Research Methods Library of Alexandria

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Dear Friends

New Library of Alexandria

I have been discussing much about the Ancient Library of Alexandria. I wanted to also begin to discuss the New Library, the place that you all must visit. Here is an excerpt from Ismail Serageldin, Ph.D. the director and visionary. You will see that the building of the major research methods library in the world by all of us can only be at the Library of Alexandria. We encourage you to join.

"The New Library of Alexandria, the New Bibliotheca Alexandrina is dedicated to recapture the spirit of openness and scholarship of the original Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Its mission is to be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge, and to be a place of dialogue and understanding between cultures and peoples.

It is our hope that the New Bibliotheca Alexandrina will be a worthy successor to the Ancient Library of Alexandria. That great Library was a unique ecumenical effort of the human intellect and imagination, and remains engraved in the memories of all scientists and intellectuals to this day.

The four objectives of the New Bibliotheca Alexandrina is to be:

1. The window of the world on Egypt;
2. The window of Egypt on the world;
3. An instrument for rising to the digital challenge;
4. A center for dialogue between peoples and civilizations;" (Serageldin)

 Isn't this most elegant?

"Wisdom is not like money to be tied up and hidden" Akan Proverb

Research Methods Library of Alexandria (RMLA)

As I have indicated only about 2.5% of all scientific publications come from Africa. We think with your help we can double this in the next 5 years with Library of Alexandria.

 We have built BA African medical school faculty network with 10,000 faculty harvested from Medical Schools. They are very keen on the Research Methods Library of Alexandria and want to improve productivity. For once they (and the world) will have access to the world's knowledge of research methods. This most certainly is the largest collection of medical school faculty in Africa

We have 88 links to the RMLA, and 26 buttons. In the past 2 weeks another 50 universities in Africa expressed interest, and we sent to them the Code that Kamel produced.

We are working on the best strategy for the RMLA to build capacity. Clearly on with a research methods question can go to the RMLA and answer this.   These kids do not want to learn about statistics, rather they want to cure patients, but everyone should know the WHO definition of health, most are excited to learn about global health and know that they will need to understand journal articles and their professors

The next group we will target is to produce a course on "how to publish". This would be for more advanced students and junior faculty. Included in this will be pointers to the statistics and research methods but also teaching them the "game" of publishing, including choosing the best journal, how to find mentors, and where they can find help in writing. Then for those who want to learn more about statistics we will provide to them Ismail Serageldin's wonderful course on quantitative methods.

We would very much appreciate your help. We will be sending the WHO Definition below to our to the medical school faculty in the next week to start.
"Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". (WHO)

There is a good chance that this will work. A primary reason for this is that it is coming from the Library of Alexandria the most important center of knowledge in history.

Retirement Pedagogy

"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown (Lovecraft)

We professors are a strange lot. I was terrified of retirement. Retirement as I dicovered is a lot less scary than sharks, Psycho, zombies or teaching our first class. The first recommendation is to face your fears and see what this retirement stuff is all about. I thought I would give a few tips for those of you who are in the peri-retirement period.

It is very important to talk with someone to estimate your retirement income. Many of us in the US belong to TIAA-Cref, and Vanguard. This should be the first thing you do even before you decide to retire. (More to come about facing the fears of retirement)

(Please contact "Emeritus Ron" for additional advice)

"One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his great surprises, is to find he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do." (Ford)

  GEBN. Dr. Steven Blair of the University of South Carolina and Dr. James Hill of the University of Colorado to launch the Global Energy Balance Network (GEBN). GEBN is a new NGO dedicated to identifying and implementing innovative solutions – based on the science of energy balance – to prevent and reduce diseases associated with inactivity, poor nutrition and obesity. For more information please contact GEBN Project Coordinator Amelia Quint at quint@mailbox.sc.edu.

World Kidney Day: Celebrated every year on the second Thursday in March, World Kidney Day (WKD) is a campaign dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. World Kidney Day 2015 marks the 10th Anniversary of World Kidney Day. WKD needs your support to spread this message and encourage prevention. Please contact Agnese Ruggiero agnese@worldkidneyday.org

"Wisdom does not come overnight" Somali Proverb

If you have any questions, please contact me at ronaldlaporte@gmail.com . Please share this with your friends, students and faculty

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