

Supercourse Newsletter
November 25, 2002

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

Dear Friends,

We are getting ready for the big CD distribution. It is so much fun getting the CDs ready. We have prepared a CD with 1038 lectures and with Epi Info a part of it. Talk about the best CD a preventionist could ever want!!

There has been a remarkable help by the following people. Each one of them agreed to distribute the CD to people in the Supercourse in their country. Thank you so much as this will save our program a lot of money. We have decided to give these people a surprise present which will come when we send to them the CDs and the address lists.

Filmon Haile, Nicolas Padilla, Dr Sanjay Rampal, Gabriel Gulis, Dr. Anne Neller, Abdullatif Husseini, Smilja Kalenic, Salah Soliman, Viviana Crivelli, Jianhua Wang, Geok Lin Khor, Anne Ronan, Muninjaya, Dr. Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abd Malik, Sriyani Perera, Efraim Meneses, Abel Murgio, Ann Meadow, Andre Guerra, Dr Shabina Raza, Georges Sumo Ngaha, Dianne Groll, Dr. Syed Muhammad Israr, Erik Bjelke, Dr. Salim Adib, N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Betty C. Jung, Dr. Sisira Siribaddana, Stephen Chadwick, Zhou Xiaoming, Marilyn Ehrhardt, Dott. Daniele Agostini, Hugo Roberto Lisboa, Eugene Shubnikov, Mohsen Janghorbani, Aziz al-Safi Ismail, Fred T Muwanga, Luka Brcic, Josephine Thitu Mbai, Dr. Mostafa Arafa, Nabilla Al-Sadat bt Abdul Mohsein, Wan Manan, Soni Dodani, Eugene Shubnikov, Jan Willem Coebergh, Javier Muñiz, Laila Dowidar, Sorin Ursoniu, Dr. Muhsin H. Sheriff, Najeeb Al-Shorbaji

Special mention must be made of Mohsen Janghorbani, Ph.D. from Iran. He is going to send a CD to all of the Iranian Epidemiologists. It would be great if they could all join us on the Supercourse.

If you would like to join the distribution network, please send a note to Ronlaporte@aol.com, and you can help.

“Where’s George”

There is a most fascinating web site that you might want to look at. It is a little weird and is at www.wheresgeorge.com. The goal of the site is to follow the trail of U.S. dollar bills. Thus, you have a dollar in your pocket. On the dollar is a note for the next person who receives it to record this at the www.wheresgeorge.com site. It is fascinating, as they have maps of the world, and they follow the trail of money across the world. The site addicts are called “Georgers”, as they post messages describing where they received the bill, where they spent it.

Now, what does this mean for us “Supers”...we are going to see if we can track the Supercourse disks. Where do they go, how many people see them, do they cross borders without a visa, is there a black market on the CDs. And, heaven forbid, are there people out there who hoard them, with out having an understanding of prevention (e.g. surgeons and lawyers). A good friend of ours, Dr. Wang, the head of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine said “all epidemiologists love maps”.

We plan to stamp a CD to each of the above person. This is a “where’s the supercourse CD”, and we will track this in your country and across the world. Who knows if it will work, but it is a neat way to follow the distribution of prevention knowledge.

Erik Bjelke and the Norway site:

The mirrored site of the Supercourse in Norway is a "heavy hitter". Erik indicated that his mirrored site gets 70,000 hits a week!!! Amazing. That comes out to 3.64 million hits a year. If all of our 36 sites received that number of visits, that would be 131,000,000 a year. If you have a mirrored site, it would be great if you could send to us information as to the number of hits per year. We just looked at the number of hits at our Pittsburgh Site and were very much surprised. We are averaging 22,000 A DAY! That comes out to 8 million a year. Just last year, the numbers were only 3 million a year, more and more people are looking at us!!

If you would like a mirrored site, please send a note to EunRyoung (Eunsa@pitt.edu). Putting the Supercourse on your site provides a large amount of visibility. The Mirrored servers are free, and easy to set up.

Thanksgiving:

It has been a remarkable year. We wanted to send to you the first few paragraphs of the newsletter we sent out last year, as it is even more meaningful now.

Supercourse Thanksgiving, Nov. 2001

Gobble, Gobble

"Thanksgiving is a circle of memories. Wishing you peace & plenty this holiday."

We have much to be thankful for this year. We are proud to consider you a friend and colleague. Building the Supercourse with you and our faculty worldwide has changed our lives.

We are so pleased to collaborate with you and all faculty worldwide. We think that this effort will help to improve global health by improving prevention training. You have shared with us your wisdom, time and vision; because of this, we all can improve prevention in the world.

We now represent a team of 4700 scientists from 120 countries who have banded together in a trusted prevention circle. The number has tripled since last Thanksgiving. The crowning achievement was reaching 500 lectures. This is equivalent to 40-50 books on public health. This was accomplished with our collective wisdom, and our network of friends and most of all, our faculties desire to improve global health.

Supercourse, Thanksgiving, Nov. 2002

9300 scientists from 148 countries and 1040 lectures. We have much more to be thankful for this year. Thank you, our friends.

Thank you so much.

Ron, Faina, George Wash, Eugene, Akira, Mita, EunRyoung, Julia, Soni, Tom, Turkey, Rania, Beatriz, Wendy, Abed, Deb

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