Supercourse Newsletter
Nov. 19, 2012
www.pitt.edu/~super1/
Thanksgiving is perhaps the nicest holiday of the year in the United States.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanksgiving_(United_States). We have the opportunity to see and thank our family and friends, and eat a big dinner of Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Pumpkin Pie. Jan's mother is coming over and my sister and brother in law are coming from Buffalo. Jan is preparing a large meal. It is during this time I think back about all my friends world wide, and how thankful I am about what we are doing. We have had a remarkable year with over 5400 lectures that are teaching millions. We started several brand new adventures with the mVETs, helping the homeless veterans, help desk, central Asian collaboration, teaching the world the WHO definition of health, establishing a scientific journal and many other works. This was not what our group in Pittsburgh has done, it is the work of all of us, and it is most appreciated. I am very proud of our global Supercourse team.
As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. (JFK) Taiwan I just returned from Taiwan 2 days ago. My former student, Wen-Ta Chiu, is now the Minister of the Health of Taiwan. I wish to thank him and everyone in Taiwan for all their help. I found that being the teacher of the Minister was wonderful. I have never been treated with such respect.
We are now talking with the Taiwan Government about establishing a global help desk to answer the research questions of the world.
Research expertise:
We are finding something most interesting. Many countries are trying to build research methods capacity by training Ph.D. students. A difficulty with this, is that it is very expensive, and once these individuals receive their degree, they likely move on to much better paying jobs in industry. Our help desk concept can train 1000s more in the area of research methods. Both are needed, but training 20 new Ph.D. students a year cannot build capacity. However, training 60000 young people in the area of research methods is very powerful. We thus provide Just In Time answers to research questions. Our next step is to build a Wiki and begin to answer questions.
Turkeys for Russian speakers
We already had one thanksgiving dinner where we had guests from Kazakhstan and Russian speakers for dinner. We wanted our Russian speaking guests to have a taste of Thanksgiving, and Jan did a wonderful job. We are now on our second Thanksgiving dinner.
"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude." Ozick "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." – Albert Pine Please Donate to the Supercourse: We need your help. It would be wonderful if you could donate to the Supercourse to keep us going. We have virtually no funding, and may have to close down without your help.
We will include you as part of our donor list.   Please Donate to:
http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/Donation/donate.htm
Faina's pick of the week
Nicholas Padilla's Course of the week: biostatistics As public health professionals, we are well aware of the fact that biostatistics is a difficult subject both to teach and to learn. Good understanding of biostatistics is critical for being able to write and to understand research papers, grants, projects, etc. To help with some of the fears associated with biostatistics, Dr. NIcolas Padilla helped to develop and translate a full course of biostatistics, which can be found here http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/collections/collection31.htm . The course is available in

English and Spanish Please feel free to use it for your lecturing, share with friends, students, and colleagues!

"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, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Olga