



## OPINION

on the materials for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Pathology (General Pathomorphology)", announced by University of Forestry in The State Gazette no. 18/1.3.2024, procedure code VM-AsP-0224-126.

Applicant for participation in the competition:

1. Ch. Assist. Dr. Georgi Stoychev Popov, PhD

Prepared by: Dr. Katerina Stanimirova Dimitrova, associate professor of professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine from IEMPAM-BAS.

### 1. Brief biographical data about the candidate

Georgi Stoychev Popov was born in 1990 and after graduating from the "Yane Sandanski" High School of Science and Mathematics, profile Science and Mathematics, he became a student from 09.2009. until 05.2015 in FVM at UF, master of veterinary medicine. On 31.10.2019 he obtained PhD Diploma No. LTU-ONS-2019-117 with the topic of the work: "Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances from medicinal plants". Georgi Popov has a professional qualification in the protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific or educational purposes. He worked in the field of Veterinary medicine as a veterinarian and since 25.01.2016 started his teaching activity with students of "Veterinary Medicine" at UF. The candidate participates in the preparation and conduct of exercises, seminars, practical, semester exams in the disciplines of Pathology /General Pathomorphology/ and Pathology /Special Pathological Anatomy/. At the same time, Dr. Popov carries out his research activities in the field of his interests. He is currently a member of the UF Academic Council; member of the Faculty Council of the FVM; member of the Faculty Committee at FVM on "Organization and Conduct of Practices and Internships", member of the Organizing Committee of the International Scientific Conference "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine"; member of the Editorial Board for drafting a collection of abstracts and program of the International Scientific Conference "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine". Dr. Popov is materially responsible for the department of "Internal non-communicable diseases, pathology and pharmacology" in the faculty.

### 2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the requirements according to the Regulations at UF

According to the current competition, Dr. Georgi Stoychev Popov submitted his documents for participation within the deadline, which testify that the candidate fulfills the conditions and requirements in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its application at UF-Sofia, to acquire an academic position "Assoc. Prof." in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary

medicine, 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Pathology (General Pathomorphology)", namely:

According to indicator A. Dissertation work for awarding the educational and scientific degree PhD: 50 points; institution: Department of "Internal non-communicable diseases, pathology and pharmacology", FVM at UF, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", Diploma No. LTU - ONS - 2019-117; Dissertation topic: Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances from medicinal plants (2019). According to indicator G, Dr. Popov has presented publications through which he procures 30.8 points. The candidate is registered at NACID: <https://ras.nacid.bg/dissertation-preview/48230>.

Georgi Stoychev Popov has provided a Self-Assessment Report on compliance of the scientific production with the minimum national requirements under Art. 2b of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the RB and Art. 2a, paragraph 1 of the relevant Regulation of UF for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Assoc. Prof.", and according to indicator B he collects 104.89 points, according to indicator G-216 points, according to indicator D-265 points or a total of the competition, he presented materials corresponding to 635.89 points, with 400 required by law.

### **3. Evaluation of the educational and teaching activity of the candidate**

In his autobiography and in Appendix 8 of his documents, Dr. Popov introduces us to his teaching activity, which I touched on above. He participated in the creation and equipment of 2 teaching laboratories and centers and led 2 foreign language courses. There has been one own training in an institution. He works with the students in the preparation and conduct of their exercises, seminars and practical classes and participates in the conduct of the semester exams in the disciplines entrusted to him. He enjoys the respect, approval and overall positive attitude of his students and colleagues. It can be seen that Dr. Popov successfully collaborated with them and with a number of veterinary and humane doctors and colleagues from the scientific field of biomedicine, both in the country and abroad. One of the prerequisites for this is the annual holding of the International Scientific Conference "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine", which gathers students, teachers and scientists to exchange new knowledge, which Dr. Popov applies in his teaching activities. The personal and professional qualities of the candidate are a guarantee for the stability of his professional development and for future success and career growth.

### **4. Evaluation of the scientific, applied scientific and publication activity of the candidate**

The total number of Dr. Popov's scientific papers in the competition is 16 (14 of them in English), and the following are presented: 1 monograph, 1 book on defended dissertation work, 8 scientific publications with in renowned journals with an impact factor and 6 scientific publications in specialized journals without IF, but referenced in Scopus and Web of Science. The total impact factor of the works presented is 24.115. The total number of noticed citations is 19, of which 17 are in journals referenced in Scopus and Web of Science. Data were extracted from accessible

databases (Scopus, ICI Web of Knowledge, Google Scholar, Scirus, ICI Web of Science, etc.). Georgi Stoychev Popov participated in 23 scientific forums with reports and posters.

Regarding the quantity and quality of the publication activity, I can note that they fully meet the national and institutional criteria, and also - some of the publications fall into categories of journals with rank Q1 and Q2 of Scopus (Food and Chemical Toxicology, Journal of Ethnopharmacology, Journal of Molecular Structure, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, etc.), which are preferred as information databases and are highly cited in the international scientific community.

The main contributions in the candidate's developments are in the field of pathology, with modern and routine morphological methods and analyzes aimed at clarifying the pathogenesis and morphogenesis, systematizing the patho-anatomical finding and diagnosing of some known and new infectious and non-infectious diseases in animals.

Modern studies have been carried out to confirm pharmacological activity of medicinal plants and their extracts, saponin fractions and their secondary metabolites for antioxidant, hepatoprotective, neuroprotective, nephroprotective, antitumor and antiosteoporotic activity with potential for use in medicine. Dr. Popov also participates in research of a scientific-applied nature, testifying to the relevance of the developed topics related to: development of an *in silico* protocol for predicting pharmacological activity; differential diagnostic scheme of diseases related to endocrinological disorders, neurological changes, etc. Also, of an applied nature in humane and veterinary-medical practice are basic studies in which the candidate participates, with the aim of putting into operation cytological methods for diagnosing reproductive changes and developing phytoproducts from medicinal plants with a protective effect. Dr. Popov presents in his documents a detailed description of his studies, which he groups in the following main scientific directions:

- I. Pathologoanatomical characteristics of changes in the animal organism, caused by taking toxic substances and others.
- II. Pathologoanatomical and pharmacological studies of samples of plant origin.
- III. Clinical and pathological assessment of infectious and non-infectious diseases in domestic and captive animals.
- IV. Research of a scientific and applied nature.

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

In addition to co-authorship in renowned publications, Dr. Popov made a completely personal, independent contribution to the publication of the monograph "Pathological-anatomical characteristics of poisoning in domestic animals" and the book "Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances of species of the genus *Astragalus*". In the first work, he summarized data on the pathogenesis, clinical presentation, pathological findings and diagnosis of common poisonings in domestic animals based on 177 scientific sources and almost ten years of scientific and practical personal experience in this field. In his book "Pathomorphological and pharmacological studies on the protective effect of biologically active substances of species of the genus *Astragalus*". Dr. Popov presents some well-

established and widely used models of intoxication in various *in vitro* and *in vivo* experimental setups, as part of the studies are illustrated with 62 author's macroscopic and microscopic photographs and 281 scientific sources are used for the interpretation.

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

I have none of these.

#### **7. Personal impressions**

As a fellow veterinarian and in the function of the head of the "Pathology" section at a scientific institution at the BAS, I have long-term supervision of the work of colleagues at the Department of "Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology", FVM at UF, among whom is the candidate for the current competition. I have also formed part of my impressions during a visit or during communication in connection with the conference organized by the FVM, in whose Organizing Committee Dr. Popov is a member. Although the contacts were not always direct, I wish to express my entirely positive impressions of him, both personally and professionally. This impression is reinforced by the respect of his colleagues, which I have observed over the years.

Dr. Popov has prominent interests and long-standing professional appearances in the field of pathology and a personal vocation in the field of scientific and teaching activities, which makes him a desirable candidate for the competition and with the necessary skills and experience. I believe that one can vote full confidence in his overall work and in his expertise, that he possesses key skills and puts effort into his professional realization.

#### **8. Conclusion**

I SUGGEST

Ch. Assistant Georgi Stoichev Popov to take up the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the discipline "Pathology (General Pathomorphology)" from professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine.



The statement was prepared by: Assoc. Dr. K. Dimitrova, IEMPAM-BAN

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