Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua, an evil to be eliminated, also with art and humanity

Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua, mal a ser eliminado, também com arte e humanidade

Thiago Petra da Silva[1]

The book *Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua/Sífilis ou Mal Perpétuo* is a humanized inventory of one of the most curious and "deceptive" diseases in history: syphilis.

The work, produced from research and collaboration with many friends, volunteer partners, and curious individuals, brings, with great sensitivity, another perspective on the disease, beyond the biomedical discourse. This work does not seek to replace that vision, or worldview. This production is made up of history, memory, politics, philosophy, education, information, communication, art, culture, and ways of thinking that connect to the struggle of millions of health and education professionals in Brazil and around the world. This work is also a protest, a provocation, a creative way of showing the urgency of confronting this scourge in our society. It is unacceptable that we have such negative numbers for acquired syphilis and congenital syphilis, which continue to increase in various regions of the world.

Epidemiological data are sometimes unable to point the finger at stigma, prejudice, taboos, access problems, or the lack of care or prioritization by management and professionals for those who arrive seeking care and know nothing, or very little, about the serious and grim consequences of infection by *Treponema pallidum*. These situations have accompanied humanity for centuries, perhaps millennia.

We have many publications, many researchers and professionals. But it is necessary to occupy other spaces. As the book shows, this occupation has been happening for centuries. In art galleries, bookstores and libraries, cinemas, soap operas and streaming services, theater, music, Carnival, and football. Showing these efforts and the various works is also symbolic.

The fight against syphilis and congenital syphilis (the classic venereal diseases, today with the scientific/political designation of sexually transmitted infections) needs to be collectivized, debated in bars, at dinner, at school, on walls (as graffiti), and in everyday life. In scientific medical journals based on evidence, not only as statistical tests, but also as art.

We want to inaugurate a new section on art, history, and humanities here. And syphilis fits perfectly as a vanguard, which does not need to ask for passage. And, for this purpose, it offers, for the first time, free of charge, a book that is also unpublished: *Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua/Sífilis ou Mal Perpétuo*, 2nd edition, Revised and Expanded[(1)]. Go ahead, download and read this humanized inventory. May it serve as encouragement to those who are in this battle, often exhausted, or as inspiration for health professionals and professionals in other fields of knowledge.

Also consider submitting your contribution to the Brazilian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (BJSTD)/Jornal Brasileiro de Doenças Sexualmente Transmisívies (JBDST): poem, poetry, short story, commentary on a film, or on a play... Obviously it should express some connection with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)/sexually transmitted infections (STIs)/human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

[1]Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, National Cancer Institute – Rio de Janeiro (RJ), Brazil

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1. Passos MRL, Silva TP. Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua/ Sífilis ou Mal Perpétuo. 2nd ed. Niterói: Nipress; 2026.

Address for correspondence
THIAGO PETRA
Instituto Nacional de Câncer/Ministério da Saúde
Rua Professor Otacílio, 133, bloco 1, apto 302, Santa Rosa
Niterói (RJ), Brazil.
CEP: 24240-670
E-mail: thiagopetra.midia@gmail.com

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