

## STANDPOINT

**Concerning: Conducting a procedure for defense of the dissertation thesis of Jeliazko Iliev Arabadjiev, MD, Medical University-Varna, Department of Oncology entitled: "PREDICTIVE AND PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF TUMOR INFILTRATING LYMPHOCYTES IN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER" for acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" scientific specialty of "Oncology" code 03.01.46, in the field of higher education "Public health and sports", professional direction 7.1 "Medicine".**

The standpoint is prepared by:

**PROF. IGLIKA SPASOVA MIHAYLOVA, MD, PhD**

**Head of department of external beam radiation therapy**

**USHATO Sofia**

**Dear distinguished members of the scientific jury,**

Dr. Jeliazko Iliev Arabadjiev graduated in medicine at the Medical University - Varna in 1997. From 2008 to 2014 he was a specialist in the Clinic of Medical Oncology of USHATO - Sofia. In 2012 he graduated from the University of National and World Economy with a degree in Health Management, and in 2014 he acquired a degree in Medical Oncology. From 2015 to 2017 he worked at the Acibadem City Clinic Oncology Center in the Clinic of Medical Oncology, and in June 2018 he moved to the Department of Medical Oncology at Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital, where he held the position of head of department. In March 2019 he was enrolled as a freelance doctoral student at the Medical University - Varna in the Department of Oncology. Since October 2019 he has been an assistant professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia, Faculty of Medicine, in the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine.

For the period 2015 - 2019 he is a representative of Bulgaria in the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO).

During the period 2008 - 2019 he actively participated in a number of national and international congresses, conferences and others.

Dr. Arabadjiev speaks English, Russian and Italian.

He is a member of:

- European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO);
- American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO);
- American Association for Clinical Research (AACR);
- General Medical Council (GMC) in the United Kingdom, Specialists Register;
- Educational Academy of Oncology (AAO) - co-founder, member of the Board;
- Young Oncologist Club Association, Deputy Chairman

He is a member of the editorial board of Pro Medic, European Medical Journal, Oncostar, Bulgarian Association for Clinical Trials.

The dissertation was discussed and approved for public defense on 22.06.2020 by the Department Council of the Department of Oncology of MU - Varna and according to the order of the Rector of MU - Varna № P-109-263/ 21.07.2020 was elected to present an opinion.

The scientific supervisor of the dissertation is Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eleonora Dimitrova-Gospodinova.

The scientific work presented to me for review includes 118 standard pages and contains 31 figures and 21 tables. The main text contains: introduction - 3 pages; literature review - 54 pages; purpose and tasks - 1 page; materials and methods - 5 pages; results - 23 pages; discussion - 3 pages; conclusions - 1 page, contributions - 1 page and three appendices - 5 pages. The bibliography is 15 pages and consists of 246 literary sources, one in Bulgarian language and 245 in Latin, as 40% of the citations are from the last 5 years.

The dissertation is formed and structured according to the requirements adopted in the country, laid down in the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

At the beginning, the abbreviations used in the scientific work and the content that facilitates the reading of the work are presented.

The introduction is short and clear and contains the main aspects laid down in the presentation of the individual chapters of the dissertation. The literature review thoroughly analyzes the sources revealing epidemiological, diagnostic, therapeutic and prognostic factors, as well as the therapeutic response in patients with breast cancer. The unspecified and debatable problems related to finding reliable markers related to the application of an individual therapeutic approach are addressed. The conclusion and conclusions from the literature review point to the essence of the present scientific work.

The goal is precisely formulated and corresponds to the topic of the dissertation. The tasks are short, 6 in number and are in accordance with the set goal.

The material and the methods are correctly and precisely selected for the fulfillment of the set goal and tasks. For statistical processing, descriptive statistics,  $\chi$  square test or exact Fisher's test, Kaplan-Meier test and Log Rank Test were used. SPSS v.16 software product was used for data processing. The material and the methods used allow to formulate precise and concrete conclusions and to outline the contributions of the dissertation.

In the chapter "Results" Dr. Arabadjiev presents his own data from the study on 58 patients. The description of the results corresponds to the set tasks and is supported by rich graphic and tabular material.

The chapter "Discussion" shows the dissertation's ability to thoroughly analyze, synthesize and summarize their own results and draw logical conclusions. The studies and analyzes performed by Dr. Arabadjiev have prognostic value and show that the treatment of patients with breast cancer in the country follows the basic international standards.

The conclusions are a total of 9 in number and reflect the results obtained. They are logical, short, accurate and clear with a statement and analytical nature.

I accept the presented contributions, which are summarized in two directions: with original character and scientific-applied aspect. Most of them have a unique character, studied and established for the first time in the country. I recommend that the study be continued in the future and that a larger group of patients be analyzed in order to further outline the prognostic and predictive role of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes.

The abstract is 44 pages and contains the main chapters of the dissertation.

In connection with the dissertation work were made: 5 publications and 2 participations in scientific forums in the country with reports.

From the reference it is established that the scientific activity of Dr. Arabadjiev fully meets the criteria for evaluation in the defense of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of the Medical University - Varna.

All this gives me reason to say that this research is current, priority, practical contribution and unique in nature. I hope that the assessments, conclusions and recommendations made in the dissertation will find application in oncology practice in the country.

In conclusion, I can say that the topic is dissertable, the methods used are adequate to achieve the goals and objectives, the results are significant and well reflected in the conclusions, the contributions are significant.

The scientific development presented to me for review

"PREDICTIVE AND FORECASTIC VALUE OF TUMOR INFILTRATING LYMPHOCYTES IN WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER" by Dr. Jeliazko Iliev Arabadjiev awarded the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Prof. Iglia Mihaylova, MD, PhD

