

## STATEMENT

**by Prof. Dr. Veselina Kondeva, PhD**, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, FDM, Medical University – Plovdiv, a Member of the Scientific Jury on a procedure according to Order № R-1347/07.06.2022 of the Rector of Medical University -Plovdiv.

**Of:** Dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in Doctoral Program "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy", field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sport, professional field 7.2. Dental medicine

**Author:** Dr. Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova

**Department:** "Social Medicine and Public Health", Faculty of Public Health, Medical University- Plovdiv

**Topic:** Dental care in children with hemophilia

**Scientific Supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Rumen Stefanov, PhD

### **General description of the procedure and PhD candidate**

According to Art. 32 of the Regulations for implementation of ASDARB and Order № R-1347/07.06.2022 of the Rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv, at the first meeting of the Scientific Jury I was appointed to prepare a Statement as an internal member of the Scientific Jury on the dissertation of Dr. Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova. The presented set of materials on paper and electronic form comply with the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at the Medical University - Plovdiv and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of MU-Plovdiv for starting the procedure for defense of doctoral dissertation
- Curriculum vitae European format
- Notarized copy of a diploma of high education
- Rector's order for termination with the right for defense of doctoral dissertation
- Protocol for passed examination for doctoral minimum
- Protocol of Department council for preliminary discussion of the dissertation and the decision to start a procedure for defense and the selection of a scientific jury
- Dissertation
- Dissertation Abstract
- List of scientific publications related to the subject of the dissertation
- Copies of scientific publications
- List of participations in scientific forums
- Certificate for completed Doctoral School training at the Medical University- Plovdiv
- Declaration of authenticity and trustworthiness of the attached documents

The submitted materials comply with the requirements of the current procedure. I have no notes or comments on the documents.

### **Short biography of PhD candidate**

Dr. Viktoriya Mandova was born in 1990 in Plovdiv. She went to English Language School-Plovdiv where graduated middle and secondary high school with an excellent grade. During the period 2009-2015 she was a student at the FDM, Medical University of Plovdiv and obtained a master's degree in dentistry. Her professional career began as a dentist in her own outpatient individual dental practice in Plovdiv. In 2018 she began specialization in the Department of "Social Medicine and Public Health" at the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University - Plovdiv, which she successfully completed in 2021 with the acquisition of a specialty in "Public Dental Health".

Dr. Viktoriya Mandova is an assistant at the Department of "Social Medicine and Public Health" at the Medical University of Plovdiv since 2017. She is leading practical classes in Bulgarian and English to medical and dental students. In 2020, she was registered as a PhD student in independent training in the same department.

Dr. Viktoriya Mandova actively participates in research related to health promotion and prevention of dental diseases. Her interests include dental care improvement through prevention and health policy. In 2018, she completed a one-month specialization at the Hemophilia Center in Bonn, Germany. She speaks three languages - English, German and Spanish. She uses proficiently computer software such as Microsoft Office - Word, PowerPoint, Excel; Photoshop; SPSS.

### **Relevance of the subject and appropriateness of the Research aim and Objectives**

The dissertation examines and analyzes a significant problem regarding dental care in children with hemophilia. Hemophilia is the most common disease in the group of hereditary coagulopathies. It occurs as a result of a congenital deficiency of coagulation factor VIII or IX, and depending on this there are 2 types of hemophilia - A and B. For patients with hemophilia in the dental practice, there is an increased risk of bleeding during most invasive procedures. Treatment could compromise the recovery process, affects the outcome of the treatment and could be life-threatening. Although the hemophiliac patient is not the most frequent patient in the dental practice, an assessment of their oral hygiene habits and dental health would help to improve dental care for them. In this regard, the idea of developing the dissertation is absolutely justified. The author not only highlights the significant shortcomings through scientific approach in this issue so far, but also offers solutions to optimize dental care in people with hemophilia.

All this makes the dissertation of Dr. Viktoriya Mandova relevant, modern and useful for dental science and practice.

### **Knowledge of the problem**

Dr. Mandova shows excellent knowledge and theoretical background. The literature review is thorough, comprehensive, written in a good scientific style and allows a comparative analysis of the results from own research and similar ones in the scientific literature. The literature is up-to-date. An extensive literature review on the topic shows that the doctoral student knows

the problem in detail and analytically evaluates the data from the scientific literature. Conclusion of the review focuses on the unresolved issues on the topic and directs to the research aim and objectives of the dissertation.

### **Characterization and assessment of the dissertation**

The dissertation of Dr. Viktoriya Mandova requiring my Statement is original work of the doctoral student and contains all necessary sections which comply with the requirements: introduction, literature review, research aim and objectives, material and methods, results and discussion, main findings, contributions of dissertation, references and appendices.

The dissertation contains 158 pages, illustrated with 14 tables and 42 figures. Section References includes 158 sources, of which 31 in Cyrillic and 127 in Latin. The dissertation was discussed and defined for defense by an extended department council of the Department of "Social Medicine and Public Health" at the Medical University - Plovdiv, where the doctoral student works.

The literature review is structured correctly, written in a good scientific language. Dr. Mandova has made a detailed and in-depth critical analysis of the literature, formulating debatable and unsolved issues.

The research aim of the dissertation is to study the awareness and habits associated with oral health in children with haemophilia and to create recommendations for improving dental care for them.

To accomplish the research aim, four objectives are set for implementation. The research aim and objectives of the dissertation are formulated accurately and clearly, which allows a successful realisation of the aim and contribute to enrichment of the knowledge on this topic.

The sociological approach used for the dissertation is a contemporary approach, as well as the statistical methods presented by objectives.

The study involved 31 children aged 7-18 years old with hemophilia, 33 parents of children with hemophilia, 108 children without hemophilia and 104 dentists.

The obtained results are well presented, illustrated with tables and figures, with presented statistical reliability. They were analyzed in depth and compared with data from similar studies reported by other authors. The same section examines and analyzes the awareness and willingness of dentists to care for children with hemophilia. The differences are outlined and scientifically substantiated hypotheses for their existence are proposed. The findings are clearly and precisely formulated. They are logically derived from the obtained results and their adequate interpretation.

### **Contributions and significance of development for science and practice**

There are 4 formulated original scientific contributions and 5 contributions with an applied scientific benefit.

### **Assessment of the publications**

Related to her dissertation, Dr. Viktoriya Mandova has published three full-text articles and four scientific communications. Dr. Mandova is a single author in one publication and in three communications. She is the first author of two presented articles and in one communication.

### **Personal contribution of PhD student**

The dissertation work was realized entirely by the PhD student, under the guidance of the scientific supervisor, which is confirmed by the attached list of publications and participations. The doctoral student's original merits related to the realization of the dissertation are indisputable. Her original scientific work is the overall activity of conducting research, collecting, processing and analyzing data, formulating findings and contributions and the final design of this completed dissertation.

### **Abstract of Dissertation**


The abstract of dissertation is designed according to all requirements and presents adequately, in a reduced form, the content and results of the dissertation.


### **CONCLUSION**

The dissertation contains original scientific and applied scientific results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), the Regulations for implementation of ASDARB and the respective Regulations of MU - Plovdiv. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements of MU - Plovdiv.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dr. Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova has an in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills, demonstrating qualities to conduct independent research.

Due to the abovementioned, I confidently give my **positive assessment** of the research dissertation on topic "Dental care for children with hemophilia", an abstract of dissertation, results and contributions, and I **propose to the Esteemed Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"** to Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova, in specialty "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy".

  
ЗНАЧЕНИЕ НА ДОКУМЕНТА  
"НАЦИОНАЛЕН ПАРЛАМЕНТ (ЕС) 2012/0179"

Statement prepared by:  .....

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Veselina Kondeva, Ph.D.

18.06.2022

Plovdiv