

## SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

<b>Program:</b>	Master in International Business
<b>Student:</b>	Paradeev Evgenii
<b>Title of thesis:</b>	Syndication of venture capital investments into biopharmaceutical industry: a dynamic network perspective

**Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis.** Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.

The research is devoted to the investigation of the syndicated investments of global venture capital firms that are treated as drivers for relations between firms. The creation of basis for the research is connected with developing and applying of a framework for dynamic network analysis on co-investments of venture companies in biopharmaceutical industry. The definition of the research problem has theoretical and practical reasons. The aim of the research is clear formulated.

**Structure and logic of the text flow.** Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

The research paper is well structured. The parts of the chapters are logically interconnected and their content contributes to the achievement of the research goal. The analysis of the syndication in the venture capital industry is described based on the most influential articles in the field. On this base the framework for network formation is suggested and testified. The choice of the industry and target sample is justified. The model is applied to the data; and the resulting snapshots of the dynamic network are used for the analysis which gives an opportunity to provide results of how co-investment networks develop in course of time.

**Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives.** Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

The author demonstrates his ability to formulate the research problem. The study provides a support to theoretical suggestion that venture capital firms need to constantly renew their ties through new syndication.

**Quality of data gathering and description.** Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.

To achieve the stated research objectives the networking of 1009 venture capital firms investing into biotechnology industry is analyzed by examining their syndicated investments in a sample of 579 portfolio companies for the period 2000-2011. The method of data gathering based on several stages is unique and effective for generating a representative sample of firms in analyzed industry.

**Scientific aspect of the thesis.** Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.

The author demonstrates the ability to define the research questions, organize the empirical research and make conclusions. The author creates a framework for dynamic network analysis on co-investments of venture companies in biopharmaceutical industry. The research contributes to the research in management through a development and testing of a theoretical model of how co-investment networks evolve in course of time.

**Practical/applied nature of research.** Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.

The results of the research can be used by those venture capital firms that are looking for new partners for co-investments. Building a network and understanding own position within it is of importance to new and established firms.

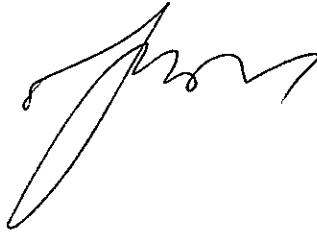
**Quality of thesis layout.** Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

The layout of some tables and figures can be improved

The Master thesis of Paradeev Evgenii meets for master thesis of MIB program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

25/09/11

Associate professor



Olga Verkhovskaya