



УНИВЕРСИТЕТСКА СПЕЦИАЛИЗИРАНА БОЛНИЦА ЗА АКТИВНО ЛЕЧЕНИЕ ПО ОНКОЛОГИЯ

Проф. Иван Черноземски, ЕАД

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Тел: 02 807 62 99, Факс 02 872 06 51, www.sbaloncology.bg

To the Scientific Jury,

Assigned by order № P- 525/21 Jan 2026

Of the Vice Rector of the Research and development department
Prof. Dr. M. Tokmakova, DM

STATEMENT

of Assoc. prof. Dr Assia Andrianova Konsoulova-Kirova, DM
Head of Medical oncology Clinic, USHATO Prof. Ivan Chernozemski, Sofia, Bulgaria

Concerning: public PHD defence of doctoral dissertation of Dr. Veselina Stoyanova Koleva-Topova for the educational and scientific degree “Doctor”

Dissertation topic: Comparative evaluation of the clinical use of biomarkers and algorithms in oncogynecology – CA 125, HE4, ROMA and CPH-I

Field of higher education: 7. “Healthcare and Sports”

Professional field: 7.1. Medicine

Scientific specialty: Clinical Laboratory

In: Department of Clinical Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv

Scientific supervisors: Prof. Dr. Tanya Deneva, MD, PhD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavel Bochev, MD, PhD

Dear members of the Scientific Jury,

The candidate, **Dr. Veselina Stoyanova Koleva-Topova**, has submitted the required documents and the procedure for organization of a public defense has been duly followed. By Order № R-525/21 Jan 2026 of the Vice-Rector for Research and Development department Prof. Dr. M. Tokmakova, MD, PhD, in accordance with Art. 10 and 11 of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and Art. 32 of its Regulations at the Medical University – Plovdiv, I have been appointed as an external member of the Scientific Jury for awarding the educational and scientific degree *Doctor of medicine*. Following the first meeting

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



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of the Scientific Jury on 23 Jan 2026, I was assigned to formulate this statement. I have been provided with documents in both hard copy and electronic format.

1. Relevance and significance of the topic

The current dissertation is devoted to a current medical and socially relevant problem – the clinical use of serum biomarkers and risk assessment algorithms in oncogynecological diseases, with a focus on endometrial and ovarian carcinomas. In the era of personalized medicine for diagnosis and treatment, with the wide introduction and use of molecular-biological and genetic analyses, indirect immunochemical methods still remain the most commonly and widely used. It is well known that the use of tumor markers is a part of the diagnostic algorithm for ovarian and endometrial carcinomas and is not used as a standalone diagnostic method – neither for screening nor for assessment of therapeutic response.

Contemporary epidemiological data show that ovarian carcinoma remains among the leading causes of cancer-related mortality in women, with survival rates not showing significant improvement in recent decades. A major issue is the late diagnosis, due to the lack of specific symptoms in the early stages. In this context, the development and validation of reliable diagnostic and stratification algorithms, based on combinations of biomarkers is of key importance for early detection and optimal therapeutic management.

The dissertation fully corresponds to the current trends in oncology, aiming at integration of the biomarkers into complex algorithms in order to improve their diagnostic accuracy and clinical use.

2. Key features of the dissertation

The dissertation comprises of 228 pages and is structured as per the generally accepted requirements – introduction, literature review, aim and objectives, materials and methods, results, discussion, conclusions and bibliography. It is illustrated with 105 figures and 53 tables.

The literature review represents a deep insight into the topic. It is well-structured and based on a substantial number of contemporary sources (a total of 156), with over 30% published in the last 5 years and more than 50% in the last 10 years. The author demonstrates excellent knowledge of the problem and a critical approach to existing scientific data. At the end of the review, unresolved issues and working hypotheses are clearly formulated, logically justifying the conduct of the study.

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6. Scientific contributions and publication activity

The dissertation concludes with 3 original scientific contributions and additional 9 confirmatory ones. These significant scientifically based contributions are related to:

- assessment of the diagnostic value of CA 125 and HE4;
- analysis of the ROMA and CPH-I algorithms;
- opportunities for improvement of the diagnostic accuracy through a combined approach;
- assessment of the prognostic significance of the studied biomarkers.

8. Conclusion

The current PhD dissertation is a completed scientific study with clearly defined objectives, correct methodology, and significant scientific results.

I consider that the dissertation of Dr. Veselina Stoyanova Koleva-Topova meets the requirements of the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

I give my positive evaluation and strongly recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury awards Dr. Veselina Stoyanova Koleva-Topova the educational and scientific degree *Doctor of Medicine* in the scientific specialty *Clinical Laboratory*.

Date:

30/03/2026

This statement has been created by:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. A. Konsoulova-Kirova, DM

