**GENERAL REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

for e- learning in „Medical statistics“

for students in English Division at MU-Pleven

2nd year, 4th semester, academic year 2019/2020

Dear colleagues,

I am happy to introduce you to the basics of medical statistics. Nowadays, the knowledge in medical statistics is of utmost importance for all kinds of medical research and medical practice. Every medical student should complete a course in medical statistics for the following reasons:

* You will need knowledge of statistics in order to understand the rationale on which diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic decisions are based, and to appreciate that medicine is highly dependent on concepts of probability.
* As physicians you will need to interpret laboratory tests and bedside observations and measurements in the light of physiological, observer and instrument variation.
* As physicians you will need to understand the statistical and epidemiological facts about the aetiology and prognosis of the diseases in order to give the best advice to their patients about how to avoid or limit the disease effects.
* As physicians you will generate statistical data yourself and you will need to know how to use the data for the benefits of your own practice and for the organization and delivery of health care.
* Some of you will get positions of health managers and you will need to know how to interpret and draw inferences from the indicators that describe health levels, trends and resources on regional, national and global scale.
* In the world of high technologies and globalisation, you will need to follow the innovations, to keep abreast of science in your specialty. Statistics will help you to understand the published findings and their interpretation in scientific literature.
* The study of statistics will foster your critical and deductive faculties throughout your studies and after graduation.

Several types of study materials are offered for effective learning of the subject:

* detailed lecture presentations,
* additional reference materials available online,
* additional reading materials,
* sample tests. T

The materials complement each other so that none of them should not be underestimated and overlooked. I recommend that you to start your preparation with reading the lecture presentations. In order to get the most out of them, read the appropriate presentation before the lecture and before the practical training on the same topic. These will allow you to better understand the content and to participate more actively at the discussion during the practical training.

Before the two semestrial tests and before the exam, I recommend you to answer the attached sample tests. They include questions from all the topics during the course.

Pay attention to the regulations as they are strictly followed at the department. In order to get signature at the end of the semester, you must have 100% presence at the practical training and successful pass of the two semestrial tests. If you miss any seminar for some reason, you must work it out. Do not wait till the last week of the semester to arrange your student’s situation. Due to the enormous workload, we will not be able to organize extra classes. You may attend the missed class with some other group on the same topic. However, do not explore this option without reasonable cause. Do your best to attend seminars with your own group.

Presence at the lectures gives you bonus that is added to your final mark. For 100% presence you will get 0,5 to your mark. For presence between 80 and 99% you will get 0,25 to your mark. If you miss any lecture this will affect only the bonus not getting signature at the end of the semestre.

Wishing you success in preparation, excellent final result and enjoy the study of medical statistics.

Associate Professor Dr Gena Grancharova, MD, PhD