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Miguel Tilli¹ 

I hereby wish to share a beautiful experience that I recently had while spending a few days on vacation in Brazil. We all know the long career of Prof. Mauro Romero on the subject of STDs, in particular syphilis. Without fear of being wrong, I believe that he is one of the people who made the most effort throughout his career for the elimination of syphilis in Brazil and Latin America. He always incorporates new original ideas, which are often beyond science, but which allow for a greater visualization of the problem and the awareness of the entire society.

Going through Rio de Janeiro and being able to visit the exhibition “Syphilis: History, Science, Art” was a privilege for me.

In the style of the best European museums, Mauro and his entire team present in four rooms at the Imperial Palace of Rio de Janeiro (*Paço Imperial*) a material, in many cases unpublished on the

subject, divided into three thematic modules: historical, scientific, and artistic. The exhibition has the support of the Ministry of Health and aims to spread knowledge of the disease through public health, education, and art. The organizers carried out an exhaustive search of texts, documents, epidemiological data, historical and scientific works, and objects, in order to focus attention on the disease and promote awareness, especially in the prevention of its transmission during pregnancy.

Finally, I highlight the incorporation of interactive and artistic technological tools in the exhibition, which allows for a very pleasant time (**Figures 1,2,3,4**).

Congratulations to the entire team that integrates this project and I believe they should make the most of it since there was a lot of effort and commitment behind it.



Figure 1. Furnace used in the 17th century for heating treatment of patients with syphilis. Photo, in the first room of the exhibition, by Mauro Romero Leal Passos.



Figure 2. Panel with syphilis data in the world. Photo, in the second room, by Miguel Tilli.

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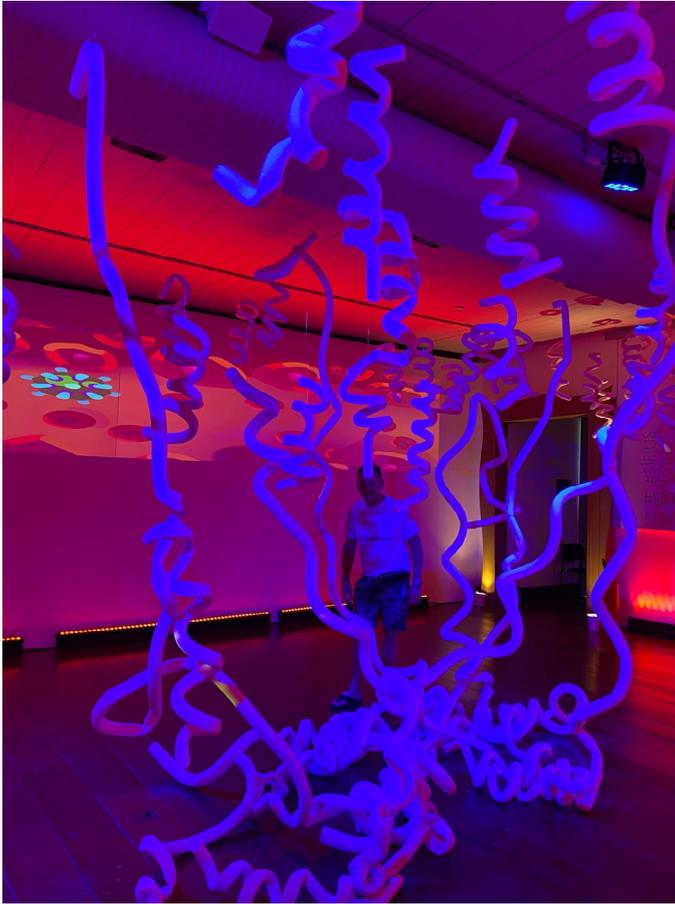


Figure 3. In the third room, also called sensory room, showing several pieces alluding to the treponemas. The photo shows the author, Miguel Tilli among the pieces of “Treponemas”. Photo by Mauro Romero Leal Passos.

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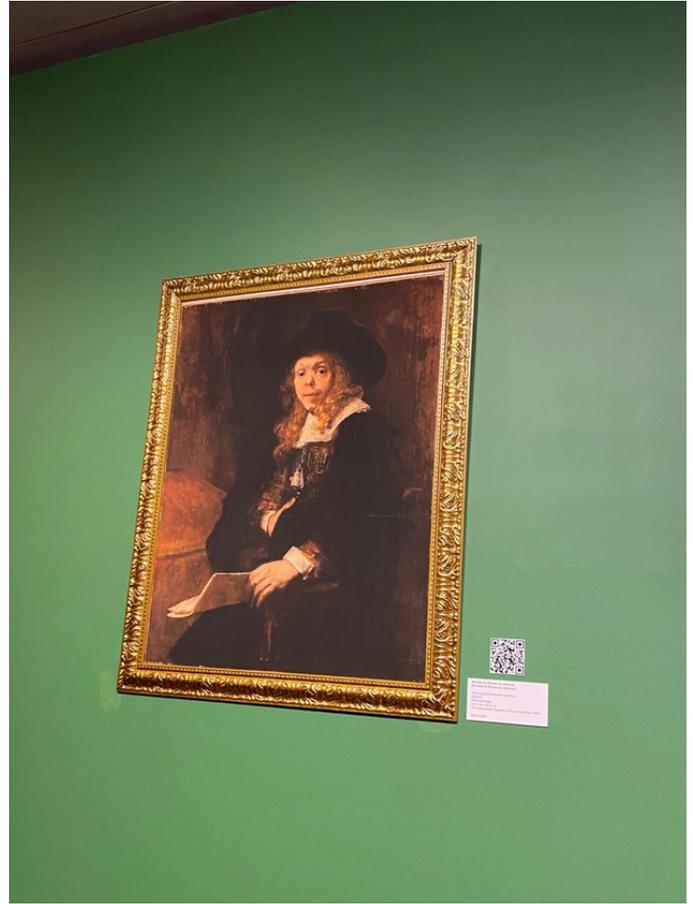


Figure 4. In the fourth room, filled with many pieces of art, it is possible to see a replica of the painting: Portrait of Gérard de Lairese. The original oil on canvas by Rembrandt van Rijn, 1665-1667 is on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.