

OPINION

by Prof. Lazar Jeleв Slavov, MD, PhD

Department of Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology, Medical University – Sofia,

member of the scientific jury pursuant to Order of the Director of IEMAM-BAS

No. NO-05-05-6/ 02.10.2025 for the defense of a PhD thesis submitted by Dr. Boyan Valentinov Kirilov entitled: "Basic anthropological characteristics and eruption of permanent teeth in 5- to 12-year-old children and adolescents," doctoral student at IEMPAM-BAS,

for the award of the educational and scientific degree "Doctor" in the specialty "Anthropology", code 01.06.01., professional field 4.3. Biological Sciences.

Scientific supervisor – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ivayla Ivanova-Pandurska; Scientific consultant – Senior Assistant Professor Yanitsa Zhecheva.

Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the objectives and tasks set

Dr. Boyan Kirilov's dissertation is devoted to clarifying the relationship between the anthropological indicators of children and the time of eruption of permanent teeth. The results presented are of significant importance for anthropology, medicine, and dentistry. In addition to considering dental indicators, the dissertation presents important information about the development of children in the contemporary Bulgarian population.

Structure of the dissertation

The dissertation is 134 pages long and includes: title page and general sections – 4 pages, Introduction – 2 pages, Literature review – 33 pages, Problem statement – 1 page, Aim and objectives of the study – 1 page, Materials and methods – 9 pages, Results and Discussion – 64 pages, Conclusions – 2 pages; Contributions – original, theoretical and scientific-applied – 1 page, Bibliography – 14 pages, The dissertation is illustrated with 28 figures – diagrams and 25 tables. The bibliography contains 41 titles in Cyrillic and 124 titles in Latin.

Evaluation of the dissertation with critical comments

The initial evaluation of the dissertation shows a balance between the main sections, which corresponds to the type of analysis performed and their division according to the logic of scientific presentation characteristic of contemporary original publications.

In the Introduction and Literature Review section, the candidate demonstrates the ability to summarize the literature on the topic and identify important unresolved issues.

The scope of the anthropological study is significant – for the period 2020-2023, anthropometric indicators were collected from 709 children and adolescents aged 5-12 in the city of Sofia and the Sofia region.

In the Results and Discussion section, the candidate presents a detailed analysis of the collected data in three sections: 1. Cephalometric features and indices, 2. Height, body weight, and body mass, and 3. Dental eruption. Eight conclusions were drawn from the analysis.

Assessment of the contributions of the Dissertation

In this dissertation, based on the large amount of anthropological data collected and its detailed analysis, the candidate outlines important original, theoretical, and scientific-applied contributions regarding the updating of data on permanent tooth eruption and the development of the cranio-facial complex in 5-12-year-old children and adolescents from the Bulgarian population, assessment of the relationship between cephalometric features and the eruption of permanent teeth in children and adolescents, the eruption of permanent teeth and the presence of caries on the first molars, the eruption of permanent teeth in children and adolescents with varying degrees of body weight, etc.

Evaluation of publications related to the dissertation

Five full-text publications on the topic of the dissertation have been presented in international national journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. Two of the publications are in journals with SJR and IF. Dr. Boyan Kirilov is the first author in all publications, which demonstrates his high competence in data analysis and presentation, as well as his expertise in the publishing process. Three scientific reports from international scientific events in Bulgaria and abroad are also presented, containing parts of the results in the dissertation.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Boyan Kirilov's dissertation explores an interesting and important topic in anthropology from a theoretical and practical point of view. The dissertation clearly demonstrates the doctoral student's in-depth theoretical training, his ability to use a variety of contemporary analytical methods, and to present the results and their interpretation in a summarized form.

Based on the above, I give my **positive assessment** and recommend that the members of the Scientific Jury award the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" to Dr. Boyan Valentinov Kirilov in the doctoral program in "Anthropology."

7-11-2025

Sofia


Prof. Lazar Jelev Slavov, MD, PhD