



REVIEW

of the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of **Associate Professor**, in Higher Education Field 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, Scientific Specialty: Animal Pathology, in the discipline: Internal Non-infectious Diseases, announced by the University of Forestry in State Gazette No. 28, dated **01.04.2025**, Procedure Code: **VM-AsP-0325-161**

Candidates participating in the competition:

1. Chief Assistant Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov, DVM

Reviewer: Associate Professor Dr. Anton Georgiev Rusenov, DVM, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University, Higher Education Field 6. Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, Scientific Specialty: Animal Pathology,

appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury by order of the Rector of the University of Forestry – Order No. ZPS 249/05.05.2025, and pursuant to a decision taken at the second meeting of the Scientific Jury held on 09.06.2025.

1. Brief Biographical Information about the Candidate

Chief Assistant Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov was born on December 22, 1969, in the town of Elhovo, Bulgaria. In 1997, he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Trakia University, Stara Zagora, obtaining the professional qualification Doctor of Veterinary Medicine – Master's Degree. In 1998, following a successful competition, he was appointed as a full-time Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia. He subsequently advanced through the academic ranks as follows: Senior Assistant (2001–2004), and Chief Assistant (2004–2015). Following the enactment of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) in 2015, Dr. Pankov was reappointed to the position of Assistant Professor in accordance with the new regulations. In October 2018, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled "Comparative M-mode

Echocardiographic and Radiographic Investigations in Myxomatous Valve Degeneration (MVD) Depending on the Presence or Absence of Pulmonary Oedema”, and was awarded the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD). In 2019, after winning a competition, he was appointed to the academic position of **Chief Assistant Professor** at the Department of Internal Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, where he continues to work to this day.

2. Compliance of the Submitted Documents and Materials with the Regulations for Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry

Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Georgiev Pankov has submitted all documents required for participation in the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in a well-structured and orderly manner. The documentation complies with the requirements of the **Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB)** and the **Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff (RDAS)** at the University of Forestry (UF). The application includes the following: Application addressed to the Rector of the UF, Declaration of authenticity of the submitted information, Reference regarding compliance with the minimum national requirements (MNR) for the educational and scientific degree Doctor, Self-assessment report on compliance of the scientific output with the MNR under Article 2b of the LDASRB and Article 2a, paragraph 1 of the RDAS of UF, Certificate of professional experience in the specialty, Medical certificate, Criminal record certificate, Certificate of current academic position, List of publications and citations, Summary of contributions, Detailed supporting evidence for all submitted activities and achievements.

3. Evaluation of the Candidate's Teaching and Educational Activity

As of 15 April 2025, Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Georgiev Pankov has accumulated 27 years and 8 days of teaching experience at the University of Forestry in an academic position. In the period 1998–2001, he held the academic position of Assistant Professor; from 2001 to 2004 – Senior Assistant Professor; from 2004 until the end of 2014, with a 7-month interruption, he held the position of Chief Assistant Professor. From the beginning of 2015 to 2019, he held the position

of Assistant Professor at Higher Education Institution (HEI), and since 13 September 2019 to the present, he has held the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor at HEI.

From the submitted documentation, it is evident that Dr Pankov fulfils the required teaching workload for the academic position of Chief Assistant Professor at the Higher Education Institution. He actively participates in conducting practical and seminar sessions in the following subjects: Internal Non-Infectious Diseases, Propedeutics of Internal Diseases, Cardiology and Diseases of the Vascular System, Diseases of Farm and Pet Animals, and Mobile Clinic, delivered in both Bulgarian and English within the department. During the last five academic years, Dr Pankov has delivered the lecture course in Cardiology and Diseases of the Vascular System. His contact hours over the past five years exceed 340 teaching hours, with a total annual teaching workload surpassing the required 360 hours.

The above data demonstrate that over the years, Chief Assistant Professor Dr Pankov has accumulated extensive teaching experience in conducting practical sessions and lectures in Bulgarian, while also actively participating in foreign language instruction.

4. Evaluation of the Candidate's Scientific, Scientific-Applied, and Publication Activity

4.1. Participation in Scientific, Scientific-Applied, and Educational Projects

Dr Pankov has served as the principal investigator of two scientific projects funded by the University of Forestry (Contract No. 1236/07.11.2022; Contract No. 100/07.04.2005) and has participated as a team member in four other research projects, including one funded by the Ministry of Education and Science (Contract No. 99/07.04.2005; Contract No. 43/13.04.2009; MES – UF-AN-802/97 (DOI-868/16. IO. 07) – 2007–2010; Contract No. 35/2009–2010).

4.2. Characterization of the Published Scientific Results

The scientific output submitted by Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Pankov for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor comprises a total of **30** scientific works. These include: **5** works submitted for obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (including the doctoral dissertation and abstract); **25** works submitted for the competition for the academic position of Associate Professor (1 monograph and 24 publications). The

habilitation work consists of a monograph (1), **11** publications in scientific journals that are peer-reviewed and indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases, **4** articles published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific reviewing, and **9** publications in proceedings of national and international scientific forums. **10** articles are published in English, which facilitates the maximal readership and citation of Dr Pankov's scientific output.

The total number of points with which the candidate participates in the competition for the position of Associate Professor is **485.68 points**, exceeding the required **400 points**. The distribution is as follows:

- In indicator group “**A**”: 50 points out of the required 50 – for the doctoral dissertation and the educational and scientific degree *Doctor*;
- In indicator group “**B**”: Habilitation work – monograph – 100 points out of the required 100;
- In indicator group “**C**”: 270.68 points out of the required 200, distributed as follows:
 - o Articles and papers published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases (30/n) – 252.11 points;
 - o Articles and papers published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific reviewing or in edited collective volumes (10/n) – 18.57 points;
- In indicator group “**D**”: 65 points out of the required 50, distributed as follows:
 - o Citations or reviews in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases or in monographs and collective volumes – 30 points;
 - o Citations in monographs and peer-reviewed collective volumes – 10 points;
 - o Citations or reviews in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific reviewing – 25 points.

The scientific output of Dr Atanas Pankov amounts to a total of **485.68 points**, significantly exceeding the Minimum National Requirements established by the Regulations for Academic Staff Development of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for Academic Staff Development at the University of Forestry for appointment to the academic position of Associate Professor.

4.3. Impact of the Candidate's Scientific Activity in the Literature (Citation Analysis)

Dr Pankov's total number of citations amounts to eight. Two of the candidate's publications have been cited in peer-reviewed journals indexed in internationally recognised scientific databases (2 citations). One publication has been cited in peer-reviewed monographs and collective volumes (1 citation), and five have been cited in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific reviewing (5 citations).

Overall, the citation data indicate a focused research activity in the field of internal medicine, which is recognised within the scientific community and contributes a tangible scientometric score.

4.4. Contributions in the Candidate's Works (Scientific, Scientific-Applied, and Applied)

The scientific contributions in the works submitted by Dr Pankov are of scientific, scientific-applied, and applied nature and can be grouped into the following areas:

- ✓ **Cardiology** – Echocardiographic and radiographic studies of linear parameters and correlations between various cardiac indices and weight-indexed chamber sizes in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD), the most common heart disease in the canine population;
- ✓ **Haematology** – Investigation of blood gas homeostasis in calves and cattle, nutritional supplements and their effects on the number and ratio of white blood cells, as well as studies of haematological and biochemical parameters in different rabbit breeds;
- ✓ **Nutrition and Dietetics** – Studies related to the application of probiotics in various animal species and their positive role in health and productivity;
- ✓ **Pharmacology** – Investigations of the effects (clinical and paraclinical) of pharmaceutical substances in certain animal species.

5. Evaluation of the Candidate's Personal Contribution

The personal contribution of Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Pankov is indisputable. Evidence of this is the significant number of scientific publications in peer-reviewed and indexed journals. Among the materials submitted for the competition, eight publications are single-authored, one is co-authored with one collaborator, one with two collaborators, and fifteen publications involve three or more co-authors. This demonstrates his active involvement in the preparation and writing of these publications. His contribution to the monograph is also unquestionable, where one of the most complex clinical diagnostic methods in canine cardiology- echocardiography- is employed and discussed.

6. Critical Remarks and Recommendations

As a recommendation to Dr Atanas Pankov, I would suggest that he continues to actively pursue his research activities and prioritize publishing his scientific output in peer-reviewed and indexed journals with SJR and Impact Factor (IF). I also recommend that the candidate remain actively involved in a greater number of national and international research projects, as well as participate in author teams for the preparation and publication of educational materials and aids.

7. Personal Impressions

My personal impressions date back to 2018, when, due to objective circumstances, I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury for the competition awarding the educational and scientific degree Doctor to Dr Atanas Pankov. Both then and now, in the current competition for the academic position of Associate Professor, I have been pleasantly impressed by the fact that the submitted materials are organized with great expertise and academic rigor, in a proper chronological and thematic order, which facilitates their evaluation by the Scientific Jury.

8. Conclusion

My thorough review of the materials, scientific works, and reports on the scientific, scientific-applied, and publication activities of Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Georgiev Pankov submitted in this competition fully meets the requirements for awarding the academic position of Associate Professor, as outlined in the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff at the University of Forestry and the minimum national requirements of NAQID in accordance with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

My overall evaluation, as a member of the Scientific Jury, is positive, which gives me grounds to confidently recommend that the candidate, Chief Assistant Professor Dr Atanas Georgiev Pankov, be awarded the academic position of Associate Professor in the field of higher education 6.0 Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, professional field 6.4 Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Pathology of Animals" in the discipline "Internal Non-infectious Diseases," as announced in the State Gazette, issue 28/01.04.2025, at the Department of Internal Non-infectious Diseases, Pathology, and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia.

03.08.2025

Stara Zagora

Prepared the review:..

/Assoc. Prof. Dr Anton Rusevov, DVM /