

# STATEMENT

From Professor Milen Ivanov Georgiev, PhD  
Laboratory of Metabolomics, The Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – Bulgarian  
Academy of Sciences (BAS)

Regarding a competition for the academic position professor, professional area 7.3. Pharmacy for the needs of Department Virology, Laboratory of Biological response modifiers and pathogenesis of viral infections.

The present statement is prepared in agreement with the order number I-52 from 28.04.2023 of the Head of the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – BAS (IMicB), following a decision of the Scientific council of the IMicB with Protocol number 45 from 27.04.2023, announce in the State gazette no 21 from 07.03.2023.

**Applicant(s):** Assoc. Prof. Milka Milcheva Mileva, PhD – the only candidate.

The set of documents agrees with the formal requirements of Chapter IV, Section IV. Terms and orders for acquisition of academic position “Professor” from the Rules for terms and orders for acquisition of scientific degrees and occupation of academic positions of the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and contains all necessary documents for evaluation.

I, personally, know the applicant well; I have no joint publications with her and hence have no conflict of interest to declare, according to the applicable law.

## **Short biographical data and characteristics of scientific interests of the candidate**

Assoc. Prof. Milka Mileva, PhD was born on January 08, 1961. She obtained a higher education diploma (1993) in the discipline chemistry from “Paisii Hilendarski” University of Plovdiv. In 2002 she successfully defended a PhD thesis at the Department of Medical physics and biophysics of Medical University of Sofia. Her career went through all the steps of typical scientific development – specialist, chemist, assistant professor and at present associated professor within IMicB – BAS.

Since 2020 till now, assoc. prof. Mileva headed the Laboratory of Biological response modifiers and pathogenesis of viral infections.

## **Evaluation of the submitted set of documents**

Assoc. Prof. M. Mileva submitted 41 scientific papers (13 under criterion B and 28 under group of indicators G) for the current competition call. The publication record of assoc. prof. Mileva fully corresponds with the requirements of IMicB – BAS for promotion of the academic staff.

It is worth of pointing out that assoc. prof. Mileva has published some of her data in Q1-positioned international journals such as Biology, Antioxidants, International Journal of Molecular Sciences and etc.

## **Main fundamental and applied contributions**

The scientific activity and contributions of assoc. prof. Milka Mileva, PhD are focused in the following domains:

1. Oxidative damage and the role of antioxidants in the prevention/therapy of diseases related to oxidative stress in experimental *in vivo* models.
2. Evaluation of the pharmacological potential of plant extracts and technological products (obtained by water-steam distillation of essential oils from Bulgarian oil-bearing roses and their ingredients) in experimental *in vitro* and *in vivo* models.

It should be noted that the set of publications, submitted to the present professor's call, are fully in line with the call's domain, namely 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional direction 7.3. Pharmacy.

According to the self-stated reference sheet for the original scientific contributions of assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD, 6 contributions are listed, with whose wording I fully agree. The direction for her future work is also duly described.

### **Reflection of candidate's publications in national and international literature**

The scientific record of assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD appeared in reputable scientific journals, which fully explains the number of citations received – in total 716. The H-index of assoc. prof. Mileva is 15 (according to the submitted set of documents).

Assoc. Prof. Mileva, PhD serves as a chair of the General assembly of IMicB – BAS (since 2017) and is a member of its Scientific Council (since 2020).

She took part/coordinated 13 scientific projects with significant funding and substantial income for the host institutions.

### **Teaching activity**

The teaching activity of assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD for the period 2019-2022 is expressed in 800 hours of lectures at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Medical University of Sofia and the Southwest University "Neofit Rilski" along with 240 hours of exercises. During the period 2005-2009, assoc. prof. Mileva was also a lecturer at the "Yordanka Filaretova" Medical College. It should also be noted the supervision of four doctoral students, of whom two already defended their theses, one is ready for the final defense and one is in ongoing procedure. In this regard, the preparation of 4 textbooks and teaching aids makes a rather pleasant impression.

### **Compliance of the candidate with the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff (ADAS) in the Republic of Bulgaria**

As self-stated, in the reference sheet for the compliance of the ADAS requirements along with these of the IMicB-BAS, assoc. prof. Mileva's, PhD record exceeds both national as well as specific requirements for promotion of the academic position "professor" as follows: while the required points by group of indicators A is 50 p., B is 100 p., G is 220 p., D is 120 p. and E is 150 p., assoc. prof. Mileva has submitted, 50 p., 111.8 p., 262.8 p., 750 p., and 273 p., respectively, which in total account to 1782.3 p. (or 1567.6 p. when calculation is made for the domain of 7. Healthcare and Sport), while 640 p. are required.

According to the self-stated reference sheet for the specific requirements the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – BAS's Rules, assoc. prof. M. Mileva's record again exceeds the requirements set – 716 citations (while 400 are required for professor position), publications cumulative impact factor (IF) of 80.85 (while the required cumulative IF is 40) and H-index of 15 (while 10 is required). Assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD coordinated 6 scientific projects (5 national and one international) and supervised 4 PhD students (two of them successfully defended their thesis, one ready for final defense and the last one is presently ongoing).

**Critical comments** – I noticed some inaccuracies in the set of documents, which I – however – do not find essential.

**Personal opinion of the reviewer about the candidate**

I, personally, know assoc. prof. Mileva since many years (at least 10). In my opinion, she is well-established competent and authoritative scientist, from whom less experienced scientists – from the Department of Virology and the entire Institute of Microbiology – have lots to learn.

**CONCLUSION**

The thorough evaluation of the scientific activity of assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD reveals that is it entirely within the area of the present call, as her achievements are with significant fundamental ground, as well as with a clearly outlined practical application. The scientific work and teaching activities exceed the requirements of the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADAS), the Rules for ADAS application, as well as the specific Rules of BAS and the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – BAS. The presented set of documents and reported results are in agreement with the specific requirements the Stephan Angeloff Institute of Microbiology – BAS’s Rules. Taking all above into account, along with my personal opinion, I consider that assoc. prof. Mileva, PhD is established scientist with a well-defined scientific profile.

As a member of the scientific jury and taking all above into account, I express **my positive assessment and confidently recommend to the esteemed scientific jury to vote positively on awarding the academic position “professor”, in professional area 7.3. Pharmacy, to assoc. prof. Milka M. Mileva, PhD for the needs of Department Virology, Laboratory of Biological response modifiers and pathogenesis of viral infections.**

June 06, 2023  
Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Prepared by: .....  
/Prof. Milen I. Georgiev, PhD/