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НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО ЗАРАЗНИ И ПАРАЗИТНИ БОЛЕСТИ	
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*To the chairman of the scientific jury appointed
by Order No. 524 from 19. 12. 2022 of the Director of the NCIPD*

According to protocol No. 4/March 13, 2023, from a meeting of the seven-member scientific jury

STATEMENT

For conducting a procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor"

at the National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia,

Specialty "Epidemiology", professional field 7.1. Medicine 7. Healthcare and sports

by Prof. D-r Yordanka Dimitrova Stoilova, MD, PhD, external member

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Candidate: Dr. Maria Angelova Pishmisheva – Peleva, PhD, Department of Infectious Diseases,

Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Pazardzhik.

STATEMENT

for competition for the academic position "Associate Professor",
at the National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
by ***Prof. D-r Yordanka Dimitrova Stoilova, MD, PhD***, external member
with only candidate for the position - *Dr. Maria Angelova Pishmisheva-Peleva, MD, PhD*,
Department of Infectious Diseases, Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Pazardzhik.

The statement was prepared in accordance with *Order No. 524/19. 12. 2022* of the Director of the NCIPD for scientific jury appointment for this competition. In addition, it complies with the requirements of the national normative documents regulating the development of the academic staff.

The candidate has submitted a full volume of documents in accordance with the normative documents regulating the development of the academic staff. The materials meet the qualitative and quantitative criteria for holding the academic position " Associate Professor.

I. Characteristics of the candidate's research and teaching activities.

1. Analysis of the candidate's career profile:

The professional development of Dr. Maria Angelova Pishmisheva-Peleva, includes a variety of educational and practical activities. Dr. Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva graduated medical education in 1989 at MU Plovdiv and started working as a general practitioner until 1992, when she started working at the Department of Infectious Diseases / Multiprofile Hospital for Active Treatment, Pazardzhik. Consecutively, she held the positions of resident physician in

infectious diseases (until 1999), senior physician (from 1999 to 2013) and head of department (from 2013 to date). From 1997 she is an Infectious Diseases specialist. In 2019 she defended a dissertation on: "Clinical-epidemiological aspects of acute hepatitis E virus infection" and gained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" – (Doctor of Philosophy – PhD).

Dr. Pishmisheva-Peleva actively participates in scientific events in the country and abroad. She is the organizer of the national conference of Infectious Diseases / Pazardzhik, 2011. The candidate demonstrates good organizational skills and leadership qualities as a head of department of Pazardzhik Infectious Disease Department since 2013 to date.

The awards and honors of Dr. Pishmisheva must be presented: The Bulgarian Medical Association awarded Dr. Pishmisheva-Peleva with the "Doctor of the Year" prize in 2016 and again in 2020, when she was nominated in the category "Fighting the Covid-19 pandemic" - "Contribution to the development and strengthening of the authority of the medical organization" (Bulgarian doctors, gave their contribution to the fight against Covid-19).

In 2020, she was awarded with the Presidential Badge of Honour by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The same year, Dr. Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva was awarded a Diploma for Special Merits of Public Significance by the Pazardzhik Municipality.

2. Submitted materials for the competition.

Dr. Pishmisheva participated in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in accordance with the legislative requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the NCIPB with a total number of 110 scientific publications and scientific events participations – of which 41 publications and 14 participations /55 in total/ of them are after dissertation's defence. They are distributed as follow:

1. Dissertation on the topic "Clinical-epidemiological aspects of hepatitis E virus infection in Pazardzhik region, 2014 - 2017."
2. Monograph entitled "Hepatitis E - exotic or silent existence", 2022.
3. Dr Maria Pishmisheva-Peleva is co-author in 3 monographs:

3.1 "Contemporary State of the Rickettsioses in the World and in Bulgaria", 2007, chapter: "Mediterranean spotted fever in Pazardzhik region", edited by Prof. E. Alexandrov, ed. "Marin Drinov", Sofia, 2007, pp. 107-116.

3.2. "Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever in Bulgaria", *Maria Pishmisheva*, Iva Hristova, Nikolay Vatev, 2018.

3.3. "COVID 19 in 2020-2021", p.47-59, 2022, "Virus load, dynamics of specific antibodies and levels of the main cytokines depending on the severity of COVID 19"- Iva Hristova, Georgi Popov, Iva Trifonova, ..*Maria Pishmisheva*, Maria Nikolova.

4. Co-author of the textbook "Pharmacotherapy", edited by Prof. S. Konstantinov, chapter "Hepatitis E", 2019.

5. Publications and reports published in scientific publications, referenced, and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information – 21 of them with IF - 6.

6. Publications and reports published in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or in edited collective volumes -55 .

7. A reference from the library information center of MU Plovdiv is presented on the Scopus database - 25 publications and 90 citations, without self-citations - 48 for the period 2019-2023, after dissertation's defence the number of citations is 41. 21 publications and another 60 citations were detected in Web of Science; 3 citations were detected, without self-citations . Total Scopus and Web of Science detected citations - 44 after dissertation's defence. H- index - Scopus = after dissertation' defence = 4, for all publications = 6. H- index - Web of Science / incl. self-citations / = 5.

8. Participation in scientific projects = 3. One of the studies made a deep impression on me:

Infectious Diseases International Research Initiative - Vector-borne and zoonotic infections a survey in 24 countries of Europe, Africa, and Asia, May 2018.

With a total of 810 points required for the academic position "associate professor", the candidate presents a total of 1624.

II. Evaluation of the scientific works of the candidate for the overall academic development

1. General characteristics of scientific production and publication activity.

The scientific activity of Dr. Pishmisheva - Peleva is expressed in the distribution and application of scientific and practical achievements among the scientific community by publishing scientific

works in authoritative and peer-reviewed scientific journals - with IF - 4- *Vector Borne Zoonotic Dis.*, *Vojnosanitiski pregled*, *Pediatr Infect Dis*, *J Neurovirol*, the following without IF - *Folia Med Plovdiv*, *General Medicine*, *J Neurovirol Travel*, *Pediatrics*, *Problems of Infectious and parasitic diseases*" and others.

The candidate is the first author of the dissertation and of the one of monographs. Of the peer-reviewed articles, the candidate is the first author, respectively in 7 (pointed with 5) and 30 under point 6. The presented scientific works by language of publication are predominantly in English.

Dr. Maria Pishmisheva - Peleva, shows scientific activity as an author and speaker at international and national scientific forums presenting scientific reports on significant epidemiological topics with applied importance. Foreign languages for communication: German, Russian and English.

2. Main themes and contributions of the scientific works:

Thematically, the scientific works are mainly divided into 4 scientific directions and areas, which are also some of the most contemporary ones:

- **Hepatitis E:** for the first time, the spread of HEV infection among healthy persons / from the general population; in closed groups and in contact with the patients/ - was studied – 8 patients. Along with that, for the first time, the spread of HEV infection among closed collectives – incarcerated persons in men's prison, Pazardzhik- 2 *works*. For the first time, the spread of HEV infection was studied among pigs of different age groups and from several different pig farms – 3 *works*. 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, liver diseases, alcohol use - 5 *works*.
- Regarding **Mediterranean spotted fever** – a study was conducted on the clinical manifestations, complications and epidemiology of patients with Mediterranean spotted fever between 1993-2000 in Pazardzhik district – 8 *works*.
- Regarding **Viral Haemorrhagic fevers**, a study of the clinical manifestations of Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fever /CCHT/ and Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome /HFRS/ was conducted in patients with the relevant diseases for a ten-year period - 11 *pcs*.

- Regarding **COVID-19** – the course, severity, complications, treatment, epidemiological and virological features, features of the infection in patients with HIV/AIDS, etc. have been studied in total 8 *pcs.* scientific communications.
- Rarely diagnosed diseases and syndromes were also observed: Tetanus with two clinical cases, Guillain-Barré syndrome in a patient with hepatitis E, Herpes simplex encephalitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

The topics represented in the scientific output are diverse and clearly significant for public health. I accept the report presented by Dr. Maria Pishmisheva on the contributions of scientific developments.

III. Evaluation of the teaching activity of the candidate

According to a document – the teaching activity includes 60 academic classes – lectures and training in infectious diseases chapter "Vector-borne infections". Lecturer in the training of General Practitioners and specialists from outpatient care.

IV. Critical remarks - I have no critical remarks about the candidate.

V. My personal impressions of Dr. Maria Pishmisheva - Peleva are from the active participations at Scientific Conferences.

Conclusion:

Dr. Maria Angelova Pishmisheva – Peleva applied with a sufficient number of significant scientific works published in Bulgarian and international journals and with 1 independent monograph. Scientific works contain original scientific, scientific-applied, and applied contributions. A knowledgeable and experienced specialist. Dr. Maria Angelova Pishmisheva – Peleva meets the mandatory and specific conditions as well as the recommended scientific criteria for the academic position "Associate Professor" in accordance with the requirements of the national normative documents regulating the development of the academic staff.

29. 03. 2023

Prof. Dr. Yordanka Dimitrova Stoilova, MD, PhD