

## **'History, Misery and Microbes' topic for Burdick Lecture**

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"History, Misery and Microbes," a look at how disease has changed the course of history, will be the topic for the annual H.O. Burdick Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Division of Biology at Alfred University. Dr. Ron J. Doyle, professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, will deliver the annual lecture at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, in Holmes Auditorium, Harder Hall, on the Alfred University campus. While historians may quibble over whether typhus has truly claimed more lives than all the world's battles put together, or whether Europeans introduced diseases to the New World that claimed the lives of 100,000,000 people, "It is clear that plagues and epidemics have helped shape human history," says Doyle, whose research focuses on the role of infectious agents in shaping human institutions. In his lecture, he will discuss "epidemics, plagues and their influence on warfare, immigration and emigration, religion, language, art and other human institutions and endeavors." Doyle earned his Ph.D. from the University of Louisville and has studied at Roswell Park Institute, the Argonne National Laboratory, the Weizman Institute of Science, and the University of Vermont. His research interests are centered around the regulation of bacterial autolysins and microbial adhesion mechanisms. Doyle is the recipient of several teaching and research awards, as well as grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Army Research and Development Command, the American Heart Association, the U.S.-Israeli Science Foundation, and the U.S.-Mexican Science Foundation. He has served as an American Society for Microbiology Foundation lecturer and is current lecturer for the Kentucky Humanities Council.