

НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР
ПО ЗАРАЗНИ И
ПАРАЗИТНИ БОЛЕСТИ

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TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY
DETERMINED BY ORDER № 524/19.12.2022
TO THE DIRECTOR OF NCIPD

OPINION

by

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Department "Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology, Parasitology and Tropical Medicine" at
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Regarding: Competition for taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, in professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific subject "Epidemiology" for the needs of the Department of Epidemiology at the NCIPD, promulgated in State Gazette №102/23.12.2022

I was appointed member of the Scientific Jury by decision of the Scientific Council of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (Protocol №04/13.12.2022) and by Order №524 from 19.12.2022 of the Director of the NCIPD. By decision of the first non-attendance meeting of the Scientific Jury, I was appointed to draw up an opinion.

One candidate is applying in the competition - Maria Angelova Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD. The candidate has submitted the full set of documentation needed for the opinion, in accordance with the requirements of the ADASRB, RAADASRB and the Rules of the NCIPD for the implementation of the ADASRB.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest with the candidate and that I have no co-authored publications.

I. Biographical and professional data about the candidate

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD was born on 18.07.1962 in Pazardzhik. In 1989 she graduated in medicine at the Higher Medical Institute-Plovdiv. In the period 1989-1992 she worked as a ward therapist, and since 1992 she worked in the ward of Infectious Diseases of the MBAL-Pazardzhik, first as a resident doctor and then as a senior resident doctor. Since 2013 she is the head of the ward of Infectious Diseases of MBAL-Pazardzhik. In 1997 she acquired a degree in "Infectious Diseases".

In 2019 Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD defended a dissertation on the topic "Clinical-epidemiological aspects of acute hepatitis E virus infection" and acquired an educational and qualification degree "doctor" in the scientific subject "Infectious diseases".

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD possesses a command of English, German and Russian languages at a very good level. She has good computer literacy, uses medical software and scientific databases in his work.

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD twice awarded as Doctor of the Year by Bulgarian Medical Association - in 2016 and in 2019 in the category "Combating the COVID-19 Pandemic". She was awarded an honorary badge by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria in 2020.

II. Scholarly-research activity

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD has presented a list of a total 110 scholarly works, 55 (41 publications and 14 participations in the scientific forums) of them are after the PhD thesis. For participation in the current competition, a list of 41 scientific works after the PhD thesis is presented: 9 scholarly publications, referenced and indexed in global databases with scholarly information (Scopus and Web of Science); 29 publications in foreign and Bulgarian non-referenced journals with scientific reviews or in full-text collections; 2 monographs (1 individual and 1 collective) and co-authorship in 1 university student book.

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD is a leading author of 15 (36.6%) of the publications, of 4 (9.8%) is the second author, of 22 (53.6%) is the third and subsequent author. She is the author/co-author of a total of 4 monographs, 2 of which after the PhD thesis. Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD is the author of the monograph "Hepatitis E - exoticism or silent presence" (2022) and co-author of the collective monograph "COVID 19 in 2020-2021" (2022).

According to the official record from the Library and Information Center of Medical University-Plovdiv, there are 48 citations in Scopus (41 citations after the PhD thesis) and 3 citations in Web of Science. The total number of citations included in databases Scopus and Web of Science after the PhD thesis is 44.

The total IF of the journals with full-text publications is 35.59, of which after the PhD thesis $IF = 26.581$. One of the publications in the journal Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease has $IF_{2021} = 20.441$. The h-index in Scopus after the PhD thesis = 4, for total activity = 6; in Web of Science after the PhD thesis = 5, for total activity = 6.

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD has participated in 3 scholarly-research projects of which 2 are international projects.

The scholarly works of Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD can be grouped in the following thematic strands: (1) Hepatitis E virus infection studies; (2) Studies of Mediterranean spotted fever; (3) Studies of viral hemorrhagic fevers; (4) Studies of herpes virus infections; (5) Studies of Legionnaires' disease; (6) Studies of West Nile fever; (7) Studies of Anaplasmosis; (8) Studies of rarely diagnosed diseases and syndromes; (9) Studies of COVID-19.

The following scientific-theoretical and applied contributions can be highlighted in the publications on the indicated thematic strands:

1. For the first time, the prevalence of HEV infection among healthy individuals from the general population, in closed groups, and among pigs was studied. Specific anti-HEV IgM was detected for a long period of time after suffering from acute hepatitis E. For the first

time, a comparative analysis of the course of acute hepatitis E in different groups of patients according to co-morbidities is presented.

2. Clinical manifestations, complications and epidemiology in patients with Mediterranean spotted fever were studied.
3. The clinical manifestations of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) and Hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) in patients with co-morbidities were studied.
4. The clinical manifestations and complications of herpes virus encephalitis caused by Human herpes virus 1 are studied. Some rare complications of varicella are described. The clinical manifestations, paraclinical deviations and complications of infectious mononucleosis were studied.
5. Clinical manifestations and complications in patients with Legionnaires' disease were studied.
6. The epidemiological and clinical characteristics of patients with West Nile fever were studied.
7. The clinical manifestations and epidemiology of patients with anaplasmosis were studied.
8. Some rarely diagnosed diseases and syndromes are described: hemophagocytic syndrome in hepatitis E, Guillain-Barré syndrome in a patient with hepatitis E, Ogilvie syndrome in a patient with herpes simplex encephalitis, etc.
9. Patients with severe course and complications of COVID-19 were studied. Viral load, dynamics of specific antibodies and levels of cytokines were investigated depending on the severity of COVID 19.

Participations in scientific forums are not reviewed under the NACID indicators, but nevertheless they shows the high scholarly activity of the candidate. Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD participated with 12 reports at scientific forums before the PhD thesis, of which 3 abroad. After 2019, she participated in 8 scientific forums in the country, in which she presented 14 reports/posters.

According to the submitted reference for agreement with the minimal national requirements of NACID, the candidate shows a result that significantly exceeds the criteria for taking up the academic position "Associate Professor".

III. Educational-teaching activity

According to the official record from University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD participated in the teaching of practical seminars in the subject "Vectors in Transmissible Infections" in the academic year 2022/2023 with a total teaching workload of 60 academic hours.

In the last 5 years, Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD was the head of the specialization of three specialists at MBAL-Pazardzhik, two of whom successfully passed the state exam. She

participated as a lecturer in trainings and product presentations in front of GPs and pre-hospital care specialists.

Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD is a co-author in the "Pharmacotherapy" textbook (2019) in the "Hepatitis E" chapter.

IV. Conclusion

I consider that the scholarly-research and educational-teaching activity fully meet the criteria for taking up the academic position "Associate Professor" pursuant to the requirements of ADASRB, RAADASRB and the Rules of the NCIPD for the implementation of the ADASRB. This gives me reason **to vote in the affirmative** and to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury to award to **Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD** the academic position "**Associate Professor**" in professional direction 7.1 Medicine, scientific subject "Epidemiology" for the needs of the Department of Epidemiology at the NCIPD.

03.04.2023

Opinion drawn up by:
(Assoc. Prof. Tanya Petkova Ivanova, MD, PhD)