

STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Kiril Stefanov Slaveykov, MD, PhD

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Member of the scientific jury, appointed by order № P110-69/26.02.2024 of the Rector of MU
- Varna

For the dissertation: „**INVESTIGATION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF HUMORAL
FACTORS OF INNATIONAL IMMUNITY IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF
ACTIVATED OSTEOARTHRITIS**“

At a competition for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional field **7.1. MEDICINE**

Scientific specialty: **GENERAL MEDICINE**

Irina Ivanova Momcheva, MD

1. **General presentation of the procedure and the doctoral student.** The presented set of materials on electronic media is in accordance with the Law on Acquisition of ESD "Doctor" and ADASRB and contains the required documents that prove the authenticity of the dissertation, scientific publications, participation in scientific forums and confirm the legality of the procedure.. Dr. Irina Momcheva graduated from Plovdiv Medical University. She currently works as a rheumatologist at University Hospital Burgas, and from 2021 she began the development of her scientific work as a doctoral student. During her training, she was actively involved in doctoral schools, clinical trials and training in good medical practice rules. She has participated in a number of national and international scientific forums with reports on her dissertation work.

2. **Relevance of the topic.** The dissertation work is relevant and of practical importance. The subject of the dissertation submitted is: "Investigation of the involvement of humoral factors of innate immunity in the pathogenesis of activated osteoarthritis". In recent years, the medical community's perception of this disease has changed. Appropriate prevention and prophylaxis presuppose a good knowledge of the mechanisms of its pathogenesis. Accurate and timely diagnosis and subsequent timely and appropriate treatment is important to prevent its consequences. The dissertation is spread over 120 pages and is divided into: Literature Review, Working Hypothesis, Aim and Tasks, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions, Contributions and Published Articles, participation in conferences and congresses related to the dissertation and bibliography, such as the requirements for the relevant sections are met. The work contains a total of: 18 figures, 24 tables and 6 histograms.

3. **Knowledge of the problem.** The bibliography includes 237 titles, with a good balance between Bulgarian and foreign authors. It is evident that the PhD student knows the problem and creatively evaluates the literary material.

4. **Research methodology.** A total of 156 patients participated in the presented dissertation work, selected according to a number of inclusion and exclusion criteria. Clinical, laboratory and instrumental research methods were used. For statistical data processing, a statistical package SPSS, version 20 was used. Basic methods for mathematical and statistical analysis of the results were applied - descriptive, correlational, graphic, dispersion analysis.

The chosen research methodology allows achieving the set goal and obtaining an adequate answer to the tasks solved in the dissertation work.

5. **Characterization and evaluation of the dissertation work and contributions.**

The paper is well structured, including all the necessary parts for a PhD thesis. The dissertation consists of 120 pages and is illustrated with 18 figures, 24 tables and 6 histograms. The literature review is detailed, citing a large number of sources. The tasks set correspond to the purpose. The results are well presented graphically and tabularly. They fully cover the set tasks. In the discussion of the obtained results, Dr. Irina Momcheva was able to present and interpret in great detail the comparison between the data obtained by her and those known from the literary sources. The conclusions are 6 in number, described in detail according to the assigned tasks. I accept the contributions of original and confirmatory nature. The abstract is made according to the requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation work.

6. **Evaluation of the publications and personal contribution of the PhD student.**

The PhD student has submitted 3 publications - in all of which Dr. Momcheva is the first author. Critical notes and recommendations to the conducted research and the presented materials: 1. To continue and expand the studies on the tasks of the PhD thesis.

CONCLUSION. Regardless of the note and recommendation made by me, the PhD thesis contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB and the Regulations of the Medical University of Varna. The presented materials and dissertation results fully correspond to the specific requirements adopted in connection with PRASTRO. The dissertation shows that the doctoral student Dr. Irina Momcheva possesses in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the scientific specialty of General Medicine, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent conduct of scientific research. I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, represented by a dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree of 'doctor' to Dr. Irina Momcheva in a doctoral program in General Medicine.

08.04.2024 г.

Изготвил становището:

/доц. д-р Кирил Спадеиков, дм/

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