

Until
The chairman of the scientific jury,
determined by Order No. R 109-189/15.03.2023
of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna
55 "Marin Drinov" St., 9002 – Varna

STATEMENT

by Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva MD, PhD

according to the procedure for the defense of a dissertation work for the awarding of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Dr. Diana Gocheva Gospodinova**, in the field of higher education 7. Health care and sports, professional field 7.1. Medicine, and specialty "Forensic Medicine" - doctoral student of independent training at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine, Medical University - Varna, and decision of the Faculty council according to protocol **No. 83/06/03/2023**. of the Faculty of Medicine and order No. R 109-189/15.03.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University - Varna, Marin St. Drinov" №55, 9002 - Varna, I am appointed to prepare a statement on the described procedure.

Attached I present: My statement on the dissertation work on the topic "The role of medical assistance in determining the medico-biological qualification of bodily injuries" for awarding the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to **Dr. Diana Gocheva Gospodinova**.

Field of higher education: 7. Health care and sports.

Professional direction 7.1. Medicine.

Scientific specialty "Forensic Medicine", at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna.

Research supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. William Dokov, MD, Phd, Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology, Faculty of Medicine of MU-Varna.

Prepared the opinion: Prof. Maria Angelova Tzaneva MD, PhD

Scientific specialty "General and clinical pathology"

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Varna 25.04.2023

I. Procedure data

Dr. Diana Gocheva Gospodinova is a part-time assistant in the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology and a specialist in forensic medicine at the Clinic of Forensic Medicine at the UMBAL "St. Marina" Varna. She is enrolled as a doctoral student in an independent form of education for the acquisition of a scientific and educational degree "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Forensic Medicine" with an enrollment order of the Rector of MU-Varna No. R-109-453/20.10.2021.

The protocol for successfully passing the doctoral minimum exam is also presented. On the basis of the Decision from a meeting of the Faculty Council at the Faculty of Medicine at the Medical University - Varna according to protocol No. 83/06/03.2023 and order No. R 109-189/15.03.2023 of the Rector of the Medical University Varna, Dr. Diana Gospodinova has been dismissed with the right of defense. The set of materials presented by the candidate on electronic media are in accordance with the requirements of the **Law on the development of the academic staff** and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff MU-Varna.

II. Biographical data and career development

Doctoral student Dr. Diana Gocheva Gospodinova was born on May 23, 1969 in Stara Zagora. In 1994, he graduated from MU Stara Zagora - master's degree in medicine and until 2000 worked as a resident of Kazanlak Hospital. From 1995 to 2001 he was a specialist in forensic medicine at MU - Stara Zagora and MU - Varna, and from 2002 to 2022 he was a full-time assistant at the Department of General and Clinical Pathology, Forensic Medicine and Deontology at MU - Varna. In 2002, she defended her specialty in "Forensic Medicine". Dr. Gospodinova teaches students from the specialty "medicine" and "dental medicine" and students from Medical College - Varna.

The doctoral student is a member of the Bulgarian Society of Forensic Medicine, the Bulgarian Medical Union and is an expert at the Varna Appellate Court.

There are 3 articles presented on the topic of the dissertation.

Currently, Dr. Gospodinova has 26 years of work experience as a doctor and 20 years as an assistant in the specialty "Forensic Medicine".

She has an excellent level of Russian and a good level of English.

III. Structure of the dissertation

The presented dissertation work of Dr. Diana Gospodinova is in a volume of 189 pages with 5 appendices and is illustrated with 30 figures, 30 tables and 3 photographs. The bibliography covers 190 literary sources, of which 94 are in Cyrillic and 96 are in Latin.

The work is written in excellent Bulgarian language, structured according to the standard requirements in ten chapters: Introduction, Literature Review, Objective, Objectives, Hypotheses, Research Material and Methods, Results and Discussion, Conclusion, Conclusion, Recommendations, Contributions, Bibliography and Appendices.

The articles related to the dissertation work and the list of used literature are also presented.

Technically, the dissertation is designed according to the requirements, the bibliography is comprehensive, up-to-date and covers the most up-to-date sources on the subject.

Relevance of the topic

The incidence of bodily harm shows a constant upward trend, which means that the problem is still relevant today. According to data from the World Health Organization, they are one of the most common causes affecting people's health, which necessitates the need to reassess the role of medical assistance in cases of culpably caused health damage.

Literature review /69 pages/

Dr. Gospodinova introduces us to the topic by giving a definition of the concept of bodily injury and examines its different degrees: mild, medium and severe. It completely comprehensively presents the specific medico-biological signs of bodily harm. The doctoral student makes a detailed analysis of the texts regarding bodily injuries in the penal code, in Ordinance No. 2 on forensic medical, forensic psychiatric and forensic psychological examinations of bodily injuries and Decree No. 3 of 09/27/1979. Dr. Gospodinova examines in detail the diagnostic and treatment measures related to the medical activity in the case of injuries from bodily injuries, indicates the stages of their implementation depending on the place where the medical assistance is provided and presents the main groups of medical documents issued when providing hospital and out of hospital medical care. Examines the advantages and disadvantages of the most popular and applied anatomical scales in order to determine the severity of the injury.

Dr. Gospodinova justified the need for the present study in order to categorize bodily injuries depending on the medical assistance provided.

Purpose and tasks of the dissertation work /2 pages/

The goal is clearly formulated: To assess the role of medical assistance in determining the medico-biological qualification of bodily injuries and to propose criteria and an algorithm for its reflection in forensic medical expertise. 6 specific tasks have been formulated.

Material and research methods /13 pages/

Dr. Gospodinova indicates the basis for the realization of the research: the Clinic of Forensic Medicine at the "Sveta Marina" UMBAL EAD Varna; Department of Forensic Medicine at MBAL in Shumen and Department of Forensic Medicine at MBAL in Dobrich. The subject of the research are expert opinions on written data for the period from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2020 in the regions indicated above and expertises from other judicial districts, which became the subject of additional CME in the Clinic of Forensic Medicine of UMBAL "Sveta Marina" EAD Varna. The dissertation examines data from 3;280 documents. The first stage of the survey includes selected experts who meet the survey criteria. The second stage of the study is on the selected groups of expertise with reporting on a proposed scale of specific indicators determining the medical assistance in a simultaneous comparison with the results of the criteria of the first stage. Different scales were used to assess the severity of the injury: diagnostic scale, Trauma scoring systems, treatment scale.

The author uses a variety of statistical methods: statistical grouping of data, alternative analysis, variation analysis, graphic method, comparative analysis and hypothesis testing method, which guarantee the reliability of the obtained results.

Discussion results /80 pages/

With competence and thoroughness, Dr. Gospodinova presents at the beginning the selection of the examinations based on written data and presents their distribution by regions,

years and by production. According to the circumstances in which the incident causing bodily harm occurred, they are divided into four groups: transport accidents; intentional violation of bodily integrity - beating, incl. in conditions of domestic violence, hooliganism, robbery, self-management, etc.; occupational accidents; accidents due to injuries from poorly or improperly managed public grounds and buildings, injuries from stray animals, etc.

The relative share of bodily injury examinations after traffic accidents is the highest, with the highest number in 2020. The analysis of the degree of bodily injury shows that mild degree predominates, followed by moderate and the lowest frequency of the severe damage. The most essential part of the study is the detailed analysis of the provided medical assistance by types through selected criteria relating to the two main medical procedures – diagnosis and treatment, but entirely through the eyes of the forensic medical expert activity, or rather the questions facing it regarding the trauma and its legal qualification.

The doctoral student analyzes her own results, critically compares them with data from the literature, which reveals excellent knowledge of normative documents.

Dr. Gospodinova evaluates the scales used separately and finally makes a comparative analysis and a generalized evaluation of the considered systems. This is the most important section of the dissertation and Dr. D. Gospodinova has done an excellent job.

Conclusions and contributions of the dissertation work /2, 2 pages/

Dr. Gospodinova's conclusions are 8 in number and are based on the overall analysis of the information from the literature review, on her own results and on the discussion. They are well worded and reflect a substantial part of the thesis sections. The author formulates a number of recommendations that will create prerequisites for unifying the work of forensic medical experts.

The contributions from the dissertation, presented by Dr. Diana Gospodinova, are a total of 8, of which 4 are of a theoretical nature and 4 of an applied nature. I accept the contributions as they objectively reflect the results of her work.

The abstract follows the content of the dissertation. It is prepared in a volume of 64 standard pages and is composed of parts that present the structure and content, exposition, contributions and publications of the dissertation work.

IV. Conclusion

The dissertation is presented in a complete and well-structured form, meeting the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations of the MU - Varna

Taking into account the topicality and importance of the topic, the volume and method of conducting the research, the processing of the material, the results achieved, the conclusions and recommendations, the contributions of a theoretical and applied nature, as well as the professional development and scientific performances, I confidently declare to the members of the National Academy of Sciences that I vote "for" (positively) the awarding of Dr. Diana Gocheva Gospodinova to the ONS "Doctor" in the scientific specialty "Forensic Medicine".

25.04.2023 Prepared opinion:

Varna Prof. Dr. Maria Angelova Tzaneva, MD, PhD