

STATEMENT

from

Prof. Hristo Blagoev Tsekov, MD, PhD, DSc

Member of the Scientific Jury appointed with order P-109-422/22.10.2020 of the Rector of Medical University Varna for the defense of a dissertation thesis for acquisition of a scientific and educational degree "Doctor (PhD)" of the candidate Dr. Dragomir Svetozarov Stoyanov.

Dr. Stoyanov is a full-time doctoral student in the doctoral program "Oncology" with a topic of the dissertation thesis: "The relationship between distress and time perception in cancer patients".

Every diagnosis of cancer causes anxiety in patients. Dr. Stoyanov focuses his attention on the distress of cancer patients and its relationship with the perception of time.

Anxiety is an important symptom of depressive and anxiety disorders. It leads to various vegetative manifestations that affect the survival of cancer patients. There have been no studies so far on whether there is a link between the perception of time and survival. Dr. Stoyanov was the first to investigate this topic.

In cancer patients, the sense of reality is deformed to varying degrees. The personal time is discrete in nature when registering changes. After these experiences there is a pause, which depends on the individual's temperament. Dr. Stoyanov emphasizes the connection between the subjective perception of time and distress. With age, biological time slows down. Bulgarians are anxious and stressed as a nation. They avoid uncertainty. This index is highest among Bulgarian Muslims and Bulgarian Christians and lowest among Roma. Dr. Stoyanov has taken into account these socio-demographic characteristics and has divided the patients by religious and ethnic origin. This study is of great practical benefit, showing ways to improve quality of life and improve compliance with cancer treatment. It is commendable that Dr. Stoyanov points out some shortcomings in the scientific work, such as the lack of a control group and age characteristics.

Dr. Stoyanov manages to include his own results along with the contemporary scientific work in an original way, which is the main argument for my positive vote, which I believe will be shared by the other members of the Scientific Jury.

19.11.2020

Varna

With Best Regards: 

Prof. Hristo Blagoev Tsekov, MD, PhD, DSc