



## Shakespeare, The Plague and Disease

### First Folio at FIU

#### A Presentation by Aileen M. Marty, M.D.

Professor, Infectious Diseases, FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine  
Director, Health Travel Medicine Program and Vaccine Clinic, FIU Health



Poisons, plagues, boils, fistulas, or vile deaths are embedded in nearly every Shakespearian play. Was Shakespeare's world significantly more dangerous from infections, poisons, and toxins than today's world? And if so, how did life in the Elizabethan era with its poor hygiene and constant exposures to a plethora of serious pathogens influence the works of Shakespeare? How did he employ the observation of the drama and trauma, and even comedic aspects of health risks and disasters towards the development of his plot twists and dramatic moments? And how accurate are his descriptions of ailments when viewed through today's knowledge of germ theory. These, and many other questions, will be addressed in the presentation by Aileen M. Marty.

Marty is an infectious disease physician with over 30 years of experience in clinical medicine and pathology. She is an expert in Tropical and Travel Medicine with expertise in the use and development of antimicrobials, new vaccines research, antibiotics, and diagnostic tools. She has helped study and develop microbiologic diagnostic tools and methods for identifying infectious agents, and helped develop new attenuated strains for safe and effective new vaccines. Dr. Marty is also certified as a Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic School at Plum Island Animal Disease Center. She currently sits on the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria and collaborates with the World Health Organization.

**Thurs., Feb. 11  
3:30 p.m.**

SIPA 125  
Modesto A. Maidique  
Campus  
11200 S.W. 8th Street  
Miami, FL 33199

*Sponsored by the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Honors College, and College of Arts, Sciences & Education*

This event is part of FIU programming scheduled around the Folger Shakespeare Library's national traveling exhibition *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare*. First Folio at FIU is presented by the College of Arts, Sciences & Education, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, and FIU Libraries. First Folio at FIU sponsors include the College of Architecture + The Arts, FIU Foundation, Inc., Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Margarita P. Muiña, J.D., L.L.M., The Betsy-South Beach, Blue Martini, British American Business Council Miami, Dranoff 2 Piano Foundation, and Miami City Social. Sponsorship opportunities are available to support this exhibit's only appearance in Florida.

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#### Department of English

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