

## OPINION

by Professor Dr. Petar Ivanov Genev, MD  
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**Subject:** Competition for the academic position "Professor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, specialty "Anatomy, Histology and Cytology", for the needs of the Medical Faculty at the University "Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov", Burgas, published in the State Gazette issue № 59 of 16.07.2021.

**Candidate:** Associate Professor Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov Stefanov, PhD

### I. Analysis of the career profile of the candidate

Documents for participation in the announced competition were submitted by only one candidate - Associate Professor Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov, who currently holds the position of "Associate Professor" at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

Associate Professor Stefanov was born on March 2, 1972 in Vratsa. He graduated from the High School "Hristo Botev" - Vratsa in 1991. In 1997 he obtained a qualification "Master of Veterinary Medicine" at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Thracian University - Stara Zagora.

Since 2000 he has been an assistant in the Histology section at the Department of Veterinary Cytology, Histology and Embryology, and since 2006 he has been an assistant in the Anatomy section at the same department. He successively goes

through the stages of senior and chief assistant. During this period, Associate Professor Stefanov formed his scientific interests, mainly in the field of morphology of the gastrointestinal tract. In 2011 he defended his dissertation on "Morpho-functional features of the perianal sinus in dogs", and in 2016 he was elected associate professor at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Thracian University.

Associate Professor Stefanov has completed a training course in English at level B1, which he maintains and upgrades with participations in specialized courses (Certificate of Foreign Language Specialization №6262 / 29.06.2010). and international forums.

Associate Professor Stefanov is a member of Bulgarian and international scientific societies and has specialized abroad.

## **II. Evaluation of scientific papers**

Associate Professor Stefanov has submitted for participation in the competition a total of 20 publications in Bulgarian and English, distributed as follows:

- abstract of dissertation for awarding educational and scientific degree "doctor"
- monograph (habilitation thesis)
- 18 articles published after the competition for associate professor, of which:
  - 6 in journals with IF,
  - 8 in SJR journals,
  - 4 without IF and SJR, referenced and indexed in world secondary literature

Only the title page of the abstract of a dissertation, successfully defended in 2011, on the topic "Morpho-functional features of the perianal sinus in dogs" is attached. The research was performed at the Thracian University, Stara Zagora.

The monograph is on "Morphometric, histochemical and immunohistochemical characteristics of mast cells in the gallbladder and extrahepatic bile ducts in domestic pigs", published by KOTA - Stara Zagora, 2021.

These documents certify that **Group Indicators A and B** of the Minimum Requirements to the Scientific and Teaching Activity of the Candidates for the Academic Position of "Professor" have been fulfilled, respectively by 50 and 100 points.

To facilitate the assessment, Associate Professor Stefanov presented his publications grouped thematically in several sections:

- Macroscopic and microscopic anatomy, including vascularization

The results in this group are achieved with the application of methods such as diaphonization, corrosive preparations for the manifestation of the arterial network, macromorphometry of silicone castings of the ureters and others. The data from these studies show detailed information and enrich the scientific literature.

Regarding histochemical examination using alcyan blue staining at different pH and the alcyan blue-PAS technique, apart from the fact that these staining methods have long been used in biopsy diagnostics, new facts have been established by the morphometric analysis.

- Morphometric, histochemical and immunohistochemical studies on mast cells and nerve structures in various organs from pig, rat and in normal and diseased human lung and in acupuncture point ST36 in rats

The publications in this group are the most voluminous part of the candidate's scientific production and also are the basis of the monograph. A wide range of immunohistochemical markers - tyrosine hydroxylase, chromogranin A, tryptase,



serotonin, somatostatin, gastrin, ghrelin and enzymohistochemically - NADPH-d were studied. The obtained results shed light on the complex endocrine and neurogenic mechanisms of the regulation of motility and synthetic-secretory activity in the studied organs.

- Immunohistochemical expression of ghrelin in human stomach cancer

This article is a detailed study with different markers and with micromorphometric analysis of endocrine cells in the tumor parenchyma of patients with intestinal type of gastric cancer. This allows the identification of different types of endocrine cells in the tumor tissue. The indisputable merits of this study could be even more significant if it is performed on a larger number of cases of different type of gastric cancer and by applying double staining for co-expression of the individual markers. In addition, ghrelin expression is unlikely to be of diagnostic value, but a detailed study could have the potential of a predict factor with the eventual potential for target therapy.

In his entire scientific activity, the candidate applies a wide range of morphological methods and shows the ability to analyze the results in an appropriate, mature way, to summarize and draw significant conclusions.

On this basis, it can be assumed that **Group of indicators D** of the Minimum requirements for the scientific and teaching activity of the candidates for the academic position "Professor" are fulfilled with 318.7 points.

Associate Professor Stefanov provided a reference to the citations of his scientific works - a total of 12, without distinguishing whether the citations are in referenced and indexed world-famous databases, but the cited articles are presented in full text. One citation is in a review monograph.

The scientific output of the candidate is reflected in the scientific literature with which the requirements of **Group of indicators E** are met.

Associate Professor Stefanov has attached a list of issued textbooks, which shows that he is a co-author of six textbooks, one of which is a methodological guide.

### **III. Comprehensive assessment of teaching and teaching activities**

The Department of Thracian University - Stara Zagora has issued a document certifying that Associate Professor Stefanov has five years of teaching experience, with a total annual workload of between 300 and 450 hours (with a limit of 454 hours). During this period, Associate Professor Stefanov conducted practical classes in anatomy and histology and part of a lecture course (including in English) for medical students, nurses and midwives and others. He also participates in the semester exams.

In the documentation for the competition, the candidate has presented information about other parameters:

- for a leader (1) and participant in three other national research projects
- supervisor of a doctoral student (together with Prof. Sivrev), who successfully defended in 2019.
- participation in a scientific jury to hold scientific positions
- review of scientific publications for Bulgarian and foreign journals
- certificates for received awards

This documentation confirms that **Group of indicators E** of the Minimum requirements for the scientific and teaching activity of the candidates for the academic position "Professor" have been fulfilled.

### **V. CONCLUSION**

The documentation submitted for the Competition is in full and meets the procedural requirements in the normative documents.

The complex assessment of the candidate corresponds to the required indicators. The scientific production of the candidate is significant in volume and

quality and is reflected in the scientific literature. I accept the contributions without remarks. The personal and professional qualities of the candidate fully meet the conditions for holding the position.

For these reasons, I am voting positively in favor of Associate Professor Dr. Ivaylo Stefanov to receive the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Faculty of Medicine at the University "Professor Dr. Assen Zlatarov", Burgas.

21.11.2021

Varna

Signature: .....

(Prof. Dr. Peter Ghenev, MD)