



OPINION

Based on the materials submitted for the competition for the academic position of
"Associate Professor",
at the Department of **Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Science,**
in the Higher Education Area 6: **Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine,**
Professional Field 6.4: **Veterinary Medicine,**
Scientific Specialty: **Animal Hygiene and Organization of Veterinary Services,**
in the discipline **"Nutrition and Agronomy",**
for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, with a **document submission deadline of two (2) months**
from the announcement in **State Gazette No. 28/01.04.2025.**

Competition Code: VM-AsP-0325-160

Candidate: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Hristina Stalineva Neshovska

Reviewer: Prof. Bogdan Yanev Aminkov, PhD, D.V.Sc., Professor in Professional Field 6.4
Veterinary Medicine,
University of Forestry – Sofia, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

I. Brief biography of the candidate:

Chief Assistant Prof. Dr. Hristina Stalineva Neshovska was born on December 23, 1987, in Sofia, Bulgaria.

In 2005, she completed secondary education at the Bulgarian General Education School "Hristo Botev" in Bratislava. In 2011, she graduated with a Master's degree in Veterinary Medicine from Trakia University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, in Stara Zagora.

Between 2011 and 2014, she worked as a general practitioner at St. Antim Veterinary Clinic, Sofia. From July 23, 2014, to June 8, 2015, she worked as a Chief Inspector in "Risk Analysis and Food Control" at the Regional Directorate for Food Safety – Sofia. From October 5, 2015, to October 26, 2018, she was Chief Inspector in the Department of Integrated Prevention, Directorate for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Regional Health Inspectorate – Sofia.

In 2018, after being the successful candidate, she joined the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Science as an Assistant, and progressed through the following academic positions:

- from October 29, 2018, to October 17, 2022 - Assistant
- from October 18, 2022, to present – Chief Assistant

In 2021, Dr. Neshovska successfully defended a Doctoral dissertation on the topic: "Study

of the Impact of HPP Processing on the Quality and Safety of Raw Dog Food”. As a result, she was awarded the PhD degree in the scientific specialty "Animal Hygiene and Organization of Veterinary Services".

Dr. Neshovska has presented certificates for the following languages:

- English – B1,
- Slovak – C2,
- Czech – C1.

II. Evaluation of Teaching Activity:

Chief Assistant Prof. Neshovska has 7,9 years of teaching and research experience. During this time (from October 29, 2018, to the present date), she has taught labs, seminars, and practicums in the following disciplines:

- Nutrition and Agronomy
- Quality and Safety of Animal Feed
- Veterinary Hygiene and Animal Husbandry Technologies
- Public Veterinary Medicine and Legislation
- Ecology

During the same period, she has also engaged in research activities.

III. Evaluation of Scientific, Applied, and Publishing Activity:

For this competition, Chief Assistant Prof. Hristina Neshovska has listed the following:

- 1 monograph
- 1 book based on her dissertation
- 18 articles, of which:
 - 4 in international journals; 2 in proceedings from international scientific forums; and 12 in national journals
 - 17 are in foreign languages; and 1 is in Bulgarian
 - 3 are sole authored; 1 is with one co-author; 12 are with two co-authors; and 1 is with three or more co-authors.

Her scientific publications are grouped as follows:

1. Group G7 – Articles and papers published in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals (Scopus and/or Web of Science):

Dr. Neshovska has listed 11 publications in this category, all in English.

- 9 are published in *Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine*
- 1 is in *Bulgarian Journal of Animal Husbandry*
- 1 is in *Zhivotnovadni Nauki*

She is the sole author of 3, and a lead author of 2.

2. Group G8 – Articles in non-indexed peer-reviewed journals or edited collective volumes:

Dr. Neshovska has listed 7 articles, she is a as lead author of 5 of them. 1 is in Bulgarian. They are published in journals such as:

- Int J Vet Sci Anim Husbandry
- Union of Compound Feed Manufacturers, and
- International Journal

3. D13 Citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in internationally renowned scientific information databases, or in monographs and collective volumes:

Chief Assistant Dr. Neshovska has listed 2 scientific works, cited five times. In these articles, she is listed third among the authors.

4. D15 Citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific peer review:

Dr. Neshovska has listed 1 scientific work in this section. The total number of citations is 6.

IV. Contributions in the candidate's works (scientific, scientific-applied, applied):

In this section, the candidate lists 9 scientific contributions, 5 are scientifically applied contributions, and 3 applied contributions.

1. Original contributions:

1.1. An in-depth study on raw dog food processed under high pressure was conducted. It resulted in an extension of the shelf life of raw dog food to up to 30 days when stored at 0–40°C, without changes in the quality indicators. This ensures the safety and health of consumers.

1.2. When dogs are fed raw food that has undergone HPP (High Pressure Processing) for a period of 45 days, significantly better digestibility of the raw food is observed compared to dry food.

2. Scientifically applied contributions:

2.1. The processing of raw dog food (HPP processing) does not cause changes in the organoleptic properties, except for color (a slight discoloration is observed).

2.2. While studying the concentrations of heavy metals in various commercially significant fish species from the Bulgarian part of the Black Sea, Chief Assistant Neshovska and her team found low levels of heavy metals in most of the tested samples, and higher levels of manganese and zinc. They propose that these elements be included in legislative regulations.

Chief Assistant Hristina Neshovska has not participated in research, scientific-applied, educational, or infrastructure projects. She has not listed any publications in foreign peer-reviewed journals with impact factor.

V. Conclusion:

Based on the report on the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position of "Associate Professor" in Higher Education Area 6 "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine," Professional Field 6.4 "Veterinary Medicine," it is concluded that Chief Assistant Dr. Hristina Neshovska accumulates more than the minimum number of points required to participate in this competition.

Based on the above-stated, I recommend that the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury vote in favor of appointing Chief Assistant Dr. Hristina Stalinova Neshovska to the academic position of Associate Professor in Higher Education Area 6: Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4: Veterinary Medicine, in the scientific specialty "Animal Hygiene and Organization of Veterinary Services", in the discipline "Nutrition and Agronomy", in the competition announced by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the State Gazette, issue no. 28/01.04.2025.

I cast my positive vote.

August 7, 2025, Sofia

Opinion prepared by:

Prof. Bogdan Yanev Aminkov, PhD, D.V.Sc.