

OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metodi Antonov Kunchev, MD
Head of the Department of Microbiology, Virology, Clinical Laboratory and
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REGARDING:

COMPETITION FOR ACADEMIC POSITION OF "CHIEF ASSISTANT"
IN SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY "VIROLOGY"
in the field of higher education 7. "Healthcare and sports", direction 7.1. "Medicine"
for the needs of the Department of Virology of the National Center of Infectious and
Parasitic Diseases, announced in State Gazette No. 115 of December 30, 2025.

1. Procedural matters

The competition complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, its Implementing Regulations, as well as the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases. By decision of the Scientific Council (Protocol No. 01/12.03.2026) and Order of the Director of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases No. 83/16.03.2026, I have been appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury in this competition.

One candidate has submitted documents and has been admitted to the competition:

PETAR KRASIMIROV VELIKOV, MD, PhD

2. Professional development of the candidate

In 2016, Dr. Velikov graduated as a Master of Medicine from the Medical University - Sofia. In 2025, he obtained a Master's degree in Public Health in Japan. In 2022, he acquired a specialty in Infectious Diseases (Medical University - Sofia). Since December 2025, he has been Head of the National Reference Laboratory for Herpes and Oncogenic Viruses at the Virology Department of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

3. Research activity

In the present competition for the academic position "Chief Assistant", Dr. Petar Velikov has submitted a list of 27 publications - 18 articles published in journals with an impact factor (total impact factor 99.512), 4 publications in international and Bulgarian journals indexed in globally recognized scientific databases, 2 articles in Bulgarian peer-reviewed journals, and 3 other publications. He successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: "Clinical, epidemiological and laboratory characteristics of the course of COVID-19 in childhood" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in May 2025 at the Medical University - Sofia.

He has participated in 2 projects funded by the National Science Fund.

The scientific output of Dr. Velikov meets and significantly exceeds the minimum national criteria, as well as the requirements for occupying this position, adopted by the Scientific Council of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

4. Personal impressions

I participated as a member of the jury during Dr. Velikov's dissertation defense for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". I am well acquainted with his scientific work and interests. Dr. Velikov is an excellent young scientist who possesses the necessary qualities and intellect for outstanding professional development in the field of virology. I consider him ready to take on responsibilities associated with a higher academic position and to develop successfully in his scientific career.

5. Conclusion

My assessment, based on the biography, research activity of Dr. Petar Krasimirov Velikov, as well as my personal impressions, shows that he possesses and exceeds the required scientometric indicators for occupying the academic position "Chief Assistant". Based on all of the above, I give my positive evaluation and recommend that the Scientific Jury vote in favor of proposing Dr. Petar Velikov, MD, to the Scientific Council of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases for appointment to the academic position "Chief Assistant" in the specialty "Virology".

Signature:

/ Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metodi Kunchev, MD /