

STATEMENT

МЕДИЦИНСКИ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
ПЛОВДИВ

By Prof. Dr. Juliana Krumova Marinova, MD, P. 5387 / 1. 2. 1. 06. 2022 . . г.  
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Faculty of Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora

On a dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional Field 7.2. *Dental Medicine*

Doctoral Program "*Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy*"

**Author:** *Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova*

**Form of PhD:** independent

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

**Topic:** "Dental care in children with haemophilia"

**Scientific supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Rumen Stefanov, PhD, Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University – Plovdiv

**1. General description of the procedure and PhD candidate:**

The set of materials presented to me in paper and electronically comply with the requirements of Art. 70(1), Section I. Awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and "Doctor of science" at MU-Plovdiv; Regulations of MU-Plovdiv from 28.01.2021. **All required documents, needed for the model of the Statement, are included.** The provided documentation of the procedure is complete, accurate and neatly arranged.

**Biography of the PhD candidate:**

Dr. Mandova was born in 1990 in Plovdiv. She went to English Language School-Plovdiv where graduated middle and secondary high school with a diploma for extremely high academic achievements and excellent results. She graduated as a Master of Dentistry - FDM at MU-Plovdiv in 2015. Her professional career began as a dentist in her own outpatient individual dental practice in Plovdiv. Since 2017, until now, Dr. Mandova is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, Faculty of public health, MU-Plovdiv. In the system of Postgraduate education she has acquired a specialty in "Public Dental Health" since 2021. She speaks English fluently, Cambridge level B2 certified. She is fluent in German, as a second major language and speaks a pre-intermediate level of Spanish. She has excellent computer skills working with software as Microsoft Office-Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Photoshop, SPSS. Dr. Viktoriya Mandova is actively participating in research related to health promotion and prevention of dental diseases. Her areas of

interest include dental care improvement through prevention and health policy. In the system of continuing education Dr. Mandova has taken part in many symposiums in the country and abroad. She participated actively in scientific forums.

Dr. Mandova is a member of: Bulgarian Dental Union, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria, Bulgarian Scientific Society of Public Health, Bulgarian Association of Public Health, European Association of Public Health (EUPHA).

## **2.Relevance of the subject**

The thesis submitted for evaluation is written in 158 pages, illustrated with 14 tables and 42 figures. It contains 5 Appendices. The bibliography includes 158 sources, 31 (20%) in Cyrillic and 127 (80%) in Latin. The problems discussed in the dissertation are contemporary in theoretical-scientific and scientific-applied terms. This contemporariness is substantiated by the doctoral student with her skills and deep understanding.

## **3. Knowledge of the problem**

**Literature review** covers 44 pages of the dissertation and is presented in 5 main parts focusing on: ✓awareness of children and parents with haemophilia for oral health; ✓awareness of dental practitioners about the impact of haemophilia on oral health; ✓recommendations for oral health promotion and dental treatment of children with haemophilia for dental practitioners; ✓ health-promotion policy for dental care improvement in children with haemophilia; ✓ dental care for children with haemophilia in the conditions of a COVID-19 pandemic. The used literature sources are sufficient in number, they include scientific publications predominantly by international researchers, but Bulgarian also. It covers important national and international documents, cited clearly. The review is written in a clear and comprehensible language and reflects a thorough knowledge of the issues discussed as well as a skilful handling of scientific terminology. In general, the literature review has a theoretical contribution to the dental care in children with haemophilia, the most common hereditary coagulopathy. The way of presenting the literature review shows the in-depth knowledge of the discussed problems. It reveals the author's ability to analytically represent rich scientific information and defend the relevance and importance of the topic of the dissertation and her own research approach.

**4. Methodology of the study: Research aim, objectives, materials and methods:** presented in the dissertation in 8 pages.

**The research aim** is defined precisely and clearly: "to study the awareness and habits associated with oral health in children with haemophilia and to create recommendations for improving dental care for them". **The objectives** are formulated in 4 main tasks as follows: 1.To examine the awareness and habits of children with haemophilia, parents of children with haemophilia and children without haemophilia associated with oral health, 2.To examine dental practitioners'

awareness of the impact of haemophilia on oral health, 3.To develop recommendations for the promotion of oral health and prevention of dental diseases in children and adults with haemophilia aimed at dental doctors, 4.To design a model of health-promotion policy aimed at improving dental care in children with haemophilia.

The research methodology is presented sequentially for each of the above-mentioned tasks with a clear, correct and accurate definition of: ✓subject of observation, ✓technical and logical units of observation, ✓signs of observation - factorial and resultative, ✓ Place, time and organs conducting the study. The research methods used are presented by Dr. Mandova accurately and detailed. The study was conducted in the period January 2017 - June 2021. Location of the survey: "National camp for families of children with haemophilia up to 7 years old ", in Strelcha; "Summer rehabilitation camp for children from 7 to 14 years old" in Kranevo; as well as in outpatient individual and group dental practices and dental centers throughout the country. A sociological method was used in the original research of Dr. Mandova. The primary sociological information was collected through a direct individual questionnaire. **Instruments of the study: four original questionnaires for the purposes of the research.** The above-mentioned questionnaires are described in details, attached as Appendices of the dissertation: 1. Questionnaire based on OHIP-14 - applied to 31 children from 7-18 years old with haemophilia in Bulgaria; 2. Questionnaire for parents of children with haemophilia - applied to 33 parents; 3. Questionnaire for children without haemophilia, similar to the questionnaire for children with haemophilia - applied to 108 children without haemophilia (control group); 4. Questionnaire for dentists - applied to 104 dentists. The chosen research methodology allows the researcher to achieve the research aim. It happens through adequate responses to the objectives solved in the dissertation. The use of statistical methods is adequate and data is described in details. Statement of the Committee on Scientific Ethics is presented in this part of the dissertation and confirms: "The research was approved by the Committee on Scientific Ethics at the Medical University - Plovdiv, Bulgaria."

### **5. Characterization and assessment of the dissertation and contributions**

Section **results and their discussion** are presented consistently in 66 pages, representing the largest part of the total volume of the dissertation (42%). Results are divided into **5 sections**: 1. Section characteristics of the participants is divided into 4 subsections (children with haemophilia; parents of children with haemophilia; children without haemophilia and comparative characteristics with children with haemophilia; dental practitioners; 2. Awareness and habits of children with haemophilia associated with oral health and comparison with parents of children with haemophilia and control group in 3 subsections for children with haemophilia, parents of children with haemophilia and children without haemophilia (Oral-hygiene habits; Eating habits; Self-assessment of dental health); 3. Knowledge of dental practitioners about the oral health problems related to haemophilia; 4. Recommendations for oral health promotion and prevention of dental diseases of chil-

dren and adults with haemophilia, aimed at dental doctors. They are precisely arranged visualized and correspond to the objectives set in the dissertation.

Each section is structured in a good manner, the results are presented in depth, discussed and summarized. Presentation of the results and their discussion reflects Viktoriya Mandova's skills to analyze data from scientific research, to apply appropriate methods of analysis and to interpret it in depth. This part of the dissertation deserves special attention and is valuable for its adequate structure, logical coherence and consistency.

The consecutive part is a synthesized **conclusion** in two pages.

**Findings** are in total 7, skilfully formulated and directly related to the research aim and objectives.

**Recommendations** are given in 5 directions: 1. To the Ministry of Health and to the National Health Insurance Fund; 2. To the National Alliance of People with Rare Diseases and organizations of patients with rare diseases (BHA); 3. To medical professional organizations, medical scientific societies and medical institutions; 4. To the media and civil society; 5. To people with coagulation disorders.

**Contributions** from the dissertation are presented with their scientific and applied-scientific character: Original scientific contributions are: for the first time in Bulgaria, the awareness and habits related to oral health of children with haemophilia and parents of children with haemophilia are studied and critically analysed; for the first time in Bulgaria, the awareness and habits of children with haemophilia are examined and critically analysed compared to their healthy controls; for the first time in Bulgaria, the awareness and attitudes of dentists on the treatment of patients with haemophilia are analysed. Contribution with a theoretical benefit is the literature review on the oral health of children with haemophilia. Applied scientific contributions are: a handbook of recommendations for improving dental care for people with coagulopathies is created; recommendations for dental practitioners, for the dental disease prevention and treatment of children with haemophilia, divided by specialties are created; a model of a multidisciplinary team for the treatment of haemophilia is created, part of which is the dentist; an informative brochure is created for children with bleeding disorders to raise their dental health awareness; an approbated plan-program for Lecture-game for oral health improvement of children with bleeding disorders, including haemophilia, in the age from 7 to 14 years old is also created.

#### **6. Assessment of the publications and personal contribution of the PhD student**

Related to topic of the dissertation, Viktoriya Mandova has enclosed: - **3 full-text publications:** 2 articles are in English, as first author (in co-authorship with her scientific supervisor) *in scientific journals indexed in Scopus (Med Sci Monit Basic Res; Open Access Maced J Med Sci)*; independent author of an article in Bulgarian *in a Bulgarian scientific journal (Rare Diseases and*

Orphan Drugs), as well as **4 scientific communications** with posters during scientific forums and containing results of the dissertation.

**7. Abstract of Dissertation:** The abstract of the dissertation is made following the requirements. It is written on 52 pages and reflects the main results accomplished in the dissertation.

## CONCLUSION

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

The dissertation shows that the PhD candidate Dr. Viktoriya Dinkova Mandova has an in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the field of Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy. She is demonstrating qualities and skills to conduct independent research.

Due to the above reasons, I confidently give my **positive assessment** of the research presented by the expert peer-reviewed dissertation, abstract, results and contributions. And **I propose to the esteemed Scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'** to Dr. Viktoria Dinkova Mandova in a PhD program “**Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy**”.

12.06.2022

Statement prepared by:

Prof. Dr. Juliana Kr. Marinova, PhD

Заличено на основание  
Чл. 5 §1, б. "в" Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679