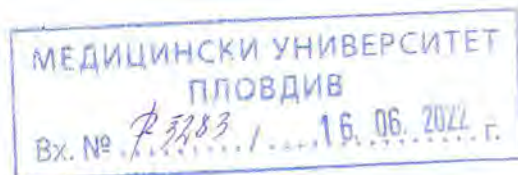


## STATEMENT



By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Yordanov Sheitanov, MD

Medical University of Sofia,

Clinic of Rheumatology, University Hospital "St. Ivan Rilski"

about a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'

professional field 7.1 medicine; 7. Healthcare

doctoral program 03.01.18 Rheumatology

Author: Dr. Zguro Anastasov Batalov

Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv

“Blocking the JAK / STAT signaling pathway as a new therapeutic option in patients with systemic sclerosis”

Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Mariela Geneva-Popova, Ph.D.

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The presented set of materials on paper / electronic media is in accordance with Article 115 (1) of the Procedure for the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' in MU - Plovdiv; Regulations of MU-Plovdiv from 06.11.2014 and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of MU-Plovdiv for disclosure of the procedure for defense of the dissertation
- CV in European format with the signature of the doctoral student
- notarized copy of the diploma for higher education
- orders for enrollment in doctoral studies, interruption of studies (due to maternity) and for continuation of studies; for deductions with the right to protection
- order for conducting an exam from the individual plan and the respective protocol for passing the exam or doctoral minimum in the specialty

- Minutes of the department council for preliminary discussion of the dissertation and the decisions taken for opening the procedure and for the composition of the scientific jury
- dissertation work
- abstract
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation
- copies of scientific publications
- list of participations in scientific forums
- list of cited observations
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents
- other documents related to the course of the procedure

The doctoral student has submitted 6 articles, 3 reviews, 4 scientific reports in Bulgaria, 2 abroad. The documents meet the requirements for the implementation of a procedure for the defense of dissertation work.

Dr. Zguro Batalov was born in Plovdiv in 1994. He graduated from Plovdiv Language High School in 2013 and MU-Plovdiv in 2019. Since 2019 he has been an assistant in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv and a doctoral student in independent training since 2021. Since 2020 he has been a specialist in rheumatology at the University Hospital "Kaspela".

He has qualifications in capillaroscopy, joint ultrasound. He has participated in numerous Bulgarian and international conferences.

## 2. Relevance of the topic

The scientific development of the doctoral student is up-to-date, modern and with an emphasis on one of the most serious rheumatic diseases. In the last 20 years, a new hope for rheumatic patients from all over the world has proved to be the so-called biological drugs and "small" molecules that give hope for better treatment of patients with multiple sclerosis.

## 3. Knowledge of the problem

In the presented detailed, properly systematized and well-arranged literature review the doctoral student presents the available data from the world and Bulgarian literature on the topic of his work and this is a kind of certificate for excellent knowledge of the problem.

#### 4. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology is properly selected, the tasks are accurate and specific.

#### 5. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions

The dissertation is placed on 179 pages, with the correct structure. 21 figures and 13 tables are included. 219 sources are cited in the bibliographic reference. The introduction accurately and clearly presents and discusses the topic of this dissertation. The goals and tasks are precise, specific and fully meet the problem presented in the research. The literature review is detailed and up-to-date reflects the progress on the topic nationally and globally.

The presented scientific work is well structured, shows in-depth study of the problem. Its scientific value is due to the analysis of the current problem with drug-induced neutralizing antibodies. The algorithms provided by the doctoral student and his / her research supervisor are also extremely valuable.

#### 6. Assessment of the publications and personal contribution of the doctoral student

Dr. Batalov has presented a total of 14 scientific publications related to his dissertation, of which 3 reviews (1 in English), six articles (4 in English), 4 scientific papers in Bulgaria and 2 international communications.

Dr. Batalov's publications meet the requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor.

#### 7. Abstract


The presented abstract qualitatively and fully reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation and is made according to the requirements.

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for implementation of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' and the Regulations of MU - Plovdiv. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of MU - Plovdiv for application of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dr. Zguro Anastasov Batalov has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of rheumatology, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the research presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions, and I invite the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' to Dr. Zguro Anastasov Batalov in the doctoral program in Rheumatology.

  
Заличено на основание  
Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679  
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Assoc. Prof. Ivan Sheitanov, Ph.D.