

## Supercourse Newsletter

[www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/) <<http://www.pitt.edu/%7Esuper1/>> Mar. 24, 2010

If you can use a Web browser, you can use Skype. (Zennstrom)

Skype Teaching: Faina and I teach a class on Grant Writing and International health. There are about 25 graduate students from epidemiology in the class. Yesterday we gave a lecture on how to develop International research projects, and it was most fun. We presented in the early part of the class the experiences we had in developing international research. What was most cool is that in the last half of Class, we used Skype and Eugene Shubnikov from Novosibirsk Russia presented. Eugene was fantastic even though it was 3:00 in the morning in Russia. Also, because of Skype, it cost nothing. Eugene was able to teach about the perception of Developing Global Research from the Russian point of view. The power of Skype for teaching worldwide appears remarkable.

We were thinking that in our network of 56,000 we have some of the most outstanding researchers and teachers of global health. Often we might want a “guest” speaker. With Skype we can have a guest speaker for free from any place in the world. We for example might be able to teach about the Supercourse at your University, or we could have leaders at WHO to present or AIDS experts in Africa. The problem is how to link the teachers who want a guest speaker, with those who are experts who are willing to give global lectures. If you have ideas and would want to help develop this, let us know.

Another differentiator is that Skype is free and simple to set up, and it costs us virtually nothing for a new user to join the Skype network, which is why we can offer the service for free. (Zennstrom)

Power of our Faculty: Eric Marler, M.D. has completed a very important analysis for the Supercourse. He has used Google Scholar to identify all the publications of each of the over 1300 faculty. Clearly foreign language articles are underrepresented. Even so, on average a Supercourse author has over 100 publications in indexed journals, with several having over 1000 articles each. We also have many excellent lectures by authors without an extensive list of publication. It is likely that the Supercourse publications of our authors rival that of Science, Nature or the Lancet. Perhaps the best measure of quality control is the quality of the authors.

Disasters: The last few months with, H1N1, Haiti, and Chile has been very successful in teaching people worldwide about disasters. Our H1N1 lecture as we indicated reached over 40 million people, and in most cases our lectures have the highest page rankings. We built template lectures from Airline crashes, Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Tornados, H1N1, SARS, and many other lectures. We can modify the lectures within hours for most scenarios, also many of the lectures are translated into multiple languages. As evidenced by Google trends, the interest in any lecture peaks at about day 3, then rapidly decays so that by day 6-7 interest fades. If we can put a customized lecture up within 24 hours after the disaster, we rapidly become the leading lecture on the web.

The sociology is most interesting in that the lectures of the supercourse are viewed very highly as not many people trust the media or government. We are building a global SWAT team with the Library of Alexandria to marshal experts in times of a disaster.

Radiation and Nuclear Disasters: Borys Ledoshuk is a good friend of ours from the Ukraine. He is one of the leading Radiation Physicists in the world, and a leader of the Chernobyl efforts. He has just drafted a beautiful lecture on Radiation and Nuclear health. It is in Russian and English, we would like your help to translate it into Arabic, Farsi, and other languages. The reason we decided to target Radiation and Nuclear disasters is that the last major event was in Chernobyl, in 1984, twenty years ago. Since then there has been a rapid proliferation of Nuclear Power plants and weaponry. We of course do not want anything to happen, but the odds are high that something will happen in the near future.

Borys's lecture is wonderful, it is scientific, presenting the facts on the history, development and destruction capabilities of plants and bombs. It is not political.

And if you're not going to have a clear health threat, you don't want to panic people (W. Scranton, about Three Mile Island)

Should a nuclear event talk place, we can customize his lecture in hours and distribute this to you for redistribution. Also, in about 2 months we will be ready for distribution to all the medical school faculty and students, as well as Public Health and staff in Ministries of health. We would have the distribution through the Library of Alexandria. With Borys's lecture we can provide the best possible knowledge in the case of a nuclear event.

I was in Pennsylvania at the time of three mile island. Faina was in the Ukraine at the time of Chernobyl (she is in the Chernobyl cohort). Fear gripped Pennsylvania and the US as it did in the Ukraine. The reports were spotty, poor, and scary. One did not know where to go to obtain a scientific description of the nuclear events. It was as we said the epidemiology of fear that the Supercourse can attack.

It probably will be a few more weeks before the Nuclear/Radiation lecture will be ready. We would appreciate very much your thoughts, if something were to occur, what is the best way to distribute Boris's lecture in your country and world wide. If you have advice, please send it to [ronaldlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldlaporte@gmail.com)

WHO Bulletin: We have seen that most our network likes to see what WHO is developing in the WHO Bulletin. We also discovered that some of you were not able to click on the links. We are not sure why. The next time it is sent out we will provide a URL that where the links are hot.

Please feel free to distribute the information about the Bulletin.

Hooman Moman is the editor, and Najeeb Shorbaji, is a leader at WHO. By posting the URL, we have seen a nice bump in viewing of the WHO Bulletin, and I it is wonderful that we had been selected to help distribute information about WHO.

Ministry of Health Fishing: We are just about done with fishing for the deans and ministries of health. We would like your thoughts as to how we can approach them to reach into their schools and MOH. With WHO and the Library of Alexandria, people will pay attention. Also, if there is a major nuclear disaster or any global disaster we will reach all faculty and students. We will be discussing this at the Library of Alexandria, and would love your ideas. ([Ronaldlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:Ronaldlaporte@gmail.com))  
<<mailto:Ronaldlaporte@gmail.com>>)

Carpe Diem does not mean 'fish of the day' (Mouse)

Jesse Huang, and Nicholas Padilla: We will be seeing Jesse and Nicholas in Alexandria Egypt in the next few weeks. We might be able to web cast at least part of the presentation at Biovision 2010 I will keep you posted.

Puppies: As you know last October Benson, our Sheltie passed away. We have just started looking for another dog, and plan to buy a puppy sheltie and name her Ella (after Ella Fitzgerald). We have found 5 really cute puppies, and would like your advice to see which you think is the best. Here are the pictures, please let us know which one you like.  
<http://webmail.aol.com/31144-311/aol-1/en-us/Suite.aspx>

Lecture of the Week: Francois Sauer, M.D.

The Bibliotheca Alexandria Supercourse: Expanding the Role of the Educator  
<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec37381/index.htm>  
<<http://www.pitt.edu/%7Esuper1/lecture/lec37381/index.htm>>

Francis Sauer produced an excellent philosophical lecture which talks about the interface of the Library of Alexandria the Supercourse and education in this era of quantum leaps of Information technology and globalization. He points out that knowledge has moved from the brick and mortar library to virtual space. Knowledge is moving from a physical locations to the virtual. Knowledge is moving from meaning enabling associations that are context sensitive. Knowledge based findings of science are moving to the application of science. Virtual networks link scientists and provide access to explicate and implicate knowledge. The educator is rapidly changing from becoming a catalyst enabling the application of available knowledge, when teaching the values of science.

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Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Mita, Meredith, Kawkab, Borys, Ismail, Ella, Vint, Gil, Jesse, Nicholas, Ali, Eric, Nabil

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