

## 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 "**Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals**", Discipline "Immunology", published in the State Gazette, issue 100 of 16.12.2022 and procedure code: **VM-AsP-1222-95**

**Candidate for participation in the competition:** Iliyan Manev Manev, Ph.D., Chief Assistant Professor from the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Husbandry Sciences of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia.

**Opinion written by:** Roman Pepovich Petkov, 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 № 3ПC-41/27.01.2023 of the Rector of University of Forestry, Sofia.

### 1. Short biographical data

Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev was born on 7 February 1983 in the city of Sofia. He graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 2008 at the University of Forestry, Sofia. Initially, he worked as a veterinarian at the Veterinary Center "St. Antim" EOOD, and from December 2013 he started working as an assistant in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry, Sofia. He held the positions of Assistant (2013) and Chief assistant professor (2018). In 2017, he was awarded the educational and scientific degree "Ph.D." (Diploma № LTU-ONS-2017-93) in the scientific specialty "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals" for a defended dissertation on the topic "Studies on some factors of immunity and immunoprophylaxis in myxomatosis in rabbits". He is fluent in spoken and written English and Russian. He has undergone specific training in the use of modern teaching methods and the basics of information technology. He participated in seminars on veterinary dermatology and cardiology. He is a member of the Academic Council of University of Forestry and participates in 2 commissions at the FVM.

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

The submitted documents and materials of Dr. Iliyan Manev 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 2017 - **50 points**.

**Indicator V:** According to this indicator, **100 points** were scored from the publication of a habilitation work - monograph (Electrocardiography of dogs with infectious and non-infectious pathology, ISBN 978-619-239-792-0).

**Indicator G:** The number of points under this indicator is **347.84**, which significantly 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 (277.25 points); articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes (30.59 points).

**Indicator D:** According to this indicator related to citations, the candidate fulfills the requirements - **200 points** with a required minimum of 50 points.

**As a result of the presented Chief Assistant Professor Iliyan Manev has a total number of points for all indicators of 697.84 points, with a required score of 400 points.**

### **3. Evaluation of the educational and pedagogical activity**

As a Chief Assistant Professor in his nine years of active educational and pedagogical activity, Dr. Iliyan Manev successfully teaches students his rich professional experience. The total study load for the last 7 years in the Bulgarian course of study is 2 453 hours of classroom work and 262.9 hours of extra-auditory work, and in the English language education – 1 442 hours of classroom work and 209 hours of extra-auditory work. In the author's reference, it is specified that, as a chief assistant, he taught laboratory and seminar practices in the disciplines "Immunology" and "Pathophysiology" (in Bulgarian and English). From 2019-2020, Chief Assistant Professor Iliyan Manev teaches a part of the lecture course on the mandatory disciplines "Immunology" and "Biochemistry" with the students from the specialty "Veterinary Medicine". For three consecutive academic years, he also took part of the lecture course on the optional discipline "Quality and safety of animal feed" at the FVM. He participated as a co-author in the preparation of a curriculum for the mandatory subject "Immunology" with a total horarium of 45 hours (30 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. Iliyan Manev participated in a total of 2 projects: one scientific project, financed by the Scientific Research Sector of



University of Forestry on the topic: "Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in hydrobionts", with the supervisor Assoc. Prof. Veselin Kirov (contract № NIS-B-1076/2020) and one educational - "Building a unified system for the qualification and career development of teachers at the University of Forestry - Sofia" (contract № BG051PO001-3.1.09-0019), financed by the operational program "Development of human resources".

#### **4.2. Characteristics of published scientific results**

Dr. Iliyan Manev submitted a total of 24 scientific papers for participation in the current competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", of which 20 (83.3%) were published in English and 4 (16.7%) in Bulgarian. Of these, 22 (91.7%) are publications in periodical issues, 1 (4.2%) monograph containing own results and 1 (4.2%) book based on a defended dissertation work. Of all the publications presented, 16 (72.7%) were published in scientific journals, 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 6 (27.3%) – represent articles and reports published in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals or published in edited collective volumes. The articles in foreign journals are 6 (27.3%), 2 of which are with IF. The individual impact factor of the scientific publications included in the competition is equal to 1.08.

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

The cited scientific publications are 8, of which 5 are from foreign journals and 3 from Bulgarian refereed journals. The total number of citations is 18. Of them, 9 (50%) in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases with scientific information, 4 (22.2%) in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 5 (27.8%) in non-refereed peer-reviewed journals.

#### **4.4. Contributions of the candidate's publications**

The presented reference and the attached publications outline the diverse scientific interests of Dr. Iliyan Manev in various areas of medical science (infectious and non-infectious pathology, epidemiology, immunology, internal diseases, toxicology, ecotoxicology, etc.) and have both theoretical and applied nature. In general, the contributions can be summarized in the following main areas:

- ✓ Infectious pathology – epidemiology of infectious and vector-borne diseases in domestic animals.
- ✓ Immune-mediated diseases.
- ✓ Post-vaccination immune response.
- ✓ Electrocardiographic changes in infectious and non-infectious diseases.
- ✓ Accumulation of lead in domestic and wild birds subject to hunting.
- ✓ Accumulation of heavy metals in the Black Sea ecosystems and their impact on human health.



- ✓ Biochemical indicators of blood in wild rabbits in Bulgaria.

## 5. Assessment of the personal contribution of the candidate

The personal participation of Dr. Iliyan Manev in the mentioned 24 scientific works is illustrated by the fact that in 10 of them he is an independent author, in 2 - with one co-author, in 7 - 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 achieved contributions.

## 6. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no significant critical notes towards Dr. Iliyan Manev, but I allow myself to recommend that, as a colleague fluent in foreign languages and possessing the necessary knowledge and skills, he should 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. Iliyan Manev Manev 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 "Epizootology, infectious diseases and prevention of infectious diseases in animals" from Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine.

20.03.2023

Sofia

Opinion written by:

/ Assoc. Prof. Roman Pepovich, PhD /