

Supercourse Newsletter
www.pitt.edu/~super1/
April 15 2013 (Tax day, US)

Dear Friends,

Please distribute to your friends interested in Health in Africa, Poetry, and Retirement

WHO EMRO

Dr. Ala Al'wan, was the head of non-communicable diseases at the World Health Organization, and now is the Regional Director of WHO EMRO region.

He has been my friend for over 30 years. He called me at my home with a suggestion. We are discussing the possibility that WHO EMRO could collaborate with the Library of Alexandria and the Supercourse with the helpdesk. I will go going to WHO EMRO to discuss this with him. It would be very exciting if we could collaborate with WHO. We need to see if there is a match.

“Listen to your convictions, even if they seem absurd to your reason”
(Egyptian Proverb)

Africa Supercourse:

It has been a dream of ours to build an African Health Supercourse, where we collect the best health lectures about Africa in a single site for the world to use. It would be a one-stop shopping center for PowerPoint lectures on health in Africa. We would primarily include lectures from scientists in Africa, but we do not want to discriminate against other countries so we thought we would also include outstanding lectures about African health from all countries. However we want this to be the exclusive site of for health in Africa primarily from African scientists. We plan to make this available as a mirrored server to be included in medical and public health schools throughout Africa. Eugene Shubnikov has gathered our African Lectures together, and we were amazed that we already had 40 authors who contributed over 100 lectures. This most certainly is the largest collection of lectures about health in Africa and we hope to double this. The topics are far ranging including AIDS, HIT, Diabetes, Traffic injuries, Infection control, etc. Please view the beginnings of the African Supercourse:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/faculty/africa.htm>

If you have a lecture about health in Africa we would love to include it into the African Supercourse. These will be lectures that will be used by all of us world wide. Please send to ronaldlaporte@gmail.com. Also, please tell investigators in Africa about the African supercourse

Noha Adly, Ph.D.

We are very proud of a member of our team, Noha Adly, Ph.D. at the Library of Alexandria. We have collaborated with her for several years, and she has been brilliant and wonderful. She and her team built the Supercourse of science at the Library, which is one of the best web pages ever. She just became the head of IT for all of Egypt. It is indeed wonderful but sad, as we will miss her very much. She was the IT core of the Supercourse, and a dear friend. Noha is a friend and a true sage

“True sages are those who give what they have, without meanness and without secrete”
(Egyptian Proverb)

Retirement: At the end of May is my 64th birthday. I plan to retire before my 65th. This has been on my mind since I turned 50 when Jan gave me a wonderful party. The next day my mood was spoiled. I opened up a letter which was an invitation to join the American Association of Retired People. Oh, the pain, then I immediately realized that I would soon be censored off the life table of epidemiology. I have gone through quite a bit thinking, and plan to write a Retirement Supercourse lecture for all you “young” supercourse scientists, who are in the throes of thinking about retirement. I am healthy, and almost of sound mind, and love my work, but I want to make room for young folk and move on.

I have prepared myself intellectually for retirement as I will continue to do the Supercourse, Supercourse of Science and SuperHelp Desk. However, Jan threatened that I needed to get a hobby rather than working all the time. I am not a golfer, and shuffle board is not my game. Often those who retire take care of their grandchildren. The problem is that I do not think I have any grandchildren. One hobby of retired people is going to doctors and waiting for death and watching reality TV is not something I

am keen about. If I tried woodworking, I would lose 3 fingers. I have one major hobby that I am really good at, walking Ella, my dog.

As a result I decided to have you join a Global Association of Retired Professors (GARP). My lecture will be the world according to GARP (ronaldlaporte@gmail.com). I would love to hear about successful and non-successful retirements, and build a small group to discuss this with like people worldwide. What are “hobbies” that gray haired old professors can do?

“Retirement without the love of letters is a living burial” (Seneca)

Stataphobia in a dictionary: Every time you write a paper or teach, please say the word Stataphobia. We need to get this in the Oxford English Dictionary. For example, if you are reviewing a paper, say something like “clearly the authors were suffering from Stataphobia because they had problems with their analysis. If you are having an argument with another faculty member, a great insult is “You are nothing but a Stataphobic”. A great question on an oral exam is: Student your ideas are excellent, could you please define for us the definition of Stataphobia? You will see the student squirm.

A group of us are working to build Stataphobia into a new word and we need your help. Francis Ohanyido included Stataphobia in the Urban Dictionary.

We need you to vote for our word, the supercourse word.

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=stataphobia> Use thumbs up for our definition and thumbs down for any other!

Poet’s corner: We want the Supercourse to be of high culture. We have our bard, Francis Ohanyido, and his ode. He is being called the Supercourse Shakespeare we have decided to open up a Supercourse Poet’s corner. We now have another beautiful piece from Doncho Donev from Macedonia. Eugene masterfully established a poet’s corner:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/ART/Supercourse.htm>

We are considering including supercourse cubist art work. If you have some nice Supercourse art it would be grand. Also, if you are good at writing symphonies, it would be nice to have a Supercourse Symphony Number 3.

Including an Opera Titled Faust and the Supercourse would of course be very appropriate.

“Poetry can be dangerous, especially beautiful poetry, because it gives the illusion of having had the experience without actually going through it” (Rumi)

Disasters: A good friend, Ala Ardalan, M.D. from Tehran just held an important disaster conference about disaster. He discusses many issues related to disasters, especially earth quacks in Iran. You can find the link at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/assist/index.htm>

Agriculture and Global Health: We have very much wanted to link agriculture with Global health and the supercourse. It has been very impressive what those in Agriculture have done in the past 100 years. We now have over 7 billion people, yet, those in Agriculture have kept pace to feed them. "Agriculture & Food Security is a peer-reviewed open access journal that addresses the challenge of global food security. It publishes articles within the field of food security research, with a particular focus on research that may inform more sustainable agriculture and food systems that better address local, regional, national and/or global food and nutritional insecurity. The journal considers cutting-edge contributions across the breadth of relevant academic disciplines, including agricultural, ecological, environmental, nutritional, and socio-economic sciences, public health and policy."

<http://www.agricultureandfoodsecurity.com/>

Faina's lecture and article of the week

In the past several months, our group talked quite a bit about the concept of HelpDesk and improving public health research by helping junior scientists with research design. Research methods are rarely taught in medical schools, especially in low and middle income countries. We are working with the Library of Alexandria to develop a HelpDesk to help junior scientists with their ongoing and upcoming research projects. Our new lecture "Building Research Methods Capacity in Arab Countries:

Improving research productivity" overviews the history of the Supercourse and captures the main objectives of the Help Desk model. Please visit our lecture at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec49131/index.htm> Please present this lecture to your faculty and students.

Article of the week

Central Asian Journal of Global Health continues to get high quality submissions (cajgh.pitt.edu) We are currently finalizing our Issue #2, where the editorial is on increasing scientific productivity in the region. It has been written by our group to highlight the need to publish high quality research especially in Central Asian Region. Please visit our editorial at

<http://cajgh.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/cajgh/article/view/46/46>

We would like to encourage everybody to submit articles to our journal.

Issue #1 is accessible at

<http://cajgh.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/cajgh/issue/view/1>

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