

To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury, as determined by Order No. 106 of 7 April 2026, issued by 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 and surveillance of communicable diseases" in State Gazette №102/23.12.2022

Member of the scientific jury: Assoc. Prof. Rumens Harizanov, MD, PhD – Deputy Director of the NCIPD

Institution: NATIONAL CENTRE OF INFECTIOUS AND PARASITIC DISEASES (NCIPD)

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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 hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest within the meaning of Art. 4, para. 5 of the Act on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADASRB).

I. Analysis of the candidate's career profile

Dr Lili Emilova Rahamimova-Marinova was born in 1968. She graduated with excellent results from the Medical University of Sofia in 1995. She began her professional career as a resident physician at the National Multi-profile Transport Hospital in Sofia. From April 2001, she worked in the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases at the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in Sofia, progressing from research associate III to chief assistant. She obtained the medical specialty of 'Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases' in 2006. After successfully defending her dissertation in 2012 on the topic: 'Epidemiology of measles in Bulgaria under the conditions of elimination and possibilities for effective surveillance', she also obtained a PhD in Epidemiology. In 2015, she was appointed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases at the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in Sofia. Since 2016, she has been Head of Department. She then worked at the Sofia Regional Health Inspectorate (July 2016 – December 2020), successively serving as chief expert, chief inspector, head of the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases, and deputy director. She subsequently returned to the NCIPD, again serving as head of the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases. She is fluent in English and Russian. She has excellent IT skills. She has completed a number of specializations and training programmes in Bulgaria and abroad. She is a member of the Bulgarian Medical Association.

II. General description of the submitted materials in the competition

Dr Lili Emilova Rahamimova-Marinova 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. Dr. Marinova has published a total of 90 papers throughout her scientific career, including 43 full scientific articles, 39 reports and summaries in scientific publications, one manual for medical specialists in co-authorship, one independent monograph, and six other articles in non-scientific publications. The scientific output following the acquisition of the PhD can be categorised more specifically according to the following scheme:

- Dissertation thesis for acquiring educational and scientific degree "PhD";
- Monograph "Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the national immunization program in the Sofia-city district". National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Freya, 2026 ISBN: 978-619-7714-22-7 (in press);
- Manuals, collections, etc., published independently or in co-authorship – 1 issue;
- Scientific papers in publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases - 11 issues;
- Full-text publications in Bulgarian and international scientific journals – 27;
- Reports from participation in 46 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. *Study of the epidemiology of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). MMR surveillance. Elimination strategy for measles and rubella.*

- Studies on the epidemiology of measles in Bulgaria during the elimination period; Study on the measles epidemic in Bulgaria in 2009–10; Study on the nosocomial spread of measles in Bulgaria during the epidemic period (2009–10); Study on the epidemiological surveillance of measles in Bulgaria during the elimination period (2005–10); Development of an information system for collecting and analysing data on measles incidence.

- Studies of factors modelling the epidemic process leading to persistence of wild measles virus circulation and local spread among the Bulgarian population despite the availability of a highly effective vaccine.

- Study on a complex of socio-economic factors as a cause of complications in measles patients in the period 2009-2010;

- Measles surveillance. Assessment of the effectiveness of the information system in collecting and analysing data on measles incidence.

2. *Epidemiological assessment, surveillance and control of acute infectious diseases.*

- Epidemiological assessment of rubella elimination in Europe;

- Study of the incidence of mumps in the period 2006-2008 and analysis of the risk of its epidemic spread in the country;

- Epidemiological surveillance of respiratory infections, including influenza, legionellosis, Legionnaires' disease, whooping cough and respiratory syncytial infection, as well as SARS.

3. *Vaccines and immunoprophylaxis. Health communication. Immunization information systems and registries.*

- Immunoprophylaxis of measles, mumps and rubella;

- Immunizations and immunization policy;

- Immunization information systems and registries

4. *The epidemiology of new and re-emerging acute infectious and parasitic diseases, including COVID-19 and malaria.*

5. *International travel and immunoprophylaxis.*

6. *International health regulations and border health control.*

The scientific works of Dr. L. Marinova are thematically in the field of the competitive specialty. They are proof of the author's competence in the field of epidemiology, etiology, surveillance, control and prevention of infectious diseases and their causative agents 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 Lili Marinova has had ten publications, equivalent to a monograph, accepted for publication in scientific journals referred and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases (SCOPUS, WoS). Four of these publications are in one of the most prestigious journals in the field of surveillance and control of infectious diseases in Europe, Eurosurveillance (Q1), and one is in the European Journal of Public Health (Q1). The fact that 50% of the publications are in Q1 journals speaks eloquently of their high scientific value, impartially assessed by prestigious international scientists in their roles as reviewers and editorial board members. The publications cover a wide range of studies on the epidemiological characteristics, distribution,

immunoprophylaxis, and clinical manifestations of measles, mumps, and rubella in the country, and contain several scientific contributions of an original and scientifically applicable nature. The results of the first studies in the country investigating the influence of various socio-economic factors on the severity and frequency of severe complications (e.g. pneumonia and encephalitis) in measles are presented, as are the attitudes of different population groups regarding vaccines and immunizations. The aim is to establish the reasons for the existence of so-called 'pockets' of the non-immune population and to assess the effectiveness of the information system for collecting and analysing data on measles incidence.

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

The candidate has submitted an official reference for 236 citations in scientific publications, monographs, collective volumes and patents, 169 of which were acquired after obtaining a PhD degree. The candidate's Scopus Hirsch index is H=6.

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

The attached documents for the competition show that Dr. Marinova has teaching and learning activities at the "Yordanka Filaretova" Medical College at the Medical University - Sofia, resulting in a total of 382.12 hours of work with lectures, exercises, semester and state exams for the period 2022-2024.

VII. 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 implementing the LDASRB, Dr. Lili Marinova meets the minimum national requirements for the academic position of 'Associate Professor'. The point allocation for each group of indicators, as set out in the author's report on compliance with the minimum national requirements, is as follows:

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

Criterion B. Habilitation thesis/scientific publications (no less than 10) in scientific journals that are referred and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information - **168.67 points.**

Criterion G. - **203.7 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 – **60 points**

Total - 482.37 points, at 400 needed

The candidate has participated in 15 scientific projects, six of which she led.

IX. Conclusion

Having analysed the materials submitted for the competition, I believe that Dr Lili Emilova Rahamimova-Marinova, who obtained her PhD in 2012, possesses the necessary scientific

expertise and teaching experience. She fully meets the requirements of the LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation of the NCIPD in 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 and surveillance of communicable diseases".

Statement's author:

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