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REVIEW

On the materials for participation in competition for academic degree "Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Pathology (Special Pathological Anatomy)", for the needs of the University of Forestry, announced in the State Gazette issue 32/03.04.2020 and procedure code: VM-P-0320-35.

Candidate for participation in the competition is:

1. Assoc. Prof. Vasil Kostandinov Manov, PhD

Reviewer: Prof. DVM Emil Ivanov Sapundzhiev, PhD, DSc, under professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, by the University of Forestry, according to an Order of the Rector of the UF No. 3ПЦ-173/11May2020 for the composition of the Scientific Jury and protocol of its first meeting on 12 June 2020

1. Brief biographical data about the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Kostadinov Manov is a profiled veterinary specialist who has grown up in such of family environment. He was graduated a specialized veterinary high school in Lovech (1981) and then he was obtained higher education at the "Faculty of Veterinary Medicine" at the Trakia University in Stara Zagora (1989). He has had practical experience as a veterinarian in a farm and after which he is devoted himself to work at the University. He is started as "Assistant Professor" at the Trakia University, and since 1996 he was a "Chief. Assistant" at the University of Forestry, where he still works, and was habilitated as an "Associate Professor" in 2010 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He defended his PhD dissertation on the topic: "Comparative pathomorphological studies in animals infected with Bulgarian isolates of Aujeszky's disease virus", and he was awarded the scientific degree "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine" in 2009.

2. Compliance of applicant's materials and documents to the requirements listed in the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry:

During the inspection of the documents submitted for the competition, the Scientific Jury for the competition established full compliance with the required documents, according to the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at UF. The materials were submitted in hard copy and in electronic format. It is noteworthy, that they are fully in complete, according to the established order for clinical morphologists and arranged with precision characteristic for a pharmacy shop.

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the applicant:

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov is a full-time lecturer in two main disciplines for students of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at UF. The first is "General Pathomorphology", studied in the third year, and the second is "Special Pathological Anatomy", studied in the fourth year of education. He has the necessary annual hourly workload for a habilitated lecturer within the general curricular and extracurricular engagement. He is the compiler of the four curricula updated in 2018 in these

disciplines, including those for the English language teaching. He participated in the creation, equipment and operation of a total of four universities educational centres and laboratories, which are directly related to the conduct of classes with students and the service of academic disciplines. There are a total of nine teaching aids and textbooks published, of which seven are related to the competition and have specific titles in the subjects he leads, and one manual is in English.

4. Evaluation of the research, researched & applied and publishing activity of the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov participates in the competition with two national research projects, which are part of the National Research Fund at the Ministry of Education and Science, and his participation is directly related to pathological examinations of animals as a result of parasitological and nutritional disorders of patients included in the studies. He is a coworker in an educational project under the program "Student practices" that raises the qualification of practicing students and maintains nationally linked identification. Under his guidance he has a PhD student, who successfully defended a dissertation, in the same scientific field and specialty, a very promising and reliable young assistant, which outlines a successful transfer of experience and discipline-specific skills for teaching. He is a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal published by FVM of the UF – "Tradition and Modernity in Veterinary Medicine", which started publishing in 2016 and is gaining scientific representativeness. The results of his participation in these research projects, as well as the optimal number of case studies are presented with a total of 26 participations in scientific conferences for the last 10 years, which is a very good attestation for his scientific activity.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results:

The total number of publications of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov is 82, he participated with 46 publications in the competition for "Professor", with 7 in relation to the defense of PhD and with 29 in the habilitation for "Associate Professor". For this competition were presented 2 monographs, 2 textbooks and 5 manuals, 37 scientific articles, 12 of which are in prestigious scientific journals with impact factor, 1 in a foreign journal and 2 in a Bulgarian journal, from the column referred to in Scopus, and 17 not referred in this database, 3 of which are foreign journals. Of the total number of publications, 30 are in English and 16 are in Bulgarian, in 7 he is the only author, in 2 he has one co-author, and in another 2 he has two co-authors, and in the other 35 he has three or more co-authors. In addition, 5 publications in collections of national scientific forums are also presented and 24 abstracts from participations in national and international scientific forums are included also.

The scientific publications for the competition are 46 in total and can be grouped into four main areas.

1. Publications related to the pathological processes of infectious diseases and neoplasms important for veterinary practice. (Publications No.No. 4, 6, 16, 18-21, 23, 25, 27-29, 31, 32, 34, 35).
2. Publications related to pharmacological studies of the effects of plant substances on the animal body and the pathological finding. (Publications No.No. 1-3, 5, 8-13, 15, 33).
3. Publications related to the pathoanatomical diagnosis of poisoning with toxic substances and other casuistic cases. (Publications No.No. 7, 14, 24, 30, 36).
4. Publications related to the scientific and applied nature of the pathoanatomical picture in conducting research. (Publications No.No. 1-3, 7-8, 10-13, 15, 26, 33).

Two monographs are presented in the reference for participation in the competition. The first of them presents pathological processes that are significant for veterinary practice and the accompanying morphological changes in the examined organs and systems of the animal body. Original figures and data from own publications were used. The second work presents data on common oncological diseases in animals and this is a shared experience of more than thirty years of work in this field. A comparable classification of neoplasms in animals is made, as well as a description of their ethology, morphology, evolution and morphological & functional characteristics.

4.3. Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in the literature (citation):

The reference for the competition presents the citations of the scientific works found in the world databases with the participation of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov according to the scientometric instructions. They are a total of 14 scientific publications with 85 citations and according to the indexation of data from Scopus and Web of Science, for 6 of them are registered 54 citations, and from other databases respectively for 8 scientific publications there are 31 citations. These data speak of an intensive research work, which has realization and recognition in the scientific community. I accept the report as reliable, and the data for most of them have been randomly checked. I also had the opportunity, due to my official responsibilities, to check the data submitted by Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov for another purposes, and therefore I believe that they bring him a real scientometric points.

4.4. Contributions in the works of the candidate (scientific, scientific & applied, applied):

The scientific contributions of the individual publications are diverse, but synthesized purposefully in the field of pathoanatomy and histological pathology. They are based on both classical morphological studies and specialized histochemical, immunohistochemical, molecular and paraclinical methods used in the diagnosis of animals included in the studies, purposefully to clarify the etiology, pathogenesis and morphogenesis of some known infectious disease that are problematic for the country. The scientific assets also include the efforts to create a model system for experimental oncological research, development of an *in silico* protocol for predicting the pharmacological activity of the studied substances. The results of the effect of extracts, saponin fractions and secondary metabolites on their hepatoprotective, antioxidant, antidiabetic and neuroprotective activity were also studied. The data on the protective effect of the examined medicinal plants are the basis for the development of plant-based pharmacological products for the purpose of their application in human and veterinary practice. The studies related to reproductive disorders in pigs are also with pathoanatomical focus. Most of the scientific contributions in the individual fields of scientific publications are of an original nature, which I accept and share in, because of the limited opportunity for reflection in this review. There are no less significant contributions of a confirmatory nature, which are in the specific scientific areas of research and there are also accompanying his publications.

5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate:

Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov is a nationally presented specialist and consultant, who is an expert in one of the rare specialties – pathology. In addition, 15 documented expert opinions of state and private companies on various occasions were presented for the participation in the competition. He is a reviewer of 5 curricula, 15 scientific articles and reports, 3 scientific projects, 16 reviews and opinions under the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, of which 2 for Professor and 1 for Doctor of Sciences, 5 for Associate Professor, 2 for Chief Assistant and 6 for PhD degree.

Table 1 Scoring indicators.

Group of indicators	Content	For Professor	Competition candidate – Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 12	200	245.63
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 15	100	1030
F	Sum of indicators from 16 to the end	100	144.8
	total	550 /minimum/	1570.43

The assessment of the fulfilled scientometric indicators and the respective scoring on them is a reason to report a high general overfulfillment of the minimum national requirements. Of these, the data on publication activity and citation are particularly clear, and together with the various indicators from point F, an almost three-stage overfulfillment is collected. I am confident in the reliability of the table data and I accept them as a real report of the teaching and research activities of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations:

In the general assessment of the overall teaching and research activity of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Manov I allow myself to recommend to make efforts to develop a research project through which to utilize funds for better equipment of the material base of the disciplines he leads. Also, he should add a curriculum for a selective subject to the FVM curriculum through which to fill the annual hourly load without any problems.


7. Personal impressions:

I know my colleague Dr. Vasil Manov since his appointment as Chief Assistant at FVM in 1996 and as colleagues in the field of morphology we had common ground. Even then, he showed a visible commitment to the learning process and research. This led to the successful defense of his PhD thesis in the difficult conditions of the economic crisis in those years. He was appointed in charge of

clinical activities in our Faculty and it can be said that although there are many claims for its improvement, a lot of practical work was done, thanks to which FVM has passed through two national accreditations and a consultative procedure visit of representatives of the EAEVE. He is a member of the Academic Council of the UF – second term, and is regularly elected to the Faculty Council of the FVM, and he is a member of several auxiliary commissions to the collective governing organisations. For a long time, he was an active member of the professional organization Union of Veterinarians in Bulgaria and after the change of the legislation in 2008 he was a member of the Bulgarian Veterinary Union. For the reporting period there are 2 institutional awards and for 2018 he was nominated for the annual award of the Rector of UF for Research investigations.

8. Conclusion:

Based on the general description of the submitted materials and the covered minimum national requirements for each group of indicators, as well as the generally obtained high scientometric data, which are about three times higher than the minimum national requirements for the professional scientific direction of the competition, and on the basis of scientific contributions and educational and scientific results, I give a positive assessment, and I believe that the candidate comprehensively meets the requirements for holding the academic position "PROFESSOR", and that is why I propose Assoc. Prof. Vasil Kostadinov Manov to be conferred with the academic position "PROFESSOR", in the scientific field 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Pathology (Special Pathological Anatomy)", for the needs of FVM at UF.

Reviewer's signature: 
(Prof. DVM E. Sapundzhiev, PhD, DSc)

The review was submitted on: 9 July 2020