

REVIEW

Assoc. Prof. Pavel Timonov, MD, PhD

MU-Plovdiv, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Forensic medicine and Deontology

In accordance with order N P-109-206-15.05.2023

of dissertation for awarding the educational and scientific degree - Doctor

Professional field 7.1. Medicine

Doctoral program Forensic Medicine

Author Deyana Georgieva Velkova, DM

Self-sufficient training

Department of General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology

Thesis FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION BY THE AURICLE

Supervisors Assoc. Prof. Dokov, MD, PhD

1. General presentation of the procedure and the researcher

Dr Velkova was enrolled in her dissertation in self-sufficient training according to order P-109-449/28.10.20. She presents her completed thesis by examining a problem that is extremely important in the field of Forensic medicine and Plastic surgery.

The presented set of materials on paper-electronic media met requirements of the Procedure for awarding the educational and scientific degree Doctor in MU-Varna and Regulations of MU-Varna, including all required documents. The thesis is presented on 114 pages, illustrated with 40 figures and 39 tables. The researchers has attached 1 full-text article and 1 presentation. The presented reference involves 124 sources, as 22 of which are published by Bulgarian authors. Large number of them are published in indexed international forensic magazines such as *Forensic Science International*, *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, *Int J Legal Med*, *Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

2. Brief biographical data about the researcher

Dr Velkova was born on 22.10.1991. In 2016 she graduated from Medical University-Varna with Masters Degree. Since 2017 she worked as a doctor, specialist in Forensic medicine at the university hospital Saint Marina, Varna. and as a full-time assistant professor at the Department of General and clinical pathology, forensic medicine and deontology, MU-Varna, where she teaches till

nowadays.

3. Relevance of the topic and advisability of the set goals and objectives

The aim is anthropometric analysis of auricle among the Bulgarian population to assess its role as sex and aging predictors in the field of forensic anthropology. At the modern stage of development of anthropology due to the presence of racial, population and evolutionary differences there is still a lack of an universal method for determining sex, age and race. Because of this forensic anthropologists must examine a lot of anatomic structures to minimize the error in forensic identification.

4. Awareness of the problem

The introduction, as well as the creative use of the cited literary materials show knowledge of the state of the problem treated in the thesis by the PhD-candidate. She presents the role of the auricle in the determination of sex, age, race and the presence of diseases in a sufficiently erudite manner.

Studies of the auricle in the Bulgarian population supporting forensic identification are few in number and focused on different characteristics of the auricle, but without considering sex and age differences.

5. Research methodology

In the literature review, which covers significant aspects of the problem the author was able to present the importance of role of the auricle in the field of forensic anthropology. All these problems, formed as a conclusion from literature review, represent an in-depth analysis of literature used and are the basis for formulating the purpose and objectives of the presented work.

6. Scientific and practical contributions and significance of the work

Dr Velkova formulates 3 contributions with a theoretical nature and 2 with an applied-practical nature, which are the result of clearly set tasks their accurate implementation and last but not least the value of scientific survey.

7. Abstract

The abstract is written and formatted in accordance with the requirements of the LAW on the Development of Academic Staff in the RB and legislation of MU-Varna and reflects the research methods, the attained results, discussion of the results, as well as conclusion and contributions. Publications related to the dissertation are also presented – three full-text articles. The

abstract is presented on 75 pages, illustrated with 39 tables и 19 figures, accurately presenting the dissertation.

8. Conclusion

The dissertation meets all the requirements of the Academic Staff Development Act, the Regulations for the implementation of the ACAS and the relevant Regulations of the MU-Varna. The work shows that Dr Velkova has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in the topic.

Based on the above, I give my positive assessment of the presented thesis. I recommend the esteemed members of scientific jury to vote positively and to award Dr Velkova the educational and scientific degree Doctor in the doctoral program – Forensic medicine.

12.06.....2023

Plovdiv

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