

STATEMENT

by Prof. Biser Kirilov Borisov, MD, PhD,
Head of the Department of Nephrology, Hematology and Gastroenterology,
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regarding the dissertation work of Dr. Rumina Plamenova Shaleva, for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor", professional field 7.1 "Medicine", doctoral program "Nephrology", on the topic:

"PREDICTIVE FACTORS AND PROGNOSIS OF PATIENTS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY IN COVID-19".

This statement was prepared on the basis of my appointment as a member of the Scientific Jury by order No. P-109-515/16.12.2025 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna and a decision of the Scientific Jury at the first, absentee meeting (Minutes No. 1/22.12.2025).

Brief biographical data: Dr. Rumina Plamenova Shaleva graduated from the Medical University - Varna in 2019 (Diploma series MUV; No. 006558/2019).

She currently holds the position of Assistant at the Second Department of Internal Medicine and works at the Clinic of Nephrology and Dialysis, St. Marina University Hospital - Varna.

The topic of the dissertation is drawn from the difficult diagnostic and therapeutic problems from the practice of the dissertation candidate during the SARS-COV2 pandemic.

The dissertation is written in a format that corresponds to the term "standard typewritten page", according to the current Bulgarian state standard. The volume of the dissertation is 185 (one hundred eighty-five) typewritten pages, excluding the literature used.

The bibliography contains 327 (three hundred twenty-seven) literary sources, all of which are in Latin and have been published in the last ten years.

The citations are entered into the text of the dissertation according to the Bulgarian Standard System (in alphabetical order) and the method of indicating the source itself according to the Vancouver system of presentation.

The literature review is extremely detailed, written on 54 (fifty-four) standard typewritten pages.

The biology and epidemiology of COVID-19, modern understandings and current classifications of acute respiratory infections and possible pathogenetic links between the viral infection and renal manifestations are presented.

Based on the extensive literature review, the doctoral candidate and her scientific supervisors set the main goal: *"To determine the frequency and independent predictors of acute kidney injury in hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID19 and to assess the impact of AKI on key clinical outcomes during hospitalization"*.

To achieve this goal, Dr. Shaleva focuses on **7 (seven) main tasks**.

Out of a total of 3980 hospitalized patients with COVID-19, data from 436 (four hundred and thirty-six) patients were collected and analyzed. They were followed up according to many clinical and laboratory criteria for the severity of the infection and various complications occurred, which were proven categorically by imaging methods. Criteria for the occurrence of AKI were those of KDIGO (2012), which are the current standard for diagnosis.

The study was conducted with the permission of the Research Ethics Committee at MU-Varna with Protocol/Decision No. 119/21.07.2022. The observation was conducted by the author of the work. The management and control of the organization of the study was carried out by the author with the assistance of the scientific supervisor.

The used methods are: documentary, clinical, laboratory and instrumental methods, as well as modern statistical analysis.

The data from the results obtained are excellently illustrated in 73 (seventy-three) figures and 10 (ten) tables with sufficient informativeness and resolution.

The discussion of the results is critical and maximally objectively reflects the attitude of the dissertationist to his own study in the light of data from similar studies in the world literature.

As a result of the correct implementation of the task set, the dissertationist presents **6 (six) conclusions**, which are clearly defined, logical and well structured.

The dissertation ends with five theoretical and five practical contributions, of which the most important, in my opinion, is the prepared scheme for a point score, according to which a patient with a high risk for the development of AKI can be objectively assessed even at the emergency department level.

The data related to the dissertation are reflected in 3 (three) scientific publications and have been presented at forums as scientific presentations.

Dr. Rumina Shaleva shows that she has sufficient knowledge, possesses the necessary qualities to conduct a study and describe its results in an accessible scientific language in medical journals with high requirements for authors.

Given the above, I give my **positive assessment** of the dissertation work of Dr. Rumina Plamenova Shaleva and invite the other members of the Scientific Jury to support me in awarding it the ESD "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Nephrology".

January, 2026

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Prepared the statement:

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/prof. Dr. Biser K. Borisov, MD, PhD/