

Supercourse Newsletter
February 27, 2005

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

The butterfly counts not months but minutes.
But that is enough. Tagore

Friends:

We all want our time to be enough, to do good. Sharing on the Supercourse allows this to happen.

Slam Bang: New lecture total

Eugene just told us that we crushed through the 2100 barrier, and now have 2128 lectures. Once again this is the largest collection of prevention lectures in existence. It is fantastic to see it grow, and grow, and grow...it is difficult to keep up. The lectures are coming in at the speed of light.

Pakistan Workshop:

We are still receiving wonderful, positive feedback from our training course in Pakistan. There is little question as to the need. Since the workshop we have had at least 5 other groups who want to establish a research, research design and statistics work shop. These include 2 groups in India, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, and Cameroon. There were several others. We need more of these workshops around the world.

Please contact Khawar Kazmi at khawar.kazmi@aku.edu to find out about the logistics of developing a program like this. Khawar was remarkable in his ability to raise funding. In developing countries it costs \$30-40,000 for a nine day course. Typically this is held at a University. The faculty donate their time but receive full travel expenses. The students pay for their travel, but their room and board is paid. In this manner everyone gives a little bit. Professor Mohan from Madras sees this as a means to improve training across developing countries. We see that we can establish these work shops, with the Supercourse as a means to train 1000s of young scientists in the area of prevention and public health.

It is impossible for a small number of scientists to go to all the courses. We will need to develop a core of teaching faculty world wide so that many have the opportunity to teach at these courses.

References:

During the past week I received 3 requests to write a letter of recommendation for people, for promotion to professor, or a job, and for training in the US. It was an honor to do this. My criteria for writing a recommendation are that an individual needs to have a lecture in the Supercourse, and the position/training slot involves at least some research in the areas of public health. I will not write letters for people who want to become a rich plastic surgeon in Hollywood (or even Bollywood!! Or Lollywood). If your plans include epidemiology and public health, it would be very happy to help you out.

Yang Ze:

Yang Ze is my Chinese brother in Beijing. Peter Bennett, Jan, Yang and I are just submitting a grant on the epidemiology of Childhood Diabetes in China. It is a rather neat grant. We will monitor the incidence in over 26 million children. We are also collecting several swimming pools worth of pee in Shanghai to find out how prevalent Type 2 diabetes is. In addition, we are testing a cool hypothesis, that the increased prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is due to the "little emperor syndrome". The Little emperor syndrome is partially due to the one child policy, also the increased longevity where now 4 grandparents are often alive in the family, and the increases SES. The children are like foie gras. (foie gras is when you force feed geese in France to make their livers big)...here in a way the grandparents walk about with calories in their pockets, yelling at their grandchildren "Eat, Eat, Eat" producing "roly-poly" kids. If you would like a copy of the grant, please send a note to ronlaporte@aol.com

Whenever our life is stirred by truth, it expresses energy and comes to be filled, as it were, with a creative ardor. This consciousness of the creative urge is evidence of the force of truth on our mind. Tagore

We must push our creativity to change the world.

If you have any other great philosopher/scientists/epidemiologist that you love, please send my the url as we would like to read them

Lecture of the week:

Stephen Waring from the University of Texas School of Public Health gave us a beautiful lecture on public health response following natural disasters. <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec18941/001.htm>

Public health provides critical services to support clinical care activities in disasters and other complex emergency situations. This series is a timely review of issues relevant to preparation, response, and successful completion of the challenging missions associated with public health disaster relief. This lecture is a perfect teaching and educational tool for anybody interested in disaster mitigation and just in time knowledge.

Best regards from the Pittsburgh. It has been snowing with 40 Turkeys and 15 deer in the year, with Benson going nuts in the house.

Sincerely yours,

Ron, Khawar, Soni, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Samar, Ali, Tagore, Julia, Tom

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