



R E V I E W

On the materials for participation in competition for academic degree "Docent" (Associate Professor) in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Propaedeutics of internal diseases", for the purposes of the University of Forestry, announced in the State Gazette issue 18/01.03.2024 and procedure code: VM-AsP-0224-125.

Candidate for participation in the competition is:

1. DVM Petar Strahilov Stamberov, PhD

Reviewer: Prof. DVM Emil Ivanov Sapundzhiev, PhD, DSc, awarded in professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, by the University of Forestry, according to an Order of the Rector of the UF No. 3ПС-201/15.04.2024 for the composition of the Scientific Jury and protocol of its second meeting on 08 May 2024.

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate:

Dr. Petar Stamberov was born on August 31, 1978, in Razlog town, Blagoevgrad district. He has a professional orientation towards veterinary medicine with the completion of his secondary education at the Technical School of Veterinary Medicine - Kostinbrod in 1997, and subsequent higher education in veterinary medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FVM), at the University of Forestry (UF), Sofia, in which he studied as a student from 2005 and graduated in 2011, as a Master of Veterinary Medicine. Since March 2012, after winning a competition, he has been appointed as an assistant in the discipline of "Internal diseases" in the Department of "Internal Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology" of the FVM at UF. Since 2016, for about 3.5 years, he has worked as veterinarian at the University Clinic of Small Animals at the FVM. During this time, he was also a doctoral student in the form of "independent preparation" and in 2018 he defended his dissertation, under the advisory supervision of Associate Professor DVM. Toni Todorov, on the topic "Research on lead ammunition as a source of poisoning in wild birds and a risk ecotoxicological factor", to which he also has 3 scientific publications. He was awarded the ONS "Doctor" (PhD), in a professional field: 6.4. Veterinary medicine, (Diploma No. /date: LTU-ONS-2018-107/ 22.05.2018). From 13.09.2019, also after a competition, he was elected and appointed as head assistant in the original Department of "Internal Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology" of the FVM at UF, where he still works, and has accumulated a total experience of 8 years and 6 months.

2. Compliance of applicant's materials and documents to the requirements listed in the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry:

During the inspection of the documents submitted for the competition, full compliance with the required regulatory prescriptions, according to the RAS Law and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at UF, is established, and there are additional evidentiary data reflecting and supplementing some scientometric indicators. The materials

are presented on paper and electronic media. It is noteworthy that they are diligently and very precisely completed, according to the established and characteristic order for such procedures, as the data on the minimum national requirements (MNR) and their implementation are presented in several evidentiary documents. All previous steps in the course of the procedure have passed without remarks and obstructions, and there are no registered apostrophes for the applicant's data.

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the applicant:

Dr. Petar Stamberov participates in practical teaching and conducting exercises and seminars in 3 main clinical disciplines "Propaedeutics of internal diseases", "Internal non-communicable diseases" and "Mobile clinic", which are with both Bulgarian and English-speaking students according to the curricula of the FVM. For the last 4 academic years, there has been a high degree of over-fulfilment of his study hours, and after the defense of his doctorate, he was also included in the lecture courses on "Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases" and "Toxicology", and in English on "Game Diseases", which is an introduction and gradual transition to habilitation. He also has an extra-audit involvement in conducting of examinations and certifications of internships, participating in them in the practical skills assessment part.

There is evidence that he is respected and valued by students for his ability to teach and share his experience as a non-infectious pathology clinician, for which he was assessed by them with positive marks in the teacher certification procedures.

As a teacher, he constantly improves himself and participates in the lifelong learning program, constantly participating in courses to improve his qualifications, and has a registered presence in a total of 9 courses at the Department of Postgraduate Studies of UF.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied scientific and publication activity:

4.1. Participation in scientific, scientific-applied and educational projects:

Dr. Petar Stamberov presented himself for the competition by participating in 5 scientific research projects, 4 of which are under the program of the Scientific Research Activity of UF and 1 is under the Ministry of Education and Science - Scientific Research Fund. He is the head of one of them, which is still ongoing, and the topic is related to the modern and up-to-date approach in the field of propaedeutics for thermovisual diagnostics and monitoring of inflammatory processes in horses. On another 2 projects that have expired and are related to the subject of his dissertation, he was a member of the working group and were related to the issue of the toxicological effects of lead ammunition in wild birds and residual amounts of lead in food products from game meat. and for the study and assessment of the risk of lead contamination of soils, plant and animal species located in the area of hunting and shooting complexes in Bulgaria. He is also a member of the collective of 1 current scientific project, in which avant-garde approaches are being developed for the study of serum amyloid A as a diagnostic and prognostic marker of inflammation in various groups of diseases. In the project of Ministry of Education and

Science, DNA markers (CAST, MSTN) were developed interdisciplinary and with fellow agronomists for fattening capacity and meat quality in a synthetic population of Bulgarian dairy, Karakachan and Copper Red Shumen sheep breeds. In all the projects, the role of Dr. Stamberov stands out, as a clinician and expert in non-infectious pathology and his accumulated experience in assessing clinical indicators in normal, inflammatory and intoxication processes. I accept that the results of these projects have been presented at scientific events for recent years and are linked to the relevant publications and the reference to the assessing normative documents, which is a very good attestation. I expected, however, a representative impact factor from them.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results:

The total number of publications with which Dr. Petar Stamberov participated in the competition for "associate professor" is 31, of which 3 are in connection with the defense of his doctoral studies, according to Appendix 9 and the tables for MNR. However, it is noteworthy that one publication is after the date of the defense and thematically unrelated to the dissertation, and also in the abstract there are 4 publications that were related to the defense. This small discrepancy, or shift, does not materially change the overall bottom line, with the corresponding point asset being comparably determined.

For the current competition, according to the MNR for published scientific works, according to indicator A - 1 item is presented. an abstract of the dissertation work, fulfilling the requirement for 50 points. According to indicator C, which publications are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, no monographic work is presented, but its equivalent 10 publications are included, of which a precisely determined 111.5 points are formed, in comparison with a required 100 points. According to indicator D6 - for a book based on a elaborated dissertation work, for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor", 1 item is reported. with an asset of 40 points. According to indicator D7 for articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 13 items are reported, of which the distributed point asset is 173.6 points. Also in indicator D8, where are included articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review, or published in edited collective volumes, are presented 6 numbers and were scored with 18.8 points. Thus, the total amount of points reflecting the candidate's publication activity ofor indicators A, C and D and abilities in this direction is 393.9 points, which exceeds the minimum norm of 350 points.

Of the total number of published articles, 23 are in English and 6 are in Bulgarian. In 4 numbers of them (about 1/6) he is the sole author, in 6 nos. (about 1/4) have two co-authors, and the rest have more co-authors. The published 1 teaching aid - a book by a team of 29 authors, in which Dr. Stamberov is involved in the field of internal medicine, and which complements his specialized profile as an internist-clinician, is also presented. The book also has a significant scientific-applied character, evident from the title, and can be used by both researchers and teachers, as well as practicing veterinarians and students. The list

of publications also includes 2 popular scientific articles, giving additional light to the author in the chosen scientific specialty.

The scientific publications in the competition package are grouped in the main scientific disciplines of non-infectious pathology, toxicology, propaedeutics and animal husbandry and genetics, with some having an interdisciplinary nature. The publications from the attached list B4.4., B4.6., B4.7., B4.8., D7.2., D7.7., D7.10., D7.11 can be referred to the first discipline. The publications B4.1., B4.2., B4.3., D7.1., D7.4., D7.5., D7.6., D7.8., D8.1 belong to the second discipline. The publications B4.6., B4.10., D7.3., D7.9., D8.2., D8.4 belong to the third discipline. The fourth group of disciplines includes B4.5., B4.9., D7.12., D7.13., D8.3, D8.5., D8.6. It is noteworthy that the publications from the first three groups dominate and determine the scientific status of the author, as a specialist in the field of propaedeutics and internal non-infectious diseases, which gives a clear orientation to the direction of the competition.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citation):

The reference for the competition presents the citations found in the world databases of the scientific works with the participation of Dr. Petar Stamberov according to the scientometric requirements. With a distinct impact factor according to indicator E13, which are from the category of citations in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, are the citations for 6 scientific publications, or a total of 11 citations. According to the indexation, 165 items were obtained for them. In the next category of citations, according to indicator E14, in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review, I find a discrepancy between the number of citations for 2 articles, since there are a total of 3 citations in the list, but in the table they are scored for 4 citations. Thus, the point asset reported for 40 points should be reduced by 10 points, or in reality 30 points. In the third category of citations, E15 - citations or reviews in non-refereed journals with scientific review, the data from the list and the table match and a total of 2 citations are reported for 2 articles, or 10 points. With the remark made, the total point asset from the cited is set at 215 items, to be reduced and accounted for 205 items under indicators E, from where the final point asset of the MNR should also be reduced. I accept that this is some kind of technical error that does not affect the final judgment of performance of the indicators, since the required minimum of 50 points is exceeded by almost 4 times, and the total point asset becomes 598.9.

In summary, the author's citation data speak of purposeful research work in the field of propaedeutics and internal medicine, which has realization and recognition in the scientific community. I accept the reference as credible, having checked the data on them according to their availability in the network space, and I think that they bring him a real scientometric point asset, with the reflected remark.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (scientific, scientific & applied, applied):

The scientific contributions of the individual publications are diverse, but synthesized they are targeted in the field of non-infectious pathology and the disciplines of propaedeutics, internal medicine, pathology and some pre-clinical general profile disciplines. Contributions in the individual scientific publications presented as a list are 18, which I accept and share in substance, although original contributions are not predominantly outlined. Because of the limited possibility of coverage in the present review I do not describe them personally. No less significant contributions of an applied nature are outlined, which are in the specific scientific research developments of the scientific projects and the accompanying scientific publications.

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate:

The assessment of the performance of the scientometric indicators and the corresponding scoring based on them is a reason to report a general over-fulfilment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the position of "Associate Professor", although the point asset has been reduced by me in accordance with the objective data. From them, the results of the publication activity are particularly clearly outlined, and in the end, a comparable total overperformance of the Ministry of Education and Culture by about 50% is collected. I believe that this point asset is entirely the work of the candidate for the competition Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov and reflects his efforts for academic development. I have verified the reliability of the data filled in the table and accept it as a real report of the overall teaching and scientific research activity.

Table 1. Scoring according National minimal requirements indicators.

Group of indicators	Content	For Assistant Professor	Competing candidate – Dr Petar Stamberov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	111,5
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 12	200	232,4
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 15	50	205
F	Sum of indicators from 16 to the end	-	-
	Total	400 /minimum/	598.9

6. Critical remarks and recommendations:

From the position of a colleague with many years of teaching experience, I want to advise the habilitation candidate, Dr. Petar Stamberov, to use the knowledge and experience of the entire colleagues to preserve and develop his knowledge and skills, and to publish his future scientific results in prestigious scientific journals editions, to increase their own and academic prosperity of the FVM at LTU.

7. Personal impressions:

I have known Petar Stamberov since he was a student in the first year of veterinary medicine, since by virtue of the objective circumstances I was his teacher. As a graduate of the veterinary technical school, he was distinguished by acquired technical veterinary medical skills and a general biological culture. Quiet, unassuming, studious and studious, he developed continuously, showing an undisguised interest in clinical disciplines. He behaves ethically with his colleagues and is accepted and understood by all with respect, as he has a proven capacity in the field of clinical activity related to non-infectious pathology. Since 2020, he is a member of the Organizing Committee of the international scientific conference "Traditions and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine", organized by the FVM of UF. He is a member of the General Assembly of the FVM, as well as the Commission on Clinical Activity. Although with a certain delay in his academic development for objective reasons, he showed with a considerable amount of patience and persistence that in this case "the last one wins", as he performed during his participation in the TV competition of the same name, some time ago.

8. Conclusion:

Based on the general description of the presented materials and the exceedingly covered by groups and overall minimum national requirements, as well as the generally obtained high scientometric data, and on the basis of the scientific contributions and scientific results shown, I give a positive opinion, and I think that the candidate DVM Petar Strahilov Stamberov, PhD, covers point by point according to the individual groups of indicators and comprehensively the requirements for occupying the academic position of "DOCENT" (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR), and therefore, according procedure VM-AsP-0224-125, I propose that he to be voted in the scientific field 6. "Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine", professional field 6.4. "Veterinary medicine", in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline of "Propaedeutics of internal diseases" for the needs of University of Forestry, in particular the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, in the department "Internal noninfectious diseases, pathology and pharmacology".

Reviewer's signature:

(Prof. DVM E. Sapundzhiev, PhD, DSc)

The review was submitted on: 20 May 2024