



## **O P I N I O N**

by

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**on the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field of "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialist "Animal Pathology"**

Candidates for participation in the competition: In the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", in the professional field 6.4. Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Internal Non-Communicable Diseases" for the needs of the Department "Internal Non-Communicable Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology", announced in the State Gazette, issue 28/01.04.2025 and on the website of the University of Forestry on 17.03.2025 with the procedure code: VM-AsP-0325-161, as a candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov, DVM from the University of Forestry - Sofia.

### **1. Brief assessment of the qualification and teaching activities of the candidate Senior Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov, DVM.**

Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov graduated with a Master of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Thracian University, Stara Zagora in 1997. In April 1998, Dr. A. Pankov participated in a competition for the academic position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Non-Communicable Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology at the Forestry University, where he currently works. For the period 04.1998 until the announcement of the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", Dr. A. Pankov successively held the position of assistant and chief assistant. As a doctoral student in independent training, enrolled in 2015, Dr. A. Pankov developed and in 2018 successfully defended a dissertation on the topic: "Comparative M-mode echocardiographic and radiographic studies in myxomatous valvular degeneration (MVD) depending on the presence or absence of pulmonary edema" and was awarded the educational and scientific degree - ONS "Doctor", Diploma No. LTU-ONS-2018-109 in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology". From 13.09.2019 to the present, he holds the position of chief assistant professor in the same department.

The teaching experience of Dr. A. Pankov in the academic position of assistant and chief assistant at the University of Forestry until the announcement of the competition for "Associate Professor" is a total of 27 years. The main activities and responsibilities of Dr. A. Pankov as a university lecturer are mainly reduced to the preparation and implementation of exercises, seminars, consultations and practical semester exams in the disciplines "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" (in Bulgarian and English), "Internal Non-Communicable Diseases" (in Bulgarian and English), "Cardiology", Mobile Clinic (in Bulgarian and English), "Diseases of Game" with students of "Veterinary Medicine" in Bulgarian and English, as well as in the practical part of the State Exam and checking of reports from pre-graduate internship.

In addition, Dr. Pankov is actively involved in the diagnosis and treatment of pets and farm animals, as well as in carrying out scientific research. He also participates in supervising students in



the implementation of classroom and extracurricular activities, updating and organizing the material base for training at the Department of Internal Non-Communicable Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology." Chief Assistant A. Pankov has provided a minimum of 360 hours of annual classroom work. His annual individual work during the 2024-2025 academic year is 422 hours with Bulgarian students and 150 hours with English-speaking students. Dr. Pankov also actively participates in conducting lecture classes with students in Bulgarian and English. Over the past five academic years, chief Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Pankov has been teaching the entire lecture course in the discipline "Cardiology" for students of the specialty "Veterinary Medicine", Master's Degree, in Bulgarian and English, as well as practical classes and semester exams in the remaining academic disciplines. During the Covid pandemic, in the academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, he has been conducting classes and exams in an electronic environment through Google Classroom and Microsoft Teams.

In addition to the above-mentioned educational activity, chief Assistant Professor Dr. Pankov also participated in the competition as a co-author of 2 Teaching Aids entitled respectively: "A Handbook for the Veterinarian Starting Their Own Business" (2012) and "A Handbook for the Veterinarian" (2014), which are both theoretical and applied in nature.

## **2. Scientific and applied scientific activity.**

In the announced competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", chief Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Pankov has presented a list of significant scientific production - a total of 30 scientific papers, of which 5 were submitted for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor" (including a dissertation and an abstract) and 25 were submitted in the competition for the AD "Associate Professor" (24 publications, 1 monograph), distributed by indicators as follows: 15 scientific publications (not less than 10), published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world-renowned databases of scientific information (Scopus and Web of Science) - indicator "G", item 7); 9 articles and reports published in non-refereed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes (indicator "G", item 8); Monograph - 1 (indicator "B -3"). All presented scientific publications are outside the topic of his dissertation for the acquisition of the ONS "Doctor". In the independently published monograph entitled "Comparative echocardiographic studies of dogs with degenerative myxomatous valvular disease (DMVD) depending on the stage of the disease and (or) the sex of the animals." (2024), which is both theoretical and applied, the author traces the main trends in linear correlations and, above all, the differences in their degrees when dividing dogs by sex. Evidence is provided that separating dogs by sex results in linear correlations with a higher correlation coefficient between systolic and diastolic indices determining the degree of DMVD and echocardiographically determined dimensions of the left ventricle and left atrium.

Of the scientific publications submitted in the competition for associate professor, in 8 issues Dr. A. Pankov is the leading author, and in the remaining 17 he is in second or subsequent place. Of the scientific works, 15 issues are printed in refereed and indexed publications in world-renowned databases with scientific information. 9 issues are printed in non-refereed scientific journals. Of the total number of scientific publications, 10 are in English and 15 issues in Cyrillic. Six issues of the scientific reports have been published in Proceedings of International Scientific Forums. The scientific



papers presented by the candidate for associate professor Dr. A. Pankov and the remaining publication material fully meet the requirements of the Law on Forestry and Forestry of the Republic of Bulgaria and the minimum requirements for scientific and teaching activities at the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Forestry, Sofia. Dr. Pankov presents written evidence of active participation in many national and international events - seminars, symposiums, conferences, etc., where he reports his scientific achievements to the relevant scientific audience - the total number of participations in scientific forums is 15.

Dr. A. Pankov has also carried out active scientific and applied activities related to the development and implementation of scientific projects. He actively participates as a Leader (2 projects) or a member of the working group (4 projects) in the development of currently significant scientific projects for veterinary science and practice - Scientific projects under the NIS-LTU and MES.

Simultaneously with his scientific and teaching activities, chief Assistant Professor Dr. A. Pankov works hard to improve his professional qualifications and personal competence. He presents evidence of improving his language skills - written and spoken use of English - level B2, as well as additional activities at the faculty, participation and acquisition of qualifications with the relevant certificates and attestations in courses on computer systems, foreign language training, distance learning, "Web Technologies. Methods and Systems for E-Learning" and courses for improving qualifications - a total of 7. He has good command of Microsoft Office products, document and image processing, graphic techniques, creation and maintenance of real-time audio and high-definition network training, lectures and practice, word processing systems, spreadsheets, presentations and business graphics.

Chief Assistant Professor A. Pankov is a responsible and loyal colleague and possesses good communication and organizational skills, the ability to work independently and in a team, sociability, rapid adaptation to new environments, excellent self-discipline, skills in prioritizing tasks, coping with assigned tasks within the established deadlines and standards of quality work, preparation and implementation of projects, as well as organization of practical exercises and lectures. He also demonstrates theoretical and practical skills and knowledge for the formation of training and demonstration techniques and methods, skills and knowledge for laboratory projects and equipment. He is a member of the General Assembly of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the LTU; Member of the Clinical Activity Commission - LTU; Member of the Organizing Committee of international scientific conferences: International Scientific Conference "Tradition and modernity in veterinary medicine", Yundola, Bulgaria. He has acquired professional qualification in "Protection and humane treatment of experimental animals used for scientific or educational purposes"; Member of the Bulgarian Veterinary Union

### **3. Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied).**

I positively assess the self-assessment of the candidate's contributions to all scientific publications for the position of "Associate Professor". The report on scientific and applied scientific contributions presents the most significant original contributions presented in the scientific publications submitted for participation in the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor". They are in different areas of medical science and animal pathology, show a clearly outlined scientific profile and are well grouped as contributions in 5 independent thematic areas, which I consider to be correctly and logically separated, namely:



I. Original contributions related to research in the field of cardiac pathology in male and female dogs, in all stages of degenerative myxomatous valvular disease (DMVD) - radiographic and echocardiographic studies of left ventricular dimensions between female and male dogs with MMVD stage B (B1 + B2), the linear correlations between the two systolic indices studied by the author (FS and EPSS) and the weight-indexed left ventricular dimensions of dogs with degenerative myxomatous valvular disease (DMVD), a study of the linear correlation analysis between the independent Mitral Valve E and the dependent IVS - d/Aow.

II. Study of blood gas homeostasis in calves and cattle under different technological animal husbandry regimes.

III. Studies to clarify some hematological and biochemical parameters when raising different breeds of rabbits during the fattening period, with natural unprocessed feed, after using probiotics and their effects, in order to improve their productive qualities.

IV. Original studies to test the effect of the probiotic Probikan, as well as its variant with biotin, in raising rabbits.

V. Studies to study the local and general tolerance of gentamicin – 10% in certain animals, as well as studies with cows on the intramuscular injection of 0.1 ml/kg m. 30% Analgin to establish local or general intolerance and the presence of side effects.

#### **4. Assessment of the candidate's personal contribution.**

All publications of Chief Assistant Professor A. Pankov are current, targeted and perspective developments, which present him as a very well-prepared in theoretical and practical terms a scientific worker and clinician, with very good opportunities for independent and collective research activity in the field of pathology and clinical analysis. In all scientific developments, the personal contribution of Dr. A. Pankov undoubtedly stands out, which is why I believe that the indicated contributions are to a significant extent his personal work. All contributions are competently substantiated and formulated, highly informative and fully consistent with the experimental results obtained. The presented reference for the minimum requirements for the academic position "Associate Professor" shows that the candidate fully covers and even exceeds the mandatory requirements for "Associate Professor". For some of the mandatory minimum requirements, chief Assistant Professor A. Pankov not only meets, but also exceeds, the same requirements of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering – Sofia. This is also confirmed by the total number of points attributed to the minimum requirements for an "Associate Professor" in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, which he presents - **485.68 (Reference – self-assessment of the MNE, Appendix 1.4).**

**Considering the scientific production submitted for evaluation by the candidate, Senior Assistant Professor Dr. A. Pankov, for the academic position of "Associate Professor", I firmly believe that it categorically defines his established professional image as a researcher and scientist in the field of pathology and clinical analysis.**

#### **5. Conclusion.**

Based on the presented evidence of the teaching, research and research activities, the relevance of the problems he/she works on and the scientific contributions, the publication activity, teaching knowledge and experience, scientific and teaching experience and personal qualities of the candidate



in the Competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"; chief Assistant Professor Dr. A. Georgiev Pankov, Deputy Head of the Department of "Internal Non-Communicable Diseases, Pathology and Pharmacology" at the University of Forestry - Sofia, **I highly appreciate his scientific and professional-academic production and I firmly believe that it categorically defines his established professional image as a researcher and scientist in the field of pathology and clinical analysis.**

In connection with the above, I propose that Chief Assistant Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov, PhD be elected to the academic position of "**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**", in the professional field of "Veterinary Medicine", scientific specialty "Animal Pathology", in the discipline "Internal Non-Communicable Diseases".

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Sofia

Prepared the opinion

(Prof. Dr. Ya. Iliev, PhD)