

## Instructions and Helpful Information for D-5 Form

### Preliminary Approval of Dissertation and Request for Oral Defense (D-5)

#### 1. DEADLINES

- D-5 must be submitted to the UGS at least **3 WEEKS BEFORE** the date of the defense or by the UGS deadline (whichever date is the earliest).
  - The defense announcement must conform to the UGS format, and both a hard copy and an electronic version must be submitted to ensure full processing of your defense request.
- Deadlines for submission of forms to the UGS are available at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/calendar-deadlines/>
  - Submit forms to the Academic units well before the deadline to allow sufficient time for approval and signatures.
  - Ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to make sure forms are received by the University Graduate School on time and that all deadlines are met.

#### 2. CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Doctoral candidates are **required** to be enrolled in at least 3 dissertation credit hours in the term in which they submit D-5.
  - D-5 form will not be processed without proof of current enrollment.
- Further information regarding the UGS continuous enrollment policies is available at: <https://policies.fiu.edu/files/783.pdf>.

#### 3. INSTRUCTIONS

- All information must be **typed**.
- The final examination committee will consist of all members of the dissertation committee and any other members of the Graduate Faculty as may be appointed by the Dean of the UGS.
- Type the names of the committee members and obtain their original signatures.
  - If one of the committee members is unavailable to sign, he/she can give the Department Chair written authorization to sign on his/her behalf.
- It is expected that all committee members will be present for the dissertation defense. It is possible for one committee member to attend via video conference or teleconference technology, however prior approval must be obtained from the UGS through an electronic Petition for Exception to Graduate Requirements. Please contact your academic unit to initiate this process.
- Complete checklist and attach documentation as needed.
  - Provide a copy of your class schedule to show proof of current enrollment in graduate credit hours:
    - Access: **my.fiu.edu** > Choose the Student Tab > Under "Academics" choose "Class Schedule" in the drop-box > Choose the arrow next to the drop-box to continue > Choose the current academic semester to continue > Show only the enrolled classes and "filter" > Click File > Print Preview > Pull drop-box which states "Only the selected frame" > Print the entire enrollment class schedule
  - Attach authorization if one of the committee members has authorized the Department Chair to sign on his/her behalf.
  - Provide a hard copy of the entire Dissertation in standard UGS format. This hard copy is typically used by your academic deans to make any content suggestions they may have.
  - Provide an electronic version to the UGS of the same Dissertation submitted with your D5 in standard UGS format.
    - This electronic version is used for formatting review. To submit your electronic version, you will receive instructions via email to upload to Digital Commons once your D5 and pertinent documents are received by the UGS.
    - Regarding UGS format guidance, please refer to Regulations for Thesis and Dissertation Preparation Manual available at: [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Manual\\_Regulations.pdf](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/documents/Manual_Regulations.pdf).
    - Be sure to include the following in the dissertation copy:
      - Signature page (unsigned). Be advised that you must use one of the dissertation approval page templates found at <http://libguides.fiu.edu/etd> (see example signature page below).
      - Title Page (mandatory), Abstract (mandatory), Table of contents (mandatory), List of tables (mandatory for 5 or more tables), List of figures (mandatory for 5 or more figures), References (mandatory), VITA (mandatory), Copyright Page (optional), Dedication (optional), Acknowledgments (optional), Appendices (optional).
  - Provide a hard copy of the Dissertation Defense Announcement in standard UGS format.

- Announcement must conform to the UGS standard. (See Additional Information below and attached example.)
  - Provide an electronic version of the dissertation defense announcement to the UGS as a Word document. Send to [ugs@fiu.edu](mailto:ugs@fiu.edu)
- Submit D-5 form and required documentation to Chair/Program Director and the Dean of the College for approval.
- Submit hardcopy form to the UGS for final approval.

#### 4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- DISSERTATION DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT
  - The announcement should be prepared in accordance with the template available on the next page and at: <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/thesis-dissertation/>.
  - It should include the date, time, and venue and should be no longer than one page.
  - The abstract, part of the announcement, should be written in a scholarly style appropriate to the discipline.
- AFTER APPROVAL OF YOUR DEFENSE
  - Dissertation hard copy – You will receive an email instructing you to pick up your hard copy dissertation draft from the UGS office. This email will also include confirmation that your defense was approved.
  - Dissertation electronic copy – After the formatting review of the electronic version of your dissertation has been completed, you will receive feedback regarding formatting edits via email. This email will contain a Common Error Checklist with a list of formatting edits that must be corrected. Furthermore, you will receive a copy of your electronic dissertation file with the formatting edits marked throughout your document.
- If your GPA is below 3.0, see your academic advisor in order to make a plan to raise your GPA above 3.0.; you **cannot** graduate with a GPA below 3.0.
- To check the status of your form, please log on to [my.fiu.edu](http://my.fiu.edu), and check under the “To Do List” Section.

#### REMINDER:

- ❖ You must apply for graduation in the same semester in which you anticipate graduating. Please refer to <https://onestop.fiu.edu> for graduation deadlines.

**UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BULLETIN  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Florida International University**  
*University Graduate School*

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

**Abstract**

The Relationship of Thymulin Activity, Immune Parameters of HIV Disease Progression and Substance Use in a Cohort of HIV Seropositive Alcohol and Drug Users

by

**Carlin Rafie**

Zinc is essential for the activity of thymulin, a thymic hormone involved in T-lymphocyte differentiation and activation. Zinc deficiency is widespread in populations with HIV infection, and HIV+ drug users are particularly susceptible to zinc deficiency and immune suppression. This dissertation explored the relationship of zinc-bound active thymulin to plasma zinc, CD4+ and CD8+ cell count, the CD4+/CD8+ ratio, and drug use in HIV-infected drug users.

Zinc-bound active thymulin was assessed in plasma of HIV+ drug users who were participating in a 30 month zinc supplementation trial. Plasma from 80 participants at the 12 month visit, and 40 of these same participants, randomly selected, at the baseline visit were assessed for zinc-bound active thymulin levels using a modification of the rosette inhibition assay. Thymulin activity was directly associated with CD4+ cell count ( $\beta = 0.127$ ,  $p = 0.002$ ) and inversely associated with cocaine use ( $\beta = -0.908$ ,  $p = 0.026$ ;  $R^2 = 0.188$ ,  $p = 0.019$ ) independent of HIV viral load, age, gender and antiretroviral use. An increase in thymulin activity was 1.4 times more likely when the CD4+ cell count increased (OR = 1.402, 95%CI: 1.006 – 1.956), independent of change in viral load, antiretroviral use, and age. Participants who used cocaine consistently, were 7.6 times less likely to have an increase in thymulin activity (OR = 0.133, 95%CI: 0.017 – 1.061). There was a direct correlation between change in plasma zinc and change in zinc-bound active thymulin ( $r = 0.243$ ,  $p = 0.13$ ). Analysis of CD4+ cell count decline in 222 participants in the zinc supplementation trial across the 30 months showed that both crack cocaine use and heavy alcohol use accelerated CD4+ cell count decline.

Thymulin activity is directly associated with HIV disease progression, measured by CD4+ cell count, and is depressed with cocaine use independent of antiretroviral use and HIV viral load. Cocaine and heavy alcohol accelerate CD4+ cell count decline. The effect of cocaine on thymic output requires further evaluation as a mechanism for the association of cocaine use with faster HIV disease progression.

**Date:** November 24, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** University Park, HLSII 556

**Department:** Dietetics and Nutrition

**Major Professor:** Dr. Marianna Baum

To: Dean Michael Heithaus  
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

This dissertation, written by John A. Smith, and entitled The Perceived Effects of Fast-Food Consumption on Body Weight of Miami, Florida College Students, having been approved in respect to style and intellectual content, is referred to you for judgment.

We have read this dissertation and recommend that it be approved.

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Jane E. Garcia

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John P. Doe

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Christopher F. Jones

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Mary A. Brown, Major Professor

Date of Defense: August 8, 2019

The dissertation of John A. Smith is approved.

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Dean Michael Heithaus  
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

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Andrés G. Gil  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development  
and Dean of the University Graduate School

Florida International University, 2019

