

Statement

By Prof. Zlatka Dimitrova Dimitrova, D.Sci, Head of TRL in Social Pharmacy, Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia, appointed a member of the Scientific Jury by order №-PD-38-628 / 22.12.2021 of Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov, Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

Subject: procedure for the defense of a dissertation on the topic: "Health-related quality of life in patients with vasculitis associated with antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies conducting biological treatment" for the acquisition of ESD "Doctor" of Mag. farm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski, PhD student in self-study in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.3 Pharmacy, under the PhD program "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" in the Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" with supervisors: Assoc. Prof. MD Emil Ivanov Christov, PhD and Asoc.Prof.MD Lubomir Marinov Mirinchev, PhD

This statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria /LDASRB/, Regulations for application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria/RALDASRB/ and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for acquiring scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Chapter II. Acquisition of the ESD "Doctor" and the scientific degree "Doctor of Science", Section III. Conditions and procedure for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor".

Details of the procedure. With Order №-PD-20-701 / 04.30.2020 mag. pharm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski is enrolled as a PhD student in self-study in the field of Higher Education 7. Healthcare and Sports, Professional Field 7.3 Pharmacy, under the PhD program "Social Medicine and Organization of Healthcare and Pharmacy" in the Department of Physical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Presented is Certificate №3, issued by the Dean of FChPh from 05.01.2022. for successfully passed the exam for covering the doctoral minimum in the specialty, as well as Order № PD-20-2631 /12.20.2021 for early dismissal of the PhD student with the right to defend his dissertation after its discussion by the Department Council and a decision on its readiness for referral for public defense. The folder with the PhD student's documents contains all the required documents for the defense of the dissertation.

Biographical data and career development of the candidate: mag. pharm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski graduated in pharmacy and obtained a master's degree in pharmacy in 2015 at the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Medical University of Sofia. He has worked as a magister pharmacist - expert in drug regulation at BDA and PharmAdvice Ltd. Since December 2016, after a competition, he has been appointed an assistant at TRL in social pharmacy and participates in the training of students and trainee pharmacists in the disciplines: Social pharmacy and pharmaceutical legislation and Pharmaceutical care, i.e. he has over 5 years of teaching experience.

Relevance and significance of the dissertation. After the introduction of PhEc as a mandatory discipline for pharmacy students in the country in 2005, and in the faculties of public health, opened in the period 2001-2010 for the training of medical doctors in health management, on the one hand, as well as the introduction of the regulatory requirement for preparation of PhE assessment of each new MP, applying for marketing authorization or inclusion in the Positive List of the Republic of Bulgaria, which is also Reimbursement List, on the other hand, in our country began to conduct various pharmacoeconomic studies. In addition to the inclusion of pharmacoeconomics in a lecture and practical course for students of pharmacy and medicine, in the period after 2006, the opening of PhD programs / full-time and self-study / for postgraduate studies in health economics, respectively

pharmacoeconomics within the professional directions in Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Care. The research of PhD students and graduates on the quality of life related to the health of patients suffering from various socially significant diseases such as diabetes, asthma, hepatitis C and other dates back to that time. Thus, PhEc took the first steps to rationalize drug use in our country. In this regard, the Group for the Study of Medicinal Use in the Republic of Bulgaria was established as a unit of EURO DURG in 2006 with the first chairman Prof. Zl. Dimitrova, D.Sci. and in November 2011 the Bulgarian section of ISPOR was established with its first chairman Prof. G. Petrova, D.Sci. For a very short period of time Pharmacoeconomics developed quickly and successfully in our country.

General characteristics of the candidate's research and applied research activity. Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) is part of an individual's overall QoL and represents the functional effects of the disease and subsequent therapy as perceived by the patient. The entry of new biological therapies in medical practice and the biotechnological revolution in the pharmaceutical sector have led research on the health status of patients to become an essential part of pre-registration clinical trials, non-interventional and interventional post-registration studies, epidemiological and pharmacoeconomic and pharmacoepidemiological studies. Therefore, this dissertation is dedicated to a significant problem for public health and is relevant and original, as such a study has not been conducted in our country and in other countries. It is in a volume of 145 pages / without appendices /, distributed as follows: 7 pages - introduction, 25 pages - literature review, 2 pages - research methodology, 60 pages - results and discussion and conclusion. The bibliography includes 468 latin titles. The dissertation uses a variety of well-presented modern tools, adequate to perform the tasks. Due to the lack of specific tools for assessing HRQoL in patients with vasculitis, two common tools were used: SF-36 v2 -Health Survey and EuroQol 5D-5L. An original protocol and design of a non-interventional, observational, prospective / retrospective study to measure health-related quality of life in the Bulgarian population of vasculitis patients associated with antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies before and after biological treatment was developed. The study was performed in strict compliance with the protocol. Discussion of the results is competent and professional. The conclusions in the dissertation work derive from the conducted analyzes and from the obtained results and are clearly and precisely formulated.

Main scientific and applied scientific contributions. The main scientific and applied contributions in the dissertation are new scientific facts in the field of HRQoL of patients with vasculitis and can be summarized in my opinion as follows:

Contributions of original nature:

- For the first time in Bulgaria a retrospective analysis of the evolution of the disease in patients with vasculitis associated with antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies is performed by stratification and evaluation of clinical activity measured by the vasculitis activity scale BVAS-Persistent points.
- For the first time in Bulgaria, the health-related quality of life of patients with vasculitis associated with antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies/ VAACA/ is measured and evaluated before and after biological treatment using common instruments.

Contributions of scientific and applied nature:

- Improving the health-related quality of life of patients with VAACA provides additional arguments to justify biological treatment as an alternative, despite the relatively high cost of drug therapy.
- The study confirms the pre-registration efficacy data that Rituximab treatment is the best therapeutic alternative in current rheumatological practice for the treatment of VAACA.
- Measurement of health-related quality of life in patients with VAACA can be used for routine analysis of health before and after treatment.

A recommendation has been made to the NHIF to reimburse the treatment with biological drugs to the patients from the other groups, whose therapy with biological treatment is not reimbursed yet.

Reflection of the candidate's scientific publications in the literature. On the topic of the dissertation are presented 2 published scientific articles in Bulgarian journals, one of which is referred to in Scopus, 3 participations abroad on the 23rd Balkan Days, published in Arch Balk Med Union. (2021) 56 (Suppl. 1): S32. , referred to in Scopus and 2 participations with reports at scientific forums in our country with international participation.

In the scientific publications in connection with the dissertation of Mag. Parm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski there is also an educational element: a pilot study of HRQoL of healthy volunteers-students of pharmacy / №№ 1,6 and 7 / was conducted.

I have no critical remarks about the candidate due to the fact that the studies and their interpretation were conducted in accordance with the pharmaceutical term "Lege Artis".

Conclusion. The dissertation of mag. pharm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski contains new scientific facts of special relevance and significance for the field of drug therapy of vasculitis and the quality of life of patients with VAACA before and after their biological treatment as part of PhEcS. The results of the research conducted in the dissertation and their interpretation are at a high scientific level, they are published in the specialized literature and are reported at 5 scientific forums. The dissertation of mag. pharm. Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski on the topic: "Health-related quality of life in patients with vasculitis associated with antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies conducting biological treatment" for the acquisition of ESD "Doctor" contains scientific and applied results that represent an original contribution to medical science. The dissertation shows that the candidate has in-depth theoretical knowledge in the scientific specialty and abilities for independent research. This work meets all the requirements of LDASRB and the Regulations for its implementation / RALDASRB / and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "for acquiring ESD" Doctor ". I give a positive assessment of the dissertation and will fully support the award of the ESD "Doctor" in Pharmacy to the mag.pharm.Tsvetomir Mario Deliiski in the PhD program "Social Medicine and Organization of Health and Pharmacy" by voting "Yes".

02.10.2022.

Prepared the opinion:

/ prof. Zl. Dimitrova, MPh,Ph.D., DSci/