

Sophocles on Suffering

Two plays of Sophocles' old age, *Philoctetes* and *Oedipus at Colonus*, both feature diseased and decrepit heroes who search for meaning in their acute suffering. The plays would have undoubtedly interested doctors in ancient Greece, but they also raise crucial questions for medical practitioners today. Of particular relevance are issues related to alleviating pain, recognizing the dignity of the sick, treating them with compassion, and accompanying them in their final moments.