

Supercourse Newsletter
February 2, 2003

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

Dear Friends,

There is considerable exciting news, and sad news also.

Supercourse Crossing the Digital Divide:

A major stumbling block for using the Internet and education is that only about 10% of the world has access to the Internet.

David Deerfield from the Pittsburgh Supercomputer center has come up with some brilliant ideas to bridge the digital divide. He indicated that they were working on compression technology such that with the next CD of lectures we can include all our lectures, plus the visual human. The visual human was produced by NLM, and is digitalized CT cuts of humans where one can see organ systems and "take them out". One can say link between an epidemiology of stomach cancer lecture directly to a stomach slice.

The second thought was even more brilliant. He indicated that we could use a PDA such as a Palm Pilot and load the complete Supercourse into it. Alternatively, we could use a cell phone, and call a number, and dial "797" and almost in an instant, download a lecture on the Epidemiology of Measles. A simple wire can make a presentation system by linking the phone directly to a TV. Any one who has a cell phone and TV may soon be able to present Supercourse lectures and prevention. This can potentially push prevention down to the last mile. Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet, thought it was "cool".

Machine Translation: Another exciting development was by Eric Marler. He discovered a new English-Arab machine translator. Sherine Shawky from Egypt looked over the translations and they were not bad. We have held off major translation efforts for the Supercourse waiting for machine translation and it is almost there. We hope to put machine translators onto the Supercourse this year.

Mirrored Servers: There has been major construction of mirrored servers. We are under discussion with scientists at NIH and CDC to include a mirrored server on their sites. Also, there is a huge US Government portal called e-gov, they asked us for our lectures. We are also very excited that there will be two new mirrored servers in Africa. Dr. Suad Sulaiman, is guiding the development of a mirrored server in the Sudan. Dr. Francis George recently had the grand opening of the second mirror in Africa, which serves all members of the West African Doctors Network. This will bring even more eyes looking at the Supercourse. The Norway site has 8 million hits a year, and we in Pittsburgh, 12 million. We can crudely estimate the total number of hits on the Supercourse across the 35 sites as ~50-100,000,000. You are a part of one of the most hit health sites.

Sadness in Science: The deaths of the global family of astronauts in the Columbia space-craft was very sad. Scientists from the U.S., Israel, and an India-American, gave their lives for Science, and the future. Science has to fail to succeed. It is a privilege for we of the Supercourse to be a part of our own global family of science, and we honor the young scientists who lost their lives.

Astronaut McCool's mother said: They went up there because they wanted to do something for humanity. ----this is why we, 9200 scientists from 148 countries are working together

Global science and Global Health will move on, it has to move on, the Supercourse family can help.

This newsletter is dedicated to the global family of scientists of the world.

Ron, Faina, Mita, EunRyoung, Eugene, Julia, Soni, Rania, Beatriz, Akira, Tom, Deb, Wendy

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