

STATEMENT

by Prof. Anastas Zgurov Batalov, MD,

Medical University-Plovdiv,

Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine,

Rheumatology Clinic, University Hospital "Kaspela"

of a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree 'doctor'

professional field *7.1 medicine; 7. Healthcare*

doctoral program *Rheumatology*

Author : *Dr. Alexander Marinkov*

Form of doctoral studies: independent doctoral student

Department: Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University-Plovdiv

Topic : "*Prevalence and clinical significance of Covid -19 infection in patients with rheumatological diseases in Bulgaria*"

Scientific supervisor : *Prof. Rositsa Karalilova, MD*

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The presented set of materials on paper / electronic media is in accordance with Art. 115 (1) of the Procedure for acquiring the ESD "doctor" at MU - Plovdiv; Regulations of MU-Plovdiv dated 06.11.2014 and includes the following documents:

- Application to the Rector of MU-Plovdiv for disclosure of the procedure for defending a dissertation
- CV in European format with the signature of the doctoral student
- notarized copy of a higher education diploma
- orders for enrollment in doctoral studies, interruption of studies (due to maternity) and for continuation of studies; for dismissal with the right to defense
- order to conduct an exam from the individual plan and a corresponding protocol for a passed exam or a doctoral minimum in the specialty
- minutes of the department council for preliminary discussion of the dissertation work and the decisions made to open a procedure and to form a scientific jury
- dissertation
- abstract
- list of scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation
- copies of scientific publications
- list of participations in scientific forums
- list of noted citations
- declaration of originality and authenticity of the attached documents
- other documents related to the course of the procedure

The doctoral student has published 4 articles and 3 scientific reports in Bulgaria.

The documents meet the requirements for completing the dissertation defense procedure.

Dr. Aleksandar Marinkov was born in Dimitrovgrad, Serbia, in 1988. He graduated from the Medical University of Plovdiv in 2013.

Since 2018, he has been an assistant professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv and a doctoral student in independent training. From 2022. From 2014 to 2019 he was a rheumatology resident at the University Hospital "Kaspela" and in 2018 he acquired a specialty in rheumatology.

He has qualifications in capillaroscopy, joint ultrasound, and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging of axial spondyloarthropathies. He has participated in numerous Bulgarian and international conferences.

2. Relevance of the topic

The dissertation examines a topical issue for rheumatology. Covid-19 and rheumatological diseases is a new issue for the rheumatological community and requires in-depth knowledge of the problem. The specificity of Covid-19 disease in patients with proven rheumatological disease requires correct and scientifically based medical behavior. The changed situation after the beginning of the Covid -19 pandemic requires all rheumatologists to adequately monitor and treat rheumatological patients, based on data obtained from such studies.

3. Knowing the problem

The doctoral candidate demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the subject area, which is illustrated by the detailed and well-structured literature review, which broadly addresses the issues related to the problem. Each of the results derived is compared with the available data in the world literature.

4. Research methodology

The chosen research methodology is correctly selected, the tasks are precise and specific.

5. Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions

The dissertation is written on 138 standard typewritten pages, properly structured, 26 figures and 14 tables are included for illustration. 152 sources are cited in the bibliography.

The introduction clearly presents and discusses the problem.

The goals and objectives are clearly and specifically formulated, and are related to the topic with arguments.

The literature review is comprehensive and reflects the emphases thematically related to the study.

The presented scientific work is well structured, shows thoroughness in the study of the problem. Its scientific value is due both to the analysis of the current problem with the coronavirus infection, and to the attempt to discover the factors that influence our rheumatic patients with this infection. This gives us the opportunity for correct behavior in the event of the possible course of this disease in them.

6. Critical notes

Some typographical and technical errors have been made, but they are not of great importance.

There are discrepancies between the title of a figure and what is written in the text.

7. Assessment of the doctoral student's publications and personal contribution

Dr. Marinkov has presented a total of 7 scientific publications related to his dissertation work, of which 4 articles (2 in English), 3 scientific communications in Bulgaria and 1 intra-university project.

Dr. Marinkov's publications meet the requirements for the acquisition of the scientific degree "Doctor"

8. Autor's abstract

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

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, applied science and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet all requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ADSRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of the ADSRB and the Regulations of the Medical University - Plovdiv. The presented materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements adopted in connection with the Regulations of the Medical University - Plovdiv for the Implementation of the ADSRB.

The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dr. Aleksandar Marinkov possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of rheumatology, demonstrating qualities and skills for independently conducting scientific research.

Because of the above, I confidently give my positive opinion assessment of the research conducted, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the esteemed scientific jury to awarded the educational and scientific degree 'doctor' of Dr. Aleksandar Marinkov in PhD program in Rheumatology

07.04.2025.

Prepared the opinion :

Prof. Dr. Anastas Zgurov Batalov, MD

Заличено на основание
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