



STANDPOINT

Regarding the materials for participation in a competition for obtaining an academic position "**Associate Professor**" at the Department of Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology in the field of higher education 6. "Agrarian sciences and Veterinary medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal pathology" in the scientific discipline "**Propaedeutics of Internal diseases**", announced in the Bulgarian State Gazette 18/01.03.2024 г., procedure code: VM-AsP-0224-125.

Candidate for the procedure: the only applicant is **Chief Assist. Prof. Petar Strahilov Stamberov, DVM, PhD**, field of higher education 6. "Agrarian sciences and Veterinary medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal pathology", lecturer at the Department of Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry.

Standpoint prepared by **Assoc. Prof. Iliyan Manev Manev, DVM, PhD**, University of Forestry, higher education field 6. "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", a scientific specialty "Epizootology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order ЗПЦ – 201/15.04.2024 of the Rector of the University of Forestry.

Short biographical details on the applicant

Petar Strahilov Stamberov graduated from the "College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine", Kostinbrod, in 1997. In 2011, he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia, receiving an Master's degree, specialty "Veterinary Medicine" with an average grade from the study course Good (4.32) and an overall grade from the diploma Very good (4.66). After a competition in 2012, he started working in the University of Forestry as an Assistant Professor, till 2016. In the period 2016-2019, he worked as a veterinarian at the University Clinic for Small Animals at the FVM. In 2018, he successfully defended his PhD thesis on the topic "Research on lead ammunition as a source of poisoning in wild birds and a risk eco-toxicological factor" and obtained the educational and scientific degree "doctor". Since 2019, he has been appointed to the academic position Chief Assist. Prof. up to this day.

He uses English and Italian languages.

Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant in accordance with the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

Chief Assist. Prof. Petar Stamberov has submitted all the documents necessary for participation in the procedure for the academic position "Associate Professor", prepared as required.

Assessment of the teaching activity of the applicant

The teaching experience of Dr. Stamberov in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Forestry is above 8 years, with the academic position "Assistant Professor" in the period 2012-2016 and from 2019- "Chief Assistant Professor".

Dr. Stamberov holds practical classes under the mandatory disciplines "Propaedeutics of Internal diseases" and "Internal non-infectious diseases" with students from the Master's Degree, "Veterinary Medicine" in Bulgarian and English. From the 2022/2023 academic year, Chief Assist. Prof. Petar Stamberov, leads a part of the lecture course on the mandatory discipline "Propaedeutics of internal diseases" for the students of the specialty Veterinary Medicine, Master's degree, regular education. Dr. Stamberov led part of the lecture course on "Toxicology", two consecutive academic years, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, and in the period 2019-2021 he led part of the lecture course on the compulsory discipline "Game Diseases" at English language for the students of the specialty Veterinary Medicine.

Each academic year, his employment is over 300 teaching hours, and his total teaching employment is over the required 360 hours per year.

These data show that Dr. Stamberov has a sufficiently long and intensive teaching experience in conducting lectures and practical classes with students. Additionally, during his entire working experience in the university, he actively participated in the education of foreign students.

Assessment of the applicant's scientific and publication activities

A total of **30** scientific works for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" were presented, which do not repeat those for the acquisition of the "PhD" degree.

The PhD materials include dissertation and 3 publications, all three are in Bulgarian, published in non-referred journals.

The total number of points with which he applies for the position of "Associate Professor" is **608.9 points**, with 400 points according to the minimum national requirements. They are distributed in different groups of indicators as follows:

- Group A indicator: **50** points from a minimum required 50 points - for the PhD Thesis.
- Group B indicator: 0 points of 0 required.
- Group B indicator: **111.5** points from a minimum required 100 points obtained for habilitation monograph – 10 scientific papers, published in refereed journals.
- Group Г indicators: **232.4** points from a minimum required 200 points, of which:
 - a book based on a PhD Thesis with the title "*Lead ammunition as a source of poisoning in wild birds and an eco-toxicological risk factor*" Интел Ентранс, ISBN 978-619-7703-13-9, pp. 1-110. – **40** points

- Papers and reports published in scientific journals, referred to and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases - 13 pcs - **173.6** points
 - Articles and reports published in unrefined scientific journals or in edited collective volumes - 6 pcs. – **18.8** points
- Group Д indicators: **215** points from a minimum required 50 points, of which **165** points are for citations in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, **40** points from citations in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and **10** points are from citations in unrefined journals with scientific review.
 - Group indicators E: 0 points of 0 required.

The total number of points represented by the applicant exceeds the minimum requirements of the professional directions, determined by the Rules for Implementation of the Law on Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria for occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor".

Participation in scientific and educational projects

Dr. Stamberov participates or has participated in the following scientific projects:

1. Head of project NIS-B1295/19.11.2023, financed by LTU, on the topic: "Thermovisual diagnostics and monitoring of inflammatory processes in horses" (2023-2025);
2. Member of the working team of project NIS-B1333/ 05.03.2024, financed by LTU, on the topic: "Research of serum amyloid A as a diagnostic and prognostic marker of inflammation in various groups of diseases" (2023-2025);
3. Member of the working team of project No. 13/ 19.01.2016, financed by LTU, on the topic: "Toxicological aspects of lead ammunition in wild birds and residual amounts of lead in food products from game meat" (2016-2018);
4. Member of the working team of project No. 23/ 19.01.2016, financed by LTU, on the topic: "Study and assessment of the risk of lead contamination of soils, plant and animal species located in the area of hunting and shooting sites in Bulgaria" (2016-2018);
5. Member of the working team of the Ministry of education project No. B01/22/05.12.2012, on the topic: "Development of DNA markers (CAST, MSTN) for the fattening capacity and meat quality in synthetic population Bulgarian Milk, Karakachan and Copper Red Shumensk breeds of sheep" (2016-2018);

Characteristics of the published scientific works

Presented by Chief Assist. Prof. P. Stamberov scientific works for the recent procedure are a total of **30 pcs**. They include:

- Habilitation thesis - **10 pcs**. papers referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (WoS);
- Published book based on a dissertation work (**1 pc.**);

→ Articles published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases - **13 pcs.** (with one of the articles being in a journal with IF 0.5, SJR 0.216), i.e. the total number of articles in refereed journals is 23.

→ Articles published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes – **6 pcs.**

The papers which have been published in English are **23**, and **6** are in Bulgarian, the dissertation book is also in Bulgarian.

In 11/29 (37.93 %) articles, Dr. Stamberov is the first author, which I estimate as an indicator of his leading participation in writing them, and in two of the articles (2/29, 6.89 %) he is a single author.

Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in literature

The total number of citations of Dr. Stamberov is **sixteen**. **Six** of the applicant's publications have been cited in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases (11 citations). **Two** articles were cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review (3 citations) and 2 papers were cited in unrefined scientific review journals (2 citations).

Contributions to the candidate's works

Dr. Stamberov's scientific contributions have both a theoretical and an applied nature and can be referred to the following areas:

1. **Toxicology and ecotoxicology** – studies concerning lead and lead ammunition in wild birds and game meat products and contamination of the environment with lead as a result of the use of lead ammunition;

2. **Pathology of animals** - pathological changes related to acute poisoning and neoplastic formations in horses, mastitis in goats, prevention and treatment in ruminants, equids, small animals, domestic and wild birds.

3. **Interdisciplinary research** - in the field of Animal Husbandry and Genetics (research of genetic material from Bulgarian autochthonous and selected breeds of sheep with the aim of improving their productive qualities); Paleopathology (the study of pathological changes in osteological material from Late Iron Age dogs); innovative diagnostic methods - infrared radiography.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Prof. Petar Stamberov is proven by his independent works (two articles and a book based on the PhD thesis), as well as by the significant number of publications in which he is the leading author (12 articles, 7 of which were published in refereed journals, and one of them is with IF).

Critical notes and recommendations

The review of the materials submitted by the candidate for participation in the current procedure lead to detection of the following inaccuracies:

- Citation Д13.1 - #3 – the journal in which is the citation is not found in the list of referenced journals, i.e. I can accept it as a non-refereed journal citation (**10** points reduction);
- Citation Д13.3 - #2- the journal in which is the citation is not found in the list of referenced journals, i.e. I can accept it as a non-refereed journal citation (**10** points reduction);
- Citation Д14.1 – is a citation with auto-citation within the meaning of the law (reduction by **10** points);
- ❖ Article Г7.11 - was published in "Traditions and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine", Sofia in **2013**, in which year the journal was referenced in WoS but the candidate noted **2016** as a year of edition, i.e. there is a technical issue

The total number should be reduced with **30.00** points, i.e. the candidate's total number of points is **578.9**.

I can recommend Dr. Stamberov to continue his research activities on current issues, striving to publish the obtained results in refereed and indexed in world-renowned databases journals with an impact factor or impact rank. Publication in English is a prerequisite for the wider distribution and use of the obtained results, and this will also lead to a wider citation of his scientific works.

Personal impressions

I know Petar Stamberov as a fellow teacher from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He stands out for his good organization, precision in the performance of his official duties and a high level of collegiality.

Conclusions

The submitted materials for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" demonstrate that Dr. Petar Stamberov pose sufficient scientific and university experience. His scientific publications are 30, most of which are published in referred and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases. The contributions are in different directions which demonstrate a multifaceted and rich research experience. The citations are sufficient in number and show the applicability of the scientific results. The total number of points in the different groups of indicators for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" is **578.9** which exceeds the minimum national requirements of 400 points. Dr. Stamberov has a sufficiently long teaching experience in conducting lectures and practical classes in the discipline "Propaedeutics of internal diseases" with Bulgarian and foreign students from the specialty "Veterinary Medicine".

All this gives me reason confidently to propose the candidate Chief Assis. Prof. Petar Strahilov Stamberov to take the academic position of "**Associate Professor**" in the field of higher education 6. "Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine", professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal Pathology" in the discipline "**Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases**", in the Department of Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology", Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry.

13.05.2024

Undersigned:

/Assoc. Prof. Iliyan Manev, PhD/