

## REVIEW

Of the member of the dissertation council for the dissertation of Darya V. Antonova on the topic: "MOTIVATION FOR CONCEALMENT OF HIV AND HCV FROM A SEXUAL PARTNER", submitted for the degree of candidate of sociological sciences in a scientific specialty 5.3.6.

Clinical psychology

The doctoral candidate Darya V. Antonova presents a well-structured, clearly written and methodologically exceptionally strong dissertation. Her study addresses a topic of high importance to the field of risk reduction and prevention: Concealment or nondisclosure of HIV and HCV status to a sexual partner are important risk factors for viral transmission. The research question and study hypotheses are clearly stated. The 8 research objectives are ambitious and range from design of a nondisclosure measurement instrument to its validation and development of relevant guidelines. The theoretical and methodological basis of the dissertation is very solid and profound.

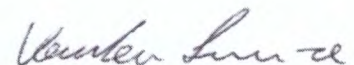
The background summarizes pertinent literature on the global and national HIV and HCV epidemiology. The global and national burden of HIV and HCV is well discussed. The literature search was systematic and complete. The theoretical overview is very profound. The theoretical assumption that factors related to nondisclosure are similar for both conditions and differ by HIV transmission route is justified, and it is scientifically innovative to investigate nondisclosure of both HIV and HCV together. I particularly commend the candidate on her consideration of HCV, a condition that has not received sufficient attention yet among clinical and scientific experts.

The candidate very competently discusses the psychoneuroimmunological outcomes of HIV. Going forward, I recommend considering the link between treatment for HIV and for HCV with concealment of these conditions towards sexual partners. I also recommend to consider this study's implications for interventions to increase rates of disclosure, building on the guidelines that the candidate proposes.

The resulting, psychometrically validated standardized survey instrument on "Motivation for HIV Concealment" is a useful instrument that I anticipate will be used widely by researchers who include people with HIV in their studies, especially if an abbreviated will be created. The dissertation research has resulted in 6 publications, and I also recommend further publication of the survey instrument's development and validation in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The dissertation of Darya V. Antonova on the topic: "MOTIVATION FOR CONCEALMENT OF HIV AND HCV FROM A SEXUAL PARTNER" meets the basic requirements established by Order No.11181/1 dd. 19.11.2021 "On the procedure for awarding academic degrees at St. Petersburg State University". The applicant Darya V. Antonova deserves to be awarded the academic degree of candidate of sociological sciences in the scientific specialty 5.3.6. Clinical psychology. Paragraphs 9 and 11 of the specified Order have not been violated.

Member of the Dissertation Council



Medical Doctor, Doctor of Public Health, Assistant Professor of Medicine Karsten LUNZE

14 June 2022

33-06-669 15.06.2022