

OPINION

on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, Scientific Specialty "Animal Surgery, Radiology and Physiotherapy", Discipline "Surgery (Productive animals diseases, Equine diseases, Company animals diseases)", published in the State Gazette, issue 18 of 01.03.2024 and procedure code: **VM-AsP-0224-127**

Candidate for participation in the competition: Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov, Ph.D., Chief Assistant Professor from the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology" of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

Opinion written by: Roman Pepovich, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Department of "Infectious Pathology, Hygiene, Technology and Control of Foods from Animal Origin", Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia, member of the Scientific Jury based on Order № 199/15.04.2024 of the Rector of University of Forestry, Sofia.

1. Short biographical data

Dr. Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov was born on 15 December 1989 in Stara Zagora. He graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 2015 at the University of Forestry, Sofia. He started working as a veterinarian in the veterinary clinic "AMIVET". In 2016, he joined the University of Forestry as an assistant in the Department of "Surgery, Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology" of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, after which in 2020 he became a chief assistant professor in the same department. In 2019, he successfully defended a dissertation on the topic "Study of the influence of various regenerative therapies in sheep and dogs with osteoarthritis" and was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D." in the scientific specialty "Animal Surgery, Radiology and Physiotherapy". Fluent in spoken and written English (level B2). He participated in seminars on "Canine and Feline Endoscopy" and "Basic Course in Dental Medicine and Neurological Examination". He is a member of permanent and temporary committees at the faculty.

2. General description of the submitted materials for participation in the competition

The submitted documents and materials of Dr. Konstantin Aminkov are in full volume and fully meet the legal requirements, as well as those laid down in the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry for awarding the academic position Associate Professor. They provide comprehensive information on research and publication activity, teaching activity and professional development. According to the attached reference, the candidate covers the minimum required points by groups of indicators from the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry, Field of Higher Education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine as follows:

Indicator A: Dissertation work for the award of Educational and Scientific Degree "Ph.D.", defended in 2019 - **50 points**.

Indicator V: According to this indicator, **100 points** were scored from the publication of a habilitation work - monograph (*Regenerative therapies. "Intel Entrans" Publishing House, Sofia, ISBN 978-619-7703-53-5, p.112*).

Indicator G: The number of points under this indicator is **213.15**, which exceeds the required 200 points, as they are obtained from a published book based on a defended dissertation work for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D." (40 points); articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information (156.50 points); articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes (16.65 points).

Indicator D: According to this indicator related to citations, the candidate fulfills the requirements. I do not accept the specified 9 citations in dissertation works (indicator D14), which cannot be identified in the scientific database. As a result of this reduction, the candidate collects 230 points with a required minimum of 50 points.

As a result of the presented Chief Assistant Professor Konstantin Aminkov has a total number of points for all indicators of 593.15 points, with a required score of 400 points.

3. Evaluation of the educational and pedagogical activity

As the main assistant in his eight years of active teaching and learning activity, Dr. Konstantin Aminkov successfully teaches students his professional experience. The total study load for the last 5 academic years in the Bulgarian course of study is 1464 hours of classroom work and 104.6 hours of extracurricular work, and in the English language education - 1522 hours of classroom work and 90.2 hours of extracurricular work. In the author's reference, it is specified that, as a chief assistant, he led exercises and seminars in the disciplines: "Surgery Module (Productive animals diseases, Equine diseases, Company animals diseases); "Herd Health Management"; "Radiology"; "Anesthesiology and Emergency Medicine"; "Propaedeutics of surgical diseases in animals"; "Veterinary Dentistry"; "Physiotherapy"; "Neurology and Neurosurgery" and "Mobile Clinic" (in Bulgarian and English). He participated in the development of the curriculum (in Bulgarian and English) for the mandatory course "Propaedeutics of surgical diseases in animals", with a schedule of 45 hours of lectures and 45 hours of practices, and for the elective course "Veterinary Medicine Stomatology", with a schedule of 15 hours of lectures and 15 hours of practices.

4. Evaluation of scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities

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

The personal reference of the candidate shows that Dr. Konstantin Aminkov participated, as a member of the working group, in the following research projects, financed by the Scientific Research Sector of University of Forestry:

- "Application of BM (bone marrow) and PRP (platelet-enriched plasma) in osteoarthritis of the knee joint in sheep" lasting 2 years, Contract № 151/08.03.2017;

- "Prevalence, diagnosis, prognosis, therapy and prevention of cardiac dirofilariasis in cats in Bulgaria" lasting 2 years, Contract № SRS-B-27/07.03.2018;

- "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" lasting 2 years, Contract № SRS-B-1148/05.04.2021.

4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results

Dr. Konstantin Aminkov submitted a total of **16 scientific papers** for participation in the current competition for the academic position of "Associate professor", of which **11 (68.8%)** were published in English and **5 (31.2%)** in Bulgarian. Of these, **14 (88%)** are publications in periodical issues, **1 (6%)** monograph containing own results and **1 (6%)** book based on a defended dissertation work. Of all the publications presented, **9 (64.3%)** were published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (the majority in the journal "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine", referenced in Web of Science according to NACID list) and **5 (35.7%)** – represent articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. Articles in foreign journals are **1 (7.1%)**, of which **1** is with IF₂₀₁₇: 0.9.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in literature (known citations)

There are **9** cited scientific publications from Bulgarian refereed publications. The total number of citations is **16**. Of them, **6 (37.5%)** in articles with an impact factor and **10 (62.5%)** in international journals without IF and SJR.

4.4. Contributions of the candidate's publications

The presented reference and the attached publications outline the diverse scientific interests of Dr. Konstantin Aminkov in various areas of veterinary science, which are both theoretical and applied in nature. In general, the contributions can be summarized in the following main areas:

- ✓ Contributions related to the development, application and treatment of Surgical Diseases in companion animals with Platelet Rich Plasma;
- ✓ Contributions in the field of Imaging Diagnostics;
- ✓ Contributions in the field of Veterinary Anesthesiology;

- ✓ Other contributions (a case of a dog with bladder tumor; a case of neuroendocrine tumor in a dancing Eurasian brown bear; a clinical case of splenic torsion in a dog).

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

The personal participation of Dr. Konstantin Aminkov in the mentioned **16** scientific papers is illustrated by the fact that in **5** of them he is an independent author, in **1** - with one co-author, in **5** - with two co-authors and in **5** - with three or more co-authors. In the collective publications, taking into account the complex nature of the conducted research, I assume that the candidate has a share in the contributions achieved.

6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no significant critical remarks about Dr. Konstantin Aminkov, but I allow myself to recommend him, as a colleague possessing the necessary knowledge and skills, to make efforts to popularize his future scientific results and contributions in a larger number of international publications, referenced and indexed in the world databases Web of Science and Scopus.

7. Personal impressions

My personal impressions are from our collective work at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Over the years, the colleague has demonstrated a desire for professional and academic development. He works well in a team and is a respected lecturer.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the scientific research work and teaching activity, I consider that Dr. Konstantin Bogdanov Aminkov meets the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at University of Forestry - Sofia for acquiring the academic position of "Assoc. Professor". All this gives me reason to **POSITIVELY** evaluate his overall activity and to propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to vote positively for the awarding of the academic title "Assoc. Professor" in the Scientific Specialty "Animal Surgery, Radiology and Physiotherapy" from Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine.

23.05.2024

Sofia

Opinion written by:

/ Assoc. Prof. Roman Pepovich, PhD /