

Supercourse Newsletter
June 10, 2009

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm

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

Thousands of Lectures

Blasting through the 3700 barrier

Eugene Shubnikov just indicated that we crossed the 3700 barrier for lectures and now have 3712. It is quite extraordinary to see the accumulation of your outstanding lectures. We are on track to speed past the 4000 lecture barrier by the next decade Jan. 1 2010.

US Supercourse: Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet was invited last week to an important meeting at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington D.C.. He had to be in Brazil at the time but kindly suggested that I give his Keynote address. It was a most fascinating meeting about building interoperability across federal agencies engaged in health. As with many governments the US has “silos” of information, and there is limited cross-agency sharing of knowledge. I had the chance to present our Supercourse and there was considerable interest among the different agencies as we have been successful in sharing across many different silos. Our discussions led to the conclusion that we could build a Supercourse of health research within each government agency, which cut across these agencies in the same way that we have established our parent Supercourse. We can consider building a US Supercourse where we network those scientists in the Federal Government and share knowledge. A first step would be to expand our gov. network, which already has 5800 members.

A model like this could also be developed for the ministries of other countries. Ministries have extremely valuable information in the form of PowerPoint slides that can be readily shared to the people within our countries and also across countries. It was a wonderful meeting and we are now in contact with many new friends in the Government. We would very much like your thoughts about this. It could bring government health scientists closer together in all countries, as well as closer to we in academia with a Jamaican Supercourse, a Qatar Supercourse, a Canadian Supercourse, where government and academic scientists share knowledge.

Silos cannot interoperate unless the technology does. Florina

Global Distribution of Supercourse DVDs:

A large percentage of the Library of Alexandria Supercourse DVDs have flown across the world and been delivered to the Medical, and Public Health Schools by the World Health Organization. Typically they have been sent to the dean’s office and/or the medical libraries. It would be wonderful if you could check to see if they received it in your school, and if they made copies for your students. Please let Marwa know (marwa.elwakil@bibalex.org). Also, some of our

champions have not been sent the DVD because we need a complete address and telephone number so that the courier service can deliver this. Please send this information also to Marwa (marwa.elwakil@bibalex.org)

Nursing Supercourse (Kawkab Shishani)

Nurses form a backbone of any health care system and should also be the backbone for Global Health and Prevention. Now it is time to act globally and unite by promoting global health and prevention in Nursing Schools.

The revolution in telecommunication made the world s a small village. The 11 million nurses in the world can make a difference. We are starting to build a Disaster Nursing Supercourse. Our first step in this one thousand mile journey was accomplished by developing the Disaster Nursing Golden Lecture. You are the champions who we are seeking to spread and have the lecture to be taught at your schools with the goal that every Nursing student is exposed to Global Health and Prevention. This work has been started by Kawkab Shishani in Jordan. Please contact her at kawkab.shishani@gmail.com if you would like to help build a Nursing Supercourse. So GO and spread the word about our global nursing initiative at your schools and let's have nurses act to build better world by sharing our disaster PowerPoint lectures. Once established we would hope to build a Nursing Research Supercourse. Please forward this to other nurses who might be interested in building a Nursing Disaster Supercourse we want to teach nurses as to what to observe globally and local during the time of a disaster.

The most important practical lesson than can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe. Nightingale

Global Health Optimism

Aids, H1N1, Starvation, Murder, SARS:

Do think the world is becoming healthier? Most would say that the world is not getting healthier. We however, are optimists and would value your opinion. In the 500,000 years prior to World War II, there was about a 20 year increase in global life expectancy. This represents 1 year gain in life expectancy for every 25,000 years. In the 60 years after WWII there has been a 25 year increase in life expectancy, or 1 year gain for every .4 years. The rate of gain of life expectancy after WWII is 60,000 times that before WWII. What is fascinating is something Soni Dodani pointed out. For every week after WWII until now there has been a 3-4 day increase in life expectancy. The world is definitely much healthier now, than before WWII. Clearly there are pockets and areas that need to be improved. However, perhaps we should be more optimistic, but that is not the nature of epidemiologists, as we deal in death. Many of us are "What ifs". What if the H1N1 mutated, what people continue to get obese, what if mosquitoes increase due to global warming? The most likely scenario, is that the world will continue to increase life expectancy, e.g. continue to get healthier. We wrote a paper in the Lancet called the epidemiology of fear.

The approach in China by Jesse Huang was able to link the Supercourse with Chinese TV to reach over 50,000,000 people. The problem is that "death" sells more newspapers and draws

more TV attention, than “Health” and we aim to change this by developing models similar to Jesse.

The optimist sees the rose and not the thorns; the pessimist stares at the thorns, oblivious to the rose. Gibran

Birthdays: I wish you could have all come to my birthday party on May 29, 09 as I hit the big 60. It was grand, with old friends coming to the party. Jan really knows how to give a nice party, all had a good time.

Faina Linkov gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation about the life and times of a crazy man (me). If you would like the presentation, I will happily send it to you. Just write to the “old coot” ronaldlaporte@gmail.com. It is amazing what friends and former students remember about you. It is so nice to have friends that span decades, including you all. I am a lucky person. Please put on your calendar May 29, 2019. We will have the big 70 birthday party.

Avian Flu: The global buzz about Avian flu is past for a while. The epidemiology of disasters on the internet is fascinating, and virtually the same. In Google Trends, search on hurricane, tsunami, Avian Flu, SARS, and you will find an “epidemic curve” the same as we saw for usage of our lecture. Within 1-2 days the interest peaks, this is the time that the disaster is in all newspapers. As the story fades from TV, and newspapers, (about day 5) there is a steep decline of interest. For our lecture we peaked at day 2 with about 10,000 hits per day, now only about 100 people are coming to the site.

HIFA2015

Healthcare Information for all by 2015 (HIFA2015) brings together over 2000 experts from 138 countries. The mission is by 2015 every person worldwide will have access to an informed health care provider. They are developing a web-based resource that summarizes the existing literature on health care information and meeting the needs. In 2009 a primary focus is on information needs of nurses and midwives. To join go to www.hifa2015.org. Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh is the coordinator. I do not like very much list serves, but I find this one quite interesting and would recommend it. There is a very good group of people worldwide talking with each other.

Thank You: I just received information from the University of Pittsburgh about a wonderful group of people who have contributed to the supercourse.

We will to thank Drs. Chris Buttery, Frank Franklin, Nelson Athhortua, K.L. Gupta and Wen-Ta Chiu. We work on a very lean (almost Zero) budget, these wonderful people have allowed us to continue and to move forward in many new directions. If you would like to contribute, please go to www.pitt.edu/~super1/. We take Yen, Won, Dollars, Euros, and Loons.

Lecture of the week: let's share the same language.

In the past 10 years we have been arguing that the universal language of science is the PowerPoint. However, in order for us to understand one another better, we need to have a common set of terms that all of us understands. Dr. Deolankar's new lecture "Disease Informatics: Brush up the terms describing techniques and resources" is designed to familiarize

the audience with different terms commonly utilized in public health and medicine. Please visit this lecture to learn or refresh those important terms.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec34141/index.htm>

(Faina Linkov)

Ron, Kawkab, Faina, Eugene, Mita, Francois, Jesse, Ali, Nicholas, Ismail, Vint, Gil, Rashid, Nabil, Abdel, Najeeb, Nicholas, Soni, Ian

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