

Supercourse Newsletter
April 29, 2005

www.pitt.edu/~super1/
www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/
www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm

I said to Life, I would hear Death speak. And Life raised her voice a little higher and said, You hear him now.
--Khalil Gibran

The response to the "Living Will" of lectures was very gratifying. Many of you from across the world have agreed to have me come visit you right you "move on over" to the other side so that I can immediately extract the lectures on your hard drive while they are still viable so that we can give life to assistant professor's lectures world wide. We have developed the "lecture donor card" which says prominently "upon my last heart-beat, my lectures are donated to the Supercourse". We are pleased to send these to you all.

The Media is the Message:

We have been talking with Paul Zimmet who is one of the premier diabetes researchers in the world. He and George Alberti will be providing definitions of the Metabolic Syndrome developed with the International Diabetes Federation for the Supercourse to help distribute partially in lecture format world wide. It has been fascinating to think about these as well as the Golden lecture and the JIT lectures. The Supercourse has been able to demonstrate that we can take a single prevention/health lecture, and we can distribute this world wide, using a snowballing procedure. We in epidemiology view this like a virus with you "infecting" someone you know with the Supercourse prevention information. We have two issues, the first is the message. The message, however, is nothing unless there is a distribution chain, to which the Supercourse provides. Once infected with the Supercourse message virus, then you will never be the same.

What is most cool about this is that with new tracking systems we can watch as the message spreads across the world. We can see what areas receive the message, and what do not. We can track the Ebola Supercourse prevention virus. We will follow the trail of the Supercourse Messenger, as it distributes prevention information around the world.

This can be very powerful. If we have a message on prevention, we can get this message of prevention to spread across the continents in days. What a potentially very powerful system.

Go... Global Pit. We have begun to establish a system called Global Pit. The concept is that we want to build systems from Local to Global. Global health now needs people from many different disciplines. Sending a 2nd year medical student to the site of a disaster gives the student a "medical vacation" but does little to help the people in that country. Global health needs administrators, epidemiologists, lawyers, architects, and engineers. We have been recruiting at the University of Pittsburgh faculty from many different disciplines which likely can help improve global health. If you are interested in developing an interdisciplinary program such as this for "Global Havana", or "Global Guam", or "Global Bombay", or "Global Xi'an", or "Global Santiago", or "Global Cairo" let us know, and we can grow these all together. Eugene put an overview of Global Pit at www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec19931/001.htm. We would love to have your comments.

Lecture of the week

Did you even need to teach basic epidemiology to middle school or high school students and did not know what to present? If the answer is yes, you definitely need to check Mark Kaelin's curriculum that can be accessed through <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/index1.htm> or <http://www.montclair.edu/detectives/> Mark is the director of "Detectives in the Classroom"

program and one of the best epidemiology educators in the world. The curriculum consists of 34 investigations (lessons) that are divided into five modules. Good luck with teaching the youngsters!

Knock, Knock

Sadly, the trees around Pittsburgh are being taken down. The woodpeckers look for a place to nest, our house is wood. We have woodpeckers making holes in our house, and finding a very nice place to nest in our attic. Does anyone want a few wood peckers!!

If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs, the first woodpecker to come along would destroy civilization"

Best regards from Global Pit: Ron, Faina, Eugene, Mita, Soni, Woody, Paul, Pit, Tom, Deb

If you would like to be removed from this list, send a note to Mital@pitt.edu