

# **Statement**

by

**Assoc.Prof. Dr.Razvigor Darlenski,ph.D**

In the procedure for the competition for the scientific stage "Doctor of Science" in dermatovenereology at the Acibadem City clinic Tokuda Hospital Sofia, in the specialty "Dermatology and venereology" / code 03.01.21 / professional direction 7.1 Medicine, 7. Healthcare and sport.

The candidate, Dr. Zdravka Velichkova Demerdjieva, MD, is currently the Head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at the Acibadem City Hospital Tokuda Hospital Sofia. She start her professional dermatology career in 1993 as a physician at UMBAL Alexandrovska, bringing his children's skin office to the Department. There is a PhD thesis ("Doctor") defended in 2007. Since 2016 he is an associate professor at the Clinic of Dermatology and Venereology at the Acibadem City Hospital Tokuda Hospital.

## **1. General presentation of the procedure**

The presented set of materials in electronic form is in accordance with the rules and procedure for acquiring a doctorate of science at Acibadem City Klinik Tokuda Hospital.

## **2. Relevance of the topic**

The dissertation submitted for my opinion on the topic: "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PSORIASIS PATIENTS" is very topical, essential and of great practical importance. Systemic inflammation as well as the role of comorbidities in the pathogenesis of psoriasis are discussed and present contemporary problems. Psoriasis, as a systemic inflammatory disease, is no exception, and the results presented by the candidate shed new light on the pathogenesis and eventual therapeutic response to the disease. The presented work for the first time worldwide systematically examines skin manifestations in various forms of psoriasis, as well as lymph and venous changes in the conjunctiva of the eye in the disease.

## **3. Knowledge of the problem**

The doctoral student's familiarity with the problem is evident from the review of the dissertation (39 pages), which includes 202 citations, 11 of them in Bulgarian, most of them in recent years. The

contribution of the Bulgarian Dermatological School to the teaching of psoriasis is a good impression. The survey is well structured, shows a high level of awareness of the applicant and indicates the possibility of proper analysis. The purpose of the dissertation is clearly stated. The tasks set out are specific and can lead to its achievement.

#### **4. Research methodology**

Modern research and statistical methods have been used. The research methodology allows to achieve the set goal and to receive an adequate answer to the tasks solved in the dissertation. The statistical methods used make the results obtained real and objective. Of interest are the applicant's pioneering studies on changes in blood and lymph flow in the conjunctivitis of the eye in various forms of psoriasis. The changes described have practical implications for the diagnosis and response of ocular comorbidities in psoriasis.

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

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Zdravka Demerdjieva, presents a dissertation on "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PSORIASIS PATIENTS", placed on 115 standard printed pages, illustrated with 41 photographs, 12 tables, 1 pie chart, 8 pillars. The work is structured according to requirements and contains an introduction, purpose and tasks, material and methods, results, discussion, conclusions, contributions and bibliography.

I find the results relevant and interesting in view of the current theory of the pathogenesis of psoriasis as a systemic inflammatory disease. The results are well graphically visualized. A diagnostic scheme with practical application for the diagnosis of ocular comorbidities in psoriasis is proposed. The conclusions drawn correspond to the stated goals of the dissertation. The contributions are grouped into several groups: original, scientific and practical.

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

The author provides 12 publications (5 in English). There is no list of participation in scientific forums with reports or presentations on the topic of dissertation work. The candidate has no independent articles, but is the first author in 6 publications. I do not find any elements of plagiarism and I find the data presented to be original and interesting.

#### **7. Abstract**

The abstract contains 52 pages and includes in short the main sections of the dissertation. The abstract is made as required. The content and quality of the abstract reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation.

#### **8. Critical notes:**

Remove Conclusion 2. Consolidate the findings on the vasographic finding into a common one. The contributions should be structured as follows: original, scientific-theoretical and scientifically practical and confirmatory. Missing list of participation in scientific forums with reports or presentations on the topic of dissertation work. The criticisms made do not diminish the scientific value of the work presented.

#### **Conclusion**

After carefully reading the documentation for professional and scientific development of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Demerdjieva, I consider that the dissertation on the topic: "OCULAR CHANGES AND VASOGRAPHY IN PSIRIASIS PATIENTS" contains scientific, applied and applied, applied and applied results. They are an original contribution to science and meet all requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB), the Regulations for the implementation of the ZRASRB and the Regulations of the Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital.

The dissertation shows that the dissertation Assoc. Prof. Demerdjieva possesses deep theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the field of Dermatology and Venereology, demonstrating qualities and skills for conducting independent research. Because of the above, I am convinced of my positive assessment of the research presented by the dissertation reviewed above, abstract, results achieved and contributions, and propose to the Honorable Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Assoc. Prof. Zdravka Velichkova Demerdzjieva.