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To
The Chair of the Scientific Jury,
appointed by Order No. P-4740/31 August 2026
of the Rector of the Medical University – Plovdiv

Enclosed, I hereby submit: Opinion

on a procedure for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'
in the scientific specialty of UROLOGY

**Doctoral candidate: Dr Blagovest Peshkov Petrov, Department of Urology and General
Medicine, Medical University – Plovdiv**

Opinion prepared by: Assoc. Prof. Petar Antonov, MD, PhD
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Чл.5 §1, б. "В" Регламент (ЕС)2016/679

OPINION

by

Assoc. Prof. Petar Antonov Antonov, MD, PhD

Head of the Department of Urology and General Medicine
Medical University – Plovdiv

Subject: procedure for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree ‘Doctor’ in Area of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, and scientific specialty ‘Urology’ by Dr Blagovest Peshkov Petrov, with the dissertation topic: ‘Clinical and Epidemiological Studies of Trichomoniasis in Infertile Men’

This opinion has been prepared in accordance with the Act on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, the Regulations on Academic Development at the Medical University – Plovdiv, and Order No. P-4740/31 August 2026 of the Rector of the Medical University – Plovdiv.

1. Biographical information and scientific profile of the doctoral candidate

Dr Blagovest Petrov was born in 1994. He completed his secondary education at Plovdiv Language High School, Plovdiv, with a profile in English and German. From 2013 to 2019, he studied in the Master’s degree programme in Medicine at the Medical University – Plovdiv. Throughout his studies, he worked in various administrative and medical positions at different healthcare institutions, which contributed to the development of his professional outlook and abilities. His professional career and development as a physician began in 2019, when he started working as a physician at Medicus Alpha Specialized Surgical Hospital and at St George University Hospital, Plovdiv.

Dr B. Petrov is proficient in English and German, which enables him to participate in numerous courses and symposia in Bulgaria and abroad.

The present doctoral programme commenced on 1 May 2021, after he successfully passed the competitive selection procedure for a full-time doctoral candidate. He was discharged from the doctoral programme with the right to defend his dissertation following its discussion before an extended Departmental Council of the Department of Urology and General Medicine at the Medical University – Plovdiv and the subsequent decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine in 2025.

2. Relevance of the doctoral research topic

The doctoral candidate’s research, supported by the extensive experience of his scientific supervisors—Prof. I. Dechev, MD, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. K. Eneva, MD, PhD—is devoted to an exceptionally important topic, namely male infertility in the context of genital trichomoniasis

infection. The topic is important and ambitious because it explores the points of intersection between infertility and parasitic infection.

3. Structure of the dissertation

The dissertation is exceptionally well structured and contains all sections required for this type of scientific work:

- Introduction – 3 pages;
- Literature review – 28 pages;
- The aim is clearly formulated and corresponds to the dissertation topic;
- There are four objectives; they are realistic and directly related to the topic;
- Materials and methods – presented in 17 pages, with a detailed description of the study design and the examination methods—medical history, physical examination, and laboratory tests. The statistical methods used are standard for this type of scientific work and ensure the reliability of the data obtained and presented.
- Results – 24 pages presenting the results for numerous parameters. The analysis of the results is directly related to and follows the stated objectives. Each objective includes a description of the materials and methods, results, discussion, and conclusions.
- Summary – the results obtained are analysed over 9 pages and compared with those of other authors. In this section, Dr Petrov very clearly presents the current scientific knowledge on the topic and sets out his own views.
- The conclusions are consistent with the stated aim and objectives and provide logical answers to the scientific questions posed.
- There are seven contributions, which are accurately formulated and have genuine scientific and practical value. They are divided into three categories: contributions of an original nature (3 contributions), contributions of a confirmatory nature (4 contributions), and contributions of a clinical and applied nature.
- Publications related to the topic – an appropriate list is provided.
- The dissertation comprises 121 pages and is illustrated with 21 figures, 13 tables, and 3 diagrams. The reference list includes 262 sources, 8 of which are by Bulgarian authors. The number of sources from the last five years is sufficient and exceeds 50.

4. Evaluation of the results

Various biological materials were analysed—urine, urethral secretion, prostatic secretion, and ejaculate—from 359 men, with a total of 1,076 samples examined. Classical diagnostic methods were used. The samples were examined at Thorax General Hospital. Semen analysis parameters were assessed in different laboratories. The numbers of patients and samples examined are sufficient to support the conclusions drawn.

A significant merit of the dissertation is the clinical diagnostic management algorithm developed for infertile men.

5. Assessment of the publications related to the dissertation

A list of four full-text publications and two scientific forums is presented.

6. Critical comments

The dissertation is written in a scientific style while remaining easy to read and understand. The results are appropriately summarised in tables and diagrams. A minor inaccuracy is that the WHO criteria for the assessment of infertility are cited as dating from 2023, whereas this probably refers to the sixth edition of the WHO manual from 2021. The results of the specialised parasitological examinations performed at St George University Hospital are not specified. The 'Study Materials' section states that all patients presented to Thorax General Hospital on their own initiative, whereas the 'Patients Included in the Present Study' section indicates that outpatients were selected from St George University Hospital, Thorax General Hospital, and Pazardzhik General Hospital. Four publications are listed, two of which are not directly related to the dissertation's clinical and epidemiological studies of trichomoniasis. The results have not been widely presented at scientific forums, apart from two of the publications that had previously been presented as reports at the same scientific forum.

I consider the issues listed above to be technical inaccuracies that do not diminish the scientific value of the study conducted or of the results obtained.

7. Conclusion

The dissertation of Dr Blagovest Peshkov Petrov represents an in-depth and comprehensive scientific study with a distinctly practical focus in clinical urology. The topic is relevant, suitable for a dissertation, and seeks answers to questions concerning male infertility. The methods applied are appropriate for achieving the stated aim and objectives; the results are convincing, the conclusions are clearly formulated, and the contributions are significant and of genuine practical value.

The dissertation entitled 'Clinical and Epidemiological Studies of Trichomoniasis in Infertile Men' meets the requirements for this type of scientific work.

On the basis of the foregoing, I give my positive assessment in support of awarding Dr Blagovest Peshkov Petrov the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' in the scientific specialty of 'Urology'.

23 September 2026

Plovdiv

Заличено на основание
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