

Review

by Prof. Dr. Dinko Nedev Dinev, DVM,
retired, from Stara Zagora, Han Tervel Street No. 52, entrance O, apt. 16, member of the scientific jury and reviewer for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" for the needs of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, scientific direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Surgery, Radiology, and Physiotherapy of Animals", announced in the State Gazette /SG issue 18 of 01.03, 2024 /

Procedure code WM-AsP-0224-127

Only one candidate applied for participation in the competition - Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov from the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia. All documents provided in the procedure, as indicated in the Application, fully comply with the requirements of Article 53 of the Higher Education Act of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations of the University of Forestry, therefore the candidate is admitted to the competition.

Brief Biographical Information and Professional Career of the Candidate

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov was born on December 15, 1989, in Stara Zagora. During the period 2009-2015, he studied veterinary medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia, and after successfully completing with an overall average of 5.22 and 5.61 from the state exams, he obtained

the professional qualification of a veterinary doctor. He worked for 8 months at a small animal veterinary clinic "Ami Vet 2010 Ltd." in Sofia as a veterinary doctor.

In 2016, after successfully passing a competitive exam, he was selected as an "assistant" in veterinary surgery at the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

In 2019, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Study of the influence of various regenerative therapies in sheep and dogs with osteoarthritis" and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor". In 2020, he was promoted to "associate professor".

The candidate's total scientific-teaching experience is 8 years, 2 months, and 26 days, according to the attached reference.

He is proficient in written and spoken English (B2 level). He has acquired technical skills and competencies in Microsoft Office and Outlook Express. Additional qualifications have not been proven with the relevant documents.

Dr. K. Aminkov has participated as a member of a working group in 4 scientific research projects, mainly in the areas of regenerative therapy, anesthesiology, and dirofilariasis in cats.

He has been involved in various committees such as the ethics committee and the committee for proposals and complaints from students and doctoral students.

He has participated in numerous national and international scientific forums, workshops on dentistry and neurology, regenerative medicine, and seminars. I could not consider participation in a seminar on endoscopy in dogs and cats conducted in a private clinic without specifying the level of training.

He is unmarried and has no criminal record.

Teaching and Clinical Activities

Dr. K. Aminkov has 8.3 years of teaching experience as an assistant and associate professor, during which he conducted practical classes with students in the disciplines studied in the department, organized and conducted mobile clinics, clinical internships and practices, semester and state exams. He has been involved in the development of educational programs and teaching aids for the disciplines "Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases in Animals" and "Veterinary Dentistry" in Bulgarian and English.

There is no information on participation in writing and publishing educational materials and aids, as well as extracurricular activities with practicing veterinarians and student circles.

According to the reports signed by the head of the department and the Rector of the University, with a planned annual workload of 360 hours, hours exceeding this workload have been fulfilled over the years, except for the academic year 2022-2023 - 277.6 hours. However, when selecting a habilitated person, the planned lecture workload and the direction of scientific-teaching development should be indicated. Such information is missing!

As a teacher from a clinical department, more detailed information about the level of surgical skills of the candidate should be provided (from the department head, certifications, opinions of students from the quality system, thank-you letters, etc.). For the surgical specialty, I find this information extremely important.

Scientific Production

In this competition, the candidate participates with 19 titles, including a dissertation, abstract, one monograph (N15), a book based on a defended dissertation (N16), and 15 scientific publications. The scientific works with numbers 1, 2, and 3 will not be reviewed as they include the dissertation, its abstract, and one published scientific article. A thorough analysis will be conducted on 14 publications, one monograph (N15), and the book (N16).

Dr. K. Aminkov is ranked first in 7 scientific publications (5 of which describe clinical cases), of which he is the sole author in 3, second in 3, third in 2, and subsequent places in 2. Only one article (N11.1) has been published in a journal with an impact factor, giving the article a total IF of 0.9 and the author an individual IF of 0.18. Eight articles (N2, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14) describing clinical cases are referenced and indexed in global databases (Scopus and Web of Science).

The mentioned articles have been presented and published as follows: from the annual scientific conference of the University and the electronic journal with the same name "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine" - 9; Acta Veterinaria - 1; Medinform - 1; J. Med. Dent. Pract. - 1; BJVM-1; Veterinary Medicine and Animal Husbandry - 1; Veterinary Collection - 1.

There are 25 citations of 11 scientific works, which should be relied upon based on the signed declaration of authenticity under Article 313 of the National Curriculum. Citations in articles with IF are 6, and without IF are 10. The total IF of the journals in which the candidate's articles are cited is 8.84.

The monograph "Regenerative Therapies" (15) is written in 112 pages divided into 10 sections, richly illustrated with 43 color figures and a bibliography after each section. The last, 10th section describes several clinical cases. The monograph is the first of its kind in veterinary medicine, which should be considered a significant contribution to popularizing regenerative therapy as a new and modern approach to treating various animal diseases.

The reviewers of the monograph are Assoc. Prof. Milena Murdzheva from IBIR at BAS and Prof. Dr. Mikhail Pascalev from VMF at TrU. Their reviews end with positive opinions and are attached to the documentation. In his review, Prof. Pascalev has made several recommendations that have not been taken into account by the author - regarding the title, structure, translation of the text in some figures, and their annotations. In addition to the above, I would like to add my personal notes regarding the described clinical patients undergoing regenerative therapy:

1. The patients are not presented in the order described in the surgical propaedeutics /Manual/. The description of the treatment itself is incomplete, without doses, without defining the phase of wound healing.

2. Under fig. 22, only the label "wound" cannot be placed. What is its nature? Also, there is a section "skin wounds," which leads me to think of abrasions, bruises, scrapes. I also do not understand another term "Pathological wound healing." This title should be "Complications in wound healing."

3. In fig. 23-34, besides the specified days, there is a lack of any other informativeness /what and where is the main thing in the image!/.

4. Fig. 37 could not indicate external bone fixation, as the connecting arms of the structure are missing. Also, the fixing needles are too thin to provide rest in the fracture line.

5. Fig. 38 shows intramedullary osteosynthesis, but the rule that the volume of the needle should occupy 70% of the bone marrow volume is not observed. Apparently, due to this reason, the X-ray shows data for the formation of a false joint. Only the label "10th day" is under the figure. From what event?

The book based on the defended dissertation work "Study of the influence of various regenerative therapies in sheep and dogs with osteoarthritis" (16) is written on 146 pages, illustrated with 95 figures and 6 tables. The reviewers are Prof. DVM Ivan Borisov and Prof. DVM Mikhail Pascalev from VMF at TrU, prominent specialists in bone pathology. It should be noted that they were also reviewers of the dissertation work. The above does not give me the right, from a collegial point of view, to take on the role of a super reviewer, and I should rely on their reviews. The book fulfills its purpose!

The contributions made with the presented scientific production can be related to several scientific directions:

I. Studies on regenerative therapy with platelet-rich plasma.

I cannot accept as original contributions under Nos. 1, 2, and 3 for the application of platelet-rich plasma in random wounds in cats (2) and dogs (7), femoral fracture in dogs (3) as they relate to individual clinical cases.

These contributions should be classified as confirmatory or enriching clinical practice. Especially in the case of wounds, some special methods are applied to assess the quality and healing time, such as cellulography, calculating the daily healing rate, etc., which were not done in this case.

An original contribution with significant clinical value is the treatment of osteoarthritis of the knee and elbow joints in dogs through intra-articular injection of platelet-rich plasma and hyaluronic acid (15).

- II. Imaging diagnostics. I consider contributions No. 1 and No. 2 from the section related to the radiographic image for diagnosing lameness in brown bears (5) as original. An unexplained fact is that in the article K. Aminkov is in third place, but in the attached protocol, he receives the highest percentage of participation /93.35%/.

I consider the study on the computer tomographic image of the blood vessels of the knee joint in sheep (10) as original.

- III. Contributions in the field of veterinary anesthesiology.

1. An indisputable original contribution is related to studies on balanced anesthesia in brown bears, as this animal species is difficult to manage (1). In fact, this concerns an experiment using a specific anesthetic scheme, based on which the author claims four original contributions, which, when presented in such detail, sound like conclusions from a scientific publication. In fact, only one generalized contribution can be original.

2. Contribution No. 4 cannot claim originality due to the reason mentioned above. I consider the studies on balanced anesthesia in pigs (3) as original.

- IV. Other contributions.

1. Contrast-enhanced computer tomography has been successfully applied to diagnose a bladder tumor in a dog, which I consider a confirmatory contribution with significant clinical value (6).

2. Three imaging diagnostic methods have been used to diagnose splenic torsion in a dog - conventional radiography, ultrasound, and computer tomography, providing an accurate and timely diagnosis (14). A contribution with significant clinical value.
3. The epithelial nature of neoplasms and their belonging to neuroendocrine tumors in a dancing Eurasian brown bear has been proven (13). An original contribution.

REFERENCE DECLARATION

The reference - a declaration of compliance with the minimum national requirements for participation in the current competition for "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" Dr. K. Aminkov, I accept. The point score by group indicators is as follows: Group A - 50 points / minimum - 50 /; Group B - no; Group C - 100 points / minimum 100 /; Group D - 213.15 points / minimum - 200 /; Group E - 45 points.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF POINTS COLLECTED IS 728.15, WITH A REQUIRED 400.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is disturbing that 64.3% of the candidate's scientific production has been published at the scientific annual conferences organized by FVM and the electronic journal Tradition and modernity in veterinary Medicine. The lack of publications in prestigious scientific journals is a reason for insignificant impact factor.

2. I have serious remarks about the attached citation reference: a. Such a reference is prepared by the Central Library of the University and bears the signature of the Director of the institution, a guarantee of authenticity. In this case, the reference is prepared and signed by the candidate; b. All articles in which the author is cited should have been

presented in a folder, with the exact places in the text and the literature index marked appropriately.

3. I do not find that a contribution should be sought in each publication. They should be analyzed and summarized in sections. Furthermore, in the presented documentation, they are not defined as original and confirmatory. Also, I do not accept the formulation /text/ of the contributions, which rather sound like a summary of a scientific publication.

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

My personal impressions of the candidate are not sufficient, and I could not commit to a categorical opinion, such as qualities for working in a team. It is evident that Dr. K. Aminkov is a well-motivated and organized young person, as confirmed by his professional biography. I believe that in the coming years of his professional development, he will further develop his potential and be beneficial to the department and the faculty.

CONCLUSION

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov is a promising young scientist and lecturer with 8.3 years of teaching experience, holding a doctoral degree in science and education. He has led practical classes in all disciplines studied at the department in both Bulgarian and English, and has participated in several scientific projects. He has submitted an acceptable number and quality of scientific publications for the competition. Overall, he meets the minimum national requirements, which gives me grounds for a positive vote and ranking of the candidate for the academic position of "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR" in professional field 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Surgery, Radiology, and Physiotherapy of Animals", for the needs of the department

"Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics, and Gynecology" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
at the University of Forestry in Sofia.

May 23, 2024
Stara Zagora

REVIEWER:
/Prof. DVM Dinko N. Dinev/

