STATEMENT

by Prof. Kiril Stefanov Slaveykov, MD, PhD

Department of Internal Disease and General Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine,

Thrakia University, Stara Zagora

Member of the scientific jury, appointed by order №P-109-518/16.12.2026 of the Rector of MU - Varna

For the dissertation: „**CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OF THE URINARY SYSTEM IN CHILDREN UP TO 3 YEARS OF AGE**"

At a competition for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "**Doctor**"

Professional field **7.1. MEDICINE**

Scientific specialty: **GENERAL MEDICINE**

***Ivelina Lyudmilova Hristova-Nikolova, MD***

1. **General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral candidate.**

The set of materials submitted in electronic form complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB) for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" and contains all required documents proving the authenticity of the dissertation, the scientific publications, participation in scientific forums, and confirming the legality of the procedure. Ivelina Hristova, MD graduated from the Medical University of Varna in 2019 and obtained a specialty in General Medicine in 2023. She is currently working as a physician at the Individual Practice for Primary Medical Care "Dr. Vanya Aleksandrova" and as an Assistant at the Department of General Medicine at the Medical University of Varna. During her training, she actively participated in doctoral schools, clinical studies, and training in the rules of good medical practice. She has taken part in a number of national and international scientific forums related to the topic of the dissertation, presenting reports.

2. **Relevance of the topic.**

The presented dissertation is devoted to an extremely relevant and socially significant problem. Congenital anomalies of the urinary system in children up to 3 years of age represent a substantial medical and social issue due to their early manifestation, the risk of urinary tract infections, and the possibility of progressive impairment of renal function. Early diagnosis through prenatal and postnatal ultrasound screening, as well as timely follow-up, are of key importance for the prevention of complications. The contemporary multidisciplinary approach, involving general practitioners, pediatricians, pediatric nephrologists, and urologists, enables timely therapeutic management and improves the long-term prognosis and quality of life of affected children.

3. **Knowledge of the problem.**

The literature review includes 407 references, predominantly by foreign authors. It is evident that the doctoral candidate is well acquainted with the problem and creatively evaluates the literature.

4. **Research methodology.**

The presented dissertation involved 96 general practitioners and 292 parents of children up to 3 years of age. The main focus of the dissertation is the awareness, knowledge, and attitudes of parents and general practitioners regarding the problem. Documentary, sociological, and statistical methods were used. Statistical data processing was performed using the SPSS

statistical package, version 27. Basic methods of mathematical and statistical analysis were applied—descriptive analysis, cross-tabulations, Pearson's $\chi^2$ test, and correlation analysis. The selected research methodology allows the achievement of the stated aim and provides adequate answers to the tasks addressed in the dissertation.

5. **Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation and contributions.**

The dissertation is well structured and includes all necessary components of a doctoral thesis. It comprises 221 typewritten pages and is illustrated with 71 tables and 60 figures. The list of cited literature includes 407 sources, of which 6 are in Cyrillic and 401 in Latin script. The literature review is detailed and cites a large number of sources. The formulated tasks correspond to the stated aim. The results are well presented graphically and in tables and fully address the tasks set in the dissertation. In the discussion of the obtained results, Ivelina Hristova, MD has succeeded in presenting and interpreting in great detail a comparison between her findings and those reported in the literature. Ten conclusions are formulated, described in detail according to the tasks, from which nine recommendations arise, divided into two directions. I accept the contributions as having both original and confirmatory character. The study has very important practical value. The abstract has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

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

The doctoral candidate has submitted four publications—two indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. In one of the publications, Dr. Hristova is the first author. Critical remarks and recommendations regarding the conducted research and presented materials:

- The studies related to the objectives of the dissertation should be continued and expanded.
- The number of Bulgarian authors cited is small.

**Conclusion.**

Despite the remark and recommendation made by me, the dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied, and applied results that represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna. The submitted materials and dissertation results fully comply with the specific requirements. The dissertation demonstrates that the doctoral candidate, Ivelina Hristova, MD possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of General Medicine and demonstrates qualities and abilities for independent scientific research. I confidently give my positive evaluation of the conducted research, presented through the dissertation, abstract, achieved results, and contributions, and propose to the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Ivelina Hristova in the doctoral program in General Medicine.

12.01.2026 г.

Prepared by
/Prof.

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