**Title of proposed doctoral thesis**: Holistic needs assessment, health locus of control, anxiety and depression in lung cancer patients during the covid-19 pandemic.

Lung cancer is one of the most frequent causes of death due to neoplasms worldwide. In Greece 2/3 of patients are diagnosed when they are on an extensive stage of the disease which results in unfavorable prognosis. The diagnosis of lung cancer has a great phycological impact on patients, such as the fear of imminent death and uncertainty for the future, which affect patient’s communication and interpersonal relations. Studies have shown that anxiety and depression that are linked with cancer diagnosis cause an important psychological burden and a great percentage of patients, up to 50%, shows significant levels of sentimental distress.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a challenge for health services worldwide, and has significant effects in our lives causing fear and anxiety. In cancer patients in particular, there is an effort to maintain an emotional balance between the need of submission to systematic treatments and the fear of exposure to infection from the SARS-CoV2 virus, especially if these treatments are taking place in a covid-19 reference center. The postponement or even cancelation of programmed cancer treatments is an extra aggravating factor during the pandemic. In those cases, the true psychological effect of the covid-19 pandemic has not been studied sufficiently yet, and the effect of parameters like the feeling of control of the disease, anxiety and depression have not been fully clarified. In addition, there is not sufficient bibliographic data regarding the holistic assessment of the needs of lung cancer patients during the pandemic.

The purpose of the present thesis is to study the holistic assessment of needs, health locus of control, anxiety and depression in lung cancer patients that undergo treatment during the covid-19 pandemic. The feeling of control of the disease has been studied in women with breast cancer in Malaysia, and in patients with uterus and ovaries cancer in Warsaw, which have shown that patients with a greater feeling of control of the disease had lower anxiety and depression levels. The above have not been studied in patients with lung cancer during the pandemic and the current thesis hopes to fill that gap.

**Aim of the study**

To study the holistic needs assessment of lung cancer patients, the evaluation of the feeling of internal control of the disease, the anxiety and the depression in lung cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy during the covid-19 pandemic.

**Study population- Methodology**

The study sample will be constituted by 150 patients diagnosed with lung cancer and undergoing chemotherapy/immunotherapy during the covid-19 pandemic. It is a prospective study that will take place using structured questionnaires.

**Contribution to theoretical and practical scientific knowledge**

* The study will contribute to the deep understanding of the levels of anxiety of lung cancer patients during the pandemic and the correlation between them and the feeling of control of the disease.
* Also, the study will contribute to the understanding and management of the health needs of patients after their holistic evaluation.
* The results of the study will contribute to the increase of knowledge regarding the interdisciplinary support that lung cancer patients need.
* The results of the study can be used for the development of guidelines which will aim to the holistic support of cancer patients.

**Ethics of the study**

The participants will be informed about the aims of the study, will be given enough time to weigh and evaluate the information in order to give their informed consent. All the rules of ethics and deontology that are provided by the Greek law will be followed. Will seek the approval of the study by the ethics and deontology board of the general Sotiria Hospital where it will take place. The rights of psychosomatic integrity, autonomy and confidentiality of each participant will be respected and GDPR will be followed.

**Financial budget**

With the current study there will be no financial burden to Sotiria Hospital nor to the University of West Attica.

The study is expected to be concluded in 36 months.