

STATEMENT

by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Yordanov Sheytanov, MD,**

Medical University-Sofia,

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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. Aleksandar Marinkov*

Form of doctoral studies: independent study

Department: *Propaedeutics of Internal Diseases at the Medical University of Plovdiv*

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

Scientific supervisor : *Prof. Dr. Rositsa Karalilova ,MD, PhD, DMSc*

1. General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student

The presented set of materials 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, 1 project, and 3 scientific communications in Bulgaria.

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

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

Since 2018, he has been an assistant professor at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Plovdiv. In 2022, he was enrolled as a doctoral student in independent training at the Department. In 2018, he acquired a specialty in rheumatology.

He has qualifications in various types of imaging studies in rheumatology. He has participated in numerous Bulgarian and international conferences, as well as as a researcher in a number of studies for new drugs.

2. Relevance of the topic

The doctoral student's work is current and cutting-edge. Its main focus is on the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on patients with chronic diseases, and in particular patients with rheumatic diseases. The doctoral student's conclusions on the impact of coronavirus infection on the treatment and quality of life of rheumatic patients are important.

3. Understanding of the problem

In the literature review, the doctoral student presents the currently available data from world and Bulgarian literature and thus demonstrates knowledge of the problem.

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 presented dissertation is 138 pages long, for better illustration 26 are included . figures and 14 tables. The bibliographic reference has 152 cited sources .

The introduction accurately and clearly presents and discusses the topic of this dissertation .

The goals and objectives are precise, specific and fully correspond to the problem presented in the scientific paper.

The literature review is detailed and up-to-date, reflecting the progress available on the topic on a national and global scale.

The presented scientific work is well structured, shows thoroughness in the study of the problem. Its scientific value is due to the in-depth study of the problem on a global scale and the comparison with the personal results of the doctoral student. The algorithm presented by the team is also of great importance.

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

Dr. Marinkov has presented total 7 publications related to the dissertation his work , 4 articles (2 in English), 3 scientific communications in Bulgaria.

The publications of Dr. Marinkov correspond to requirements for the acquisition of scientific degree " doctor ". In the majority of the above-cited scientific works, the doctoral student is the first author, which is a certificate of his personal contribution.

7. 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 (ADASRB), 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

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

07.04.2025

Prepared the statement

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivan Yordanov Sheytanov, MD