



STATEMENT

On the materials submitted for participation in a competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the field of Higher Education Area 6: Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Professional Field 6.4: Veterinary Medicine, scientific specialty “Animal Pathology,” in the discipline “Internal Non-Contagious Diseases,” announced by the University of Forestry in the State Gazette, issue 28/1 April 2025, procedure code **VM-AsP-0325-161**.

Candidate for participation in the competition:

1. Chief Assistant Professor Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov, PHD

Prepared the statement: Associate Professor Tsanko Todorov Hristov, 6.4. Veterinary medicine, from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora.

1. Short biography of the candidate(s)

Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov was born in 1969. He graduated from the “Kliment Ohridski” Secondary School in the town of Elhovo, Kostinbrod, in 1987. In 1997, he obtained a Master’s degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University, Stara Zagora. From April 1998 to March 2001, he worked as an Assistant in the Department of Internal Diseases, Pathology, and Pharmacology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Forestry University, Sofia. From 2001 to 2004, he was a Senior Assistant, and from 2004 to 2015, a Chief Assistant in the same department. Due to amendments to the Higher Education Act, he again held the position of “Assistant” from 2015 to 2019, and “Chief Assistant” from September 2019 to the present. In 2018, he earned the educational and scientific degree “Doctor” (Diploma No. LTU-ONS-2018-109) with a dissertation entitled: “Comparative M-mode echocardiographic and radiographic studies in myxomatous valve degeneration (MVD) depending on the presence or absence of pulmonary edema.”

He is proficient in English, both spoken and written.

2. Compliance of the submitted documents and materials of the candidate(s) with the requirements according to the regulations for Academic Staff Development at the Forestry University;

The documents submitted for participation in competition **VM-AsP-0325-161** by Chief Assistant Prof. Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov meet the minimum required criteria in accordance with the Academic Staff Development at the Forestry University.

3. Evaluation of the candidate's teaching activities

The submitted report on teaching activities shows that over the past five years, Dr. Pankov has had an average of 353 contact hours/year in Bulgarian and an additional average of 96 contact hours/year in English. Since 2019, Dr. Pankov has been delivering the full course of lectures and practical classes in the discipline "Cardiology and Vascular Diseases." He also conducts practical and seminar classes in Bulgarian and English in the disciplines "Propedeutics of Internal Diseases," "Internal Non-Contagious Diseases," "Mobile Clinic," and "Diseases of the Reproductive and Mammary Gland Systems" for students from the third to fifth years of study. He participates in administering examinations in the taught disciplines.

4. Evaluation of the candidate's scientific, applied, and publication activities

4.1. Participation in scientific, applied, and educational projects

Chief Assistant Prof. Atanas Pankov has participated in numerous scientific projects related to research on pheasants, rabbits, dogs, wild carnivores, and others. Dr. Pankov has also been the leader of two projects (Contract No. 100/07.04.2005 and NIS-OD-1236/2022).

4.2. Characteristics of the published scientific results

The publication record presented by Chief Assistant Prof. Atanas Pankov for the competition for “Associate Professor” fully meets the requirements of the RAS Regulations at the University of Forestry.

Indicator A1: defended dissertation entitled “Comparative M-mode echocardiographic and radiographic studies in myxomatous valve degeneration (MVD) depending on the presence or absence of pulmonary edema” – 50 points. Completion of the indicator: 100%

Indicator B3: Habilitation work – monograph: In 2024, Dr. Pankov published the monograph “Comparative echocardiographic studies of dogs with degenerative myxomatous valve disease (DMVD) depending on the stage of the disease and/or the sex of the animals,” Publisher: Intel Entrance, Sofia, ISBN: 978-619-7703-74-0. Reviewers: Prof. Dr. Vasil Manov and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Violeta Aleksandrova. The monograph carries the required 100 points for the completion of section B.

Indicator G7: 15 articles, 7 of which Dr. Pankov authored independently. Total points for G7: 252.11.

Indicator G8: 9 publications with a total of 18.57 points. Thus, the total score for indicator G is 270.68 points, exceeding the required minimum of 200.

4.3. Impact of the candidate’s scientific work in the literature (citations)

Indicator D13: 2 citations in scientific journals indexed in globally recognized databases – total: 30 points.

Indicator D14: 1 citation – 10 points.

Indicator D15: 5 citations – total: 25 points.

Total score for indicator D: 65 points, exceeding the required minimum.

4.4. Contributions in the candidate’s works (scientific, applied, practical)

From the 1 monograph and 24 publications submitted for the competition, the candidate presented a total of 34 contributions: 26 original contributions and 8

confirmatory contributions. The contributions are well-formulated and reflect the candidate's in-depth research in several scientific areas.

5. Evaluation of the candidate's personal contribution

For participation in the competition, Dr. Pankov submitted one monograph and 24 scientific publications. In his monograph, he thoroughly examines the relationship between the clinical stages of degenerative myxomatous valve disease (DMVD) in dogs and the sex of the affected animals. The 24 scientific articles were published in journals indexed in globally recognized scientific databases and/or registered in NACID. The candidate is the sole author of 7 of the publications, with the remaining 14 co-authored.

He actively participates in the Faculty's teaching process, delivering a large number of lectures and practical classes in Bulgarian and English, contributing to the development of curricula, supervision of internships and practices, and the work of the research committee.

6. Critical remarks and recommendations

For the future, I would recommend that Dr. Pankov demonstrate greater confidence and ambition by publishing articles in journals with an Impact Factor (IF) and SCImago Journal Rank (SJR). This will benefit both his personal career and professional growth, as well as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Forestry University, Sofia.

7. Personal impressions

The materials submitted for participation in the competition demonstrate a high level of scientific, research, applied, and teaching activities of Chief Assistant Prof. Atanas Pankov. His diverse scientific interests and excellent academic preparation are noteworthy. My personal impressions from our joint participation in conferences in 2023 and 2024 are that Dr. Pankov is a skilled and engaging lecturer, presenting material in an academic yet accessible and interesting manner.

8. Conclusion

The documents submitted for participation in the competition comply with the rules for Academic Staff Development at the Forestry University. I give a positive assessment and **RECOMMEND** that Chief Assistant Prof. Dr. Atanas Georgiev Pankov be appointed to the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the discipline “Internal Non-Contagious Diseases” from 6.4 Veterinary Medicine.

Prepared by:

/Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ts. Hristov/

Date submitted: 13 August 2025