

by Prof. Rayko Dimitrov Peshev, Ph.D., head of Department "Epizootology and Infectious Animal Diseases" in NDNIVMI, Sofia, according to the announced competition for associate professor, in the field of higher education, Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty Animal Pathology, in the discipline of Pathology (General Pathology) announced in the Official Gazette, no. 18 of 1.3.2024 for the needs of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (VMF) of the University of Forestry (LTU).

In connection with the competition announced by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (VMF) of the Forestry University (LTU) professional direction 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty Animal Pathology, in the discipline of Pathology (General Pathology) announced in the Official Gazette, no. 18 of 1.3.2024, for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", the documents were submitted by a single candidate, Chief Assistant, Ph.D. Georgi Stoychev Popov. To participate in the competition, the following documents are submitted: European-style curriculum vitae; notarized copies of diplomas for completed higher education; notarized copies of diploma/s for acquired educational and scientific degree "Doctor"; a document for an occupied academic position; medical certificate; criminal record certificate; certificate of internship in the specialty; certificate of compliance with the minimum national requirements for ONS "Doctor", with supporting material; reference-self-assessment for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "associate professor" - Appendix 1.4; reference-self-assessment for the fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for the academic position "associate professor" - Appendix 2; list of scientific works after the award of the degree "Doctor" and occupation of "Ch. assistant" position, with evidentiary material, classification of publications; reference to the contributions in the works that do not repeat the works from the last competition for occupying an academic position and from the last defended dissertation work; summaries of works in Bulgarian and English; list of citations; a list of participations in scientific conferences, with evidentiary material; a list of other professional and creative activities and appearances, with evidentiary material; reference for the scientific, teaching and expert activities - Appendix 8; sample information card in Bulgarian - Appendix 12; sample information card in English - Appendix 12; declaration under Art. 313 of the NC for the reliability of the information provided - Appendix 4. The documents and materials submitted by the candidate are in accordance with the rules for development of academic staff at LTU.

Brief autobiographical data: Chief Assistant Dr. Georgi Stoychev Popov was born in the town of Gotse Delchev on 3.8.1990. He completed his secondary education in 2009 at the science and mathematics high school. From 2009 to 2015 he studied veterinary medicine at the LTU, Sofia, from 2015 till 2016, he worked as a veterinarian at Amivet Sofia, from 2015 to 2020 he was an assistant at LTU, from 2020 till now he was a chief assistant at LTU, in 2019 he received the Doctorate of Sciences, as the topic of his dissertation was: "Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances from medicinal plants".

Scientific, scientific applied and publication activity

A list of scientific articles is presented by the candidate. Of the scientific publications that are referenced and indexed in WEB of Science, Scopus with an impact factor or SJR, 14 articles are listed. Of these, 8 are in journals with an impact factor, and 6 are in journals without an impact factor. Also a monograph published in 2024 were presented on the topic: "Pathological-anatomical characteristics of poisoning in domestic animals" and a book on a defended dissertation on the topic: "Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances of Astragalus species". Also presented are 9 pieces, announcements for the acquisition of scientific degree "Doctor" (including a dissertation and an abstract). They will not be considered because they have been awarded an Doctorate and defended dissertation work. Most of the research conducted is in the field of pathology caused by toxic substances, neoplasias and infectious diseases. The studies were carried out by means of modern and routine morphological methods and analysis and are aimed at clarifying the pathogenesis and morphogenesis, systematizing the pathoanatomical finding and diagnosing some old and new problematic for domestic animals and becoming increasingly topical intoxications. Using pathomorphological methods, medicinal plants have been studied to confirm their pharmacological activity. Extracts, saponin fractions, and secondary metabolites have been studied for antioxidant, hepatoprotective, neuroprotective, nephroprotective, antitumor, and antiosteoporotic activities. In the presented articles of a scientific and applied nature, the important contributions are: development of an in silico protocol for predicting pharmacological activity, differential-diagnostic scheme of diseases related to endocrine disorders, neurological changes, etc. Research has been carried out with the aim of introducing into use cytological methods for the diagnosis of reproductive changes in productive animals. The basis for the development of phytoproducts for the purpose of their application in human and veterinary medical practice is the data obtained on the protective effect of medicinal plants.

The contributions can be distributed thematically in the following areas: I. Pathological-anatomical characteristics of changes in the animal organism, caused by the intake of toxic substances and others. II. Pathological and pharmacological studies of samples of plant origin. III. Clinical and pathological assessment of infectious and non-infectious diseases in domestic and captive animals.

Participation in other professional and creative activities appearances

During the last 3 years, the candidate has a high classroom and extracurricular activity with students in both Bulgarian and English languages. There are 936 hours in Bulgarian, of which 913 hours are exercises and 24 hours are lectures. In English there are 778 hours of which 772 hours are exercises and 44 hours are lectures. His extracurricular employment for the period was 107.9 hours in Bulgarian and 68.3 hours in English. Dr. Popov over the years, has supported the development of the pathomorphological aspects in doctoral studies of 4 doctoral students in 2021 of one doctoral student - cheff. Assistant Professor Georgi Marinov, Ph.D., in 2023 a two PhD students, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Seven Mustafa and Associate Dr. Iliyan Georgiev, and in 2024 a PhD student Radoslav Rafailov. Also, joint work was carried out with 4 students in the "Student Scientific Development" department on the preparation and presentation of scientific reports at a scientific conference in Yundola. He was also a trainer in a group specialization in "Veterinary Dermatology of small and exotic animals". Chief Assistant Dr. Popov is a member of a number of administrative structures of the veterinary faculty in LTU, was a course leader of students, and was a member of the

organizing committee of the international scientific conferences "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine" from 2017 to now, participated in the equipment and development of the laboratory of pathohistology in educational building "D", as well as of a laboratory for the preparation of macroscopic preparations. He has acquired a professional qualification in "Protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific or educational purposes".

Participation in scientific applied and educational projects

The candidate has participated in four projects financed by LTU. Dr. Popov also participated in 18 scientific conferences at which he presented 9 posters, and 9 of the messages were presented orally. There are a number of award-winning performances at internationally recognized forums - 2 first places, one second and two third places at the International Scientific Conference "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine".

Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature - citability

The scientific articles of Dr. Popov were cited 17 times in refereed scientific journals and twice in non-refereed ones.

Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

It is clear from the scientific reports presented that the candidate's personal contribution is very tangible. I believe that most of his communications in which he is in the first place, the book and the monograph are the personal work of the candidate.

Critical notes and recommendations

From the reference for scientific reports, it can be seen that Chief Ass. Georgi Popov is in first place in three publications, in second place in 5 messages and in third and subsequent places in 10 articles. I know that currently science is not only the personal work of the candidate, but is the work of a number of author collectives. My recommendation to the candidate is that in the future he should be an initiator and bearer of ideas in more than scientific communications, and in more places to be in the first place.

Personal impressions

My personal impressions of the candidate are excellent, he is a young teacher and scientist fully committed to the veterinary medical profession. Thorough in his preparation for delivering lectures and exercises on pathological anatomy to veterinary students, beloved by his colleagues and students alike.

Fulfillment of minimum national requirements

From the reference for the minimum national requirements for indicator - 1 A for a defended dissertation, the candidate has 50 points, for point B indicator 2 – no points, for point B indicators 3 and 4 there is a total of 104.89 points. According to indicator D - sum of indicators from 5 to 10, according to the requirements of the Law, there should be 200 points, and he exceeds this indicator and collects 216 points as follows: D 5 - monograph not presented as the main habilitation work 100 points, D 6 - published book 40 points, D 7 - articles and reports published in refereed and indexed in world-famous databases 4 scientific reports carrying 76 points. In a group of indicators D, he presents 17 citations, which bring

him 265 points, exceeding the requirements for this indicator. From the presented scientific reports and citations, it can be seen that the total is 635.89 points, thus the candidate fulfills the *minimum national requirements for an associate professor*.

Conclusion

The scientific research and applied achievements presented to me by the Assistant Professor Dr. Georgi Stoychev Popov and the obtained results in the field of pathology and morphology give me full right to conclude that he meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its Application at LTU. His participation in the education of students is palpable, which is evident from both classroom and non-classroom hours. The scientific indicators have been met and meet the requirements for acquiring the academic position "Docent". The candidate has been working in the field of pathology for more than 8 years, during which time good research and applied results have been achieved, which have been presented to the scientific community. They are evaluated on merit and this is evident from the citations of the scientific reports. specialty Animal Pathology, in the discipline Pathology (General Pathology). I will vote positively and allow myself to recommend to the members of the Scientific Jury and to the members of the Scientific Council of the Faculty of veterinary medicine of LTU, Sofia to vote positively for awarding the academic position "Docent" to the Assistant Professor. Dr. Georgi Stoychev Popov in the field of higher education Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional direction 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty Animal Pathology, in the discipline Pathology (General Pathology).

18.5.2024

Sofia

Wrote the opinion:

(Prof. Rayko Peshev, D. of Science)