

Supercourse Newsletter
Aug. 27, 2012
www.pitt.edu/~super/

Dear Friends

Please distribute this to those who need to know the definition of health and please add "health" to your emails

What do these languages have in common?

Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Buginese, Myanmar, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dari, English, Farsi, Greenlandic, Hebrew Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kazak, Kiswahili, Lithuanian, Nepali, Pashto, Portuguese, Romanian, Sinhali, Tajic, Tamili, Telugen, Thai Turkish, Yorubau, there are another 40 translations by Google Translate

Answer: We have translated the WHO definition of health into these 76 languages, so that the students in health of the world will know the WHO definition

Translating was a humbling activity, as 2 of our team found errors in the translation from their Ministry of health. It was gratifying as so many people pitched in to help translate, and to teach their students "what is health" Our collection of 76 different language translations of health may be a more complete translated definition than WHO, please use them. We need your help to review the ~40 Google Translations as when do forward and backward translation some like Russian are perfect, but for others there are errors such as for Farsi and Urdu. We would very much like to have native speakers look at the translations to see if they are correct. We will list you as one of the translators. Send your translation to me (ronlaporte@gmail.com)

"Scandinavian vacuum manufacturer Electrolux tried to sell to Americans using the translation: Nothing sucks like an Electrolux"

These definitions are being shared with many 1000s of new and old medical students world wide. This is being distributed to 5000 public health students. Also, many have printed our Eugene Shubnikov's WHO definition poster and hung it in their classrooms, doctors lounges, hallways.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/globalhealth/What%20is%20Health.htm> We want every new medical, public health, nursing and health student to have in the back of their mind this definition as they proceed through their training. Ernie Hook from Berkeley is having students define health in the first day of class, and then presenting the WHO definition.

We would like for you to spread the definition of health by including the definition on your signature such as mine below. In this way you are exposing to many the definition of health in each of your mails. This will continue over time.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO)

Ronald E. LaPorte, Ph.D. (ronaldlaporte@gmail.com) Director Telecommunications and Disease Monitoring WHO Collaborating Centre Professor of Epidemiology Epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh 15261, USA

Please also include on facebook, and tweet the definition around the world.

“Translation is at best an echo” Barrows

“The best thing on translation was said by Cervantes: translation is the other side of tapestry” (Sciascia)

BA Supercourse Research methods Help Desk.

We are very excited about providing research methods help across the world. The library of Alexandria in Egypt will host this, we could not have a better place, As we started to develop this several countries including Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Nigeria and others were interested in building their own help desk using standardized approaches developed by us and the BA Supercourse. Our concept is that will have 1-2 junior level people, e.g. epidemiologists and statisticians to field the bulk of the questions, and then if they have difficulty, the questions are sent to wise grey haired professors like me. We are thinking if we cannot find the expertise in the developing countries, we could have “expats” who are experts in research methods to oversee the operation, and to answer the difficult questions. We would like your advice. If you would like to help, let me know. This might be a fun thing to do for those in the Supercourse who are retired. We do not know the through put, we will start out small, and if the questions are too many we will add more senior experts.

Another idea is that in most of the statistical help desks you see clinicians coming to the help desk with meaningless data, asking for help to analyze these (garbage in—garbage out). We would like to change this culture by only giving help to researchers if they come to us BEFORE they collect any data.

We built a research methods supercourse. It would be great if you could evaluate it. <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/ResearchMethods/index.htm>.

This is a tool box of statistical methods including lectures, on line books, apps and research method on Youtube. We are considering translation of some of the top lectures.

We have a group of about 40 people working through the issues of how a help desk can be established. Please contact me if you would like to join. I think that we have the opportunity of doubling the number of publications from developing countries in 5-10 years. This will be bigger than the Supercourse

“When a subject becomes totally obsolete we make it a required course”
Drucker

We always respond to every message sent to us. We discovered that sometimes our University email (super1@pitt.edu) gets filled and some mail does not reach us. If you mail gets bounced back, please send the note to Olga Greg (olgavgreg@gmail.com)

Ron, Faina, Ismail, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Gil, Mita, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Meredith, Olga,

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