

Supercourse Newsletter
Mar. 8 2013
www.pitt.edu/~super1/

Dear Friends,

Please forward to scientists and students who are passionate about epidemiology, global health and statistics

The harvest of a whole year depends on what you sow in the springtime.~ Chinese Proverb

We are pleased to announce on the first day of spring, March 20th, the birth of the BA SuperHelp desk. Mom, Dad, congratulations, you are proud parents of this beautiful baby. We hope that you and your students will help to make it grow. If you would like to help please write to me, Ron LaPorte (ronaldlaporte@gmail.com).

“Spring ushers in the birth and growth of new beginnings” (Davis)

In academia we have to publish to obtain tenure, promotion, etc. Most importantly publications help us to avoid dreaded “university committees”.

Disappointingly only 3% of published articles come from developing countries despite 80% of the people living in these countries. Over 75% of the time our articles are rejected due to problems with the research methods. There are few people trained in Research methods to support researchers in developing countries we want to change this.

Problem: Publishing is really important and really difficult

Solution:

The Library of Alexandria SuperHelp Desk where every scientist in the world can have ready access to research methods consultants. Our goal is to double the number of publications from Developing countries in the next 5 years.

A kind word is like a Spring day.~ Russian Proverb

March 20, Springtime at the Library and the birth of BA SuperHelp. We are very pleased as to how the help desk is developing. The team at the Library of Alexandria including Magdy Nagi, Yousef Salah, and Kamal Micheal and of course Dr. Serageldin are remarkable. By Wednesday of next week we should have a Beta Version at the library. You will all love this.

Eugene Shubnikov has been working day and night with the Library to build the first template model. As we indicated this Beta version will be using email as its backbone. We plan by my birthday (May 29, age 64) that Robert Janz gives the Library and me a BA SuperHelp Wiki for a birthday present.

We will be sending out a birth announcement from Dr. Serageldin. We would appreciate if you could share the birth announcement with those knowledgeable in research methods, those who are passionate about global health and scientists in developing countries who have difficulty in being

published. As parents, we want you to be proud of your helpdesk baby. Please include this on your Facebook page, and share with groups to reach all scientists in health in developed and developing countries alike.

Dr. Serageldin is concerned that we may drown in questions. We therefore have decided to limit the scope of our consultations during the pilot to Global/Public health research, Epidemiology, and Statistics. We should be very successful in these fields that we love. For most of us, these are the areas that we are passionate about, and want to help the world. We can help the world by sharing out research knowledge with scientists in developing countries who are extremely bright, and want to publish but do not have access to the research methods knowledge.

The teamwork in the development this has been fantastic. We have over 100 experts willing to field questions. We plan to expand this with your help.

The BA superhelp desk will be global from the start. We already have our BA door translated into Arab (Eman), English, Farsi (Reza), French (Didier), Russian (Eugene, Andrey and Faina), Spanish (Nicolas) and Urdu (Abu). We see that as this gets rolling researchers will be able to ask their questions in their native language, and have them answered in the native language by a national help desk. Then in the writing stage convert these to English if they want to publish internationally. We are honored to have this team work together.

There is no winter without snow, no spring without sunshine, and no happiness without companions.~ Korean Proverb

A perfectly functioning research design help desk will not occur over night. At the end of the pilot phase we might have to take a short break to evaluate what we have learned and decide what to change. However, we will be happy in the spring growing this bold effort at the Library of Alexandria. If Euclid could change math at the library, the supercourse team can change Science and grow our baby.

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. ~ Doug Larson

Faina's Article of the week:

Our Central Asian Journal of Global Health is up and running. For those of you who are interested in the development of Supercourse in Latin America, please check out this article in CAJGH

<http://cajgh.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/cajgh/article/view/9>

Dr. Nicolas Padilla has been developing Supercourse in Latin America for over 10 years, his experiences are shared in this lecture.

Faina's Lecture of the week

After featuring large number of chronic disease lectures, we are back to our "infection of the week". Yellow Fever: Threat to Asia is one of the recent Supercourse lectures that might be of interest locally and globally.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec49641/index.html>

"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