Project examines film, tears and history

BY FRANK NOLAN
Research Promotion

Looking for ways to stop the superbugs

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Zhanel is studying the genetics of superbugs, and he and other scientists are working at the molecular level to diagnose infections, and to develop new treatments. In the meantime, the medical community is looking at all of the factors that could be making the problem worse, including antibiotic use in humans and animals. Zhanel said public education will play a critical role in slowing the spread of these organisms.

A large part of the population doesn’t understand the difference between bacteria and viruses, and there is this overwhelming belief that a germ is a germ,” he said. “Everyone needs to know that a virus that causes a cough or a stuffy nose should never be treated with an antibiotic. There are a number of things all of us can do to slow these superbugs down, from washing our hands with soap and water, to not insisting that our doctors prescribe the first antibiotic that is given. Zhanel said public education will play a critical role in slowing the spread of these organisms.

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