. His presence as an organizer and speaker is an important part of his career development.

6. Participation in international and national scientific and research projects

Dr. Nakov participates in a number of scientific programs and projects, of which the "National Suicide Prevention Program in Bulgaria 2013-2018" occupies a central place. Despite the tacit refusal of the state to fund the program, he found a way through the program "Improving mental health services" BG07 to provide partial funding of the activity.

Another important project is RECOVER-E Large-scale implementation of community-based mental health care for people with severe mental illness in Europe.

The DAQUMECA and EUDIMEN programs with the participation of countries from the Danube region help to build criteria for community psychiatric services.

In summary, Dr. Nakov's involvement in projects is as follows:

1. Coordinator in the project "Improved services for mental health" BG07 Public Health Initiatives Program funded under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism;
2. Participant in the Joint Action FRAILTY project, funded by the EU;
3. Participant in the DAQUMECA project, funded by the German government;
4. Participant in the EUDIMEN project, funded by the German government;
5. Researcher in RECOVER-E project Large-scale implementation of Community based mental health care for people with severe and enduring mental ill health in Europe, funded under Horizon 2020;
6. Researcher in the „Kliment Ohridski“ University project "Mental health and social inequalities", financed by the "Scientific Research" fund;
7. Member of the COST Action 91133 FOSTREN project management;
8. Coordinator for Bulgaria of Joint Action Implementation, financed by the EU.

The assessment of these participations is high and demonstrates the significant development of the candidate over time.

Notes and recommendations

With such comprehensive and large-scale candidate resource, it is difficult to make relevant recommendations, but if Dr. Nakov continues to focus his maximum attention on the National Suicide Prevention Program, it would be of great benefit to the National Center of Public Health and Analyses.

Personal impressions

Although last, my acquaintance with Dr. Nakov dates back to the beginning of the century. His interests have always been concentrated in the area of depression and suicide. For the time I have known him, he continues to work as a psychiatrist and does not lose the connection with practical medicine. Gradually, but steadily, his aspirations and efforts in the study of suicide and the application of this knowledge in practice, made him an unavoidable factor in Bulgarian suicidology. In addition, he is significantly involved in projects in the field of public health and the history of Bulgarian psychiatry. In our personal conversations, I have learned new or forgotten facts from the past of our profession, some of which he published in scientific journals. In addition, Dr. Nakov is married, has two children and is a caring father.

Conclusion

Dr. Vladimir Nakov is a sole candidate for „Associate professor“ in the competition, announced according to the rules and the laws. From the materials presented, it is clear that the candidate has made significant progress in the fields he has focused.

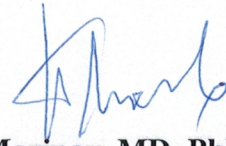
The analysis of the indicators of the RDAC of the NCPHA unequivocally shows that he significantly exceeds the criteria for occupying the academic position of "Associate professor".

He was built as a recognizable and well-known scientist, not only in our country, but also in the European and global scientific community in the fields, he is involved.

Based on the analysis of his overall activity, I confidently vote "Yes" awarding the title of "Associate professor" to Dr. Vladimir Nakov and invite the scientific jury to support his candidacy for this position.

February 27th, 2023

Signature of the reviewer:



/Prof. Dr. Petar Marinov, MD, PhD, DSc/