

**To the Chair of the Scientific Jury,**  
appointed by Order No. R-1075/17.02.2026  
of the Rector of the Medical University – Plovdiv and  
Protocol No. 1 of 19.02.2026 of the Scientific Jury

## **REVIEW**

**by**

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Chenchev, DDS, PhD  
Head of the Department of Dental Implantology, Faculty of Dental Medicine, Medical  
University – Plovdiv; Specialist in Oral Surgery, General Dental Medicine, and Dental  
Implantology

**regarding**

a dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)”

### **I. General Information about the Dissertation**

**Author:** Dr. Aleksandar Georgiev Ivanov

**Form of study:** Independent (self-directed) training

**Field of higher education:** 7. Healthcare and Sports

**Professional field:** 7.1. Medicine

**Doctoral program:** “General and Clinical Pathology”

**Department:** Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Medical University – Plovdiv

**Dissertation title:**

“Analysis of Oral and Maxillofacial Biopsies for the Period 2009–2019 at St. George University  
Hospital – Plovdiv”

**Scientific supervisor:** Assoc. Prof. Iliya Bivolarski, MD, PhD

**Scientific consultant:** Prof. Veselin Belovezhkov, MD, PhD

### **II. General Overview of the Procedure and the Doctoral Candidate**

The submitted set of materials, in both electronic and printed format, is complete and complies with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria and

the internal regulations of the Medical University – Plovdiv. The author has presented four scientific publications and three participations in national scientific forums.

Dr. Aleksandar Georgiev Ivanov was born on 29.12.1990. He completed his secondary education at the French Language High School “Antoine de Saint-Exupéry” in Plovdiv in 2009 and obtained his master's degree in medicine from the Medical University – Plovdiv in 2017. Since February 2018, he has been working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology at the Medical University – Plovdiv and as a resident physician at the Department of Clinical Pathology at St. George University Hospital, Plovdiv.

Dr. Ivanov teaches in both Bulgarian and English to students of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery, and Physician Assistants.

### **III. Aim of the Study**

The stated aim is clearly formulated based on a working hypothesis proposed by the author and corresponds to the scientific specialty:

*“To perform a comparative clinical-morphological analysis of oral and maxillofacial biopsies in the Department of Clinical Pathology at St. George University Hospital over an 11-year period, with evaluation of diagnostic approaches, tumor processes, rare nosological entities, and the development of a plan for updating the curriculum for dental students.”*

The aim is logically specified through six research tasks, covering the full diagnostic, analytical, and educational scope of the problem—from retrospective analysis of biopsies and age- and sex-related distribution of pathological processes, through comparison of clinical and morphological diagnoses, to evaluation of classification systems and updating pathology teaching content for dental students.

### **IV. Relevance, Significance, and Knowledge of the Problem**

The dissertation topic is highly relevant and of considerable scientific and practical importance. Diseases of the oral and maxillofacial region have attracted increasing clinical attention over the past decade due to the rising incidence of preneoplastic and neoplastic processes, associated with lifestyle changes, pharmacological therapies (including bisphosphonates), and improved diagnostic accessibility.

The retrospective analysis of a ten-year dataset from the largest university hospital in Southern Bulgaria provides representativeness and statistical reliability to the study. The additional focus on the educational process and the need to update pathology teaching in accordance with changes in ICD-10/11 is fully aligned with contemporary requirements in medical education.

## **V. Evaluation of the Content, Structure, and Contributions**

The dissertation comprises a total of 148 pages, including 39 pages of an in-depth literature review, illustrated with 16 figures, 22 tables, and 18 images. The bibliography includes 212 references, of which 8 are in Cyrillic and the remainder in English, demonstrating excellent knowledge of both national and international literature. Two appendices are included.

The work is well-structured, logically organized, and properly formatted. The text demonstrates precision in material selection, appropriate application of statistical methods, and a critical approach to data interpretation.

The literature review is comprehensive and systematically presented, reflecting strong familiarity with both classical and contemporary trends in oral and maxillofacial pathology. The author traces the development of diagnostic classifications and emphasizes morphological criteria and clinical significance.

**Materials and Methods:** Clearly described sources (departmental archives), diagnostic approaches, histological techniques, and classification criteria. The methodology is appropriate and consistent with best practices in pathological diagnostics.

**Results and Discussion:** Systematically presented, with clear differentiation between disease groups and analysis of frequency, age- and sex-distribution, and diagnostic correlations. Particularly noteworthy is the section addressing discrepancies between clinical and morphological diagnoses, which has significant practical implications for improving diagnostic accuracy.

**Contributions:** The author identifies 11 contributions, including:

- **5 Original contributions**, related to new clinical-morphological observations on the frequency and distribution of tumor processes in the oral and maxillofacial region.
- **4 Confirmatory contributions**, supporting consistency with established international data.
- **2 Practical contributions**, aimed at improving diagnostic algorithms and updating pathology teaching content.

The contributions are clearly formulated, specific, and well supported by the research findings, meeting the requirements of the Medical University – Plovdiv for originality and practical applicability.

## **V. Evaluation of Publications Related to the Dissertation**

The dissertation of Dr. Aleksandar Georgiev Ivanov is based on comprehensive diagnostic approaches, histological techniques, and classification criteria, the results of which have been

published in various scientific journals and presented at national and international scientific forums. The author has presented four scientific publications and has participated in three national scientific conferences. These publications represent a systematic and consistent reflection of the results achieved in the dissertation research, demonstrating the significant contribution of the doctoral candidate and ensuring the scientific, social, and educational applicability of the findings.

## **VI. Personal Contribution of the Doctoral Candidate**

The personal contribution of the doctoral candidate, Dr. Ivanov, is reflected in his comprehensive involvement in the research process, including data collection, data analysis, and the interpretation of the obtained results.

## **VII. Abstract**

The abstract of the dissertation comprises 63 pages and presents the content in a clear and well-structured manner. It accurately reflects the structure of the dissertation by consistently outlining the main sections and key findings. It has been prepared and formatted in full compliance with the established requirements for the preparation of dissertation abstracts. As a result, the abstract clearly defines the essential characteristics of the dissertation and provides a comprehensive understanding of its content and significance.

## **VIII. Critical Remarks and Recommendations**

The dissertation research has the potential to be further developed into a monograph, as well as to be utilized in the development of new curricula and educational materials for students of dental medicine.

## **IX. Conclusion**

The dissertation of Dr. Aleksandar Georgiev Ivanov represents a comprehensive and well-argued scientific study focused on the clinical-morphological analysis of oral and maxillofacial biopsies over a ten-year period. The work combines high scientific value with direct practical applicability, contributing both to the improvement of diagnostic practice and to the optimization of dental education in “General and Clinical Pathology” at the Medical University – Plovdiv. The study is methodologically sound, the results are reliable and statistically justified, and the conclusions are logical and well supported. The author demonstrates intellectual maturity, analytical skills, and substantial knowledge.

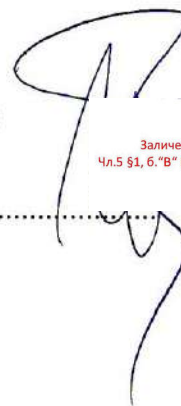
The dissertation meets the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria, its implementing regulations, and the specific requirements of the Medical University – Plovdiv for the award of the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)”. Based on the above, I confidently provide my positive evaluation of the dissertation and

recommend that the Scientific Jury award the educational and scientific degree “Doctor (PhD)” to Dr. Aleksandar Georgiev Ivanov in the field of higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, scientific specialty “General and Clinical Pathology” at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv.

**I will vote in favor of this decision.**

18.03.2025

Assoc. Prof. Ivan Chenchev, DDS, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'I' followed by a series of loops and a long vertical stroke.

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