

## STATEMENT

From

Assoc. Prof. Maria Ivanova Dimitrova, PhD

Faculty of Public Health «Prof. Dr. Tsekomir Vodenicharov, dsc», Medical  
University - Sofia, Department of Health Care

Appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by Order No. R-109-22 /  
17.01.2023 r.

of the Rector of the Medical University «Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov» – Varna

**Subject:** Procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

**Topic:** The practical training of medical laboratory assistants for the formation  
of professional skills and competencies

**Author:** Pavlina Penkova Teneva

**Doctoral program:** "Health Care Management"

**Professional direction:** 7.4. Public Health

**Field of higher education:** 7. Health care and sports

**Form of the doctorate:** Independent form of study

**Research supervisor:** Associate Professor Emilia Petrova Georgieva, Ph.D.

### **General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student**

The presented set of documents and materials on paper and electronic media comply with the Procedure for the acquisition of the ESD "Doctor" according to the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the Medical University - Varna «Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" for its application.

Pavlina Teneva completed her basic medical education in the specialty "Medical Laboratory Assistant" at the Medical College of Trakia University in 2000. She subsequently obtained a Bachelor's degree in the specialty "Social Activities" at the University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" (2003), OCS "Master" in the specialty "Health Care Management" at the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna (2009).

Since 2001, Pavlina Teneva has worked as a medical laboratory assistant in the Central Clinical Laboratory of UMBAL Stara Zagora for 8 years, and since 2007 she has been a part-time lecturer in clinical practice at the Medical College - Stara Zagora. Since 2009, for 7 years, she has been the head of the "Medical Laboratory Technician" specialty, and for the last three years she has been the Deputy Director of the Medical College at Trakia University - Stara Zagora.

Leads courses in the academic disciplines: Clinical Laboratory; Clinical practice and quality control in laboratory practice.

Presents a list of five Erasmus participations (2013, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) and a total of 17 participations in research projects. The submitted documents show a continuous increase in the professional and educational development of the doctoral student.

### **Structure of the dissertation**

The dissertation contains 156 pages and is well structured. Includes: first chapter – Theoretical foundations of the researched problem; second chapter – Methodology and organization of scientific research; third chapter - Own studies; conclusion; conclusions, recommendations; contributions and five appendices.

The dissertation is well illustrated, contains 28 figures and 17 tables. The bibliographic reference includes 158 sources, of which 70 are in Cyrillic and 88 are in Latin.

### **Relevance and importance of the problem**

The presented dissertation work on the topic "Practical training of medical laboratory assistants for the formation of professional skills and competencies" examines a current and significant problem related to the practical training of medical laboratory assistants. The importance of practical training stems from the fact that it combines application, upgrading, assimilation and validation of the theoretical scientific training of medical laboratory workers in real conditions. Practical training as part of university education contributes to the overall formation of professional behavior of future medical laboratory workers.

### **Literature review**

The literature review presents a general description of the "Medical Laboratory Technician" specialty and examines the legal regulations for acquiring this specialty in our country. An analysis and differentiation of the concepts of competencies was carried out. The responsible role and functions of the teacher in the context of the challenges of modern medicine and the application of adequate pedagogical methods and means for the formation of professional skills and competencies of future specialists are examined. The literature review shows the doctoral student's wide awareness of the topic under consideration, the requirements for the training of medical laboratory assistants are outlined.

### **Research methodology**

The purpose and working hypotheses of the dissertation work are specific, clearly and accurately formulated. The four tasks set logically follow from the goal, allowing a good implementation of the planned study. The methodology of

the study is thoroughly described, all elements and stages of the study are indicated correctly and in detail.

Three groups of respondents were covered: medical laboratory technician students (114 respondents); medical laboratory technicians (49 respondents) and experts (21 respondents). The group of experts includes laboratory doctors specializing in "Clinical Laboratory" and senior laboratory assistants.

Adequate methods and a suitable software program have been selected for the realization of the set tasks: documentary, sociological and statistical methods. The research design is comprehensive, precise and meets the requirements of a dissertation.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the dissertation work submitted for review on the topic "Practical training of medical laboratory assistants for the formation of professional skills and competencies" by Pavlina Penkova Teneva has a practical-applied character and meets all the requirements for a dissertation work for the award of the ESD "Doctor".

Based on the above, I give my positive assessment for the dissertation work and the abstract, and I recommend the honorable members of the scientific jury to vote positively for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Pavlina Penkova Teneva in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports , professional direction 7.4. Public Health, Scientific specialty Health Care Management.

02/02/2023  
Sofia

Prepared statement:  .....  
/Assoc. M. Dimitrova, PhD/