

STATEMENT

by Prof. Ivajlo Petrov Vazharov, M.D. Ph.D.

Scientific specialty Gastroenterology

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Subject: Dissertation for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in scientific specialty "Internal medicine", professional direction 7.1. Medicine, field of higher education 7. Healthcare and sports, based on Order № R-109-218 of the Rector of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" – Varna.
Topic: THE ROLE OF NECROPTOSIS IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Author: Dr. Elena Panayotova Panayotova, PhD student at the Department of "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine", MU – Varna.

Research Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Antonia Yordanova Atanassova, MD, PhD, Dsc

1. General presentation of the procedure and PhD student

The presented set of materials on paper and electronic format is in accordance with the Procedure for awarding of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" at MU – Varna.

Dr. Elena Panayotova Panayotova was born in 1978 in Ruse. In 2004 she graduated with a degree in Medicine from the Medical University of Sofia. She acquired the specialty "Internal Medicine" in 2014, and in 2020 - the specialty "Gastroenterology". Dr. Panayotova began her professional development as a physician in 2005 at the University Hospital "Alexandrovska" - Sofia, and since 2009 she has worked at the University Hospital "St. Marina" - Varna until present.

Dr. Panayotova's career as an assistant at the MU-Varna began in 2013 as honorary assistant and since 2017 he has been a full-time assistant at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine.

2. Relevance, significance and practical orientation of the dissertation topic

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), whose frequency is increasing, is a disease that mainly affects young people, and its lifelong evolution leads to significant dysfunction of the gastrointestinal tract with subsequent severe damage. A distinctive feature is the recurrent inflammation of the intestinal mucosa, which can affect different parts of the gastrointestinal tract. Clinically, they alternate between periods of remission and relapse, which have different durations, and phases of activity often lead to local and systemic complications. This worsens the quality of life of patients, requires long-term treatment and is associated with significant socio-economic costs.

Despite advances in medicine, the etiology and pathogenesis remain unclear, creating diagnostic and therapeutic difficulties for health professionals.

The accumulated evidence in recent years reveals that impaired barrier function, as a primary defect, is a key factor in the development of IBD. In order to ensure the structural integrity and stability of the barrier, the cell death of intestinal epithelial cells needs to be strictly regulated.

Recent experimental studies have identified a new type of cell death in the intestinal epithelium called necroptosis, which leads to inflammation, with characteristics similar to inflammatory bowel disease. This suggests its involvement in the pathogenesis of these diseases.

More research is needed to clarify the role of necroptosis in inflammatory bowel disease. Deciphering key molecules involved in necroptosis cell death would not only provide new diagnostic approaches, but would also contribute to more effective treatments.

3. Structure of the dissertation

The dissertation contains 166 standard pages and is illustrated with 16 tables, 90 figures and 2 photos.

The literature review has a volume of 40 pages, is built with 6 main points, and in each of them are purposefully and analytically reflected the current data for the indicator. The doctoral student's good literary awareness is evident, as well as her ability to systematize and summarize scientific data. A very good impression is made by the two-way consideration of the connection necroptosis - inflammatory bowel diseases and the summary, which not only confirms the relevance of the topic, but also shows the need to develop a dissertation.

The goal and tasks are written on 1 page. The aim of the dissertation is presented accurately and clearly. The set 5 tasks allow the fulfillment of the set goal.

Material and methods. The design of the study is presented on 14 pages and is built according to the objectives of the development. The number of observation units 170 is sufficient for statistical analysis. The inclusion and exclusion criteria allow the elimination of some interfering factors. The study is retrospective, as the participants included in the study are patients diagnosed with CD and UC according to the criteria of the ECCO. All methods used in this study are described in detail.

The results and the discussion cover 68 pages and follow the sequence of the set tasks. They are presented systematically, illustrated with figures and tables, and there is no overlap of the information that the latter presents. The author comments analytically on the results obtained, comparing with the data obtained by other Bulgarian and foreign researchers.

The conclusions are written on 2 pages. Based on the results obtained, Dr. Panayotova makes 11 conclusions of a confirmatory and original nature, which are clearly formulated.

The bibliography is presented on 28 pages and contains 283 literature sources, of which 9 in Cyrillic and 274 in Latin. Includes basic and new literature sources from recent years, thus meeting the requirements.

4. Contributions

The PhD student listed 9 contributions, divided into three groups: theoretical, practical-applied and original.

5. Assessment of the publications and personal contribution of the PhD student

The PhD student has presented 5 publications in Bulgarian journals, of which 3 are full-text and 2 are abstracts and 2 participations in scientific forums related to the dissertation, all of which she is the first author.

6. Abstract

The content and quality of the abstract corresponds to the developed work and is made according to the requirements of MU-Varna. Reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation, the conclusions and contributions.

7. Remarks and recommendations

I have no critical remarks and recommendations to the conducted research and the presented materials.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation submitted for review meets all the requirements of the Law for the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its application and the Regulations of MU-Varna.

The presented dissertation is an original analytical study and shows that the goal and objectives have been achieved. The PhD student is well acquainted with the problem and has the necessary knowledge and skills for independent research, which is why I give a positive assessment of the work "The role of necroptosis in inflammatory bowel disease" and I propose to the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote positively for the award of educational and scientific degree "Doctor" to Dr. Elena Panayotova Panayotova in scientific specialty "Internal medicine", professional direction 7.1. Medicine.

Date 06.06.2022

Varna

Signature: 

Prof. Ivajlo Petrov Vazharov, M.D. Ph.D.