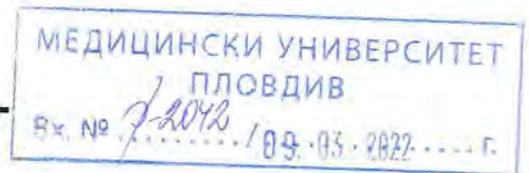


# STATEMENT



BY **PROF. BORIS EVGENIEV SAKAKUSHEV, MD, PHD**

DEPARTMENT OF PROPEDEUTICS OF SURGICAL DISEASES, FACULTY OF  
MEDICINE, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLOVDIV

Of the dissertation on topic:

**„SECONDARY SPONTANEOUS PNEUMOTHORAX – A STUDY ON DIAGNOSTIC  
AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACH “**

**Professional field: 7.1 Medicine, Thoracic surgery**

Author: **DR. VELIZAR DAFINOV HADZHIMINEV**

Doctoral student on independent preparation in Department of Special surgery,  
Medical University - Plovdiv

for awarding the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Supervisor: **PROF. IVAN NOVAKOV, MD, DSC**

## **General presentation of the procedure and doctoral candidate**

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic media is in accordance with Article 70(1) of Procedure for Acquisition of ESD “Doctor” in MU-Plovdiv and the Regulations of MU-Plovdiv. The doctoral candidate has attached all the necessary documents.

Dr. Velizar Dafinov Hadzhiminev was born on March 22, 1988 in Nova Zagora. He completed his secondary education at the Language High School in Haskovo. From 2007 to 2013 he studied medicine at the Medical University – Varna. He was graduated with honours. In the period 2013-2019 he worked as a physician in the Second Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. George" - Plovdiv. In 2014 he started working as a resident-surgeon in the same unit. In 2017 he became an assistant professor in the Department of Special Surgery at MU - Plovdiv. In 2019 he became a specialist in surgery. Since 2020 he has been working as a surgeon at the First Clinic of Surgery at the University Hospital "St. Georgi" - Plovdiv. From September 2021 he works as assistant professor in the Department of Propaedeutics of Surgical Diseases, Department of Surgery. He has participated in a number scientific conferences and courses in Bulgaria and abroad.

## **Relevance of the topic and knowledge of the problem**

In the dissertation of Dr. Hadzhiminev a current problem in thoracic surgery - secondary spontaneous pneumothorax has been studied. In particular, studies have been done on its epidemiology, demography. The causes of its occurrence have been analyzed in detail, and here the doctoral student has studied a new cause of pneumothorax - COVID-19-pneumonia. The various methods of treatment and related complications have been studied in detail. Dr. Hadzhiminev's scientific work is considered timely, relevant and significant.

## **Research methodology**

Modern statistical and research methods for processing the clinical material have been used, which ensure the high reliability of the obtained results.

## **Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation**

The dissertation is written on 148 standard pages. The found dependencies are illustrated with 12 tables, 37 figures and 1 diagram. The bibliography contains 210 titles. Scientific research is properly structured.

The literature review is detailed and thorough, which shows a good theoretical preparation of the doctoral student.

The aim of the dissertation is precisely and clearly formulated, and the five tasks are specific and correspond to the scientific topic. Modern statistical and research methods are used.

In the results and discussion chapters, Dr. Hadzhiminev has skillfully interpreted and compared his results with those of leading authors on the issue, presenting in-depth conclusions. Of clinical interest are the dependencies identified by the doctoral student: secondary spontaneous pneumothorax more often affects males and people over 55 years of age; the author confirms COPD as the most common cause of secondary spontaneous pneumothorax; COVID-19 pneumonia is a new pathology that is associated with pneumothorax, and these patients have a worse prognosis; in elderly patients, secondary spontaneous pneumothorax is more often "tension"; tube thoracostomy is the therapeutic method of choice in patients with secondary spontaneous pneumothorax, regardless of the underlying lung pathology; continuous air leakage is the most common postoperative complication. The doctoral student offers a diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm for patients with COPD and secondary spontaneous pneumothorax.

Based on the results obtained, Dr. Hadzhiminev draws 10 conclusions that are correlated with the tasks.



### **Evaluation of the doctoral student's publications**

Dr. Hadzhiminev has presented 4 scientific publications in connection with the dissertation, published in peer-reviewed and indexed journals. In all of them he is the first author.

The abstract meets the requirements and reflects the main results of the dissertation.

### **Conclusion**

The dissertation of Dr. Hadzhiminev contains scientific and applied results that meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and Regulations of MU - Plovdiv. I am convinced of my positive assessment of the research and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Velizar Hadzhiminev in a doctoral program in "Thoracic Surgery".

08.02.2022

Plovdiv

Prof. B. Sakakushev, MD, Phd

