

**TO
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCIENTIFIC JURY,
DETERMINED BY ORDER № RD-251 / 29.09.2021
OF THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY "PROF. DR. A. ZLATAROV "-
BURGAS**

STATEMENT

by

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Medical University – Plovdiv
Elected a member of the scientific jury**

Subject: Conducting a competition for the academic position of 'Professor' in the scientific specialty Anatomy, Histology and Cytology, Higher education area: 7. Healthcare and Sports Professional area: 7.1. Medicine; announced for the needs of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas, announced in the State Gazette, issue 59 / 16.07.2021

1. Presentation of the procedure and the candidate

In the competition for 'professor', announced in the State Gazette, issue 59 of 16.07.2021 for the needs of the Department of Anatomy, has submitted documents as the only candidate Associate Professor Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, MD from the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at TrU - Stara Zagora.

The set of CD materials presented to me by the candidate is in accordance with the requirements of ZRASRB and the Regulations for holding the academic position "Professor" of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov "- Burgas.

The candidate Associate Professor I. Stefanov has submitted 1 monograph, a total of 18 full-text publications, 6 textbooks, a list of 16 participations in scientific forums. The distribution of scientific papers by relevant sections is as follows: articles in journals with Impact Factor - 6; articles in journals with SJR - 8, articles in refereed journals without Impact Factor - 4.

Documents for participation in 4 research projects are also presented, as he is the leader of 1 of them.

The documents submitted by the candidate in this competition are comprehensive and correctly arranged, without remarks on their authenticity.

Brief biography of the candidate

Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov graduated with a master's degree in veterinary medicine from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of TrU - Stara Zagora in 1997. In 2000 he was appointed assistant in the Department of Veterinary Cytology, Histology and Embryology of the TrU - Stara Zagora, and in 2003 he was promoted to senior assistant. In 2004 he was appointed an assistant in the Department of Anatomy at the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, in 2007 he was promoted to Senior Assistant and since 2011 he has been a Chief Assistant in the same department. After defending his dissertation on the topic: "Morphofunctional aspects of the paraanal sinus (sinus paranasalis) in dogs" he acquired scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty Anatomy, Histology and Cytology (2011). In 2012 he acquired a degree in Anatomy, Histology and Cytology. From 18 February 2013 to 18 May 2013 he specialized in the Czech Academy of

Prague, Czech Republic.

In 2016 he was appointed to the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology" in the Higher education area: 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional area: 7.1. Medicine full-time at the Medical Faculty at the TrU - St. Zagora, where he still works.

The candidate has very good skills for teamwork, as well as skills for organizing, conducting and analysing research experiments. From the presented CVs and references it can be seen that the candidate is able to plan and manage the study activities, as well as to manage and coordinate research projects. After taking the position of "Associate Professor" (since 2016) the candidate is the leader of 1 research project and a member of the teams of 3 research projects. The candidate has a very good level of English proficiency, which he successfully uses in his research and work.

2. General characteristics of the candidate's activity

Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov has over 21 years teaching experience in the specialty in the FVM of TrU - Stara Zagora, of which 5 years (from 2016 until now) as an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy. The attached report shows that there is a significant teaching load - for the last five years, according to the report submitted by the applicant for the period 2016 - 2021 varies from 260 to 448 academic hours.

Associate Professor Stefanov has been conducting practical classes in systemic and topographic anatomy of domestic animals, as well as in preparatory techniques since 2000. In 2016 he organized and conducted a lecture course lasting 5 hours in the elective course "Animal Dissection Technique" at the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of the FVM, TrU - Stara Zagora.

Evaluation of the scientific and scientific-applied activity of the candidate

A total of 18 articles were submitted by the candidate, of which: 6 in journals with IF, 8 in journals with SJR, 4 in refereed journals without IF and SJR, with a total impact factor of 2,358 publications. By place of publication - 6 publications were published in the Bulgarian Journal of Veterinary Medicine, which has an impact rank (SJR = 0.167), 3 are in the Comptes rendus de l'Académie bulgare des Sciences (IF = 0.321), 2 are in Bulgarian Chemical Communication (IF = 0.238), 1 in Acta Medica Bulgarica (SJR = 0.12), 4 in Acta Morphologica et Antropologica. He is a leading author in 7 scientific publications, in 1 of which he is an independent author, in 5 publications he is a second author, and in 7 - a last author.

The candidate has given 3 presentations at international scientific conferences abroad; reports in papers of national scientific conferences, sessions and seminars - 13 issues. There is a guide for PhD students and students in conducting research, which are included as co-authors in the relevant publications.

The candidate has met and exceeded many of the required criteria of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas to hold the academic position of "Professor":

Group of indicators	Contents	Professor	Assoc. Prof. I. Stefanov
A	Indicator 1	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-
B	Indicator 3 or 4	100	100
Г	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	250	318.7
Д	Sum of indicators from 10 and 12	150	360
E	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	120	123.8

Contributions (scientific, scientific-applied, applied) and citations

Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov has many years of experience in the field of animal anatomy. His scientific research is wide-ranging, mainly on the morphology of individual cell types with different organ localization and their characteristics. The main directions of his work are: macro- and microscopic anatomy, vascularization, histochemistry, enzymohistochemistry and immunohistochemistry of the paranasal sinuses and bile ducts in dogs; histochemical and immunohistochemical studies on mast cells in various organs; studies on other problems of both normal anatomy and pathology.

The contributions are of scientific and applied nature and are grouped in several areas:

1. Macroscopic anatomy and vascularization. Macromorphometric examination of the ureters; vascularization and microscopic examination of the gallbladder in pigs as an experimental model (4 publications are attached).

2. Morphometric, histochemical and immunohistochemical studies on mast cells, endocrine cells and nerve structures in the extrahepatic bile ducts and gallbladder of pigs, as well as in the lungs of rats and normal humans (11 publications are attached).

3. Immunohistochemical studies on mast cells in human lung diseases (1 publication is attached).

4. Immunohistochemical expression of ghrelin in human stomach cancer (1 publication is attached).

5. Morphological changes in nerve structures and mast cells after experimental acupuncture in rats (1 publication is attached).

According to the presented report, there are 12 citations, of which 7 are in foreign scientific journals and 5 in national peer-reviewed journals. The total IF of the citations is 12,713. These citations are entirely on scientific issues developed by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stefanov.

The scientific and creative achievements and scientific authority of the candidate should include:

- He was awarded 3 times for active participation in the publishing activities of the Thracian University in connection with the publication of 3 articles in journals with Impact Factor and as a reviewer for 'Anatomia, histologia, embryologia' in 2016.

- Preparation of statements as a member of 8 scientific juries in connection with procedures for holding the academic position of "Assistant Professor" and "Associate Professor", as well as in connection with the procedure for awarding the ONS "Doctor". A list of reviews made by the candidate of scientific publications for foreign and Bulgarian specialized journals with Impact Factor and SJR is also presented.

The candidate is a co-author in writing 6 textbooks.

Associate Professor I. Stefanov is a member of the Bulgarian Anatomical Society - a member of the Board of BAS, the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists, the Union of Scientists - Stara Zagora.

2. Critical notes and recommendations

I have no remarks on the presented scientific papers and materials by the candidate.

The field of scientific interests of Associate Professor Stefanov is entirely focused on morphology, which provides excellent prospects for further development and expansion of scientific research. There are opportunities to apply the knowledge and experience of the candidate in the implementation of new experimental models, with the involvement of young scientists and PhD students, which will complement the information of the morphological changes in organs and cellular structures.

CONCLUSION

The career development of Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov (over 21 years), his scientometric indicators, contributions from his research, teaching load, participation in research projects, preparation of textbooks *fully complies* with the *requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria*, the Regulations on the application of the above-mentioned law and the Regulations of the University "Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov" - Burgas for holding the academic position "Professor". In the candidate's works there are original scientific and applied contributions, which have received international recognition and most of them are published in reputable academic journals. His scientific findings also have practical applicability.

The acquaintance with the materials and scientific works presented in the competition, the analysis of their significance and the scientific and scientific-applied contributions contained in them, gives me grounds to give a *positive assessment* to Associate Professor Ivaylo Stefanov and to recommend to the members of the *honourable Research Council to support his choice for the academic position "Professor"* in the scientific specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology" at the University "Prof. Dr. A. Zlatarov" - Burgas, in the Higher education area: 7 Healthcare and Sports, Professional area: 7.1. Medicine

10 Dec., 2021

Statement prepared by: ..✶

Assoc. Prof. Slavi Delov, MD, PhD