

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

From

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Member of the scientific jury according the order R-109-1/04.01.2021 of the Rector of the
Medical University-Varna and appointed for preparation of a scientific opinion according
to protocol 1/11.02.2021.

SUBJECT: Public defense of a dissertation for obtaining an educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, 7.3. Pharmacy and doctoral program "Pharmacology (incl. Pharmacokinetics and chemotherapy)" with the topic of the dissertation: "*European practices and standards for digital forms of continuing education of medical professionals in the field of drug policy.*" Scientific supervisors of the dissertation are Prof. Dr. Marieta Georgieva, MD and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Albena Zlatareva, MD.

Relevance of the dissertation

From the point of view of the current isolation situation and the imposed strict quarantine worldwide, this dissertation presents the need for digital forms of training of medical professionals in order to provide real-time up-to-date and comprehensive medical information in each field of medicine. Defining clear standards, the need to create new specialized forms of training, motivation for upgrading (continuing) training are among the

priorities for building qualified specialists in all areas of medical science, and this would ultimately contribute to improving health policy in the country and in particular the drug policy.

Purpose, tasks, materials and methods used

The objectives of the dissertation are clearly defined and they are to determine the extent to which medical professionals is motivated to upgrade the knowledge and skills they possess what forms of continuing education they attend, and whether they need help in the field of drug policy. The tasks set by the dissertation are three and they follow the initially set goals. The materials and methods indicate the conduct of a survey involving 21 people from three Balkan countries - Bulgaria, Slovenia and Croatia in the period December 2019-May-2020. Different statistical approaches were used to process the results - descriptive, correlation and regression analysis.

Results, conclusions and contributions

The results and conclusions presented in the dissertation show that there is a need to update the forms of education and postgraduate qualification, as the guidelines are in the development, updating and adaptation of online specialized training programs and other activities (seminars, conferences, etc.), in order to maintain the required level of qualification in view of the dynamic changes in areas such as drug policy and regulation. The medical specialists in Bulgaria and the countries of the Balkan region have the motivation and aspiration to upgrade their training in this field. The conclusions are logical based on the obtained results. Three scientific-practical and one scientific-applied contribution have been made.

Publishing activity

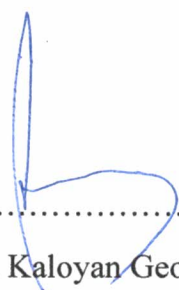
The dissertation has presented three publications in connection with the dissertation, which fully meet the requirements for acquiring of Educational and Scientific Degree “Doctor”.

Conclusion

The dissertation covers a current topic today and manages to present the necessary arguments in this direction. It fully complies with the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, both the Regulations for its implementation and Regulations of Medical University of Varna for the acquisition of Educational and Scientific Degree “Doctor”. All this gives me a reason to give a **POSITIVE EVALUATION** and to offer the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the field of higher education. 7. Health and sports, professional field 7.3. Pharmacy and scientific specialty "Pharmacology (including pharmacokinetics and chemotherapy)" by Dr. Branimir Ivanov Brankov.

Varna

09.02.2021


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