

## REVIEW

on the application materials in the competition for holding academic position of **Associate Professor** in field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional area, 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "**Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals**", in the discipline "Infectious diseases (Farm animals diseases, Equine diseases, Diseases of companion animals)", announced by the **University of Forestry** in Official Gazette No. 100/16.12.2022, procedure code VM-AsP-1222-96.

### Candidate for participation in the competition:

**Senioir assistant Georgi Malinov STOIMENOV, PhD**  
professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty  
"Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases  
in animals", University of Forestry, Sofia

### Reviewer:

**Prof. Prof. Ilia TSACHEV, DSc,**  
professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty  
"Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases  
in animals", Trakia University, Stara Zagora

### **1. Brief biographical data of the applicant.**

Georgi Malinov Stoimenov graduated Veterinary Medicine in 2011 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry in Sofia. His academic performance was very good and his state exam performance excellent. After his graduation he worked as a veterinarian for two years, after which he won a competition (2013) and was appointed as an assistant professor in the Department of Infectious Pathology, Hygiene, Technology and Control of Food of Animal Origin at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia. After four years he defended a dissertation "Studies on Influenza A viruses in wild birds in Bulgaria" and obtained a PhD in the scientific specialty "Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals".

Georgi Stoimenov was excellent assistant and in 2017 he was promoted to Senior Assistant. His long-term specializations at the National Veterinary Research Institute in Sofia in 2014 and at the Croatian Veterinary Institute in Zagreb in 2021 contribute to his upward career development. Stoimenov has and several short-term specializations in Austria, Portugal, Romania, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Georgi Stoimenov has also participated in numerous specialized professional courses in the country.



## **2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the required ones pursuant to the Rules for development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry.**

Georgi Malinov Stoimenov participate in the competition for associate professor with the required set of documents (23), which are required by the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Forestry University. They are presented in 3 copies on paper and 7 more on CD. According to the attached reference, the candidate for associate professor covers the minimum required points according to the groups of indicators from the Regulations for the development of the academic staff at the University of Forestry, area 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, 6.4. Veterinary medicine as follows:

- Indicator A (50): PhD Dissertation - 50 points
- Indicator B (100): Scientific publications /10/ from referenced and indexed databases - 140 points
- Indicator D (200): The number of points under this indicator are acquired from a published book based on a defended dissertation; articles and reports published in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases; articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes and a published chapter of a collective monograph - 227.61 points.
- Indicator D (50): On this indicator, related to citations or reviews in scientific publications, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, I accept the collected 215 points, exceeding many times the required 50 obtained from 21 citations in referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information.
- Without being required in the competition for associate professor, the candidate Stoimenov has also added assets under Indicator E: 180 points were formed from participation in 8 national scientific and educational projects and 3 participations in international scientific and educational projects.

**✚ The candidate in the competition, Georgi Stoimenov, has a total of 812.61 points, twice exceeding the required minimum of 400 points for an associate professor.**

## **3. Assessment of the candidate's teaching work.**

Georgi Malinov Stoimenov has 9 years of teaching experience, which includes classes - lectures and exercises in Bulgarian and English - in the disciplines of Virology, Epidemiology and preventive veterinary medicine, Infectious diseases, Diseases of bees, fish and game and exercises in Mobile clinic. Its average classroom workload for the academic year 2021-2022 amounts to 350 hours in Bulgarian and 279 hours in English; the extra-auditory time for the same period is 15.2 and 20.2 hours, respectively.

He passed the educational course on "Employment training and maintenance of e-learning platform Blackboard Learn™, which enabled him to prepare the e-course



"Infectious Diseases (Companion animal infectious diseases)" for veterinary students (Blackboard Learn™ platform, <http://elearn.ltu.bg/>).

Doctor Stoimenov is an academic teacher with an international reputation. He presented 8 hours of lectures in English to students, PhD students, specialists and academic teachers at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Córdoba, Spain in 2022 under the project "Modernization of higher education for sustainable use of natural resources in Bulgaria".

✚ **The candidate for associate professor is an accomplished educator who has earned the trust and love of several generations of veterinary students.**

#### **4. Assessment of the candidate's scientific, scientific applied and publication activities**

In the competition for associate professor, the candidate presents 25 scientific papers, of which: scientific publications with an impact factor (IF) - 5; scientific publications with SJR - 7; scientific publications without an impact factor (IF) in English - 17; scientific publications without impact factor (IF) in Bulgarian - 5; monograph - 1; book - 1; study practicum - 1.

The total candidate impact factor is 3.324 and the total SJR-1.864.

In Scopus-2023, Georgi Stoimenov is represented with H index 3 and has registered 7 documents published with a team of 16 authors. His most cited publication (4 times) and in just two years is Dinev I., Zarkov I., Goujgoulova G. V., Stoimenov G. M., Georgiev G., and Kanakov D., Pathologic Evaluation of Influenza A H5N8 Infection Outbreaks in Mule Ducks in Bulgaria in the authoritative journal Avian Dis (2020) with IF<sub>2020</sub>: 1,405.

The more important benefits of doctor Stoimenov's research investigations include the following 7 areas:

##### ***I. Contributions to infectious pathology in birds (they are the most numerous and most significant).***

1. Analysis of current outbreaks of Newcastle disease in birds in Bulgaria (isolation and molecular-biological subtyping and pathotyping, sequencing, the predominant genotype was established).
2. Studies of clinical signs, pathohistological changes and distribution of viral antigen in different tissues and organs by immunohistochemistry, in natural infection with HPAI H5N8 in pheasants.
3. Clinical and pathohistological studies of natural infection with HPAI H5N8 in muller ducks.
4. For the first time in Bulgaria, HPAIV H5N1 was isolated and analyzed in curled pelicans.
5. The first outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in Bulgaria is described (isolation, subtyping, pathotyping, phylogenetic analysis).



6. The outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in curly-headed pelicans in the Srebarna reserve was analyzed (the isolated viruses were sequenced, a phylogenetic analysis was performed).
7. rRT-PCR for detection of H5N8 was adapted and implemented in the national reference laboratory for Influenza A/Newcastle disease in Sofia.
8. The genetic evolution and origin of HPAI from serotypes H5N2 and H5N8 in Asia, Europe and North America were analyzed.
9. The possibility of using the DNA-barcoding method for surveillance of Influenza A viruses in the habitats of wild migratory birds was analyzed.
10. An evaluation of the diagnostic possibilities of different serological tests for the detection of antibodies against the Influenza A virus in wild birds from different samples (serum; yolk) was made.

## ***II. Contributions to infectious pathology in small ruminants***

Hematological changes in lactating goats with subclinical mastitis were investigated; An analysis of the diagnostic methods for establishing subclinical mastitis in goats was carried out; Studies have been made on the curative and prophylactic effect of antibiotic therapy during the dry period in goats; The microbiological status of the mammary gland in lactating Lacon sheep was studied.

## ***III. Contribution to infectious pathology in pigs***

Secondary bacterial pathogens were detected in nasal and lung samples from different age groups of pigs affected by respiratory infection involving *M. hyopneumonie* and *A. pleuropneumonie*

## ***IV. Contribution to the field of vector-borne infections***

DNA barcoding was analyzed to identify the types of vectors that carry pathogens in animals and humans.

## ***V. Contributions related to the study of the carcinogenic influence of various toxic substances***

A comparative study of N-nitrosodimethylamine- and N-nitrosodiethylamine-induced preneoplastic liver lesions in line 151, White Leghorn chicken embryos and similar lesions in other bird species was conducted; Neoplastic liver lesions were first described in line 151, White Leghorn chickens as a result of *in ovo* treatment with hepatocarcinogens.

## ***VI. Contribution related to infectious pathology in rabbits:***

Molecular-biological methods were used, as an alternative to the classical ones, for species identification of *Eimeria* parasites in rabbits.

## ***VII. Contributions related to the amplification of helminth DNA fragments:***

DNA from helminths of different taxonomic affiliations was isolated and purified; Through molecular biological methods, parasites belonging to the genera: *Haemonchus* (Nematoda, Trichostrongilidae) and *Fasciola* (Trematoda, Fasciolidae) were identified.

The candidate for associate professor is very well represented with his participation in the various 11 projects in which he took part: Research: 6, Educational: 5, Funded through



University of Forestry: 2, International projects: 3, Funded by scientific research fund of the Ministry of Education: 1, Funded by EU programs: 5

In his expert and consultancy activity Georgi Stoimenov is clearly noticeable (Consultant in International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), joint division IAEA/FAO, Seibersdorf, Austria; National Agricultural Advisory Service; Expert Advisory Council on African Swine Fever to Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry).

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

- ✚ I am convinced of the high personal contribution of the candidate for associate professor, in his overall scientific, pedagogical and expert activity.

#### 6. Critical notes and recommendations

- ✚ *Recommendation.* Georgi Stoimenov to be able to preserve his remarkable knowledge, with his inexhaustible creative charge for affirming the academic prosperity of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia by promoting his future scientific results in prestigious european and world scientific journals and forums.

#### 7. Personal impressions

- ✚ I know Georgi Malinov Stoimenov as an erudite researcher, a teacher beloved by his students and a deeply respected colleague in the academic and professional veterinary college.

#### 8. Conclusion

I give my **positive vote** for the candidate **Georgi Malinov STOIMENOV** for the academic position of **Associate Professor** in field of higher education 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional area, 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "**Epizootiology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals**", in the discipline "Infectious diseases (Farm animal diseases, Equine diseases, Diseases of companion animals)".

Signature:.

Prof. Ilia TSACHEV, DSc

*The review was submitted on 24-03-2023.*