



To the chairman of the scientific jury determined by
Order № - 524/ 19.12.2022 of the Director of the NCIPD
- Sofia

Attached is presented: STATEMENT

in a competition for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor", in the field of scientific specialty EPIDEMIOLOGY announced for the needs of NCIPD - Sofia, Department "Epidemiology"

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Member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rumen Nenkov Harizanov, MD, PhD –

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The statement has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Section III / Section IV of Implementing rules of LDASRB - Terms and conditions for acquiring the academic position of Associate Professor/Professor.

I declare that I have no shared scientific papers with Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva.

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva was born in 1962. She graduated medicine at the MU-Plovdiv in 1989 with very good grades 5.35. Her professional route began as a general practitioner in City Polyclinic - Pazardzhik. Since July 1992, she is employed in Department of Infectious diseases Hospital for Active Treatment "Pazardzhik" AD, Pazardzhik, Bulgaria, continuously as an assistant, resident physician, senior resident and head of the Infectious Diseases Department. She acquires the medical specialty "Infectious diseases" in 1997. After successful

defense of a dissertation in 2019 on the topic: "Clinical and epidemiological aspects of acute hepatitis E infection" she also acquired an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Infectious diseases. From 2002 to the present Dr Pishmisheva – Peleva is a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Biology of Plovdiv University "Paisiy Hilendarski". He is fluent in German and spoken English and Russian. Has excellent computer skills. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association and was twice elected "Doctor of the Year" (2016 and 2019). She was awarded with the "Sign of Honor of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria" (2020) and the "Diploma for Special Merits of Public Significance" of the Pazardzhik Municipality (2020).

II. General description of the submitted materials in the competition

Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva is the only candidate in the announced competition for an academic position Associate Professor of Epidemiology for the needs of the Department of Epidemiology, at NCIPD-Sofia. The documents submitted by the candidate are formed in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at NCIPD-Sofia. For the current competition, Dr Pishmisheva - Peleva has presented 84 publications in scientific journals, monographs, and full text collections, of which 41 after acquisition of PhD degree. Overall, 26 scientific reports were also presented at national (23) and international (3) scientific forums, of which 14 were after the acquisition of the PhD degree. The scientific output after acquiring the PhD degree can be systematized according to the following structure:

- Dissertation thesis for acquiring educational and scientific degree "Doctor";
- Monograph "Hepatitis E - exoticism or silent presence.", as a habilitation work under Article 24, paragraph 1, item 3 or Article 29, paragraph 1, item 3 of the LDASRB;
- Published chapters from a book or a collective monograph - 2 issues;
- Scientific papers in publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases - 11 issues;
- Full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals with ISSN - 27 issues;
- Reports from participation in 14 scientific forums;

III. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works for the overall academic development

The scientific activity of the candidate is presented in the following six main areas of infectious diseases (epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention):

1. Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of hepatitis E virus infection

- For the first time, the spread of HEV infection among healthy persons / from the general population, in closed groups and contact persons of the diseased/ was studied.
- For the first time, the spread of HEV infection among closed collectives - inmates in a men's prison in the city of Pazardzhik - has been studied.
- For the first time, the prevalence of HEV infection was studied in pigs of different age groups and from several different pig farms
- Specific anti HEV IgM was detected for a long period of time /24 months/ after the onset of the infection with acute hepatitis E in Bulgarian patients.

- For the first time, a comparative analysis of the course of acute hepatitis E in different groups of patients according to accompanying diseases is presented - diabetes mellitus, accompanying liver diseases, alcohol use

- An algorithm for the diagnosis of acute hepatitis E is presented.

2. *Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of The Marseilles fever*

- A study was carried out on the clinical manifestations, complications and epidemiology of Marseille fever patients for the period 1993-2000 in the Pazardzhik region.

- A "typhoid form" and neuritis of the auditory nerve have been described in Marseilles fever.

- The clinical course of Marseilles fever in an infant is described, as well as a severe form of the course of Marseilles fever in children - with the development of multiple organ failure and a comatose state.

3. *Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of viral hemorrhagic fevers*

- A study of the clinical manifestations of Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever /CCHF/ and Hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome /HFRS/ in patients with the respective diseases was carried out over a ten-year period.

- RNA of PUUMALA hanta virus was isolated for the first time in Bulgaria from a patient with HFRS, treated in the infectious disease department at the Pazardzhik Hospital.

4. *Studies of the epidemiology, etiology, diagnosis, clinical course, treatment, and control of Herpesvirus infections, Legionnaires' disease and West Nile fever have been conducted.*

5. *Studies have been conducted on some rarely diagnosed diseases and syndromes, such as anaplasmosis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome in patients with various infectious diseases, tetanus, etc.*

6. *The research activity of the candidate includes several multidisciplinary works in partnership with scientific teams from different medical specialties – virology, epidemiology, microbiology, and immunology. Research in this direction is mainly focused on SARS-CoV-2 infection and its associated medical and social consequences.*

The scientific works of Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva are thematically in the field of the competition. They and are proof of the author's competence in the field of etiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, epidemiology, therapy, surveillance, control, and prevention of the infectious diseases and their causes among humans and the environment.

IV. Evaluation of the monographic thesis or equivalent publications submitted for participation in the competition for "Associate Professor" by the candidate

Dr Pishmisheva - Peleva is the sole author of the monographic work "Hepatitis E - exoticism or silent presence.". The monograph presents the contemporary scientific concepts about Hepatitis E in humans and the etiological cause of the disease. The epidemiology, clinical presentation, the diagnostic, therapeutic approaches, and the prevention of this disease are presented in detail. An in-depth analysis of all aspects of this viral infection was performed, based on the most up-to-date literature data, as it was supported by the results of the candidate's own research and illustrated by numerous author's figures and photographic images. Two established scientists reviewed the monograph. It fully corresponds to the scientific specialty of the announced

competition and has an international publishing number ISBN from a reputable publishing house.

V. Reflection (citation) of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image)

The applicant has submitted an official reference for 93 citations in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science), and 44 of them are after the acquisition of PhD degree. The candidate's Hirsch index (Scopus) is H= 6 (for all publications) and H= 4 (after dissertation defense).

VI. Complex, qualitative assessment of the teaching-methodical and educational activity, incl. scientific guidance of students and postgraduates

From the attached documents for the competition, it can be seen that Dr Pishmisheva - Peleva has a teaching activity as a part-time assistant at the Faculty of Biology of the Plovdiv University - Paisii Hilendarski, which is expressed in 60 hours of employment with exercises for 2022, for III year students in the discipline "Vectors in Transmissible Infections". In addition, Dr. Pishmisheva - Peleva has carried out the scientific guidance of three residents for the last five years, two of whom successfully acquired the medical specialty "Infectious Diseases" in 2019.

VII. Critical remarks and recommendations

Due to the high quality of the scientific production, I believe that Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva could increase her publishing activity in terms of realization of more publications in international journals with impact factor.

VIII Overall assessment of the applicant's compliance with the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at MU-Varna

According to the regulations for the application of LDASRB for the minimum required points by groups of indicators for the different scientific degrees and academic positions in Professional field 7.1. Medicine, Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva meets the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor".

Distributed by groups of indicators, the point asset is the following:

Criterion A. Dissertation thesis - **50 points**

Criterion B. Monograph - habilitation thesis -**100 points**

Criterion C. - **666 points:**

Criterion D. Citation in scientific journals, monographs, collective volumes, and patents, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Web of Science и Scopus) - **640 points**

Criterion E – **138 points**

Total - 1594 points, at 400 needed

This eloquently shows the candidate's serious scientific potential and unequivocally proves the scientific value of Dr. Pishmisheva-Peleva's research. The candidate has participated in three research projects, two of which are internationally funded.

IX. Conclusion

After analyzing the materials presented in the competition, I believe that Dr Mariya Angelova Pishmisheva - Peleva, PhD from 2019, has developed scientific qualities and experience in academic teaching and fully meets the requirements of LDASRB and the Regulations for its application of NCIPD-Sofia. Therefore, I confidently give my positive assessment for the rewarding of the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional field: 7.1. Medicine; Scientific specialty "Epidemiology", for the needs of National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases - Sofia, Department "Epidemiology".

Statement's author:

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