

**To the Chairman of the Scientific Jury, appointed by  
Order No. 106 of 07.04.2026, the Director of the National  
Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD), Sofia**

## **STATEMENT**

Written by: **Assoc. Prof. Stefka Krumova Ivanova, PhD**

Head of National Reference Laboratory "Measles, Mumps, Rubella", Department  
Virology, National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD),  
member of a scientific jury, determined by order No. 106 of 07.04.2026 of the  
Director of the NCIPD, Sofia

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

I declare that I have no co-authored publications and no conflict of interest with the  
candidate and I am not a related person, in the sense of para 1, item 3 and 5 of the Development  
of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.

### **1. Submitted materials for the competition.**

The materials provided for my opinion are from Lili Rahamimova-Marinova, PhD, MD  
the only candidate participating in the competition. The documents are in accordance with the  
requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (part 3,  
items 24-26), Implementing Regulation for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic  
of Bulgaria, and art. 50, para. 1 and para. 2 from the Regulations on the terms and conditions for  
acquiring scientific degrees and occupying academic positions at NCIPD.

The materials for the competition are excellently systematized and include: a CV; copies of  
diplomas for completed higher education - Medicine, Master's degree, specialty "Public Health  
and Health Management", Doctor's degree; acquired medical specialty "Epidemiology of  
Infectious Diseases"; list/reference of scientific publications; author's reference for scientific

contributions in the specialty; participation in foreign and national scientific forums; reference for participation in scientific projects; author's reference for citations and Impact Factor; table with the required points covered by group of indicators, according to the national criteria for acquiring the academic position "Associate Professor"; reference for citations; reference for teaching employment; in addition, a medical certificate and a criminal record certificate of the candidate.

## **2. Analysis of the candidate's professional and academic development**

Dr. Lili Marinova was born on February 16, 1968, in Sofia. She graduated from the Medical University of Sofia in 1995 with a degree in Medicine; in 2005, she obtained a medical specialty in Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases at the Medical University of Sofia, and in 2012, she obtained the Doctorate at the NCIPD, with the topic of her dissertation: "Epidemiology of Measles in Bulgaria in the Conditions of Elimination and Opportunities for Effective Surveillance".

## **3. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific works.**

The scientific works of Dr. Lili Marinova provided to me for my opinion are precisely structured, including summarized lists and comprehensive supporting evidence. They cover the candidate's scientific and research activities during her work at the NCIPD and the Sofia Regional Health Inspectorate (SRHI), namely: 90 scientific publications, of which 43 scientific articles published in full; 39 reports and summaries published in scientific publications; 1 manual for medical specialists, published in co-authorship; 1 independent monograph and 6 - other articles published in non-scientific publications. Of the listed publications, 5 articles and 3 scientific reports were submitted in a competition for the award of the Doctor's degree and are not subject to review in the current competition. From the total reference, 11 articles have been published in publications that are refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information, of which 7 are in international scientific journals with an Impact Factor. Dr. Marinova is the first or second author in a total of 53 of all publications, which indicates her leading role in their preparation. The total estimated Impact Factor of the candidate is 27.079 (9.945 after obtaining the PhD). The presented citations of publications in international systems, including Scopus or Web of Science, are 236. This indisputably confirms the importance of Dr. Marinova's scientific works and their recognition by international teams and renowned journals in the field of epidemiology and medicine.

## **4. Contributions from scientific research activity.**

The main directions in Dr. Marinova's scientific work focus on the study and surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (measles, rubella, mumps) in Bulgaria, vaccines,

immunoprophylaxis, and health communication. Thematically, they are grouped into three categories, namely:

- Study on the epidemiology of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). Surveillance of MMR. Elimination strategy for measles and rubella - study of the factors modeling the epidemic process, the factors for nosocomial spread of the measles virus; study on a complex of socio-economic factors as a cause of complications in measles patients in the period 2009-2010.
- Epidemiological surveillance of respiratory infections: influenza, legionellosis and Legionnaires' disease, whooping cough, Respiratory syncytial infection, SARS
- Epidemiology and surveillance of other acute infectious diseases
- Vaccines and immunoprophylaxis. Health communication. Immunization information systems and registries - formulation of specific solutions to improve the immunization strategy in the country.

#### **5. Evaluation of teaching activity.**

Dr. Lili Marinova, as part of the staff of the NCIPD and SRHI, is an established lecturer with proven experience in preparing medical students and specialist epidemiologists in the country for their postgraduate training. In parallel, she is also a lecturer and participates in examination committees at the Yordanka Filaretova Medical College, Sofia, preparing students in the discipline of "Epidemiology", specialty "Public Health Inspector".

#### **6. General assessment of the applicant's compliance with the mandatory requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act.**

According to the provided table with the covered required points by group of indicators of the national criteria for acquiring the academic position of "Associate Professor", Dr. Lili Marinova fully meets the specified criteria. The required minimum is 400 points, and the candidate collected 482.37 points. This, in combination with her active teaching and impressive scientific activity, absolutely confirms the candidate's suitability for occupying the academic position of "Associate Professor".

#### **7. Conclusion.**

The assessment of the overall career development, scientific research, organizational-methodological and teaching activities of Dr. Lili Rahamimova-Marinova shows that the candidate fully meets the criteria of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the requirements of the Regulations for the Implementation of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act of the NCIPD for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Epidemiology". Her professional

path is an example of consistent, purposeful, and in-depth development in the field of epidemiology. My opinion is that Dr. Lili Marinova is a well-established scientist and successful teacher with great potential for future scientific research growth in the field of medicine and epidemiology. She is an established specialist in the field of surveillance of infectious diseases in the country, whose valuable experience and competencies have been proven in managing several epidemic situations important for public health, including during the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

I am pleased to propose to the esteemed jury to select Dr. Lili Rahamimova-Marinova to occupy the academic position of "Associate Professor" in "Epidemiology" at the NCIPD.

Signature:

Associate Professor Stefka Krumova Ivanova, PhD