

# The Journal of Medicine and Movies and the Medical Education

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The Journal of Medicine and Movies (JMM) was launched at the beginning of 2005 with the publishing of the editorial *Medicine and Movies, ¿Why?* In it the editors agreed that one of the reasons that justified its publication was to encourage the use of films for the promotion of medicine and for medical<sup>1</sup> and, by extension, bio sanitary training purposes. This was found so helpful that we decided to start a free online edition.

The editors had already analysed the usefulness of films in the teaching of these subject matters in an article published in the *Enfermedades Infectuosas y Microbiología Clínica*<sup>2</sup>, and in the first issue of the Journal of Medicine and Movies they explained the methodology they suggested regarding both of these branches of medicine<sup>3</sup>. Since then, many authors have used this journal as a means of expressing their experiences using films as a teaching tool in various disciplines, both medical and bio sanitary. The origin of the contributors to the journal is not limited to Spain, but geographically diverse. Articles from Latin American countries<sup>4</sup> and Portugal<sup>5</sup> began to be published in the early stages and, subsequently, since it is a bilingual publication, it has produced articles in both English and Spanish from non-Spanish-speaking countries, Anglo-Saxon countries included<sup>6</sup>. Despite the fact that the current crisis has forced us to limit our publications, only publishing the articles in the language in which they are received, Spanish and/or English, today's perspective as regards English is very promising. The contribution of this journal to medical training has been recently analysed considering its linguistic aspects and the advantages of publishing in English<sup>7</sup>. This is one of the reasons that explain this editorial.

Another advantage of the Journal of Medicine and Movies, as far as medical training is concerned, is the publication from its very first issue<sup>8</sup> of a significant number of articles that analyze one or more films, focused on

bio sanitary topics, from a professional point of view. This provides professionals with a list of films that might be used for the teaching of certain health-related aspects, as well as with an analysis of these films that facilitates their use as a teaching tool. Special mention should be made of the collaborations that have made a wide range of films available, which has significantly widened the selection of film material<sup>9</sup>. As well as the edition of monographic issues, the films that have been analysed in more than one article should also be noted, since they add the possibility of different critical viewings.

With the publication of number two, volume two, the journal added a new section called Medicine in Stills. In this section the authors could provide cinematographic stills illustrating the different processes, which might be central to the plot or characteristic of the analyzed topic. These stills are useful for the teaching of theoretical aspects in master classes. They add interest to real images, their origin adds attractiveness and appeal, and they encourage the viewing of the film they are taken from, thus reinforcing learning.

Lastly, the journal has been a means of promotion for the best papers written by the graduate and post-graduate students who attend the University of Salamanca courses organized by the editors and focused on the different aspects of medicine and movies. Learning is thus rewarded in a period where having their papers published is not easy for students. The system for the acceptance of these papers is the same as for the rest of articles, they must adapt to the publication rules, a fact that already involve a learning process, and they must be approved by two independent referees from outside the University of Salamanca. This is the second reason that justifies this editorial, since one of these articles is published in this issue: "A Clockwork Orange (1971): Did Alex DeLarge suffer from antisocial personality disorder?"<sup>10</sup>.

The impact of this journal is clearly greater if the articles from Spanish-speaking countries are also published in English, and that is why we encourage our contributors to send their articles in both languages if possible.

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