

Supercourse newsletter  
July 10, 2013

Mentoring and the Central Asian Journal of Global Health [cajgh.pitt.edu](http://cajgh.pitt.edu)

We, in the Supercourse decided that it is time to improve opportunities for publishing for scientists in both developed and developing countries.

We established the first "mentored" research journal, where we help authors to improve the quality of their publication while the authors submit their work for publishing. With this journal we help authors to make their articles of publishable quality. Our new journal is called the Central Asian Journal of Global Health (CAJGH) and can be accessed at [cajgh.pitt.edu](http://cajgh.pitt.edu) It is an open access journal, but authors are not charged for publishing. This journal is a joint undertaking between scientists from Nazarbayev University and the University of Pittsburgh. It has been originally supported by USAID and currently supported by Nazarbayev University with the University of Pittsburgh (under the direction of Rush Miller, Director of Library System) providing open access publishing platform. It does not cost authors to publishing in the CAJGH. Our goal is develop a leading peer reviewed journal in Central Asian region, Eurasian region, and around the world.

"Publish or perish" is a phrase coined to describe the pressure in academia to rapidly and continuously publish academic work to sustain or further one's career. The number, quality, and impact factor of your publications are common criteria used for academic promotions, raises, awards, etc. We need to publish to communicate our research findings and raise awareness about our work, but some of us are having difficulty publishing. Publishing is a great source of academic inequities. In the year 2011, USA scientists published over 127000 articles in the area of medicine, while scientists in Tonga published only 3. Scientists in many developing countries are doing high quality research but experience problems with publishing due to many barriers, including English language skills, not knowing where to submit their research work, research methods barriers, no statistical support, etc. How can we cost effectively improve access to journal publishing for scientists around the world?

We have built a journal with a new approach to publishing where we help authors to make sure that their articles reaches publishable quality. The Central Asian Journal of Global Health ([www.cajgh.org](http://www.cajgh.org)) is a biannual journal aimed at those in the fields of public health and medicine. Specifically, it focuses on the geographic region where publication is limited, and not much scientific attention is paid, Central Asian countries. This region has wonderful opportunities for publishing, as it has many knowledgeable scientists, scientific resources, a new attitude towards expanding scientific capacity, but overall few publications. In addition to research in Central Asia, there is a global health arm which encourages submissions from other countries. Central Asian Journal of Global Health is a fully peer-reviewed online open access journal, English language journal edited by the key developers of the Global Health Network Supercourse project ([www.pitt.edu/~super1](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1)). This is the first journal of its kind in Central Asia. (To read more about Central Asia, please visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia)). It provides forum for discussion for all aspects of public health, medicine, and global health in Central Asia and around the world. Central Asian Journal of Global Health is dedicated to publishing material of the highest scholarly interest, and to this end we have assembled a distinguished Editorial Advisory board. We welcome contributions from established researchers, especially those working on cutting edge questions, but we are also keen to act as a supportive environment for new

investigators and with those who never published in English language journals. While this journal is open access, authors do not have to pay to publish. The journal was originally supported by USAID and currently supported by Nazarbayev University and the University of Pittsburgh (for open access publishing platform).

Ancient Silk Road, or trade road connecting Europe and Asia, went through most of today's Central Asian countries. Trade on the Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of the civilizations of China, the Indian subcontinent, Persia, Europe and Arabia. We believe that Central Asian science will be developed as a key contributor to expanding biomedical knowledge around the world. By contributing to CAJGH, scientists from around the world can help us reach that goal.

It will take about a year for our journal to obtain traditional impact factor. However we can use another metric called Google Page ranks (<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec26131/001.htm>) which is a ranking of the impact of web pages in the space of the Internet. We were very surprised and pleased that when we searched on central Asian Journals there were 30 million sites found and CAJGH was number 1. Even more impressive is that when on searches on global health journals, there are 300,000,000 sites found, and CAJGH was number 8. We thus are having a large impact in the area of global health and we are exceeding expectation.

Over the past two years, we developed a network of over 1300 individuals interested in journal development. If you are interested in CAJGH development and publication opportunities, please let us know. We plan to become one of the leading and most cited health journals in 5 years.

We are currently collecting articles for Issue #3 of CAJGH. We are looking forward to your contributions!!! We are accepting traditional research papers, review papers, viewpoints, editorials, etc. Please visit us at [cajgh.pitt.edu](http://cajgh.pitt.edu)

Please read one of our inaugural editorials at <http://cajgh.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/cajgh/article/view/5/7>

We would like to thank our Kazakhstan collaborators, including Drs. Shigeo Katsu, Zhaksybai Zhumadilov, Sholpan Askarova, and Shalkar Adambekov.

There are three difficulties in authorship: to write anything worth publishing, to find honest men to publish it, and to find sensible men to read it.

Charles Caleb Colton

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO) Best Regards, Faina, Ron, Zhaksybai, Shalkar, Sholpan, Aiym, Kyle, Sean, Rob, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Ohanyido, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Olga