

To  
the President of the Scientific Commission  
nominated by Order № I-84/01.07.2020 of the  
Director of the Institute of Microbiology - BAS

## **O P I N I O N**

Call for academic position ‘Associate Professor’, published in State Journal N: 47 from 22.05.2020, in the field of 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific speciality ‘Microbiology’ for the needs of the laboratory ‘Molecular Biology of Mycobacteria’, Department of ‘Infectious Microbiology’, Institute of Microbiology – BAS.

**Reviewer:** Prof. Stefan Vacev Panaiotov, PhD, DSc

**Scientific speciality:** Microbiology

**Institution:** NCIPD - Sofia

In the call for academic position 'Associate Professor' in the field of academic education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific speciality ‘Microbiology’ published in State Journal N: 47 from 22.05.2020 there is one candidate – Assistant Professor Violeta Valcheva Ruseva, PhD from the Institute of Microbiology – BAS.

I declare that I have no conflict of interests within the meaning of art. 4, par. 5 from the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria. I have one common publication with Violeta Ruseva, PhD from 2010.

This OPINION is prepared according to the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria, and Chapter IV, section III, according to the Regulation for conditions and procedures for assuming the academic appointment ‘Associate Professor’ at the Institute of Microbiology – BAS.

The submitted documents are prepared according the Regulation for application of the Law for Development of the Academic Staff in Bulgaria.

### **I. Analysis of candidate’s career profile.**

Assistant Professor Violeta Ruseva, PhD graduated in 2005 with Master’s degree in ‘Microbiology and microbiological control’ from the Faculty of Biology, Sofia University. From 2005 till 2009 she is a PhD student at the Institute of Microbiology by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. Since 2009 she is Assistant Professor in the Department of ‘Infectious microbiology’ at the Institute of Microbiology. At present she is working in the laboratory for ‘Molecular biology of mycobacteria’.

## **II. General description of the submitted materials for the call.**

In the call Assis. Prof. Ruseva presents 24 research articles with total impact factor of 40,259 that received more than 240 citations, participation in 14 research projects and 44 participations in national and international scientific meetings with posters or talks.

### **Presents:**

- Author's summary of the PhD dissertation in Bulgarian and English,
- 15 publications in international journals with impact factor,
- 1 publication in international journal without impact factor, but with SJR,
- 1 publication in national journal with impact factor,
- 3 publications in national journals with impact factor, but with SJR,
- 1 publication in national journal without impact factor and without SJR,
- 2 publications as book chapters,
- 1 publication as full text presented at national meeting with international participation,
- Information for citations– 241,
- Information for congress participations or other scientific meetings – 44,
- Information for participations in national or international research projects – 14,
- General information for the overall career development of the candidate.

## **III. Evaluation of candidate's scientific activity and overall academic career.**

The overall scientific activity of Assoc. Prof. Ruseva includes 24 research publications and 44 participations at scientific meetings with posters or talks. Hirsch index is 13. During her research career she demonstrated gradual improvements and increasing publication activity. The candidate worked mainly in four research fields:

- Identification and molecular epidemiology of tuberculosis in animals,
- Diffusion of paratuberculosis in wild animals in Bulgaria,
- Molecular epidemiology, drug susceptibility, phylogenetics and evolution of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Bulgaria and the world,
- Identification of L-forms in micobacteria and staphylococci.

Assist. Prof. Ruseva demonstrated excellent scientific activity in communicating her results among the scientific community with the participation in 14 national and international research project. In 7 of them she is Project Leader, exceeding the minimal requirements for this indicator.

## **IV. Evaluation of the publications presented in the call for 'Associate Professor'.**

Significant scientific contributions of Assist. Prof. Violeta Ruseva are associated with the molecular diagnosis, identification, drug susceptibility and epidemiology of tuberculosis in humans and animals.

## **V. Reflection (citations) of the candidate's publications in the national and international literature (publication image).**

All publications, citations and participations in scientific events and research projects reflect the active participation and significant contribution of the candidate in the development of the molecular diagnosis, identification, drug susceptibility and epidemiology of tuberculosis in humans and animals during the last 15 years in Bulgaria. The number of 241 citations of her publications significantly exceeds the minimal requirements for the position of 'Associate Professor'.

#### **VI. Overall, qualitative assessment of candidate's research activity including scientific supervision of students and master students**

During the last 15 years Assist. Prof. Ruseva gives examples for gradual and increasing scientific career development. She gives evidences for active participation in supervision of three Master students for preparation of diploma projects.

#### **VII. Critical remarks and recommendations.**

I have no remarks or recommendations to the candidate. All documents are prepared according to the requirements.

#### **VIII. A general assessment of the candidate's compliance with the mandatory rules and the mandatory quantitative criteria and scientific indicators according to the Law for the Development of the Scientific Staff in Bulgaria.**

The documents presented by the candidate fulfill all scientific indicators according to the Law for the Development of the Scientific Staff in Bulgaria for appointment to the academic position 'Associate Professor'.

**Conclusion:** The candidate Assist. Prof. Violeta Ruseva meets the mandatory and specific conditions and scientific criteria for appointment to academic position 'Associate Professor' according to the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Scientific Staff in Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application of the Institute of Microbiology 'Stefan Angelov' – BAS.

I convincingly give my **positive evaluation** to the candidate for the appointment to academic position 'Associate Professor' in the field of academic education 4. Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Informatics, Professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences, Scientific speciality 'Microbiology'.

Opinion prepared by: Prof. Stefan Panaiotov, PhD, DSc