

# OPINION

by Prof. Dr. Iva Stefanova Christova, PhD, D.Sc.

## 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 is in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for its Implementation, as well as the Rules for its Implementation in the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases. By decision of the Scientific Council with 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 the competition.

One candidate has submitted documents to the competition:

PETAR KRASIMIROV VELIKOV, MD, PhD

#### 2. Professional development of the candidate

Dr. Velikov graduated in 2016 as a Master of Medicine from the Sofia Medical University. In 2025, he obtained a Master of Public Health degree in Japan, and his Master's thesis was awarded. In 2022, he obtained a specialty in infectious diseases. Since December 2025, he has been the Head of the NRL for Herpes and Oncogenic Viruses at the Virology Department of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

#### 3. Scientific research activity

Dr. Petar Velikov presents an impressive list of 27 publications – 18 printed articles in journals with an impact factor (total impact factor 99.512), 4 publications in international and Bulgarian journals referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, 2 articles in Bulgarian publications with scientific review and 3 other publications.

He is a participant in 2 projects funded by the Scientific Research Fund.

In May 2025, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic "Clinical, epidemiological and laboratory characteristics of the course of COVID-19 in childhood" and acquired the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

The scientific production presented by Dr. Velikov meets and significantly exceeds the minimum national criteria, as well as the requirements for holding this position.

adopted by the Scientific Council of the National Center for the Study of Biological Sciences.

#### 4. Personal impressions.

I know Dr. Velikov from his work in the NRL on Herpes and Oncogenic Viruses at the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases. My impressions are excellent. He is an extremely erudite, excellently prepared young scientist, who has already gained experience and opportunities, possessing in-depth knowledge and opportunities to develop. His professional development shows a serious attitude towards the specialty of virology.

#### 5. Conclusion.

The present assessment shows that Dr. Petar Krassimirov Velikov possesses the necessary qualities, scientometric indicators and biography to occupy the academic position of "chief assistant". He has rich theoretical knowledge and accumulated professional experience in the field of viral infections. He is a proven young scientist with numerous publications. Based on all this, I give my positive assessment and recommend that the scientific jury vote positively for the proposal of Dr. Petar Vlikov, MD to the Scientific Council of the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases for occupying the academic position of "Chief assistant" in the specialty of "Virology".

Signature:

/ Prof. Dr. Iva Christova, Ph.D./