

## STANDPOINT

by

Prof. Dr. Hristo Blagoev Tsekov, PhD

Member of the Scientific Jury with order P-109-249 of July 30, 2019, for the defense of the dissertation work under the procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Dr. Tanya Kirilova Shivacheva doctoral student at independent form of training in doctoral program "Internal Diseases" on the topic: "Investigation of the clinical activity of rheumatoid arthritis in patients conducting treatment by biological drugs. "

Dr. Tanya Shivacheva focuses her attention on the impact of biological agents on RA activity and improving the prognosis of cardiovascular comorbidity. This difficult task also stems from the lack of a commonly held view to evaluate the efficacy and impact of target molecules.

Dr. Shivacheva monitors the activity of RA in dynamics against the background of biological agents in daily practice. It is reported that improved quality of life is coming in parallel with the increased life expectancy.

The available comorbidity somewhat reduces the statistical significance of the results of DAS 28.

Atherosclerosis results in a systemic increase in acute phase proteins such as CRP, TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6. CRP is a predictor of coronary disease. It is increased in smokers, metabolic syndrome, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and atherosclerotic dyslipidemia. These known facts raise the question whether they can be an indicator of specific therapy with anti-TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6 and CD-20 biological agents. I assume that Dr. Shivacheva will continue his research in this direction as well.

Dr. Shivacheva in an original way manages to incorporate her own results with contemporary productions. Which is the main argument for my positive vote, which I believe will be shared by other members of the Scientific Jury.

23.08.2019

Varna

With respect:

Prof. Dr. Hristo Blagoev Tsekov, PhD