



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PALERMO

DIPARTIMENTO
DI MATEMATICA
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To:

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Selection Committee

SUBJECT: Letter of Endorsement for Prof. Nikolay V. Vitanov.

Dear Selection Committee of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of endorsement for Prof. Nikolay Vitanov's candidature to join your Academy as a full member.

I first met Nikolay on the occasion of the 14th edition of the Central European Workshop on Quantum Optics that I organized in Palermo in 2007. Prior to this event, I knew Nikolay through his top-level scientific production. The meeting in Palermo established a direct and strong scientific relationship between us, which has become increasingly consolidated over time. In fact, later I have invited Nikolay to Palermo and visited him, setting a fruitful collaboration.

Over the years, I have had several opportunities to appreciate Nikolay's growth in human and scientific skills that today make him an ideal candidate to become a full member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Based on my experience of scientific and personal collaboration with Nikolay, I would like to focus on three major skills that make him a tremendous asset for any academic institution, indeed.

Nikolay is an excellent scientist known and appreciated by both experimental and theoretical Quantum Optics scholars all over the world. His works are highly cited and not few of them are unanimously considered seminal studies in the research field. What is particularly striking about Nikolay is his vast physical and mathematical culture, which also means knowledge of related literature. Nikolay is a passionate researcher, gifted with a refined intuition also capable of grasping research themes and problems not related to his current research activity.

This last aspect is the key to understanding Nikolay's stature as a group leader. He is a leader, generous and ready to share the framework of his projects, giving his group members all the opportunities to train their imagination and hone their technical knowledge. In addition to demonstrating organizational skills in the management of his research group, Nikolay has been able to build an international network of scientific contacts and collaborations all over the world, and in Europe in particular. He has been able to manage research funds from various sources, raising the role of his group to an international level. I was thus not surprised by his appointment as vice provost for research at his university. The seriousness with which Nikolay undertakes his commitments has borne fruit also on this occasion, in which he has developed ideas and methods for an optimal use of the human and economic resources available for research at the University of Sofia. His appointment renewal testifies to the quality of the work carried out.

Many of my students, after graduation, were welcomed into Nikolay's group and were very satisfied for both the scientific and financial support received. Recently, following a research period spent in Palermo, Nikolay welcomed a master student of mine, who had a great and scientifically profitable experience in his group. Nikolay is a first-class teacher and mentor, driven by the conviction that those with responsibility for organizing research must find adequate institutional ways to initiate serious and talented young people to research in a group.

In summary, Nikolay is an excellent scientist who has developed extraordinary skills to contribute with method and imagination to determining structural solutions aimed at optimizing human and economic resources for academic research. I strongly believe that Nikolay, as a full member of your Academy, would be a key person to ensure a continued effective plan for recruitment of young talents and a stable network of scientific researchers in Bulgaria.

I therefore believe that Nikolay possesses extraordinary personal and scientific qualities which make him a desirable full member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Palermo, June 13, 2021

Your sincerely

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