

## **OPINION**

from

Prof. Dr. Tashko Stefanov Deliiski, MD, DSc

On the procedure for the acquisition of the scientific and educational degree "PhD" in the field General Surgery, specialty 7.1. Medicine. higher education 7. Health and sports on the dissertation work of Dr. Elmira Momchilova Daskalova on the topic on the topic: "Pancreato-jejunostomy after duodeno-hemipancreatectomy - types, results, individual approach to selection" with supervisor Prof. Dr. Kiril Vassilev Draganov, MD,DSc.

In choosing the topic of Dr. Daskalova's dissertation, it was based on the need to shed light on a current problem today, despite the significantly improved results in terms of early postoperative mortality. Despite advances and the proposed variety of surgical techniques and modifications, there is no standardized method for pancreatic anastomosis after BPH. In turn, the high rate of early specific complications, mainly the occurrence of postoperative pancreatic fistula, leads to increased hospital costs and patient stay, as well as deterioration of quality of life.

To answer the question to what extent the goal of the present dissertation has been achieved and whether it has acquired the qualities for obtaining the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" of Dr. Elmira Daskalova, I will present a brief annotation of the work and then - evaluation of its qualities.

Dr. Elmira Daskalova was born on December 5, 1989. She graduated medicine at the Medical University of Sofia in 2014. By order N 261 / 08.06.2017 of the Executive Director of Acibadem City Kinik Tokuda Hospital, she became a full-time doctoral student in the field of General Surgery, higher education 7. Healthcare and Sports; Direction 7.1 Medicine. From the same year she was appointed as a doctor-specialist in surgery at the Clinic of Liver - Gall, Pancreatic and General Surgery of Tokuda Hospital. After successfully passing the doctoral minimum exam (24.02.2020) and internal defense (09.07.2020) she was granted a permission to defense (Order N 482 / 31.07.2020 of the additional director of Acibadem City Kinik Tokuda Hospital).

I will not pass on details of the content of the individual components of the dissertation - they are available to the interested.

According to the requirements related to this position paper, I will analyze and evaluate the qualities of the dissertation, which fully meets the requirements of the current legal framework in the country, namely the Regulations for the implementation of the Academic Staff Development Act in Bulgaria and the Regulations for Academic Staff Development of Acibadem City Clinic Tokuda Hospital.

The dissertation contains a total of 145 standard typewritten pages, properly structured in the sections: Abbreviations used, Introduction, Literary review, Research methodology (purpose and tasks, material and methods), Results with subsequent analysis and discussion of own results, Conclusion and Used literature. 34 figures and 37 tables were used to illustrate the dissertation.

The literature review is sufficiently extensive, comprehensive and in-depth. The rich information from the numerous citations (380 sources are included, of which 26 are Bulgarian) gives the reader the opportunity to enrich his knowledge of the issues under discussion, and the presented tables and diagrams are sufficiently informative. The formulated conclusions from the cited literature show the relevance of the problem and serve as a basis for the subsequent purpose and tasks of the study.

The goal is presented clearly and precisely, reflecting absolutely the essence of the work - identification of risk factors and algorithm of behavior to improve early postoperative results and reduce the frequency of POPF, which fully meets the logically formulated and practical tasks.

The study, presented by Dr. Daskalova, covers a sufficiently long period of time - 10 years (involving 236 patients) and despite the retrospective nature thanks to the methods used provides sufficient information and opportunity to form two almost homogeneous groups - with and without POPF, which corresponds to the set goals and objectives.

The obtained results are presented clearly, accurately and well structured. The subsequent analysis is concise, unbiased, and I give a positive assessment of the comparison with the results of other studies.

The dissertation is written in literary Bulgarian, using a clear and precise statement. Due to this, there is a logical connection between the different parts of the development.

The summary of the dissertation, presented by Dr. Elmira Daskalova, meets the volume and content of the requirements and additionally includes a section Contributions. She has listed the contributions according to her judgment and has shown what impressed, inspired and hindered her the most. In my opinion, the dissertation should not be "blackmailed" in order to give an official assessment of her work and contribution, because she faces the difficulty of being both restrained and expressively enthusiastic about herself.

Let the deeds speak for themselves.

Despite the indisputable qualities of the dissertation, I will allow myself to make 2 critical remarks, which in no way reduce the scientific and practical value of the work. First one, in "Content" some page numbers are missing. Secondly, the presented information in fig. 23 of the chapter "Analysis and discussion of own results" is not clear and informative enough, although the description to it explains the result obtained by men in connection with preoperative hyperbilirubinemia related to the risk of POPF.

The presented dissertation is up-to-date, original and in-depth. It shows that Dr. Daskalova obtains all qualities and skills to conduct independent research. This is the reason why I give my positive assessment and propose to the esteemed Scientific Jury to award the educational and scientific degree "PhD" to Dr. Elmira Momchilova Daskalova in a doctoral program in "General Surgery", for which I strongly vote positive.

10.10.2020  
Dsc

Prof. Dr. Tashko Deliiski, MD,