

## OPINION

by Professor Dr. Andrey Rangelov Galev, DMSc

member of the scientific jury, appointed by order

No. 106/07.04.2026 of the Director of the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases

regarding

participation of **Dr. Lili Emilova Marinova, PhD**

in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Epidemiology", field of higher education: 7. Health and Sports, Professional Direction 7.1. Medicine for the needs of the Department

"Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases" of the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, announced in the State Gazette, issue 15/06.02.2026

### **I. Description of the materials submitted by the candidate for the competition:**

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by one candidate - Dr. Lili Emilova Marinova, PhD. The materials submitted to me for participation in the competition are precisely arranged and meet the requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in the National Center for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

### **II. Professional and career development of the candidate**

The professional development of Dr. Lili Marinova began in 1995, when she graduated from her higher education in medicine at the Medical University of Sofia with success in the exams during the course of study - very good (5.32) and success in the state exams - excellent (6.00).

From 1995 to 2001, Dr. L. Marinova worked at the National Multidisciplinary Transport Hospital "Tsar Boris III" - Sofia, successively as a resident physician in the Department of Cardiology and Rheumatology and head of the office for pre-trip examinations with an emergency room.

In 2001, Dr. L. Marinova joined the National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases as a resident physician in the Department of Epidemiology and STDs.

In 2003, she participated in a competition for a research associate of the 3rd degree in the same department.

In 2005, she successfully obtained a specialty in "Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases".

In 2006 and 2010, Dr. L. Marinova was successively a research associate of the 2nd and 1st degree/chief assistant in the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases, where she has been working to date on the problems of surveillance and prevention of acute infectious diseases, with an emphasis on:

- vaccine-preventable infections, their immunoprophylaxis in pediatrics and adulthood, development and evaluation of the national system for surveillance and prevention and factors determining the complicated clinical course of these infections;
- Legionnaires' disease and other infectious diseases during travel as a health problem, etc.

In 2012, Dr. L. Marinova defended her doctoral degree with a dissertation on the topic "Epidemiology of measles in Bulgaria under the conditions of elimination and possibilities for effective surveillance".

Since 2016, she has been working at the Sofia Regional Health Inspectorate as: Chief Expert in the "ECZB" Department, "NCI" Directorate, Head of the "Immunoprophylaxis and Infection Control" Sector, "ECZB" Department, "NCI" Directorate, Head of the "Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases" Department, Deputy Director.

Since 2025, she has been working at the National Center For Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in the "Epidemiology and Surveillance of Infectious Diseases" Department.

Dr. L. Marinova is increasing her postgraduate qualification by successfully completing specialized training in the country and abroad in specific areas of epidemiology:

- epidemiology and surveillance of infectious diseases;
- vaccines and immunoprophylaxis;
- early warning in crises related to biological weapons and bioterrorism;
- epidemiological statistics, etc.

She is highly regarded as an expert and scientist with her participation in national and international expert bodies. She is a member of the Association of Bulgarian Epidemiologists, the Bulgarian Association for Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections BulNoso, National Coordinator for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases at ECDC. She is fluent in written and spoken English and Russian.

Computer skills: excellent level of work with MS Office, administration and management of national specialized information pages for epidemiological surveillance, delivery and analysis of data in the specialized web portal of the European Region for Surveillance of Communicable Diseases TESSy of ECDC for measles, mumps, rubella and Legionnaires' disease.

In her practice as an epidemiologist, Dr. Marinova has gained significant experience in the main areas of infectious disease epidemiology, as well as in scientific activity.

### **III. Scientific and research activity**

#### **Publications:**

The total number of publications in the entire scientific career of Dr. Marinova is 90, of which 43 are scientific articles published in full, 39 are reports and summaries published in scientific publications, 1 is a manual for medical specialists published in co-authorship, 1 is an independent monograph and 6 are other articles published in non-scientific publications.

Of the publications, 5 articles and 3 scientific reports were submitted in a competition for the acquisition of the Educational and Scientific Doctoral Degree "Doctor" and are not subject to review in the current competition, but are included for the reference of the scientific jury.

11 articles have been published in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, of which 7 are international scientific journals with an impact factor. Publications in Bulgarian-language publications are 73, and publications in foreign-language publications are 17.

Dr. Marinova is:

- first author of a total of 27 of all publications (respectively – 17 articles, 1 monograph and 9 scientific reports), of which, with an impact factor (IF) – 2;
- second author of 26 of the publications (9 articles and 17 scientific reports), of which, with an IF – 2;
- third or subsequent author in the remaining 37 publications, of which, with an IF – 3 (in 2, as the third author and in 1, as the fourth author).

The following main scientific directions are highlighted in the described scientific works:

- ✓ Study on the epidemiology of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). Surveillance of MMR. Elimination strategy for measles and rubella.
- ✓ Epidemiological surveillance of respiratory infections: influenza, legionellosis and Legionnaires' disease, whooping cough, Respiratory syncytial infection, SARS.
- ✓ Epidemiology and surveillance of other ARIs.
- ✓ Vaccines and immunoprophylaxis. Health communication. Information immunization systems and registries.
- ✓ Epidemiology of new and returning acute infectious and parasitic diseases - COVID-19, malaria.
- ✓ Additional scientific directions in the work of Dr. Lili Marinova are:
  - International travel and immunoprophylaxis.
  - International health regulations and border health control.

#### **IV. Scientific contributions.**

Based on the presented scientific works, the following more significant contributions have been made (described in detail in Appendix 11):

##### 1. Contributions of an original scientific nature:

- A detailed study of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Sofia City District was carried out and the effects of the pandemic on the implementation of the National Immunization Program in the Sofia City District were analyzed and assessed.
- For the first time in the country, a study was conducted on the influence of a wide range of socio-economic factors on the severity of the course and the frequency of severe complications (pneumonia and encephalitis) in measles.
- For the first time in the country, a study was conducted on the attitudes of different target groups of the population regarding vaccines and immunizations in order to establish the reasons for the existence of so-called "pockets" of non-immune population.
- A linguistic and cultural adaptation of the "Practical Guide to Vaccines and Immunizations" was carried out. Additionally, beyond the initial goals of the project, the Bulgarian team alone created a "Practical Guide to Vaccines and Immunizations".

The target groups were trained to work with the materials when communicating with parents and the public on issues related to infectious diseases and their prevention through immunizations.

A major contribution of the project is that the use of the Guide and the Guide in the daily practice of the medical professional will lead to:

- Enriching the knowledge of the medical professional with current, scientifically based data on vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Improving communication between medical professionals and parents regarding vaccines and immunizations.
- Increasing the trust of parents and society in medical professionals by improving parents' knowledge of childhood infectious diseases and the risks and benefits of immunizations.
- Increasing the immunization coverage with vaccines against a number of significant infectious diseases.

#### 2. Contributions of a scientific and applied nature:

- An assessment of the implementation of the National Immunization Program in the Sofia City District during the COVID-19 pandemic was carried out.
- An assessment of the effectiveness of the Information System for collecting and analyzing data on measles incidence was carried out.
- The most significant contribution is determined to be the ability of the system to register, report and report on investigated and rejected cases of measles and rubella, which brings it as close as possible to the European requirements for specificity, sensitivity and timeliness of surveillance of these two diseases.
- The co-authored analyses of the main epidemiological indicators of acute infectious diseases support the health network and set guidelines for the Ministry of Health in making management decisions regarding the control of the epidemic spread of these diseases among the population.

### **V. Teaching and learning activities**

Dr. L. Marinova has significant experience as a leader, supervisor and guest lecturer of postgraduate and individual training courses organized by the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other institutions in the country on the topics: "Epidemiology and surveillance of infectious diseases", "Disinfection, disinsection and deratization", "Vaccines and immunizations", etc. for students, specialists and doctoral students.

### **VI. Impact factor, citations, participation in scientific forums, implementations and participation in scientific projects and programs**

The detailed report on the impact factor of the publications presented in Appendix 14 shows:

- number of publications in scientific journals with an impact factor – 7;
- impact factor after obtaining the Educational and Scientific Doctoral Degree "Doctor" - 9.945;
- total impact factor - 27.079.

Out of a total of 236 citations of Dr. Marinova's scientific publications (h-index=6, ResearchGate); (h-index=6, Google Scholar), 169 are citations after obtaining the ONS "Doctor". Appendix 13 presents a detailed list of citations with the citing articles attached with links to them.

The total number of participations in the entire professional career of Dr. Marinova is 90 (Appendix 1, p. 2), of which after obtaining the Educational and Scientific Doctoral Degree "Doctor" - 50, respectively:

- in foreign scientific forums - 12 (1 online);
- in national forums – 38.

A detailed report on 6 implementations and other scientific and applied developments, where Dr. Marinova participated as the first scientist in 2 implementations, is presented in Appendix 15.

A detailed report on participation and successful implementation in 15 international scientific and applied projects, as well as in 3 national programs, in 6 of which Dr. Marinova is a leader, and in the rest of them she is a participant as an expert in the various modules, is presented in Appendix 18.

## VII. Conclusion

Dr. Lili Marinova is known as a respected and highly qualified specialist and scientist in the field of epidemiology of infectious diseases. The main areas in which the candidate has focused her efforts are relevant, significant and have a contribution of national importance. Her scientific developments are original and precisely published, which convinces that the results obtained by her are of high practical value.


Based on the comprehensive assessment of Dr. Lili Marinova's research, teaching and educational activities, her professional areas of work in a wide range of infectious pathology in the country and her participation in a large number of current projects and programs at the international and national level, I believe that she fully meets the conditions - qualitative and quantitative criteria of the National Center for Epidemiology and Epidemiology for holding the academic position of "associate professor".

The materials presented in the competition and my personal impressions of her define her as a thorough and precise scientist, an excellent professional, using information technologies in the daily work of epidemiological surveillance in the country, a specialist with the ability to perform coordination functions, enjoying well deserved authority among the epidemiological community.

I give a positive opinion and confidently propose to the members of the scientific jury to elect Dr. Lili Emilova Marinova as "associate professor" in epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology and Surveillance of Communicable Diseases (ESD) at the National Center for Epidemiology and Epidemiology.

23. 04. 2026

City of Sofia

Author of the opinion:   
Angelina Galina, PhD  
(Prof. Dr. Angelina Galina, DMSc)  
on behalf of the jury