

OPINION

by Professor, Stoyan Angelov Shishkov, PhD,

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regarding the announced competition for the academic position of "Chief assistant" in the field of higher education 7 "Health and Sports", professional field 7.1. Medicine" in the scientific specialty "Virology" for the needs of the Virology department of the National center for infectious and parasitic deases,, announced in the State Gazette, issue 115/ 12.30.2025

General presentation of the procedure and the applicant.

The only candidate participating in the announced competition is Chief Assistant, Dr. Petar Krasimirov Velikov, MD. He graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 2016. In 2022, he obtained a specialty in "Infectious Diseases" at the Medical University of Sofia, and in 2025, he obtained a Master's degree in Public Health at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. In 2025, he obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", professional field: 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty: "Infectious Diseases" at the Medical University of Sofia with a dissertation on the topic "Clinical, epidemiological and laboratory characteristics of the course of COVID-19 in childhood".

Since the same year, he has been appointed head of the NRL. Since December 2025, he has been head of the NRL "Herpes and Oncogenic Viruses" at the Virology Department of the NCIPD.

Assessment of scientific activities

The provided set of materials is in accordance with the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the Regulations on the Terms and Procedure for acquiring scientific degrees and for Holding academic positions of the NCIPD.

For his participation in the competition, chief assistant Dr. Velikov has presented 27 scientific publications. Of these, 18 articles have been published in prestigious international journals with IF, 7 - in peer-reviewed journals and 2 publications in other medical journals. The

total IF is 99.512. The candidate's scientific contribution is also confirmed by over 130 citations of 19 articles in Scopus and h-index 6.

Dr. Velikov also participates in 2 scientific projects in the field of the competition, funded by the Scientific Research Fund.

The submitted competition materials prove that the scientific research activity of Dr. Petar Velikov is in the field of the announced competition. His scientific research concerns current aspects of viral infections and their control.

The documentation presented by Dr. Velikov meets the minimum national criteria, as well as the requirements of the National center for infectious and parasitic diseases for holding the academic position of "Chief Assistant".

Conclusion.

The materials provided to me show that Dr. Petar Krasimirov Velikov, MD. has accumulated the necessary knowledge, a significant number of publications and practical experience in the field of virology. I believe that the facts presented are sufficient grounds for his election as Chief Assistant of Virology at the Department of Virology of the National center for infectious and parasitic diseases.

Sofia, 05/30/20265

Signature:

/Prof., S. Shishkov/