

## STATEMENT

**from Acad. Prof. Drozdstoj Stoyanov Stoyanov, MD, PhD, DSci,**

**Medical University of Plovdiv**

(academic position, name, surname, family, scientific degree – scientific organization)

of dissertation thesis for awarding educational and scientific degree “**doctor**”

**Author:** Anita Milusheva

**Theme:** LOCUS OF CONTROL, COPING-MECHANISMS AND QUALITY OF LIVE IN PATIENTS WITH BLADDER CARCINOMA

**Scientific specialty:** 3.2. Psychology, Clinical Psychology

**Scientific supervisor:** Prof. Vanya Matanova, PhD

**Scientific counselor:** Prof. N. Neykov

### 1. General presentation of the procedure and the PhD student

The presented statement is based on the following documents:

- PhD thesis
- Auto-summary
- List of scientific publications of the author of relevance to the dissertation

### 2. Significance of the topic

The problem of the interrelation between coping strategies, locus of control and quality of life in patients with bladder carcinoma, represented in the dissertation, is significant both, in scientific and scientific-applied aspect. Although the thesis focuses on a specific disease (bladder carcinoma), in my opinion, the results can be extrapolated to many other diseases in oncology. Considering not only the prevalence rate but also alterations in the quality of life in this nosology, they represent a serious socio-economic problem for modern society.

### 3. Background

The PhD student has a systematic clinical experience in the field of clinical psycho-oncology.

The first section presents a literature review of the basic construct for this study, the locus of control according to Rotter's theory, and its relevance to healthy subjective functioning. The concepts of coping strategies according to Lazarus' research and quality of life are presented as a complex phenomenon in general and in oncology diseases in particular. This structured exposition presents a comprehensive review and directs us to the extraordinary diversity of this otherwise fundamental concept for any clinical study. This review sets conditions and prerequisites for the thesis design.

#### **4. Methodology of research**

The PhD student used a battery (panel) of methods for measurement of the constructs, described in the literature review. The choice of methods is theoretically and empirically sustained.

The selected methodologies are complementary in terms of their cognitive, diagnostic and clinical-predictive value.

#### **5. Characteristic and assessment of the dissertation work and contributions**

The assessment tools employed for statistical analysis are generally appropriate for the purposes and tasks that have been set. Based on the conclusions drawn, two groups of contributions might be considered:

##### **Theoretical contributions:**

- The conceptual development of ideas and paradigms that outline the studied phenomena - locus of control, coping mechanisms and quality of life from their discovery to the present day is summarized.
- A comprehensive explanation of the observed phenomena from several different directions of researches in the field of oncological disorders.

##### **Applied contributions:**

- There is delivered evidence that the quality of life is related to and influenced by coping mechanisms, which provides guidance for the development of programs for the rehabilitation of maladaptive coping mechanisms in patients.
- ***The locus of control influences life satisfaction***, respectively, the quality of life in patients with bladder carcinoma. Patients with an ***internal locus of control*** are more satisfied than patients with an ***external locus of control***.
- The data will be helpful in the preparation of programs related to the rehabilitation of stress and distress, after oncological diagnosis and through active treatment of the disease.

#### **6. Assessment of publications and personal contribution of the PhD student**

There were published a total of 7 publications pertinent to the dissertation topic, of which 5 were in full text and 2 in abstracts of scientific articles.

The personal participation of the PhD student in the performed study is crucial. I have no any substantial critical remarks and / or recommendations for the realized study and presented materials.

#### **7. Auto-summary**

The auto summary reconstructs the basic tenets of the scientific work, it fully complies with the regulatory requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

## CONCLUSION

The dissertation *contains scientific, and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science* and *corresponds* of Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), Regulations for the Implementation of the LDASRB and Regulations of University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski".

The dissertation thesis demonstrates that PhD student Anita Milusheva *has* robust theoretical knowledge and professional skills in scientific specialty clinical psychology, *demonstrating resource* and skills for conducting independent research.

Because of the above, I am convinced of my *positive assessment* of the research, presented by reviewed above - dissertation work, auto summary, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to *the esteemed scientific jury to award the educational and scientific degree of 'Doctor'* of Anita Milusheva in doctoral program Clinical psychology.



**Prepared by:**

**Acad. Prof. Drozdtoj Stoyanov, MD, PhD, DSci**