

Editorial Comment

The Cinema as a Reflection of the Concerns of Society and of Medicine

José Elías García Sánchez, Enrique García Sánchez

Departamento de Medicina Preventiva, Salud Pública y Microbiología Médica. Facultad de Medicina.

Universidad de Salamanca (Spain).

Correspondencia: José Elías García Sánchez. Facultad de Medicina. Alfonso X El Sabio s/n. 37007 Salamanca (Spain).

e-mail: joegas@usal.es

This issue of the Journal of Medicine and the Cinema is again the fruit of the collaboration of the Basque Society for Palliative Care and has been edited with the participation of Íñigo Mazárbal, Professor of Audiovisual Narrative and History of the Cinema at the University of the Basque Country, and Wilson Astudillo, President of that Society. The editors wish to express their deepest thanks for this collaboration in the line of what should be actions within the health sphere. This is a second monograph addressing the *End-of-life issues in the cinema*, and we are sure that it will not be the last one. Why? Simply because the cinema, as a reflection of the interests of

individuals and of society, like medicine, often tackles matters that are of interest to both. In this sense, there is a *cinema of terminal illnesses*, whose vast production, always serious, has been analysed by both spectators and by professionals related to the field of health, as in the case of this issue. In most of the films addressed, the terminal illness is cancer, although there are many others, as is known in the world of the cinema. Examples are the degenerative diseases dealt with in *The Wings of Life* (2006 (Antoni P. Canet)). These short lines also wish to pay tribute to the protagonist of that film, our colleague Carlos Cristos, who faced the end of his life with great dignity.