



Opinion

On the materials for participation in a competition for the occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences in the field of Higher Education Area 6. "Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine", Professional Direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", a scientific discipline "Epizootology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals" in the discipline "Immunology", declared by the Forestry University, Sofia in the State Gazette. 100/16 December 2022; Procedure code: VM-ASP-1222-95.

Candidate for participation in the competition: Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev, DVM, PhD, lecturer at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the the University of Forestry.

Prepared the opinion: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Radev Kostov, DVM, Risk Assessment Center on Food Chain; Higher Education Area 6. "Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", Professional Direction 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", a scientific discipline "Veterinary and sanitary expertise", appointed as a member of the scientific jury by Order No. 3ПЦ -41/27.01.2023. of the Rector of the University of Forestry.

Short biographical data on the applicant

Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev is a Master of Veterinary Medicine, graduated with honors from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Forestry in 2008. In the period 2008-2013 he worked as a veterinarian at a small animal clinic, with major spheres of responsibilities in the district of internal diseases and cardiology. In 2013, after winning a competition, he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor. In 2017, he has successfully defended his dissertation work in the scientific specialty " Epizootology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals " on the topic "*Studies on some factors of immunity and immunoprophylaxis in myxomatosis in rabbits*" and acquires the educational and scientific degree "Doctor". In 2018, after winning an immunology competition, he was appointed to the academic position "Chief Assistant Professor", holding this position up to the present day.

He speaks English and Russian.

Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the applicant in accordance with the Rules for Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry.

Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev has submitted all the documents necessary for participation in the competition for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor", prepared as required.

Assessment of the teaching and teaching activity of the applicant

The teaching experience of Dr. Manev in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Forestry is over 9 years, with the academic position "Assistant Professor" in the period 2013-2018 and from 2018-the academic position "Chief Assistant Professor".

Dr. Manev holds practical classes under the mandatory disciplines "Immunology" and "Pathophysiology" with students from the Master's Degree, discipline "Veterinary Medicine" in Bulgarian and English. Since 2019 he has also takes part of the lecture course in immunology with students in Bulgarian. In the period 2019-2021, he also outlined part of the lecture course in the discipline of biochemistry in English with the veterinary medicine's students. His audience for the last five years is 1741 audiences, and the total workload for this period is 1918.5 hours, which exceeds the required 360 hours per year. These data show that Dr. Manev has a sufficiently extensive teaching experience in conducting lecture and practical classes with students in the disciplines he has led by him, performing the mandatory regular training. This is also supplemented by the fact that throughout its teaching experience, it actively participates in the teaching of foreign students in veterinary medicine.

Assessment of the applicant's scientific and publication activities

Dr. Manev's scientific experience has been over 9 years and is related to his work at the LTU. He has presented a total of 24 scientific works for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", which do not repeat those for the acquisition of the "Doctor" degree. The PhD materials include dissertation and 3 publications, all three are in English and are published in referred magazines, and one has an impact rank (SJR). In all three publications Dr. Manev is a leading author.

The total number of points with which he applies for the position of Associate Professor is 697.84 points, with a minimum number according to the minimum national requirements of 400 points. They are distributed in different groups of indicators as follows:

- Group A indicator: 50 points from a minimum required 50 points - for the dissertation work for the acquisition of "Doctor" degree.
- Group B indicator: 0 points of 0 required.
- Group B indicator: 100 points from a minimum required 100 points obtained for habilitation work-monograph on "Electrocardiography in Dogs with Infectious and Non-Infectious Pathology", published in 2022, Avangard Prima Publishing House, ISBN 978-619-239- 792-0.
- Group D indicators: 347.84 points from a minimum required 200 points, of which:

- Posted a book based on a defense dissertation for the award of the Doctor's educational and scientific degree with the topic "Immunity and Immunoprophylaxis on Myxomatosis in Rabbits", Avanthgard Prima Publishing House, ISBN 978-619-239-791-3-40 points
 - Articles and reports published in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned scientific databases - 16 pcs - 277.25 points
 - Articles and reports published in unrefined scientific review or in edited collective volumes - 6 pcs. - 30.59 points
- Group D indicators: 200 points from a minimum required 50 points, of which 135 points are cited in scientific publications, referent and indexed in world-renowned databases with scientific information or in monographs and collective volumes, 40 points from the cited in monographs and collective Volumes with scientific review and 25 points are from cited in unrefined magazines with scientific review.
 - Group indicators E: 0 points of 0 required.

The total number of points represented by Dr. Manev by all indicators (697.84) significantly exceeds the minimum necessary for the implementation of the minimum national requirements in the professional directions, determined by the Rules for Implementation of the Law on Development of the Academic Company of the Republic of Bulgaria for occupation of an academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. Agrarian sciences and veterinary medicine.

Participation in scientific, scientific, applied and educational projects

Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Manev is involved in a scientific project funded by the LTU, namely: "*Bioaccumulation of heavy metals in hydrobionts (2020-2021)*", contract № NIS-B 1076/2020.

Characteristics of the published scientific works

Presented by Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. I. Manev scientific publications for participation in the competition for the Associate Professor position are total of 24 in number. These include habilitation work-monography, a published book based on a dissertation work for the award of an educational and scientific degree "PhD", 16 articles published in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world-renowned databases (with two articles in magazines with IF or SJR) and 6 articles published in unrefined scientific review magazines. The large number of publications in referred to scientific journals is an indicator of the importance of its research and publication activities. Of the total number of scientific works, 20 are published in English, which is a prerequisite for their easier to enter a scientific turnover. What is striking is the large number of publications that are separate (10 pcs) or with one (2 pcs) or two co-authors (7 pcs).

Reflection of the candidate's scientific activity in literature

Four of the applicant's publications have been cited in scientific publications, referred to and indexed in world -renowned scientific databases. Three were cited in monographs and collective volumes with scientific review and 3 articles were cited in unrefined scientific review magazines. The total number of cited scientific works of Dr. Manev is eight. These results are a good indicator of the reflection of his activity among the specialists in our country and abroad.

Contributions to the candidate's works

Dr. Manev's scientific and applied contributions are in several main fields: infectious and non-infectious pathology, epidemiology, immunology, internal diseases, toxicology, ecotoxicology and have both theoretical and applied nature. Scientific contributions to the works presented may be referred to in the following areas:

1. Infectious pathology-epidemiology of infectious and vector-portable diseases in pets.
2. Immune-mediated diseases.
3. Postvaccinal immune response.
4. Electrocardiographic changes in infectious and non -infectious diseases.
5. Accumulation of lead in domestic and wild birds subject to hunting.
6. Accumulation of heavy metals in the Black Sea ecosystems and their effects on human health.
7. Biochemical blood indicators at a wild rabbit in Bulgaria.

The following main contributions may be indicated:

1. Contribution to clarifying the role of cat infectious peritonitis to the development of chronic kidney diseases (G8.1). The clinical experience of the author and the literature currently available are discussed.
2. A review examination for control measures in mycoplasma infections in pigs (G7.4). The main aspects of immunoprophylaxis, therapy and metaphylaxis in enzootic pneumonia in pigs are discussed.
3. Studies on the spread of anaplasmosis among stray dogs in Sofia (G7.6, G7.7). On the basis of these studies, the widespread distribution of anaplasmosis in the studied population of dogs, although often it is a subclinical course or illness.
4. Epidemiology of major vector-borne diseases among stray dogs in Sofia (G7.7). Studies have identified seroprevalence against *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*/*Anaplasma platys*, *Ehrlichia canis*, *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Dirofilaria immitis*.
5. A study on the spread of *Dirofilariasis* caused by *Dirofilaria immitis* in stray dogs from Sofia (G8.4). The relatively widespread spread of this nematode in the dog has been established, commenting on the various predisposing and supporting factors for the disease.

6. Studies on factors of immunity and immunoprophylaxis in myxomatosis in rabbits (a book based on a defense dissertation work for the award of the Doctor's educational and scientific degree) (G6). The main aspects of the effects of the immune system during the disease, as well as various regimens of administration of monovalent and bivalent vaccines for the prevention of the disease are considered and discussed.
7. Historically tracked the spread of myxomatosis on rabbits (G8.2).
8. Studies on immune-mediated anemia in the dog (G7.2, G7.3). The main immune mechanisms for the destruction of erythrocytes, as well as the basic therapeutic approaches in this autoimmune process, are discussed.
9. Study of the serological response after vaccination of young dogs against Parvovirus-2 (G7.16). A high degree of seroconversion has been identified after two-time vaccination regimen of young dogs.
10. Studies on the main changes in electrocardiography of dogs with infectious and non - infectious pathology. The average values of electrocardiographic elements in the three standard leads in common infectious diseases with viral, bacterial and parasitic nature in the dog, as well as some major in clinical practice, non -infectious pathological processes and diseases, have been analyzed. An analysis has been carried out and recommendations have been made to apply electrocardiography in the diagnostic algorithm in these diseases (B3).
11. Studies on the frequency and nature of cardiac arrhythmias in renal failure and dilatation-volume of the stomach in the dog (G7.11, G7.12).
12. Study of residual amounts of lead in duck tissues (*Anas platyrhynchos*, L.) after experimental lead shotguns (G7.1), as well as epidemiological data on lead concentration in birds, subject to hunting (G8.3). An analysis of the potential risk to human health has been made in the consumption of meat from such poultry.
13. Survey on the accumulation of heavy metals in the ecosystems of the Black Sea: seawater, sediment, algae and various species of fish (G7.8, G7.13).
14. Studies on the Bulgarian and European legislation related to the pollution with heavy metal of marine aquaculture (G7.9, G8.5). The legislation concerns the limitable doses for three heavy elements - lead, cadmium and mercury.

In addition to the contributions to research, Chief Assist. Prof. Dr. Manev is involved in the preparation of a curriculum in the discipline "Immunology", Master's Degree, in Veterinary Medicine.

Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution

Dr. Iliyan Manev's personal contribution in the presented research production is seen from the significant number of his independent publications. He is the sole author of a monograph, a book based on dissertation, as well as 8 articles, 6 of which have been published in referred magazines,

and two of them have IF (total IF 1.084). An additional assessment of the candidate's personal contribution is that in 17 out of 22 published articles, he is a leading author.

Critical notes and recommendations

I would recommend Dr. Manev to continue the research activity on current issues, striving to publish the results in referent and indexed magazine databases with impact factor or impact rank.

Personal impressions

I do not have enough direct impression on the candidate.

Conclusions

From the submitted materials for participation in the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor" it is clear that Dr. Iliyan Manev is a researcher with a sufficiently long scientific experience. His scientific publications for participation in the competition are 24, most of which are published in referred and indexed in world-renowned scientific information databases. The contributions of his works are up -to -date and valuable. They are in different directions, which demonstrates a multifaceted and rich research experience. The citations are sufficient in number and show the importance of the applicant's scientific works. The total number of points in the different groups of indicators for the occupation of the academic position "Associate Professor" is 697.84 and significantly exceeds the minimum national requirements of 400 points. In all the necessary indicators, it fulfills, and for some it exceeds these requirements. Also, Dr. Manev has a long enough teaching experience in conducting classes in the discipline of Immunology with Veterinary medicine students, performing fully compulsory learning employment. Teaching English in the same course discipline even more enriches this experience.

All this gives me a reason to be convinced to offer the candidate Dr. Iliyan Manev Manev to take up the academic position "Associate Professor" in the field of higher education 6. "Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine", professional field 6.4. "Veterinary Medicine", a scientific discipline "Epizootology, Infectious Diseases and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Animals" in the Discipline "Immunology", in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Animal Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Forestry University, Sofia.

06.03.2023

Sofia

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Ass. Prof. Dr. Iliyan Kostov