

## Opinion

on the materials for participation in a competition for an academic position „Associate professor“, field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty „Animal pathology“, in the discipline „Internal non-infectious diseases“ for the purpose of Department „Internal non-infectious diseases, pathology and pharmacology“, announced in State Gazette issue. 28/01.04.2025 and on webpage of University of Forestry at **17.03.2025**, with procedure code **VM-AsP-0325-161**.

**Candidate for participation in the competition: Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov**, lecturer at the Department “Internal non-infectious diseases, pathology and pharmacology”, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UF-Sofia.

**Prepared by: Prof. Dr. Vasil Kostadinov Manov, DVM**, University of Forestry, Sofia, field of higher education 6.0. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", member of the scientific jury, according to order ЗПЦ-249/05.05.2025 of the Rector of the University of Forestry.

### 1. Brief biographical data of the candidate

Atanas Georgiev Pankov was born on December 22, 1969 in Elhovo town, where he graduated from the "Kliment Ohridski" High School. In 1997, he graduated as a veterinarian at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Trakia University, Stara Zagora. After a competition in 1998, he started working as an assistant in the Department of "Internal non-infectious diseases, pathology and pharmacology" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry. He defended his dissertation in 2018 for educational and scientific degree "Doctor" (PhD), and since 2019 he has been a chief assistant in the department. In 2023, he acquired the qualification "Protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific and educational purposes".

### 2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with those required in the Statute for Development of the Academician Staff at UF



Chief Assist. Prof. Atanas Pankov has submitted all the documents required for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". They have been prepared according to the requirements of the professional field, according to the Statute for Development of the Academician Staff at UF

### **3. Assessment of teaching activities of the applicant**

Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov participates in conducting practical exercises and seminars in Internal non-infectious diseases, Propaedeutics of internal non-infectious diseases, Cardiology, Game diseases and Mobile clinic, both in Bulgarian and English languages. He is actively involved in semester exams, in the practical part of the State Exam, as well as in the evaluation of the reports from the pre-graduate internships. For the last five years, his academic workload is 1765.3 hours of teaching in Bulgarian and 482.5 hours - of teaching in English.

The candidate is a co-author of two textbooks: "Handbook of the Veterinarian Starting His Own Business", UF-Sofia, 2012 and "Handbook of the Veterinarian", LTU, Sofia, 2014. He participated in the preparation of the curriculum "Cardiology and Diseases of the Vascular System", intended for training students in Bulgarian and English.

Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov participated as a trainer in an individual specialization in "Veterinary Dermatology" of Dr. Ivelina Vacheva at the Center for Continuing Education.

### **4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied scientific and publication activities**

For participation in the competition for the academic degree "Associate Professor", Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov has submitted **25 scientific papers** that do not repeat those for the acquisition of the PhD degree. The total number of points received by the candidate in the indicator groups is **485.68** with a minimum national requirement of **400** points.

By indicator 1 (**group A**) Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov has **50** points out of 50 required for a dissertation work for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree "Doctor" on the topic "Comparative M-mode echocardiographic and radiographic studies in myxomatous valvular degeneration (MVD) depending on the presence or absence of pulmonary edema (Diploma No. JITY-OHC-2018-109, date: 31.10.2018).

For indicator 2 (**group B**) - 0 points out of 0 required.



For indicators from **group B**, a habilitation work is presented - a monograph on the topic: **Pankov, A.** Comparative echocardiographic studies of dogs with degenerative myxomatous valvular disease (DMVD) depending on the stage of the disease and (or) the sex of the animals. Monograph, 145 pages. Publisher: Intel Entrans, Sofia, 2024. (ISBN: 978-619-7703-74-0), for which there is **100** points out of 100 required.

On the indicators from **group G** – **270.68** out of 200 required. Of these, 252.11 were obtained from 15 scientific publications in publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information, and the rest - from articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review and in edited collective volumes.

The number of points that the candidate collected on the indicators from **group D** is **65** out of 50 required, which are obtained from 8 citations of 8 publications.

From the presented information, it can be summarized that on the required indicators, Chief Asst. Pankov fulfills the minimum national requirements and those of the LTU for scientific and teaching activity, necessary for occupying the academic degree of Associate Professor.

#### **4.1 Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects**

The candidate has participated in 6 scientific research projects funded by University of Forestry under Regulation No. 9. The candidate is the leader of two of them: "Study of some hematological and biochemical indicators in animals with experimentally induced diabetes, treated with various drugs" (НИС-ЖТУ, 100/07.04.2005) and "Clinical-hematological, immunological and electrocardiographic studies in dogs fed with granulated food "REBEL PLUS" (НИС-ОД-1236/2022).

#### **4.2 Characteristics of published scientific results**

The total number of scientific works of Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov is **30**, of which 5 are related to the dissertation for the acquisition of **PhD degree** (including dissertation work and abstract). In the competition for academician degree "Associate Professor" he participates with **one monograph** and **24 publications**. Publications in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings - Web of Science and SCOPUS are 15 publications. Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or in edited collective volumes are 9 publications., 6 of which are in collections of participations with reports in international forums, and 3 - in national ones. Most of



the articles are in Bulgarian (15 pcs.), and 10 - in English. Eight publications are independent, and in one he has one co-author.

The monograph is written on 145 pages. and includes 189 citations. It is a valuable, up-to-date work that presents data on patients examined echocardiographically and radiographically for myxomatous valvular degeneration (MVD), depending on the presence or absence of pulmonary edema. This summarized information on the diagnosis of the disease can be used in veterinary practice and in student education.

#### **4.3 Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citations)**

The citations in refereed and indexed scientific journals, series and conference proceedings - Web of Science and SCOPUS are 2, and in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes - 6.

#### **4.4 Contributions to the works of the candidate (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)**

The areas in which the candidate works are: cardiology, biochemical, hematological and toxicological studies. The main part of the studies conducted are in the field of cardiology and in particular the myxomatous valvular disease DMVD - one of the most common diseases in the canine population.

The monograph presents evidence that the division of dogs by sex leads to linear correlations with a higher correlation coefficient between systolic and diastolic indices, determining the degree of (DMVD) and the dimensions of the left ventricle and left atrium, determined by echocardiography. In this way, a different approach is presented in studies related to the progression of the disease, with the sex of the studied dogs being a leading factor in its monitoring. The main trends in the linear correlations and, above all, the differences in their degrees when dividing dogs by sex are studied.

The more significant original scientific contributions derived from the publications are again related to the studies of DMVD in dogs, as well as in calves. A number of experiments of a scientific-applied nature have also been conducted. Original scientific-applied contributions are the studies of the food "REBEL PLUS", containing *Cannabis sativa*, as well as the studies of the effect of the probiotic Probikan (Пробикан) in rabbits.



## 5. Assessment of personal contribution

The candidate's personal contribution is undeniable. He participated in the competition with 8 publications as single author.

## 6. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have no critical comments on the materials submitted in the application. I recommend that Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov publish his scientific achievements in English in journals with an impact factor, which is important for the higher citation of the works. I believe that with his experience the candidate has an undeniable potential for participation in national and international projects, as well as in writing textbooks.

## 7. Personal impressions

I know Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov as responsible, hardworking, precise and dedicated in his work. He is a respected lecturer by students and the academic community. I believe that Dr. Pankov possesses all the necessary personal and professional qualities to hold the academic position of Associate Professor.

## 8. Conclusion

Chief Assist. Prof. Pankov convincingly participated in the competition with a completely sufficient scientific output, as well as with his overall teaching and expert activity. The results of his research have been published in a number of prestigious journals and have real practical applicability. He is an experienced and erudite researcher, with high competence in the field of Internal non-infectious diseases and without a doubt fully meets the criteria for holding the academic position of Associate professor, set out in the Act for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Forestry for its implementation.

All this gives me reason to confidently support the candidacy of **Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov** for "**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**" in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", professional direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine.

24.07.2025

/Prof. Vasil Manov, PhD/