

Supercourse Newsletter
August 2, 2003

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

Dear Friends,

Scientists are from Mars, Editors are from Venus:

We just submitted an interesting paper to the BMJ with this title. We were discussing peer reviewed journals. What I discovered is that most scientists when asked indicated that a peer reviewed journal is one where virtually all of the journal articles are peer reviewed. However, group of Editors defined a peer reviewed journal as one where over half of the articles are peer reviewed. When we examined the highly esteemed Lancet, it appears that less than 20% of the articles are peer reviewed. Isn't that amazing? If you would like a copy of the article please let us know as it is most fun.

Cracking 5 digits!!!

We did it, our Supercourse faculty now has 10,500 faculty members. Most certainly we are the largest educational force in prevention and global health. WHO has 13,000 people, but probably less than 500 in education, and even fewer in global education. CDC likely has very few people involved with global prevention education. The Supercourse faculty is a force to be reckoned with!!

We need your help for the Grand challenge final push:

We are still pushing very hard for telepreventive medicine to become a Grand Challenge as we in the Supercourse faculty could create a new field with this. The committee will be meeting in the next few weeks. It would be wonderful if you would write a short note to the committee indicating why telepreventive medicine should be a grand challenge, especially for your country. Below presents the criteria for being a Grand Challenge. It is also very important that junior level people write, and especially developing countries. The scientific committee is of the television (and some radio) generation, rather than the Internet generation which knows the power of IT for prevention. You have the opportunity to enlighten them to the power of telepreventive medicine. You can find our write up at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec10431/index.htm>. Please send a note to Info@GrandChallengesGH.org. It is critical to point out why what we are doing is indeed science and the importance for your country. We need you to help telepreventive medicine to gain the status of a grand challenge as we think people do not view us as a science, or at least much below molecular biology. It would also be very good if the many Internet people on our list could comment as you bring a brand new dimension, as does the molecular people.

It would be great if you could send a blind copy to us, as we would like to work with you to develop this into an article for publication.

What is a Grand Challenge? (This is from the Grand challenge write up)
A Grand Challenge is a call for a specific scientific or technological innovation that would remove a critical barrier to solving an important health problem in the developing world with a high likelihood of global impact and feasibility.
A Grand Challenge is neither the statement of the global health problem itself (e.g., malaria or

AIDS) nor the request for a specific health intervention (e.g., a drug or vaccine), but the call for a discrete scientific or technological innovation which will break through the roadblock that stands between where we are now and where we would like to be in science, medicine, and public health.

How will the recommendations for Grand Challenges be evaluated? All ideas for challenges that are received by the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative will be reviewed and judged by the Scientific Board and its staff. The following criteria will be used to select the Grand Challenges:

- The magnitude of the health problem being addressed and its alignment with the scope of the program.
- The identification of the scientific or technical roadblock to achieving a solution and why this roadblock is limiting on a critical path to achieving the solution.
- The soundness of the scientific and technical foundation for the proposed Grand Challenge, not merely the ease or likelihood of success. (Novel and innovative ideas that may be risky, but nonetheless scientifically and technically well founded, will be valued.)
- The impact of solving the Grand Challenge on the health problem, including indirect benefits such as those on income or environment.
- The feasibility of widely implementing any solution to the Grand Challenge in the context of the developing world.

Around the World in 80 days:

The golden lecture is still jumping from country to country. It is the first truly global lecture. It is acting a little like a symbiotic virus, as it helps those who it is educating, while at the same time it gains new energy and life the more people it educates. We have shown we can ring the world with general prevention education. In the next year or so, we will also let it loose on several different projects, for example, Women's health or agriculture, health or information technology. Currently we have trained people in 129 different countries. This represents 67% of the countries of the world. Isn't that fantastic? No lecture has ever done this. We hope to have 80% of the countries of the world by Sept. 7. We still need your help! Here are the countries that we are missing. Akira has been fantastic in finding people to review the lectures. He has been successful by tracking down authors using Medline from various countries and disciplines and then getting them to review the lectures.

Afghanistan Andorra Angola Antigua and Barbuda Belize Bhutan Burundi Central African Republic Chad Comoros Liechtenstein Malawi Maldives Mali Marshall Islands Micronesia Monaco Mongolia Morocco Nauru Niger Palau Paraguay Congo Cote d'Ivoire Djibouti Dominica Dominican Republic East Timor El Salvador Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Gabon Ghana Guinea guinea-Bissau Guyana Honduras Iraq Kiribati Rwanda Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Sao Tome Senegal Serbia Sierra Leone Slovenia Somalia Suriname Tajikistan Tonga Trinidad and Tobago Tuvalu Uruguay North Korea Lesotho Lebanon Liberia Vanuatu Vatican Western Sahara Yemen

If you know of anyone in any of these countries please tell them about the Golden lecture, or send us their email address, and we will contact them.

Cross your Fingers:

Cross your fingers, toes, eyes and nose that the grand challenge committee looks favorably on telepreventive medicine as this could really accelerate TPM into the future, and we can all go with it!

New People: Soni has arrived for Pakistan and is getting used to Pittsburgh, Dr. Pak from Korea and Tomoko from Japan will be here in the next few weeks. We have warned everyone, that the "McDonaldization" and as Paul Zimmet says, the "cocacolaization" of Pittsburgh is guaranteed to put at least 3-5 kilos on people when they come to Pittsburgh. We should think of a Supercourse nutrition and exercise club!! Eugene and Julia are just coming back to Siberia from touring the Ukraine. Ron and Jan are going to Puerto Rico next week!

Best Regards, and please consider writing a letter of support to the Gates Foundation

Sincerely yours:

Ron, Faina, Mita, Akira, Eugene, Soni, Wendy, Beatriz, Bill Gates (don't we wish), Abed, Sherine, Julia, Suad, Dr. Park, Tomoko, Tom, Deb, Scientists from Mars, Curly and Larry (Moe Bat did not make it through the winter)

If you would like to come off this list, please send a note to super2@Pitt.edu