



SHORT REVIEW

From **Professor Julian Rumenov Ananiev, MD, PhD**

Dean of Medical Faculty,
Trakia University, Stara Zagora
Dept. of General and clinical
pathology, forensic medicine
and deontology, and
dermatovenerology

according to the PhD-thesis „Forensic analysis of violence against elderly people", with author Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva, MD, during procedure for achieving „**PhD Degree**" in the field of 7. „**Healthcare and Sport**", scientific direction „**Medicine**", specialty „**Forensic medicine and Deontology**"

Author of the PhD-thesis: Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva - assistant professor at the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology of the Medical University of Plovdiv

Grounds for presenting the opinion: I present this opinion in my capacity as a member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by Order No. P-842/15.03.2024. of the Rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv.

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOCTORAL STUDENT

The author of the dissertation - Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva, is an assistant at the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology at the Medical Faculty of the Medical University of Plovdiv. The dissertation work was accepted for development with a protocol by the Departmental Council and Dr. Kristina Hadzhieva was enrolled as a doctoral student of independent study with Order No. R-1521/24.06.2022. of the Rector of MU-Plovdiv. The dissertation work was presented and discussed at the extended Departmental Council - with a protocol dated 26.04.2023, and a unanimous decision was made to deduct the doctoral student with the right to defend himself before a scientific jury, approved by the Faculty Council of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Plovdiv. He was dismissed by order No. 1127/03.05.2023. of the Rector of MU-Plovdiv with the right to protection for a period of up to 1 (one) year. The doctoral student has fully completed the tasks set out in his individual study plan, he has also completed his group study plan, and in connection with the dissertation there are also 3 publications, one of which is independent.

Brief biographical data

Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva was born on 02.05.1990 in the city of Plovdiv. She completed her secondary education in 2009, with honors, at the High School with a humanitarian profile - Saint Cyril and Methodius High School, Plovdiv. She graduated from the Medical University - Plovdiv in 2015. From the middle of November 2016, she

was enrolled by order of the rector of the Medical University - Plovdiv as an assistant in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Deontology of the Medical University of Plovdiv after winning from competition, being an assistant until now in the department of the same name, with a profile of English language teaching. In 2019, he successfully passed the state exam for the acquisition of a specialty in the health care system in the December session and obtained the specialty "Forensic Medicine and Deontology". He has a very good command of the English language and also the Russian language. He is a member of the following scientific and professional societies: The Bulgarian Society of Forensic Medicine, the Bulgarian Medical Union, the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

2. RELEVANCE OF THE PROBLEM

The presented completed dissertation examines in detail the topic concerning a serious worldwide type of violence, which is specifically advocated in forensic medical practice. This problem is prevalent in other clinical and paraclinical medical specialties as well and affects the most important and at the same time one of the most vulnerable social groups - people over 65 years of age. It is noteworthy that the topicality of the issues of the current dissertation work is significantly more prevalent in foreign scientific literature and more extensively discussed in specialized international forums, while our specialized literature lacks a sufficiently large volume and number of publications related to the issues. Timely diagnosis of adults who are victims of violence still continues to be a considerable difficulty for medical professionals facing this problem. The development of universal algorithms to work in this context of the problem has important implications for reducing mortality and trauma in this age group. The information in the presented work is comprehensive and shows a thorough knowledge of the problem. The analysis of the literary material shows the creative approach and attitude of the dissertation student, which led to a comprehensive, complete and justified processing and interpretation of the own results, compared with the data known to date, and to substantial and qualitative contributions to the dissertation work.

The results and conclusions of Dr. Kristina Hadzhieva's dissertation give reason to assume that detailed attention should be paid and research related to physical abuse of the elderly should be carried out in full and according to established algorithms, and this should be one of the main priorities of forensic medicine and the bodies of pre-trial and judicial investigation, with the aim of preventing trauma and mortality in this type of violence.

The dissertation is written on a standard 81 pages. The dissertation work is illustrated in the "Results" section with 22 tables and 22 diagrams showing data on physical abuse of the elderly. The literature reference includes 81 titles, of which 3 are in Cyrillic and 78 are in Latin. The dissertation work is presented in a correspondingly good form, and the requirements for this have been met.

The literature review examines in detail the physical violence against the elderly, which medical specialists encounter in routine forensic medicine practice. The literature review is comprehensive, richly illustrated, and it examines the current aspects of the problem related to the topic of the dissertation, from sources available in world-famous databases.

The forensic material and methods are described in detail and are in a sufficiently large volume. The analysis of the own data is thorough, having been carried out according to a sufficiently large number of criteria and scientifically substantiated. Goals and objectives are specified and defined clearly and precisely. The methods by which these tasks and goals will be achieved are also defined in sufficient volume. Exclusion criteria were determined, and sufficient detailed questionnaires were drawn up for the processing of the cases, including both social and household criteria, as well as criteria affecting the morphological manifestation of violence. The results of the own studies are presented in sufficient volume and are illustrated by means of a large volume of tables and pie charts. In the "Summary and discussion of the results" section, the own results are examined in detail and compared to the published data in the world and Bulgarian scientific literature covered in the review, and this was done in separate subsections for each subtype of violence. Based on this, conclusions were logically drawn, objectively reflecting the data from the conducted research. An indisputable merit of the presented scientific work is the creation of detailed, detailed algorithms for working with elderly people, which will be extremely useful in the routine practical work of a wide range of medical specialists. An achievement of the work is the detailed, in-depth and comprehensive literature review, presenting in detail the morphological manifestations of the various types of violence against the elderly, as well as the worldwide trends regarding their manifestation and diagnosis. A significant contribution is also the detailed review of the manifestation of violence, both in the socio-habitual aspect and as a morphological manifestation, and the data are compared with those reported by other Bulgarian and foreign authors working on similar issues. The scientific contributions are well-founded and correspond to the evidence described in the methods, results and conclusions presented in the dissertation work, which has a marked scientific-applied character.

3.SUMMARY

The dissertation presented by Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva fully meets the requirements of the current Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria in terms of volume, required sections, consistency, logical connectivity and scientific style. It is very well illustrated by means of a sufficient number of figures, diagrams and tables, and demonstrates the possibilities of the compilation of personal special knowledge and computer skills that enrich and expand the frontiers of modern forensic science.

CONCLUSION

From all of the above, it is clear that Dr. Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and practical skills in relation to the issues being developed. The presented dissertation work shows the abilities of the doctoral student for complex systematic analysis, correct interpretation of the obtained results, comprehensive discussion, precisely formulated conclusions and scientific contributions. A high level of scientific activity and initiative on the part of the doctoral student is demonstrated, manifested both in the field of the developed issues and in other sections of forensic science and practice.

I evaluate the presented PhD-thesis as a scientific work of high scientific and practical value, therefore I give a POSITIVE evaluation and propose to the honorable Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "PhD" to Kristina Atanasova Hadzhieva, MD.

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



Professor Julian Rumenov Ananiev, MD, PhD