

Supercourse Newsletter

August 22, 2008

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Dear Friends,

Please forward to your friends interested in Cancer Research and Global Cancer. For those who are interested, please write to [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com), and we will add you to the Supercourse network.

We now bring to you our selection of Cancer lectures which can be used as part of your Global Health course/curricula. Faina Linkov and I selected a series of lectures which we feel would be outstanding in any course of cancer, or global health. These Cancer lectures in addition to the CVD lectures selected in the previous newsletters are being provided so that you can teach more about global health at your institution. We plan to have leading experts certify these lectures and courses so that in the future you will be able to provide a Global Health certificate course from your university using sanctioned materials from some of the global leaders of epidemiology and global health. We would like to determine who will likely be teaching a lecture/course on global health in the upcoming year. Please let us know at [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com), as we can then start a discussion group of global health educators so that we can all improve in our teaching.

Supercourse Presentation: On Thursday, Sept. 25, 12:00 PM EST we will be presenting to our department of Epidemiology about the Supercourse. I will be presenting a general overview of the Supercourse and Ali Ardalán, from Tehran, Iran will present on the Supercourse and disasters. I have some very good slides and some pretty good jokes. Ali has been our Main-Man for disasters. We plan to have his PowerPoint slides, and then call him by telephone and have him give a lecture over the telephone. Ali has already taught my students about disasters from Tehran, and published this in the Lancet.

We are considering webcasting the lecture. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining in a Webcast. There would be no costs to you. If you would like to be a part of the web cast, please write a note to [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com).

Falconry: Jan and I learned a little bit about Falconry while on vacation. Falconry has been labeled as the sport of Kings. We are by no means kings. It was exciting to see the Falcons swoop over head looking for little pieces of chicken. The handlers must keep the falcons a bit

underweight or else if they had normal bird “BMIs”, then if they released the bird they could fly up to a high tree, and not come down. One would need to wait until they become hungry again. The birds are driven by hunger, not by any love of Ron and Jan. They are really cool, however. I felt that I could be a Sheik with his falcons, however, I would be a Sheik without much funding. Perhaps we need a Falcon as a mascot of the Supercourse, keeping an eye on the health of the world. You can see two of the world’s bravest falconers at:

[http://falconryacademy.eyeselect.com/cgi-bin/category.cgi?category=1013&results\\_per\\_page=9](http://falconryacademy.eyeselect.com/cgi-bin/category.cgi?category=1013&results_per_page=9)

Ron “the hawk” LaPorte is number 4, and Jan Giant “Eagle” is number 7.

When you soar like an eagle, you attract hunters. Gould

Selection of CA lectures by Faina Linkov and Ron LaPorte

With cancer becoming the leading cause of death around the world, ability to obtain high quality educational materials in the area of cancer is critical. If you had to teach on cancer, the following five lectures would be good to highlight in the Supercourse collection:

Barry Bloom's lecture on "Agendas and Architecture in Global Health" beautifully demonstrates that cancer is becoming the leading cause of death:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec32281/index.htm>

The National and Global Cancer Burden by John Seffrin from the American Cancer Society

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec5241/index.htm>

Cancer Epidemiology Lecture by Donna Schneider can be found at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec7231/index.htm>

Obesity, Energy Balance and Cancer Prevention by Stephen Hursting

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec30441/index.htm>

Cancer Survivorship Research: Challenge and Opportunity by Noreen Aziz

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec15501/index.htm>

Additional lectures that can be useful for your cancer courses include:

- Genes and the Environment in Cancer Causation

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec29961/index.htm>

- Epidemiologic reasoning using cancer statistics

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec16491/index.htm>

- Gastric Cancer Prevention

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec12811/index.htm>

- Cancer prevention trials in America

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec30541/index.htm>

- Genetic screening for sporadic cancers and other diseases of complex etiology

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec8911/index.htm>

- The National and Global Cancer burden

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec5241/index.htm>

- Occupational Cancer

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec8281/index.htm>

- Radiation epidemiology and leukemia

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec2731/index.htm>

The next set of lectures evaluated will be global diabetes.

At the end, we will combine the lectures into a single menu so that teachers can select which lectures they need to teaching global health.

Halloween: Most certainly you are all thinking about giving a Halloween contribution to the Supercourse for Oct. 31. Instead of spending money on M&Ms, Mars, or Snicker Bars, why not make a Halloween contribution? All funding, big or small is appreciated. If there are sufficient contributions, we will build a beautiful Halloween Supercourse lecture. We, as epidemiologist, would not survive if people did not die. Halloween would not survive if people did not die. Obviously, the bond between epidemiology, Halloween is strong, therefore please consider giving a gift for building a Halloween Supercourse. This would include a case-control study of HIV positivity among vampires. Organ transplants and people called Frankenstein, and the epidemiology of ghosts...a prospective study to predict what happens in the afterlife. Finally "Are chainsaws as dangerous as cholesterol levels for cheer leaders?" These issues most certainly need to be investigated, but they can only be examined with your contributions. There are only 72 days left until Halloween. Please go to [www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/) and contribute.

Best Regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Soni, Francois, Ali, Jesse, Evan, Nicholas, Gil, Ismail, Vint, Fayrouz, Farshad, Arin

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