

## Editorial Comment

# The Cinema and Medicine: From the Spoken to the Written Word

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In the editorial note *Two years of the Journal Medicine and the Cinema*, it was stated that the possibilities offered by *Medicine and the Cinema* as regards to issues to be addressed are manifold; that the models of the articles published will undoubtedly be joined by others in the forthcoming future<sup>1</sup>. Today, this has become a reality through the publication of some of the contributions presented at the XV course of the Basque Society of Palliative Care held in San Sebastián in November 2006, with the title *El Cine y la medicina en al final de la vida (The cinema and Medicine at the end-of-life), under the stewardship of Antonio Casado Rocha and Wilson Astudillo*.

The Basque Society of Palliative Care is a dynamic and prestigious institution, as seen in the number and quality of its activities and publications. It has often made use of the cinema to train its members and to attempt to make society at large aware of the link, fostering discussion between both sectors with mutual benefits.

The editors of this journal thought that it would be appropriate that the choice and control of the material to be published should be carried out by members of that Society, acting as invited editors. These tasks were duly performed by Dr Wilson Astudillo and Dr. Iñigo Marzábal.

Wilson Astudillo is the president of the Basque Society of Palliative Care and the excellent track record of this Society is in no way divorced from his personal

efforts. Apart from his important contributions to the field of palliative care<sup>2-6</sup> and his recognition in this speciality, it should be noted that he is Vice-president of the *Palliative Care without Borders Foundation*, an agency devoted to the creation of infrastructures able to include terminal patients in the Third World, mainly in Latin-America, and to fostering training in Palliative Care for the health staff of those countries. Additionally, since 2004 he has organised cycles on Cinema and Volunteer Palliative Care.

Iñigo Marzábal is a professor of Audiovisual Narrative and History of the Cinema at the University of the Basque Country. Outstanding in his curriculum are his studies on medicine and the end of life in the cinema<sup>7-14</sup>, these publications are directly linked to the topic focused upon in this issue.

*Medicine and the Cinema* thanks these co-editors for their time and interest, the Basque Society of Palliative Care, and the contributions from the authors of the articles.

The inclusion of articles with a strong humanist content has meant that in some of them notes have been included, as is usual in this type of speciality, respecting as far as possible the norms referring to the references used by this publication.

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