

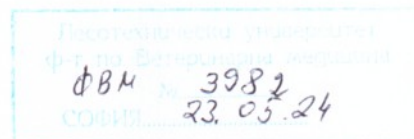
## OPINION

from

**Prof. Dr. Yanislav Iliev Iliev, Ph.D.**

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**of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "associate professor" in the professional direction "Veterinary Medicine", scientific speciality "Animal Pathology"**



Candidates for participation in the competition: In the competition for "Docent", announced in the State Gazette, no. 18/01/03/2024 and on the website of the Forestry University for the needs of the "Internal non-infectious diseases, pathology and pharmacology" department of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Forestry University, as a candidate, chap. assistant Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov, PhD from Forestry University - Sofia.

### **I. A brief assessment of the candidate's qualifications and teaching activities ch. Assistant Professor Petar Strahilov Stamberov, Ph.D.**

Chief Assistant Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov completed his higher education with the Master of Veterinary Medicine degree at the Sofia Forestry University - Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. In March 2012, Dr. P. Stamberov participated in a competition for the academic position of Assistant at the Department of "Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology" at the Forestry University, where he currently works. For the period from 04.2016 to 09.2019, P. Stamberov held the position of veterinarian at the University Clinic for Small Animals at the Forestry University. As a self-taught doctoral student, enrolled in 2015, Dr. Stamberov developed and in 2018 successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: "Research on lead ammunition as a source of poisoning in wild birds and a risk eco-toxicological factor" and he was awarded the educational and scientific degree - ONS "Doctor", Diploma No. LTU-ONS-2018-1107 in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology". From 13.09.2019 until now, he holds the position of chief assistant in the same department.

The teaching experience of Dr. P. Stamberov as assistant and chief assistant until the announcement of the competition for "Docent" was a total of 8 years and 7 months. The main activities and responsibilities of Dr. Stamberov as a university teacher are mainly reduced to the preparation and conduct of exercises, seminars, consultations and practical semester exams in the disciplines Propedeutics of internal diseases (in Bulgarian and English), Internal non-communicable diseases (in Bulgarian and English), Mobile Clinic (in Bulgarian and English) with students of "Veterinary Medicine" in Bulgarian and English. In addition, Dr. P. Stamberov is actively involved in the diagnosis and treatment of pets and farm animals, as well as conducting scientific research. He also participates in the implementation of student



control during the implementation of classroom and extra-auditory activities, updates and organization of the material base for training of the "Internal non-communicable diseases, pathology and pharmacology" department. Ch. Assistant Professor Stamberov has presented a guaranteed minimum of 360 hours of annual classroom employment. His annual individual employment during the academic year 2022-2023 is 362 hours with Bulgarian students and 271 hours with English-speaking students. Dr. Stamberov actively participates in conducting lectures with the students in Bulgarian and English. For the 2022-2023 school year, ch. Petar Stamberov, assistant professor, teaches a part of the lecture course on the mandatory discipline "Propaedeutics of internal diseases" for the students of the specialty Veterinary Medicine, OCS "master", regular education. Two consecutive academic years (2022 and 2023) ch. Petar Stamberov, assistant professor, taught a part of the lecture course on the disciplines "Toxicology" for the students of the specialty Veterinary Medicine, (OKS "master", full-time study). From the 2019/2020 to the 2020/2021 academic year, a part of the lecture course on the compulsory discipline "Game Diseases" is presented in English for the students of the specialty Veterinary Medicine, OCS "master". In the period of the Covid pandemic, during the academic year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, it conducts classes and exams in an electronic environment through Google classroom and Microsoft Teams.

## **II. Scientific and applied scientific activity.**

In the announced competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", ch. assistant Dr. Petar Stamberov has presented a list of significant scientific production - a total of 30 scientific papers, of which 3 were presented for acquisition of the ONS "Doctor" (including a dissertation and an abstract) and 20 presented in the competition for JSC "Docent" (19 publications, 1 monograph and 1 book), distributed by indicators as follows: 10 pcs. scientific publications (not less than 10) in publications that are referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (indicator "B", item 4); 13 pcs. articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information - (indicator "D", item 7); 6 pcs. articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes (indicator "D", item 8); citations in scientific publications - 11 items, of which in journals referenced on Scopus and Web of Science. (index "D -13"); in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review - 3 nos. (indicator "D", item 14)); 2 pcs. in indicator "D; Book based on a protected dissertation work 1 pc. (indicator "G -6"); popular scientific articles - 2 pcs. All presented scientific publications are outside the topic of his dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor". In a self-published dissertation book entitled "Lead ammunition as a source of poisoning in wild birds and a risk ecotoxicological factor" (2022), which is both theoretical and applied, the author examines the effects and risk assessment of lead intoxication following oral exposure to lead ammunition in waterfowl, the presence of lead residues in biological material from wild birds inhabiting areas with high shooting frequency, and ecotoxicological monitoring for environmental contamination and game meat and meat by-products.

Of the presented scientific publications in the competition for associate professor in 12 nos. Dr. P. Stamberov is the lead author, and in the remaining 16 he is in second or subsequent



place. Of the scientific works, 13 were printed in refereed and indexed editions in world-famous databases with scientific information. Of them 1 pc. were printed in magazines with IF and 16 no. in specialized foreign and Bulgarian scientific journals, referenced on Scopus and Web of Science. 6 publications were published in non-refereed scientific journals. Of the total number of scientific publications, 27 are in English and 3 in Cyrillic. 7 reports have also been presented in proceedings of international scientific forums. Thus, the scientific works presented by the candidate for associate professor, Dr. P. Stamberov, and the rest of the publication material fully meet the requirements of ZRASRB and the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities in the FVM of the Forestry University, Sofia. He presents written evidence of active participation in many national and international events - seminars, symposia, conferences, etc., where he reports his scientific achievements to the relevant scientific audience - the total number of participations in scientific forums is 11.

Dr. P. Stamberov also carried out an active scientific and applied activity. He actively participates as a Leader or a member of the work team in the development of the following scientific projects of current importance for veterinary medicine science and practice: - Project of the Ministry of Education and Science - FNI No. B 01/22/05.12.2012; Scientific project - No. 13/19.01.2016 according to NID B27/07.03.2018; Scientific project - No. 23/19.01.2016 under NID; Scientific project NIS-B1295/19.10.2023; project of NIS-B1333/ 05.03.2024.

Simultaneously with his scientific and teaching activities, chap. assistant Dr. P. Stamberov, works hard to increase his professional qualification and personal competence. He presents evidence of increasing his language qualification - written and spoken use of English - level B2 and Spanish - level A2, as well as additional activities at the faculty, incl. Course leader, participation and acquisition of qualifications with the relevant certificates and certificates in courses on computer systems, foreign language training, distance learning, environmental protection and courses to increase qualifications - a total of 9 units. He has a good command of Microsoft Office products, document and image processing, graphic techniques, working with design software and graphic design, creating and maintaining audio and high-quality real-time network training, lectures and practice.

Ch. assistant Stamberov is a responsible and loyal colleague and possesses good communication and organizational skills, ability to work independently and in a team, communicativeness, quick adaptation to new environments, excellent self-discipline, skills for prioritizing tasks, competencies for coordinating activities and dealing with problem situations. He demonstrates both theoretical and practical skills and knowledge for experimental design formation, as well as teaching and demonstration techniques and methods, skills and knowledge for laboratory projects and equipment. He is a member of the General Assembly of the Faculty of "Veterinary Medicine" at LTU; Member of the Clinical Activity Commission – LTU; Member of the organizing committee of international scientific conferences: International Scientific Conference "Tradition and modernity in veterinary medicine", Yundola, Bulgaria. Possesses an acquired professional qualification in "Protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific or educational purposes"; Member of the Bulgarian Veterinary Union



### **III. Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied).**

I positively evaluate the self-assessment of the contributions of the candidate for "Associate Professor" of all scientific publications. The main part of the conducted research of chap. assistant Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov is in the field of pathology caused by toxic substances, neoplasias and infectious diseases. The studies of the presented scientific works for participation in the competition for "Docent" are in various directions of medical science (animal pathology, toxicology and ecotoxicology, immunology, paleopathology, animal breeding sciences and genetics, etc.) and have both a theoretical and an applied nature. They were carried out through modern and routine clinical, hematological, biochemical, immunological, patho-anatomical, histopathological, toxicological methods and analyses, as well as scanning microtomography and infrared thermography. The research is aimed at clarifying the etiological and pathological aspects, offering therapeutic and prophylactic schemes in clinical cases from practice, related to septic conditions, poisoning and neoplastic processes in farm animals and pets, as well as clarifying some hematological and biochemical parameters after use of probiotics and their effects, in order to improve their productive and other economic qualities. Screening ecotoxicological studies regarding the content of lead in soil layers and its bioaccumulation in the tissues of some animal and plant species and fungi on the territory of a former sports shooting range also have an emphasized scientific value.

The scientific contributions show a clearly defined scientific profile and are well grouped into 6 independent thematic areas, which I consider to be correctly and logically separated, namely:

1. Toxicology - studies on the toxicological effects of lead ammunition in wild birds and game meat products.
2. Ecotoxicology - contamination of the environment with lead as a result of the use of lead ammunition.
3. Paleopathology - the study of pathological changes in osteological material from the dogs of the Late Iron Age.
4. Livestock breeding and genetics - research of genetic material from Bulgarian autochthonous and selected breeds of sheep with the aim of improving their productive qualities.
5. Pathology of animals - pathological changes related to acute poisoning and neoplastic formations in horses, mastitis in goats, prevention and treatment in ruminants, equids, company animals, domestic and wild birds.
6. Interdisciplinary research related to the implementation of innovative diagnostic methods - infrared radiography.

### **IV. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution.**

All publications of ch. assistant P. Stamberov are up-to-date, purposeful and perspective developments that present him as a very well-prepared theoretical and practical scientist, with very good opportunities for independent and collective research activities in the field of pathology, toxicology and clinical analysis. In all scientific developments, the personal contribution of Dr. P. Stamberov undoubtedly stands out, which is why I consider that the mentioned contributions are largely his personal work. All contributions are competently justified and formulated, highly informative and fully consistent with the obtained experimental results. From the presented reference for the minimum requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor", it can be seen that the candidate fully meets and even exceeds the mandatory requirements for "Associate Professor". For some of the mandatory minimum requirements, ch. assistant P. Stamberov not only meets but also exceeds the same requirements of the FVM at LTU - Sofia. This is also confirmed by the total number of points referred to the minimum requirements for "Associate Professor" in FVM at LTU, which he presents - 608.09 (Reference - self-assessment of the Ministry of Education, Appendix 1.4)

**Bearing in mind the candidate's scientific production submitted for evaluation ch. assistant Dr. Petar Stamberov for the academic position "Associate Professor", I firmly believe that it definitely defines his established professional appearance as a researcher and scientist in the field of pathology, toxicology and clinical analysis.**

#### **V. Conclusion.**

Based on the presented evidence of teaching and research activity, the relevance of the problems on which he works and scientific contributions, publication activity, teaching knowledge and experience, scientific and teaching experience and personal qualities of the candidate in the Competition for the academic position " Associate Professor": Ch. assistant Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov, PhD from the department of "Internal non-communicable diseases, pathology and pharmacology" at the Forestry University - Sofia, **I highly appreciate his scientific and professional-academic output and I firmly believe that it definitely defines his established professional image as a researcher and a scientist in the field of pathology and toxicology.**

**In connection with the above, I propose Ch. assistant Dr. Petar Strahilov Stamberov PhD, to be elected to the academic position of "ASSOCIANT PROFESSOR", professional direction "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal Pathology".**

20.05.2024

Sofia

Prepared the opinion:

(Prof. Dr. Ya. Iliev, PhD)