

ΦΒΜ 7402 # 14
27.04.26

STANDPOINT

On competition for the academic rank “Associate Professor”, scientific discipline “Infectious diseases (general part, diseases on farm animals, diseases on equids, diseases on companion animals) announced by the University of Forestry – Sofia for the needs of the Veterinary Medical Faculty, promulgated in State Gazette issue 101 of 27 December 2019, with applicant Chief Assistant Professor Roman Pepovich Petkov, DVM, PhD

Standpoint author: Prof. Dimitar Savov Dimitrov, PhD - higher education field 6.0 „Agrarian Sciences and Veterinary Medicine“, professional field 6.4 „Veterinary Medicine“, specialty “Morphology” – retiree from the Trakia University – Stara Zagora. Selected to write a standpoint at the first meeting of the academic jury on 11 March 2020 in line with Order 3ΠC-27/27.01.2020 of the Rector of the University of Forestry, Corresponding Member Prof. Ivan Iliev, DSc.

Short biography of the candidate

Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov is born in Krasnodar, Russian Federation, on 11 August 1978. He graduated as Master in Veterinary Medicine from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, in 2005. From 2005 to 2007 he was appointed as junior expert in the “Animal Health” division in the Regional Veterinary Service – Lovech. In March 2007 after winning a competition, he was appointed as Assistant Professor at the Department of infectious pathology, hygiene, technology and control of foods of animal origin, Veterinary Medical Faculty to the University of Forestry, Sofia. In 2010 he was promoted to Senior Assistant Professor and in 2016 – to Chief Assistant Professor.

In 2015 he defended a PhD thesis entitled “Incidence, diagnostics and measures for control of porcine enzootic pneumonia in industrial production systems” for conferral of the PhD educational and academic degree. The research and professional interests of the applicant since then were not limited to infectious pathology of pigs.

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

The detailed acquaintance with the content of the provided electronic media assured me that all twenty two documents and appendices were arranged properly, were authentic and contained needed signatures, stamps in full compliance with requirements of the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry – Sofia.

Evaluation of teaching & learning activity of the applicant

Certificate №ЧР-445/21 January 2020 issued by the Rector of the University of Forestry, Corresponding Member Prof. Ivan Iliev, DSc. certifies that the applicant in the competition Chief Assistant Professor Dr. R. Pepovich works as an instructor from 1 March 2007 to present. Hierarchically, he was Assistant Professor from 1 March 2007 to 8 March 2010; Senior Assistant Professor from 9 March to 20 May 2010; Assistant Professor from 21 May to 31 December 2010 and Chief Assistant Professor from 19 May 2016 r. to present. His teaching experience at the VMF, UF – Sofia, is 12 years, 10 months and 9 day by 10 January 2020.

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. R. Pepovich participates regularly and actively in training students (practical sessions and lecturing) in the programme of the Master educational and qualification degree being involved in mandatory courses “Infectious diseases (general part, diseases on farm animals, diseases on equids, diseases on companion animals)”; “Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine”; “Virology”. He performs training in Bulgarian and English; as foreign languages are concerned, the applicant provided evidence for fluency in Russian (comprehension – level C1; speaking – level C1 and writing – level C1) and English (comprehension – level B1; speaking – level B1 and writing – level A2).

Not only my presence, but my almost 42-year active participation in higher veterinary medicine education and the abovementioned information, allow me giving a very good evaluation of teaching and learning activities of the applicant Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov.

Evaluation of research, research & development and publication activities of the candidate

1. Participation in research, research & development and educational projects

The presented information confirms that Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich participated actively in 10 research projects. Out of them, 4 are research, 5 – educational and 1 is determined by the applicant as investment project. Three of them were funded by the University of Forestry – Sofia. Two projects were funded by other national higher education establishments and institutions, and 5 projects – from international EC projects. The careful acquaintance with research staff of all ten research projects confirmed that they were not limited to one institution only, although were from different departments and faculties, but inter-university and inter-establishment projects predominated. All this, along with various subjects of projects including different research and scientific-applied fields of our national scientific life, allow me giving a very good evaluation of the application for this parameter as well.

2. Analysis of published research results

The published research works of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov impresses with the variety of subjects, the fact that the majority of them were in the field of courses he teaches and the applicant's desire to continue this by applying to the present competition for conferral of the academic rank "Associate Professor". The list presented by the candidate contains 47 research works. Out of them, 6 are in specialised scientific journals with impact factor (IF). Another 8 are in journals with SCImago journal rank (SJR). Twenty-eight publications are in journals without IF or SJR, but among them, 12 are published in English and 16 – in Bulgarian. The applicant is listed as co-author in one published book and leading author in one scientific monograph. He has participated in the authors' team of 3 teaching aids on subjects taught at the Veterinary Medical Faculty. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich is author of an e-learning course „Epidemiology and preventive medicine (epizootiology)“ (taught at the VMF, UF) for undergraduate students based in the educational platform Blackboard Learn™ of the University of Forestry, Sofia. The total impact factor of the applicant in the competition is **IF = 9.677**, and **SJR – 5.970**.

For this parameter, the detailed review of presented materials allows me giving a very good evaluation of the applicant.

3. Impact of applicant's research activities (citations)

The presented documents evidence that the total number of cited research works of Dr. R. Pepovich is 11, while the total number of citations is 15. The fact sheet confirms that citations in journals with IF are 2, and in journals with SJR – 5. Citations in international journals without IF are 7, whereas those in books, monographs and collective works – only 1. The **total IF** from citations in scientific literature of candidate's works is **6.822**, and **total SJR: 3.994**.

All this allows me giving a very good evaluation of Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov.

4. Contributions in research works of the candidate

As already mentioned, the research interests of Dr. R. Pepovich are within a broad range, so the contributions of his research works could be classified into 9 subgroups by subjects:

The majority of contributions are in the field of infectious pathology of pigs – 11. They include development and test of a protocol for control of ileitis in pigs reared in industrial production systems. The clinical signs and gross anatomy changes in pigs affected with circovirus infection were investigated. A complete evaluation of applied classical and modern methods for diagnostics of classical swine fever was made and analysis of factors impeding the eradication of the disease. From the other 8 contributions, one should be emphasized: three research reports (№№ 6, 10 и 13) confirmed that hepatitis E infection was detected for the first time in Bulgaria among

pigs from industrial farms from different regions. Age-dependent patterns of seropositivity were commented, sows being the most affected by HEV, while growing piglets – at the least extent.

Among the other 8 subgroups of applicant's contributions in the field of infectious pathology of companion animals, birds, small ruminants, vector-borne infections, epidemiology, contributions related to carcinogenic influence of various toxic substances and contributions to teaching activities, two contributions are outlined. For the first time in Bulgaria, various CPV types – 2a and 2b, were detected by using RT-PCR with *MGB* probes for examination of dogs of different breeds with clinical signs of canine parvovirus infection. For the first time in Bulgaria, neoplastic liver lesions were described in strain 15 I of White Leghorn chickens after single *in ovo* treatment with hepatocarcinogens.

The scientific, scientific-applied and applied contributions in the documents presented by Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov and the variety of their subjects, allows me giving him a very good evaluation for this parameter.

Critical notes and recommendations

I have neither critical notes nor recommendations!

Personal impressions

I was honoured and had the incredible pleasure of knowing Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich not only when he was a student but also as an Assistant Professor and young scientist from his participations in national and international scientific forums, as well as an organiser of such events. My general impression is that the diligent, disciplined and active student I remember from my classes, has maintained his willingness for hard work and has grown into an admirable, young Bulgarian instructor, perceiving and developing important scientific topics in his field, but unfortunately, with modest personal material resources to realise them, not only in the research space.

Conclusion

In compliance with the Statute for Development of the Academic Staff of the University of Forestry, Sofia, all of the above statements in the present standpoint makes me entirely convinced in proposing to the members of the academic jury **to confer the academic rank “Associate Professor”** subject of this competition, to the candidate Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Roman Pepovich Petkov.

Stara Zagora

21 April 2020

Undersigned:.....

/Prof. Dimitar Savov Dimitrov PhD/

This standpoint is presented on: 24 April 2020