

Supercourse Newsletter
Oct. 15 2013

Dear Friends,

What is Health: As you all know we started a simple campaign to teach every student "What is health" about 3 years ago. Every year at the beginning of Sept. we try to make the WHO Definition of Health go viral so that all new medical, public health and health students have an idea as to what is health, before they start training. It is rather absurd that students want to improve health of their patients, community and world without knowing what health is. As I reported before, this year we were enormously successful as we reached about 1.4 million students. Today we obtained even further proof, as if you search on Google for what is health, 6 billion sites are identified and we are number 1. We even rank above WHO for WHO's definition of health which is most cool. You all did wonderful work teaching the health students of the world, about what is health. Please keep this elegant definition in mind "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". (WHO)

"Aerodynamically, the bumble bee shouldn't be able to fly, But the bumble bee doesn't know it so it goes on flying anyway" (Ash)

Help Desk

Much has been happening with the Help Desk. We are pleased that in the past week we had 6 questions coming to the help desk. We would very much appreciate if you could visit and help answer different questions.

We are continuing to press to obtain more questions. It appears that the help desks are becoming known across the world, and this is bringing more people to the help desks. When we originally started the help desks, I was concerned that we did not have a platform, we did not have people to answer questions, and we did not have resources. However these provided to not be a problem, especially now with Eman's concept of Facebook Research help, and the Library of Alexandria. It is frustrating however, there are several question and answer help desks such as Ask.com, Answer Wiki, Linkenin answer etc. which receive 1000s of question about Justin Biebers favorite food, or Eminem's new girl friend. It would seem that young people should be just as interested in logistic regression.

World According to Garp. The Global Association of Retired People has begun. I started a LinkedIn group (and am quite proud of myself). GARP is designed to recruit professors closing in on retirement and retired professors so that we can learn from each other An Epidemiologist like me can learn from a professor of art history, organic chemistry, or world history. There are many cool things we can do, e.g. create our own youtube presentations about our disciplines, talk across disciplines, make friends with professors of nutrition for good food, and share apps. We

would love for you to join. Just come to LinkedIn and search on GARP

Also, tell your friends about this, it is cool that this effort is started by people in Global Health.

We should be a magnet for other professors from all disciplines and as virtually everyone likes global health. I came across a fascinating piece on the 6 stages of retirement. (please write to me for a copy, ronaldlaporte@gmail.com)

“The men of experiment are like the ant, they only collect and use; the reasoners resemble spiders, who make cobwebs out of their own substance.

But the bee takes the middle course, it gathers its material from the flowers of the garden and field, but transforms and digests it by a power of its own. “ ~ Francis Bacon

Bees: Epidemiologist in general do not help people live longer, but we help people to decide what they want to die from (e.g. When I turn 65, perhaps I should smoke 3 packs a day). Well, a few days ago, I was walking my dog Ella, and she stepped on a bee hive. The bees swarmed out like a Tornado, and saw me, and attacked. About 50 got under my shirt and pants, and I was stripping out of my clothes outside with buzzing and stinging under my shirt and pants. We ran into our house with bees

charging after us. I figured that in 5 minutes I would either be dead or alive. So immediately I looked at the odds of dying from bee stings in Wikipedia, as it would be a cool way to check out. What a great obituary in the New York Times: Epidemiologist dies of bee stings, a lot more exciting than epidemiologists dying of a MI. Of course in the minutes I wanted to rapidly learn about the epidemiology of bee sting deaths, and there were 54 in the US last year, out of 300,000.000 of about 2 in 10,000,000 a year. It is very likely that I could be the first epidemiologist to be “beed” to death. Well the 5 minutes passed, and other than itching in 50 sting spots. . Sadly, it is unlikely that I will be beed to death as what are the odds of two bee attacks in a life time. Time to start swimming in South Africa to say hello to the great whites. There are several sites on the web, as to unusual ways of dying.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_unusual_deaths .

“Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee” M Ali

Research and publication training:

There is an excellent short course on research training at the American University in Cairo: <http://www1.aucegypt.edu/src/rm/> . It provides an overview of research methods and statistics. I know those who have taught at the course and they are first rate. I would highly recommend if you apply for the course. I know you will learn much.

Remember this well:

"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, Nicolas, Ismail, Vint, Kawkab, Ali, Olga, Maria, Eman, Kyle, Aiym, Sean, Rob, Ohanyido, Nabil, Mita, Olga, Gil, Eric Sholpan, Maria, Eman

Please reply to ronaldlaporte@gmail.com