

Su percourse Newsletter
General Letter – 2007.

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

Dear,

In 2007 we would like to teach every medical and public health student about Global Health with a “Golden Supercourse Lecture). We would appreciate your help.

In 2003 we created a “Golden Lecture” on prevention and then used our network to disseminate the lecture world wide (<http://www.pitt.edu/~Super1/lecture/lec10511/index.htm>). The results were beyond our expectations as the lecture was translated into over 15 different languages. It was taught in 136 countries, to over 400,000 students. This lecture may have reached more students than any other lecture in the world. It was really exciting to promote prevention.

This year is the year of the Boar in China which comes ever 60 year. It is a magical year, and we hope to make it not only the year of the Boar, but the year of Global Health education.

We are considering doing something similar, but we plan to teach Global Health to every medical and public health student in the world. There are ~800 medical schools and public health schools in the world. We estimate the number of students each year to be about 320,000. We think we can teach 300,000 of the students with a lecture created by our network, and then taught to the students by our network, we also plan to make this an annual event. We could broaden this to be Global Health and Disasters or any other designation.

We would like to partner with you if this were possible, in this rather unique global training program for International Health. Below is our article in the lancet which describe what we have done, we plan to make this even better.

We would very much appreciate your thoughts.

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Globalisation of prevention education: a golden lecture
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Sir--John S Yudkin and colleagues (Sept 6, p 822),¹ argue that teaching of international health to medical students in the UK will help to provide a greater understanding of the global trends of disease. Here, we describe how we gave a single lecture on disease prevention to more than 75% of the countries of the world.

Improvements in hygiene and in our knowledge of how to prevent disease have led to a worldwide gain in life expectancy of 30 years over the 20th century. The way in which preventive medicine is taught has, however, hardly changed. The importance of disease prevention was recognised as early as the 5th Century AD by Hippocrates of Cos.

Hippocrates taught that a proper diet is a necessity of health, and that climate has a profound effect on both mind and body. In Greece, Sept 19 is celebrated as Hippocrates day, and in May, 2003, those involved in the Supercourse Prevention project (<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1>), funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), suggested that the day be used to spread worldwide the message of disease prevention. As such, on Sept 19, we posted the "Golden lecture" of Prevention" on the internet. The supercourse is an internet library of lectures on prevention, shared for free by 10 000 members from 151 countries in the Global Health Network. The Golden Lecture was designed to teach preventive approaches to health.

Leading researchers from more than 30 countries, including Russia, Nepal, Cuba, Armenia, and several Islamic states, participated in the creation of the lecture, which is especially important for the developing world, where doctors and researchers are struggling to find cost-effective ways to improve their population's health.

We distributed the golden lecture to doctors, professors, public-health professionals, and instructors by Sept 1, 2003, to be read and taught until and on Hippocrates day. To improve access to the lecture, we made two formats available. Over the next several months, the lecture was translated into 12 languages, including Chinese, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Indonesian, and Croatian. All of these materials were uploaded to the Supercourse website at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec10511/index.htm>. Overall, the lecture was used in 136 of the 189 UN-recognised countries.

Our aim was to reach educators in as many countries as possible. We believe the time has come to globalise training in health and share our knowledge.

We thank the members of the Global Health Network for their contribution. Please contact FL to obtain a copy of the Golden Lecture

of prevention and a free supercourse with 1038 lectures.