

## OPINION

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svilen Simeonov, IOCCP-BAS

member of a scientific jury in a competition for an academic position “Associate Professor” professional field 4.3. Biological sciences (Microbiology).

This opinion was prepared based on the decision of the meeting of the scientific jury from 24.07.2020 according to announced in SG, issue 47 / 22.05.2020 competition for the academic position of “associate professor” in a professional field 4.3. Biological sciences (Microbiology) for the needs of the Department „Infectious microbiology“, Laboratory "Molecular Biology of Micobacteria". The only candidate in the announced competition is Assist. Prof. Dr.Violeta Valcheva Ruseva.

It complies with the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for its implementation (RAPRASRB), the Regulations of BAS and the Regulations of Institute of Microbiology-BAS.

### **1. Details of the candidate**

Assist. prof. dr.Violeta Valcheva Ruseva obtained her master's degree from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ", specialty “Microbiology and microbiological control ”. In the period 2004-2005 she worked as a Biologist-specialist at Institute of Microbiology-BAS. Subsequently, she was enrolled as a doctoral student at the same institute, where in 2009 she obtained her PhD in microbiology. She continued her scientific career as an Assist. Prof. at Institute of Microbiology-BAS to date. Assist. Prof. Dr.Violeta Valcheva Ruseva is a recipient of three awards - Best Scientific Publication of a Young Bulgarian Microbiologist for 2008, "Foundation Prof. Dr. Stefan Angelov" and High Scientific Achievements of a Young Researcher, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Section "Microbiology" for 2009 and 2011. She has conducted a number of short-term specializations abroad at Central Children's Hospital, Beijing, China; Pasteur Institute, Guadeloupe, France and Pasteur Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia.

### **2. Research activity**

In the competition Assist. Prof. Dr.Violeta Valcheva Ruseva participates with **24** publications, **7** as a first author. **15** of the publications are in international journals with impact factor; **1** in national journals with impact factor (IF); **3** in national journals without impact factor (IF), but with SJR; **1** in national journals without impact factor (IF) and without SJR; **2** book chapters; **1** in proceedings of national forums with foreign participation, published in full text. **6** of the scientific publications in international journals with impact factor are included in the indicator „B.4: Habilitation work“, **3** of the publications are in quartile Q1, **1** in Q2 and **2** in Q3. In **3** of the publications included in the indicator „B.4: Habilitation work“ Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva is first author.

The scientific publications of Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva have been cited 241 times to date, h index 12. She is a principal investigator of five scientific projects and a team member in 9.

The main research interests of Dr. Ruseva are in the area of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases. The main directions in her research work are:

- 1) molecular epidemiology, phylogenetics and evolution of micobacteria including DNA samples from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex* (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* u *Mycobacterium bovis*)
- 2) Synthesis and development of new compounds towards antituberculosis drugs discovery

The presented habilitation work is divided into 5 main thematic areas as follows:

1. Identification and molecular epidemiology of tuberculosis in animals
2. Prevalence of paratuberculosis in wild animals in Bulgaria
3. Molecular epidemiology, drug resistance, phylogenetics and evolution of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Bulgaria and around the world
4. Establishment of L-forms in mycobacteria and staphylococci
5. Synthesis and development of new compounds with antituberculosis activity

For each of the thematic areas, the candidate has clearly defined the main scientific contributions, and undoubtedly has a significant role in their achievement.

### **Opinions, recommendations and notes**

My remarks to the applicant are insignificant and in no way detract from her achievements. They refer only to the organization of the materials for the competition. It is unclear why in document 12 "Information on the implementation of the minimum requirements according of ZRASRB" are included only part of the scientific publications with which Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva participates in the competition. The full list of publications appears only in document 13 "Reference for fulfillment of additional requirements of Institute of Microbiology-BAS, which in my opinion should only briefly present whether the applicant meets the additional specific requirements. In document 14 "Reference for scientific contributions\_Habilitation reference" Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva described jointly all her scientific contributions. In my view in this document the candidate should clearly separate the scientific contributions in the 6 publications presented under indicator „B.4: Habilitation work“ from the other scientific achievements.

### **Conclusion**

The main contributions of the presented scientific papers clearly outline the importance of the research work of the candidate and characterize Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva as a competent and established researcher.

After the evaluation of the documents, I am convinced that Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva fully meets all the requirements of Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRB), the Rules for the Application of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, the Rules of BAS and with the Rules set at the Institute of Microbiology-BAS.

Given the aforementioned, I give my positive evaluation and recommend Assist. Prof. Dr. Ruseva for academic position “Associate Professor” in professional field 4.3. Biological sciences (Microbiology).

14.09.2020

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/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svilen Simeonov/