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

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The book Syphilis Sive Morbus Perpetua/Syphilis or Perpetual Illness 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, 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 in 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 shown illustrates, this occupation has been happening for centuries. In art galleries, bookstores and libraries, cinemas, soap operas and streaming services, theater, in music, in Carnival and in 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), 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 doesn't 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/Syphilis or Perpetual Illness, 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 other fields of knowledge.

Also consider submitting your contribution to the BJSTD/JBDST: poem, poetry, short story, commentary on a film, on a play... Obviously expressing some connection with STDs/STIs/HIV/AIDS.

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