

## OPINION

**On the procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "General Medicine" by Dr. Stefan Kostov Fartunov with a dissertation on "MEDICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS OPCIONAL ABORTIONS IN BULGARIA"**

**From Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tosho Yordanov Ganev, Ph.D. - internal member of the scientific jury, determined by order of the Rector R-109-593 / 31.12.2021.**

**This opinion was prepared on the basis of Order R-109-593 / 31.12.2021 of the Rector of MU - Varna (determining the composition of the scientific jury).**

**The presented materials on the procedure meet the requirements of the Law for the development of the academic staff of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of MU-Varna for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor".**

### **Biographical data and career development:**

**Dr. Stefan Kostov Fartunov was born on March 5, 1971 in the city of Varna. In 1998 he completed his higher education at the Medical University - Varna. Since 1998 he has been working in an emergency medical center for a period of 9 years and another 4 years as a medical representative. Since 2004 he has a recognized specialty in Obstetrics and Gynecology and in 2011 he started working as an obstetrician-gynecologist at the DCC "St. Marina" Ltd. - Varna.**

**Since 2015 he has been an assistant at the Department of General Medicine, Ministry of Finance, Medical University of Varna, where he still works.**

**Dr. Fartunov has the following acquired professional qualifications:**

- Master's degree in Health Management (2009);**
- "Colposcopy and destructive treatment of the cervix";**
- "Ultrasound of the mammary gland".**

**Dr. Fartunov is a member of EURACT (European Academy of Teachers in General Practice and Family Medicine.**

### **Relevance of the developed topic:**

**The dissertation of Dr. Stefan Fartunov is related to a modern and very important social problem of great importance for our society. The high incidence of abortions, and in**

**particular voluntary abortions, among women, has been steadily increasing in recent decades. Their medico-social significance also explains the interest of the scientific medical community in this problem.**

**Regardless of what has been done in this area, abortions at will remain a high percentage and one of the main ways to terminate a pregnancy in our country. Based on the results obtained, Dr. Stefan Fartunov has made a detailed analysis of the situation in our region and has proposed specific measures to reduce unwanted pregnancies and reduce abortions.**

#### Volume and structure:

**The dissertation is written on 154 standard pages, illustrated with 38 figures, 63 tables and 2 appendices. The bibliographic list is presented by 144 sources, of which 36 are in Cyrillic and 108 in Latin. The work is structured according to the generally accepted scheme for dissertation work.**

#### Literature review:

**Dr. Stefan Fartunov has made an in-depth analysis of the types of abortions and the reason for this. Complications and consequences that may occur after abortion are monitored. Analyzes in detail the ethical issues related to abortion, demographic trends in Bulgaria and in the European Union. Pays attention to family planning and modern contraception. The factual conclusions and recommendations to GPs and OG specialists, Medical Universities and municipal authorities are derived from the review in the form of a conclusion. The dissertation demonstrates in - depth knowledge of the Bulgarian and world experience in the researched problem.**

#### Research methodology:

**The main goal of the dissertation is to study the medical and social problems and attitudes of women of reproductive age to abortions at will in our country in order to optimize the activities of GPs and obstetricians to promote women's health and family planning.**

**For the achievement the dissertation has defined 5 main tasks:**

- 1. To study the main medical and social problems of abortion in our country.**
- 2. To make an up-to-date review and analysis of the normative regulations for abortions in Bulgaria and the EU.**
- 3. To study the reproductive behavior of patients visiting obstetrics and / or GP on the territory of Varna and the region.**

4. To study the attitudes for and against abortion in women of reproductive age, as well as those of GPs and obstetricians.
5. To propose measures for optimizing the activity of GPs and AG specialists for the promotion of women's health and family planning.

#### Evaluation of the results:

The obtained results are presented in text through 63 tables and 38 figures. The statistical processing used is adequate. The discussion is thorough and well systematized. It is in this chapter that the good awareness and rich clinical experience of the dissertation, as well as his ability to critically analyze the results obtained. The conclusions are 11 in number, which are logically and correctly formulated, followed by the data from the results, which correspond to the set goals and objectives.

The publications in connection with the dissertation are two in number and cover the required publishing activity of the doctoral student. The presented abstract is made qualitatively, according to the requirements and reliably reflects the dissertation. The scientific contributions are 8:

#### Original contributions:

1. For the first time the existing problems of voluntary abortions in our region are studied and concrete initiatives for their reduction are proposed.
2. The current main demographic and social factors predisposing to performing abortions at will have been identified.
3. There is a worrying trend that despite the knowledge of modern oral contraceptives, only about 25% of women still use them.
4. It has been established that GPs play a major role in prescribing modern oral contraceptives.
5. Clear recommendations and practical proposals have been provided to GPs and AG specialists, MU, Municipal authorities and MH in order to improve coordination and efficiency of institutions.

#### Confirmatory contributions:

1. The need to reduce voluntary abortions and increase the natural contribution of the Bulgarian ethnic group is confirmed;

- 2. Reaffirms the importance of prevention and increasing sexual culture to reduce voluntary abortions**
- 3. The role of GPs and obstetricians in the fight to reduce voluntary abortions and promote women's health is confirmed.**

**Scientometric criteria:** The dissertation applies a list of 2 publications in **Bulgarian authoritative scientific journals**, in which he is the first author. With the results of the **dissertation, Dr. Fartunov** has participated in national and international scientific forums.

**The abstract** is stylistically well illustrated and perfectly reflects the **essence of the dissertation.**

**In conclusion,** the dissertation of Dr. Stefan Fartunov presented for opinion **contains original and confirmatory contributions of scientific and applied nature, which are the personal work of the author.** He meets all regulatory requirements and regulations of **MU-Varna for the award of the scientific degree "Doctor".**

**Based on the presentation made,** I suggest convincingly the members of the **scientific jury to vote positively for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Stefan Fartunov.**

**31.01.2022**  
**City. Varna**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tosho Yordanov ~~Ganev~~, Ph.D.

