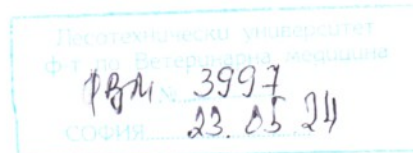


## STANDPOINT



on materials regarding competition for the academic rank "Associate Professor", in higher education field "6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine , Professional Field (PF) 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty „Surgery, Radiology and Physiotherapy of animals“, scientific discipline „Surgery (Diseases in productive animals, Diseases in Equines, Diseases in companion animals)“, announced by the University of Forestry, in State Gazette issue 18 of 1 March 2024, VM-AsP-0224-127.

### Candidate:

#### 1. Chief assistant professor Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov;

**Standpoint author: PhD Georgi Malinov Stoimenov, Associate professor in 6.4. Veterinary medicine from University of Forestry.**

#### 1. Short Bibliography of the candidate:

Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov was born on December 12, 1989 in Stara Zagora. In 2015, he graduated as a Master of Veterinary Medicine in the specialty "Veterinary Medicine" at the University of Forestry (UF). Further, his professional development continued as a veterinarian in private veterinary clinic in Sofia from May 2015 to January 2016. From the beginning of 2016, after winning a competition, he was appointed as a full-time assistant in the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology", of the FVM at UF. In 2019, he successfully defended his dissertation on the topic: "Study of the influence of different regenerative therapies in sheep and dogs with osteoarthritis" and received the Educational and scientific degree "Doctor". From 2020 to the present, he is Chief assistant professor in the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology".

#### 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.

All copies of documents and materials related to Dr. Aminkov's candidacy were provided to me in good condition. One part is related to the course of the procedure, and others to the candidate's scientific activity. All are in accordance with the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry. In the current competition, the candidate participates with 16 scientific works, of which 1 independent monograph, 1 book published on the basis of the dissertation work, 13 articles printed in scientific journals and 1 article published in collection of reports from a scientific conference.

*Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for holding the academic position "Associate professor":*

- ✓ in indicator **group "A"**, the candidate has a defended dissertation and meets the requirement of **50 points**.
- ✓ According to group of indicators **"B"** to cover the mandatory **100 points**, the candidate presents a monograph - *Regenerative therapies*. Intel Entrans Publishing House, ISBN 978-619-7703-53-5, SOFIA, pp. 1-112, carrying **the required 100 points** for this indicator.
- ✓ according to group of indicators **"G"** out of the required 200 points, the candidate has presented materials that bring him **213,15 points**. Accordingly: G 6-published book based on a dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree "doctor" - **40 points**; G 7- Articles and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Web of science and Scopus, respectively articles from the list of publications presented by the candidate (From 1 to 9) carrying **156,5 points**, and for article No. 5

from the submitted list of publications (Appendix 10) he also submitted a separation protocol (Appendix B5); G 8- Articles and reports published in non-refereed journals, but with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes, respectively (publications from 10 to 14) corresponding to **16,65** points.

- ✓ according to group of **indicators "D"**, accounting for the number of citations with a required minimum of 50 points, the candidate presents materials for **320** points. I do not accept some citations in scientific volumes and monographs. There are 9 citations presented in this part, of which I accept only 1 (with an established ISBN of the book in which the citation is), i.e. the points here for indicator "D" are 240, instead of the presented 320.
- ✓ Regardless of the fact that under **indicator "E"** scientific activity is not required, chief Assistant Professor Aminkov has submitted evidence for participation in 3 projects, the total number of points being **45**.

From the submitted report of the candidate for participation in the competition, it is clear that he fulfills the national minimum requirements, as well as those laid down in the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry, and in all indicators he even exceeds the criteria. With a minimum of **400** points required, Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov, PhD, collects a total of **603,15** points from all indicators (after correction in the points of indicator D), which is a kind of certificate for his research activity. He has also submitted 45 points under indicator "E", which are not required to meet the minimum national requirements for an Associate Professor.

### **3. Evaluation of teaching & learning activities.**

Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Aminkov, PhD, has 8 years and 2 months of teaching experience at the University of Forestry, during which time he has been engaged in teaching, research and clinical-diagnostic activities. His educational and teaching activity is related to conducting practical classes and part of the lecture course in the disciplines: Module Surgery (diseases of productive animals, diseases of equids, diseases of companion animals), Management of herd health, Radiology, Anesthesiology and emergency medicine, Propaedeutic of surgical diseases in animals, Veterinary dentistry, Physiotherapy, Neurology and neurosurgery, Mobile clinic. He is also involved in the teaching of students in English in the above disciplines, as well as in conducting exams with students in Bulgarian and English, by performing practices and part of the lecture courses. Chief Assistant Professor Aminkov made a significant contribution to the preparation of two curricula for the disciplines: "Propaedeutic of surgical diseases in animals" and "Veterinary dentistry" in Bulgarian and English; He is also a member of the Commission for consideration of proposals and complaints from students and PhD students of the FVM at UF; Member of the Commission for organization and conduct of practices and internships of the FVM at UF; Committee for verification, assessment and defense of the internship reports from the internship of the students from the 5th year (teaching in Bulgarian and English). Actively works with students and PhD students on three projects and several scientific forums.

Given the above and the accumulated work experience, I believe that Ch. assistant professor Konstantin Aminkov, PhD, has excellent teaching experience and routine.

### **4. Evaluation of research, research & development and teaching activities of the candidate.**

#### **4.1. Participation in research, research & development and educational projects.**

Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Aminkov has participated in three scientific research projects funded by NIS at UF. The first one is on the topic "Application of BM (bone marrow) and PRP (platelet-enriched plasma) in osteoarthritis of the knee joint in sheep", the second one

"Prevalence, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy and prevention of cardiac dirofilariasis in cats in Bulgaria" and the third one on "Comparative study of the regenerative potential of platelet-rich plasma, sodium hyaluronate and dexpanthenol in the treatment of experimentally induced chemical and mechanical corneal ulcers in rabbits". Each lasting 2 years.

#### **4.2. Analysis of published research works.**

In the current competition, the candidate participates with **16 scientific works**, of which 1 is an independent monograph; 1 book published on the basis of the dissertation work; 13 articles published in scientific journals; one article in a collection of reports from a scientific conference, **of which in journals with an impact factor of -1; in Bulgarian referenced in Web of science and Scopus-8; in Bulgarian referenced outside Web of science and Scopus-5.** Of the 16 scientific papers presented, 11 are in a foreign language. An important fact to note is that three (21.43%) of Dr. Aminkov's presented articles are independent, and in 4 (28.57%) he is the first author, or in 7 (50.00%) out of a total of 14 articles he has an independent or leading role. **The overall IF** of the submitted publications with the candidate's participation is **0.9**, and his individual IF is **0.18**.

#### **4.3. Impact of applicant's research activities (citations).**

The total number of cited scientific works of the candidate is 11, and the total number of presented citations is 25. Of these, citations in articles with an impact factor (IF) are 6, in international journals without IF and SJR-10, in monographs, books and collective volumes-9, of which only 1 is in a book with an ISBN. The overall IF of the journals in which the articles are cited is **8.84**.

#### **4.4. Contributions in research works of the candidate.**

The scientific work of Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Aminkov can generally be classified in the following areas:

- ✓ Contributions related to the development, application and treatment of surgical diseases in company animals with platelet-rich plasma-4.
- ✓ Contributions in the field of imaging diagnostics-2.
- ✓ Contributions in the field of veterinary anesthesiology-5.
- ✓ Other contributions-3.

#### **5. Evaluation of the personal contribution of the applicant.**

As already noted above, Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Aminkov has a leading role in the conducted scientific research, as three (21.43%) of the articles submitted for participation in the competition are independent, and in 4 (57.14%) he is the leading author. This means that in seven (50.00 %) out of a total of 14 articles he has an independent or leading role. In collective works, I accept that the candidate has a participation in the contributions, regardless of the place he occupies in the author's collective. This conclusion is based on the complex nature of the studies conducted in which his scientific profile has been outlined.

#### **6. Critical notes and recommendations.**

My main criticisms relate to the list of citations (Appendix no. 15). When presenting the citing article, it is necessary to indicate additional data, such as ISSN of the journal, pages, DOI number of the article, etc., as it is correctly done for each cited article. I do not accept citations in scholarly volumes and monographs except for that in *The Longevity Legacy: The Challenges of Old Animals in Zoos. In Optimal Wellbeing of Aging Wild Animals in Human Care (pp. 187-225)*, where I was able to find the ISBN.

My main recommendation to Dr. Aminkov is to publish his research in foreign journals with an impact factor in the future in order to popularize his scientific work and establish himself as a specialist at the international level.

## 7. Personal impressions.

I have known Dr. Aminkov since he was a student. He was an inquiring student. Nowadays as a teacher, I can claim that he is respected by colleagues and students.

## 8. Conclusion

Based on the overall assessment of the research and teaching activities, as well as the fulfillment of the national minimum requirements and the requirements laid down in the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry, my opinion **is positive. I suggest the candidate Chief assistant professor Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov, PhD to confer the academic rang "Associate professor" in discipline „Surgery (Diseases in productive animals, Diseases in Equines, Diseases in companion animals)“ from PF 6.4.Veterinary medicine. Scientific speciality „Surgery, Radiology and Physiotherapy of animals“**

The review report is presented on:

23.5.2024 r.

Undersigned:

  
/Associate professor G. Stoimenov/