

Supercourse Newsletter
November 19, 2002

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

The Supercourse is Loooooove, baby!

It is exiting times. We thought that we have discovered all the wonderful uses of the Supercourse, but alas, this is not true. The Supercourse can bring LOVE. Think of it, we who are epidemiologists or involved in prevention are a strange lot. We go around talking the language of prevention, Odds Ratios, Primary Prevention, Risk Factors, Life Tables. Who...oh who...could fall in love with us? We speak a strange language. Who would be interested in our mission to save the world? Who would love our whispering in each others ear about death rates, incidence density, or the cooing about the poetry of case-control studies? Well, yes, it is hard for loves of our life to understand our passion of prevention. Today, we found the answer to the problem of finding a "soul mate"...the Supercourse matchmaker. A good friend of ours Latin America just contacted us and indicated that someone she met through the Supercourse told her that he loved her. Isn't that beautiful? It is fantastic as they are both extremely nice people. This is the second "2 X 2" relationship of the Supercourse. The implications are enormous. It is time for you to find the epidemiologist of your dreams through the Supercourse!! The Supercourse love story....

One of us in Pittsburgh (ron), did in fact marry an epidemiologist (jan). It is quite nice to have some who you can talk about "prevention". Having two epidemiologists marry can help to propagate our species. In the US there has been a television program called "How to marry a Millionaire". We need a Supercourse Lecture on "How to marry an Epidemiologist". (Some would turn this around to "Why marry an epidemiologist?")

It is great the Supercourse is bringing us together in ways that we could not imagine. The reality is that all the people on the Supercourse are pretty nice.

Only kidding of course, but it is a good feeling.

Can You Distribute CDs in your country?

We are trying to cut down the enormous cost of mailing the CDs. We will be burning 9000 next week. We were wondering if you might consider distributing the CDs to the Supercourse members in your country. We would express mail to you the CDs, along with the mailing address stickers. All you would need to do is to put these into envelopes and distribute these to those in your country. We would, of course, give you a few extra to distribute to your friends. This would save us a lot. We already have one volunteer from Pakistan who will be distributing the CDs to those in Pakistan, and hope that there will be other volunteers.

This is a very expensive proposition for us, and if we could cut down the postal expenses for say 30% of the CDs, it would be wonderful.

The CD is complete with an incredible 1038 best lectures of the world. We are very pleased to also bring to you Epi Info. Several people have indicated that it is quite difficult to download epi info in their countries because of its size. The people at CDC have been very nice to us providing a CD so we could copy the information to our CD. What we hope in the future is that we will be able directly link our lectures, as well as data sets to epi Info so people can have more hands on-experience.

We set an enormous task a few weeks back, 10,000, 1000, and 150. We got very close to 10,000 people in the Supercourse as now there are 9176. We have 148 countries (or 138 based upon the UN designation) and 1038 lectures. I think we all did darn good. We now have representation from 75% of the world's countries. It is time that we should declare ourselves the Global Internet Prevention Network.

Library of Alexandria, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

This week we met with a wonderful person, Herb Elish who directs the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Andrew Carnegie was born in Scotland and moved to Pittsburgh when he was a boy. He built an empire of Steel, and became the richest man in the world in the early 1900s. He decided to give away all of his money before he died. Sadly, he died before the Supercourse...But, he started the public library system in the US, as well as much of the world. He helped to build over 2800 libraries world wide.

We discussed our efforts with Mr. Elish, and he was interested in the possibility of collaborating with us and the Library of Alexandria to build a scientific Supercourse.

We wish you all well, we in Pittsburgh are not quite sure what the definition "sunshine" is. We think that our good friends in Kuwait, Okinawa, Hawaii, Cuba or South Africa might want to send us some sunshine. We badly need it as there is green mold on our feet, and small plants growing out of our ears.

We would very much appreciate any comments or thoughts that you might have about the CDs. Jan and I decided to have CD ornaments on our Christmas tree this year, as they do make us feel happy that we know you. Please feel free to use the CDs for any religion!! They work no mater what religion you believe in! We thought when we had friends and neighbors over for a Christmas party, they will be most interested in having us present to them a Supercourse lecture.

Please take care.

If you would like to comment on this newsletter, please send a note to ronlaporte@aol.com

Ron, Akira, Faina, Eugene, EunRyoung, Mita, Global Matchmakers Inc., Julia, Wendy, Beatriz, Soni, Andrew Carnegie, Tom, Deb

If you would like to come off this list, please write a note to Super2@pitt.edu