



OPINION

On the materials for participation in competition for academic degree "Assoc. Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agricultural sciences and veterinary medicine, professional field 6.4. Veterinary medicine, scientific specialty "Pathology of the animals" and subject "Biochemistry" for the necessity of the Department "Pathology of the plants and Chemistry" at the Faculty "Ecology and landscape architecture" at University of Forestry, published in the State Newspaper № 24 of March 25, 2022 and code of the procedure ELA-AsP-0322-81

Reviewer: Prof. DVM Emil Ivanov Sapundzhiev, DSc in professional direction 6.4. "Veterinary medicine" from the University of Forestry, according to an order of the Rector of UF № 233-/25.05.2022 for the composition of the Scientific Jury and protocol of its first meeting from 07.06.2022.

Candidate for participation in the competition is:

The candidate is only one Chief Assistant DVM Metodi Hristov Petrichev, PhD, from University of Forestry, from the Department "Pathology of the plants and Chemistry".

1. Career development of the candidate

The only candidate for the competition, chief assistant Dr. Metodi Hristov Petrichev, PhD is a Master degree of Veterinary Medicine and graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at University of Forestry in 2001. He worked as a veterinarian practitioner in the municipality of Dragoman, then as a teacher at the professional high school of veterinary medicine in Kostinbrod, and subsequently in the company Sudahim EOOD - Sofia, also as the Head of the National Reference Laboratory at the NDNIVMI - Sofia, of the BAFS, and then at the "Care for them" Veterinary Clinic, and then he was the Head of the Laboratory at RVS Ruse EOOD - Ruse. In 2017, he joined UF as an assistant in the department of "Pathology of the plants and Chemistry" of the Faculty of "Ecology and Landscape Architecture", then in 2019 he became head assistant professor in the same department. In the meantime, in 2006, he defended PhD degree with a thesis on "Bioavailability, clinical efficacy and toxicity of ferric methionate in laboratory animals and pigs".

2. Conformity of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate with the required ones according to the Regulations for RAS in UF.

The submitted documents for the competition from Head Assistant Professor M.H. Petrichev are in accordance with the legal acts and to the list and

instructions for their preparation. From the attached report on the minimum national requirements, it can be seen that the point asset collected is above the required parameters. In my calculations, however, it can be seen that several errors have been made in some of the indicators. During the general comparison, it was found that according to the indicator group A (No. 1) - there are 50 points out of 50 required for a reported dissertation work, which is correct. In my calculations, however, it can be seen that several errors have been made in some of the indicators. During the general comparison, it was found that according to the indicator group A (No. 1) - there are 50 points out of 50 required for a reported dissertation work, which is correct. According to indicator group B (No. 2) - no points are counted if 0 are required. According to indicator group B (No. 3 and 4), there are 100 points for a presented monograph, which is also correct. According to the indicators of group D, however, I believe that 223.44 points are collected (and not 225.92 as reported), out of 200 required. According to indicators from group D, 130 points are collected (not 220 as reported), with 50 required. Thus, the total number of marks obtained by the candidate is 503.44 (not 593 as reported), out of the required 400 marks.

3. Assessment of the teaching activity of the candidate

Head Assistant Dr. M.H. Petrichev presented the official note from UF, from which it can be seen that he has work experience as an assistant and head assistant professor, a little over four and a half years in total, in the discipline of Biochemistry. It is also evident that he has a full hourly workload of classroom employment as well as extra-auditory engagement in conducting examinations. He also participates in the team of tutors who teach students in the same discipline and in English. He is one of the authors of the 2020 updated curriculum for this discipline, including the one for teaching English. I am aware that he presents himself among the students with the required academic behavior and enjoys their respect.

4. Assessment of the candidate's scientometric indicators:

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied and educational projects

The Head Assistant Professor M.H. Petrichev presented himself for the competition by participating in a total of 5 scientific national projects, which are on topics from the pathology of veterinary medicine, which in a general sense is a positive attestation indicator. I accept that results from these projects have been presented at scientific meetings, although it is not stated in the reference which publications they are associated with. There are no remarks or identified omissions regarding the implementation and reports of the projects.

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results

The total number of publications of Dr. M. Petrichev is 30, and I assume that 5 of them are related to the defense of his doctoral studies. For the current competition, the list has been distributed, respectively 1 is monograph, 14 are the scientific articles of the qualification published in scientific publications and referenced in known representative databases, of which 11 are in English, and respectively 15 are in non-referenced databases, although 3 of them are in English. Of the total number of published articles, 14 (half) are in English and the rest are in Bulgarian, as in 5 of them he is the only author, in 3 numbers he is with two co-authors, and in other 2 it has three co-authors, and in the others it has more co-authors. A list of summaries of the mentioned publications is also presented, from which the general opinion is that they have a biochemical equivalent and the related pathological processes in the metabolism of animals. It must be considered that the publications present the author with proven competence in the field of biochemical processes related to feed safety and animal or public health. A targeted and comprehensive analysis of the ongoing processes in the presence of some commonly available additives in animal feed and their impact on basic biochemical paraclinical indicators of the status of individual animal representatives was carried out.

One monographic work is presented in the application for participation in the competition. It summarizes the facts and guidelines related to the veterinary-sanitary and technological aspects of the contamination of cereals and other feeds with mycotoxins and the manifestations of mycotoxicoses in animals. The work has its scientific and practical value for specialists in veterinary medicine and other medico-biological professions, for ecologists, for feed producers, for animal breeders, and those working in the field of food safety.

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

The reference for the competition presents the citations found in the world databases of the scientific works with the participation of Dr. Metodi Petrichev according to the scientometric requirements. They are distributed in a summary list as 4 scientific publications are cited in 5 scientific journals of the refereed category, also his dissertation work is cited in 1 monograph, and also 9 more citations in the category of non-refereed journals. In the reference submitted by the applicant, they are not listed correctly, but the point asset exceeds the minimum national requirements, as I have already indicated. These data speak of targeted research work in the field of veterinary medicine

pathology and the biochemistry of metabolic processes into the animal body. This is a good attestation of the author's recognition in the scientific community and representativeness of the scientific developments with an adequate scientometric point asset. I'd like to think that there are other data which aren't listed in the internet network databases. We have a significant number of scientific publications, especially those related to environmental, feed and water pollution. The controversy over legal provisions and normative acts is widely discussed in the academic and public space, but it still needs shared representation. A prominent activity to establish working contacts with the various scientific teams of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences system, universities and departmental institutes would lead to an opportunity to increase the points on this indicator.

4.4. Contributions of the candidate (scientific, scientific-applied, applied)

Most of the scientific publications that are not related to his dissertation work, or 9 numbers, are in the field of pharmacodynamic processes with some bioactive substances and their impact on the animal organism. There are 6 publications in the field of general toxicology, and another 4 publications are in the field of ecotoxicology, where the toxicological effects of some substances on experimental and farm animals, as well as pesticides or acid rain simulation on bee colonies, their vitality and productivity have been established. Also 5 publications are in the field of mycotoxicology and the impact of various pathogens leading to organ, tissue and cellular abnormalities has been studied. In one publication, the contamination with pesticides was established, through which the toxicological risk and its assessment of their presence in the feed or their raw materials were tracked. In general, the scientific contributions of the individual publications are diverse, but synthesized they are targeted in the field of veterinary medical pathology, preclinical and clinical diagnostics and regulatory framework. I perceive the scientific contributions of the publications as original and formulated on the basis of applied wide range of experimental approaches, reliable studies and achieved representative scientific results.

5. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution.

The personal contribution of the candidate for the competition, Dr. M. Petrichev, stands out clearly both in the several independent publications and in the collective works. His competences for conducting the experiments with adequate scientific methods and interpreting the results in the field of pathology and the specialty of biochemistry present him as a well-rounded scientist and

specialist. I have not been a co-author in his publications, but from the position I have held and his commitment to our faculty as a teacher, I have the impression that he has a full participation in all stages of the collective works and with a marked personal contribution. The indicators are scored and indicated in the attached Table 1.

Table 1 Scoring indicators.

Group of indicators	Content	For Assistant Professor	Competition candidate – Dr Metodi Petrichev
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
C	Indicators 3 or 4	100	100
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 12	200	223.44
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to 15	50	130
F	Sum of indicators from 16 to the end	-	-
	total	400 /minimum/	503.44

6. Critical notes and recommendations.

As I have already noted, my recommendations are to focus the activities of Dr. M. Petrichev in order to activate his contacts with other scientific teams for the development of new scientific projects and participation in them.

7. Personal impressions.

I have known Dr. M. Petrichev since 1995, when he began his higher education as a student of veterinary medicine at our faculty. He displayed a

certain modesty and studiousness that helped him to achieve good results in education and at the same time to devote himself to the scientific field, with the inevitable short-term stage of immersion in the daily life of veterinary practice. Breastfed in a family environment with the traditions of veterinary medical education, he wholeheartedly chose the path of a teacher and follows this target purposefully and patiently, for which he deserves my collegial admiration.

8. Conclusion.

Based on the complex description of the presented materials and the minimum national requirements covered in general and by groups, as well as the high scientometric data obtained in total, and on the basis of the scientific contributions, scientific results and personal impression shown, I give a positive assessment, and I think that the candidate Dr Metodi Hristov Petrichev, PhD, fully meets the requirements for occupying the academic position of "ASSOCIANT PROFESSOR". Therefore, I propose that he be selected in the scientific field 6. "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional direction 6.4 "Veterinary Medicine", in the scientific specialty "Pathology of the animals" and in the academic discipline "Biochemistry", for the needs of the University of Forestry.

Reviewer's signature: .

(Prof. DVM E. Sapundzhiev, PhD, DSc)

The review was prepared and presented on: 18. 07. 2022.