

To the Chair of the Scientific Jury
In accordance with Protocol № 56/23.03.26
And Order of the Rector № P -109-151
Of the Medical University - Varna

STATEMENT

on dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty: "Surgery" by Vladislav Krasimirov Velikov, MD

Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery

On the topic: “Surgical diseases of the spleen”

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Vasil Markov Bozhkov, MD, PhD, DSc

By Prof. Rumen Nikolov Nenkov

Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery

Medical University “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov”- Varna

The presented dissertation thesis by Vladislav Krasimirov Velikov is of a scope and volume that comply with the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act in the Republic of Bulgaria (ASDARB), its Implementing Regulations, and the Regulations of Medical University of Varna. The dissertation thesis has been discussed, accepted, and recommended for public defense by the Department Council of the Department of Surgery Diseases at Medical University of Varna.

Biographical Data and Career Development: Dr. Vladislav Velikov was born on December 21, 1995, and graduated with honors from the “St. Kliment Ohridski” High School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences in the city of Silistra. In 2021, he completed his higher education at the “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Medical University of Varna, majoring in Medicine. Since 2022, following a competitive selection process, he has been working as a full-time assistant lecturer in the Department of Surgical Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, at the “Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov” Medical University of Varna, and since 2023 he has been a full-time PhD student in the same department. He obtained his specialty in Surgery in 2026.

He has completed numerous specializations in Bulgaria and across Europe. He is a member of BAMIRS. He is proficient in English.

Assessment of the Relevance of the Topic: Dr. Vladislav Velikov's dissertation addresses a current and important practical issue in abdominal surgery, representing a challenge to contemporary surgical practice while taking into account the multifactorial problems associated with this type of disease. Based on the obtained results, Dr. Vladislav Velikov developed a diagnostic and therapeutic algorithm for the management of patients with splenic diseases, which has practical application in clinical practice.

Scope and Structure: Dr. Vladislav Velikov's dissertation consists of 139 standard pages and is illustrated with 81 tables, 18 figures, and 40 charts. The bibliography includes 288 references, of which 4 are in Cyrillic and 284 in Latin script, spanning 15 pages.

Research Methodology: The primary objective set by the PhD candidate was: to investigate, analyze, and apply contemporary diagnostic and therapeutic strategies and treatment methods for patients with splenic diseases, with the aim of optimizing outcomes and reducing complications and mortality among this group of patients.

To optimally achieve the main objective, the author defined six tasks, which are well formulated, and the development of the dissertation logically follows their resolution.

As the subject of the dissertation research, the candidate conducted a retrospective analysis of 117 patients with splenic diseases who underwent conventional surgical treatment at the Second Department of Surgery at St. Marina University Hospital – Varna during the period 2008–2023.

Methods of Analysis: The study took into consideration the clinical presentation of the diseases, laboratory investigations, comorbidities, imaging studies, surgical methods, and pathological-anatomical and histological methods. For the interpretation of the obtained data, the PhD candidate used the following statistical methods: descriptive analysis, correlation analysis, and statistical grouping of the data.

Results Obtained: The results are presented clearly both textually and graphically through tables and figures. The statistical processing used is appropriate, making the discussion thorough and well systematized. Socio-demographic indicators, the dynamics of laboratory values, and postoperative survival were analyzed. The dissertation demonstrates

the candidate's strong awareness and clinical experience, as well as his ability for critical analysis of the obtained results.

Conclusions: The conclusions of the PhD candidate regarding the scientific study are five in number and are based on a comprehensive analysis of the literature, clinical material, and personal results. They are well formulated and reflect an essential part of the analyzed sections. They possess both scientific and practical value.

Contributions: The contributions derived from Dr. Vladislav Velikov's dissertation—five in total—are of a scientific, scientifically applied, and confirmatory nature.

Conclusion: I consider Dr. Vladislav Krasimirov Velikov's dissertation, entitled "Surgical Diseases of the Spleen," to be complete, in-depth, modern, well-prepared, and properly structured. The objectives are clearly, accurately, and comprehensively formulated and fulfilled. The conclusions, contributions, as well as the proposed algorithm, will be beneficial for both hospital and outpatient practice. The PhD candidate has submitted all the necessary documents that comply with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the Development of the Academic Staff at the Medical University of Varna for awarding the scientific and educational degree of "Doctor."

All of the above gives me sufficient grounds to confidently recommend that the esteemed members of the scientific jury vote positively and award Dr. Vladislav Krasimirov Velikov the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" in the scientific specialty of "Surgery."

17.05.2026

Varna

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/ Д-р К. КРАСИМИРОВ, МД, FRCR /