

Supercourse Newsletter

June 12, 2005

www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu

www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/

www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm

“Litterae thesaurum est”

Education is a treasure, Satyricom, 60 CE

World Teaching:

Friends I was just in Turkey (the country, not the bird) presenting a paper. It is a beautiful country. One of the people there asked a question about how many people we have trained. A very rough estimate is that the largest school in the world probably teaches 400 public health students. The average public health school teaches potentially 100. A crude estimate may be that there are at most 100 schools teaching students in public health. Therefore in 2004 at most there were 10,000 students learning about Public Health. Each were seen by 200-300,000 students. We receive about 75 million hits a year, which would be equivalent to about 3 million visits. The largest traditional system thus reached 400 students, and the total number of public health students world wide is about 10,000. The Supercourse trained 300,000-1,000,000 students. It is fascinating that we may have trained more students than the largest center and potentially greater than ALL traditional systems. Clearly these estimates are extremely crude, but we most certainly are reaching more than the traditional system. We have developed a most interesting, and most powerful model.

Supercourse School of Global Health:

We may have built a Supercourse model School of Global Health without really knowing it. This is largest school of global health, with the largest and most distinguished faculty ever assembled. This School of Global Health is, however, a new paradigm in that we do not give credit, or grades. All we give is our knowledge. The Supercourse School of Global Health is a most interesting concept. It would be wonderful to have your ideas about the new model of globalization of education. We are the Supercourse School of Global Health, but what does that mean? What would be the name of our sport's teams?

Public Health Informatics:

We are about to submit the grant on Public Health Informatics with Ron Larsen, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Information Science. It will take about a week to finalize the version as we in public health are speaking a different language than those in informatics. We received numerous letters from around the world providing reasons why they think the Supercourse is important. These will all be included into the grant and will help us. Our goal is to create a Supercourse2, which is the next generation. We plan to help to facilitate collaboration and cooperation, all within the context that what is developed to improve global health has to be effective, cheap, ubiquitous, and very user friendly. Supercourse2 will be this, and take us to the next level, whatever this might be.

Fogarty and Vint Cerf:

Joel Breman, M.D. from Fogarty, NIH has been a fantastic collaborator. He provided outstanding lectures to us. He indicated that Vint Cerf gave a lecture at Fogarty on the Internet and Global Health. Vint is fantastic person as he is the father of the Internet. He developed the initial Internet protocols, and fought to make the internet a universal system. He had a vision. He has been wonderful in providing advice to us over the years. In Vint's discussion he talked about the importance of Supercourse. Vint wrote:

Dr. Ron LaPorte

Dr. Ron Larsen

This brief note is my strong endorsement of the Supercourse program you have developed and deployed. I cannot think of a more valuable use of modern digital media, including the Internet. Public health is the basis for all economic development for in its absence, there is no opportunity to focus on productive steps to improve the quality of life for a population. Your work has been seminal and successful and I commend you for it and strongly urge that support be given to further your objectives.

MCI and I are proud to know that our work on the Internet has indirectly contributed to your success.

Sincerely,

Vint Cerf

We received from who many consider the father of cardiovascular epidemiology, Henry Blackburn, the following:

The innovations of the Pittsburgh group just keep coming: not only classic lectures but rapid response times to public health crises and

a drop box for vigorous international debate and commentary.

**With Vint and Henry, we pretty much have Public Health Informatics covered!!
Thanks so much!!**

Once Again: It is rather mind boggling that we all are the major teachers of public and global health in the world. Not bad for group of people doing something very simple, sharing PowerPoint lecture.

Lectures, lectures, everywhere

The lectures are still coming in. Eugene reported that we have 2252. Wonderful. We head onward to 1000.

Weather: The weather here in Pittsburgh is quite warm. It is amazing that the turkeys (birds not country) are still strutting their stuff, with the males shaking their stuff, being wild and crazy birds.

Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth. [Chanakya](#), 300-275 BC

**Best regards from the Supercourse,
Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Soni, Julia, Vint, Tom, Denish**

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