НАЦИОНАЛЕН ЦЕНТЪР ПО
ОБЩЕСТВЕНО ЗДРАВЕ И АНАЛИЗИ
Изх. №: ..... 20 ..
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STATEMENT

by Assoc. Prof. Anna Atanasova Mihaylova, MPharm, PhD
Department of Health Care Management
Faculty of Public Health
Medical University of Plovdiv

External member of the Scientific Jury appointed by Order No. RD-191/07.04.2026 for the defense of a doctoral dissertation for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor"

Professional field: 7.1. Medicine
Doctoral program: Social Medicine and Health Management
Doctoral candidate: Dr. Stamen Georgiev Bankovski
Dissertation title: "Access to Gene and Cell Therapies as Innovative Health Technologies in Bulgaria"
Scientific supervisors: Prof. Dr. Petko Salchev, MD, PhD and Prof. Evgeni Grigorov, MPharm, PhD

Relevance and Significance of the Topic

The topic of the dissertation is highly relevant and of considerable scientific and practical importance. Gene and cell therapies represent a new paradigm in modern medicine, offering opportunities for long-term disease modification or even cure of certain severe and rare conditions.
The relevance of the study is determined by several key factors:

- the increasing number of innovative therapies (ATMPs) with high clinical value;
- the significant financial challenges faced by healthcare systems;
- the need for new models for health technology assessment and reimbursement;
- the risk of inequalities in access to treatment.

It is particularly important that the dissertation examines the issue within the Bulgarian context, where limited resources and institutional specificities create additional barriers to access to these therapies.

Scope, Structure and Methodology

The dissertation is well-structured and logically coherent. It includes all essential elements of a scientific study—introduction, literature review, aim and objectives, methodology, results analysis, discussion, conclusions, recommendations, and contributions.
The introduction clearly justifies the relevance of the topic and defines the research problem. The literature review is comprehensive and demonstrates in-depth knowledge of both international and national scientific literature.
The aim of the dissertation is clearly formulated and corresponds to the subject of the research, while the objectives are logically connected and enable its achievement.

The methodological approach is appropriate to the stated aims and includes:

- systematic literature review;
- comparative analysis of international practices;
- pharmacoeconomic approaches;
- scenario/model-based analysis for Bulgaria.

The methods are well selected and allow for the successful fulfillment of the research objectives.

Evaluation of Results and Discussion

The results are presented clearly and convincingly. The discussion demonstrates strong familiarity with the international literature and an ability for critical analysis.
Particularly noteworthy are:

- the integration of HTA, regulation, and financing;
- the analysis of uncertainty related to ATMPs;
- the proposed risk-sharing models.

Scientific Results and Contributions

The main scientific contributions of the dissertation can be summarized in several directions:

- systematization of global and European experience in access to and financing of ATMPs;
- analysis of the Bulgarian regulatory and institutional framework;
- identification of key barriers to access;
- development of models and scenarios for optimizing financing;
- formulation of practically applicable recommendations.

The dissertation has both theoretical significance and a clearly defined practical orientation.

Abstract and Publications

The submitted abstract accurately reflects the results and conclusions of the dissertation. A total of four publications related to the dissertation topic are presented, one of which is published in a journal indexed in Web of Science.

Conclusion

The dissertation by Dr. Stamen Georgiev Bankovski represents an independent scientific study with a relevant topic, clearly defined objectives, appropriate methodology, and significant scientific and applied results.
The work meets the requirements of the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation, and the Regulations for awarding academic degrees and occupying academic positions at the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA).

Evaluation and Recommendation

Based on the above, I give a **POSITIVE evaluation** of the dissertation and recommend that the esteemed Scientific Jury award Dr. Stamen Georgiev Bankovski the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in professional field 7.1. Medicine, doctoral program "Social Medicine and Health Management."

30.04.2026
Plovdiv

Prepared by:

Заличено на основание
на чл. 5, §1.6 "В"
от Регламент (ЕС) 2016/679

(Assoc. Prof. Anna Mihaylova, PhD)