

Supercourse Newsletter

11 December 2009

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm

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

Dear Friends,

Much has been happening in the past two weeks. I went to WHO Geneva for 5 days, and was home for a day, and Jan and I then traveled to the Asian Pacific Public Health meetings in Taiwan. My body is in Pittsburgh, my mind is mush. It was a very important trip with considerable news. In this newsletter we will overview the discussions in Geneva with WHO.

The greatest wealth is health. ~Virgil

WHO Non-Communicable Diseases

I meet with a very good friend of mine, Ala Al'wan, M.D. the Assistant Director of Non-communicable diseases at the World Health Organization.

We had a wonderful 4 hour discussion. It was great to see him.

There are several areas that we are pursuing with him and WHO. One is that Dr. Al'wan is running a course in Switzerland to train officials in MOHs about non-communicable diseases. There will be about 20-25 leaders from MOHs who will be taught about the WHO 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control on Non-communicable diseases. The training is designed to build a global networked NCD workforce in Ministries and is very important for the future of chronic diseases. The Supercourse will support this effort in any way that we can, as it is so needed. WHO will be giving a certificate for this and future courses. <http://www.who.int/nmh/about/en/>

We talked with Dr. Al'wan about how we can help WHO disseminate the NCD action plan. <http://www.who.int/dg/adg/alwan/en/> In the next few months we will be providing for you an overview of the plan, and we would like for you to discuss this with your faculty and students. This will provide dissemination to you and the 60,000 people in our network which will yield broad coverage.

In addition, the timing for this is perfect as we are just about finished with our fishing for the deans in the over 1200 Medical schools in the world. We are discussing with Dr. Al'wan about sharing information about the Action plan to all the deans, their faculty and students. A final area of discussion with Dr. Al'wan has been the concept of building a World Health Organization Supercourse where we share the best of WHO PowerPoint lectures with the world. This will be of most benefit to WHO, as deans will pay much more attention to WHO and the Supercourse, than just the Supercourse alone.

He who has health, has hope. And he who has hope, has everything (Arabian Proverb)

It will be a very exciting time collaborating with Dr. Al'wan in the area of non-communicable diseases. We would value your comments about the WHO – Library of Alexandria Supercourse. Please send us a note at ronaldlaporte@gmail.com.

In addition to the discussions with Dr. Al'wan I talked with another good friend, Dr. Najeeb Shorbaji. I have known Dr. Shorbaji for over a decade, but this is the first time we have met, and it was wonderful. Dr. Shorbaji has been developing a WHO Global Health library (GHL), and kindly invited us to participate. <http://www.who.int/ghl/en/> What was wonderful is that 6 of the 7 chief information and library people at WHO participated as well as leaders in global libraries. The WHO Informatics people from EMRO, WPRO, AFRO, PAHO, SEARO, and others were fantastic people. I obtained very valuable feedback concerning the Library of Alexandria Supercourse DVD. The representatives very much liked the DVDs.

Each of the WHO informatics/library leaders was provided 250 DVDs from the Library of Alexandria. Many of the centers made 500-1000 additional copies. They delivered the DVDs to the Medical Schools, and Health libraries. Also in many of the areas they made copies for most of the WHO employees in the countries. The dissemination of the BA-Supercourse DVD was way beyond our expectations due to WHO. Your lectures indeed are teaching the world about global health and prevention. Again, we must thank you for you for your lectures and the outstanding people at WHO.

Several of the centers are mirroring the Supercourse on their WHO servers, which is very exciting as well.

We also discussed a possible novel dissemination system with the GHL. This would be a network of Network leaders. Around the table were 30 people, each of whom had built or had access to 20-100,000 people on their networks. Overall if we worked together we could reach 500,000 to 3 million people. A network of Network leaders could easily provide information to millions of people. Including this with our Fishing for Deans, we potentially could also reach almost all Medical school faculty and Students.

The Discussions concerning the Global Health Library were extremely productive. There clearly was the interest to partner with the Supercourse.

When it comes to global health, there is no 'them'. Global Health Council

There are a few places in the world that I am in awe, the WHO, the Library of Alexandria and the NIH. Each time I go to each I feel extremely fortunate to be working with people there as they are truly exceptional.

MPH training at the University of Pittsburgh

We are currently seeking candidates for our Masters of Public Health Program at the University of Pittsburgh.

<http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/interior.php?pageID=203>

If you are interesting in taking a year sabbatical for training in Global health please review the web site, and apply. If you have any questions please contact ronlaporte@aol.com.

Physical Activity Resource:

Andrea Kriska, Kristi Sorti and Marquis Hawkins have built a unique physical activity and epidemiology resource called the Physical Activity Resource Center for Public Health (PARC-PH) The PARC-PH is a comprehensive center that provides physical activity and intervention information. If you would like help with your physical activity research you can visit www.parcph.org, which provides information about the measurement of physical activity and many other aspects of physical activity and health. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Kriska at aky@Pitt.edu.

Please forward this newsletter to your friends who might be interested in WHO and Chronic Diseases.

Lectures of the Week by Faina:

The theme of chronic disease becomes especially important, especially now with approaching holiday season. Various doctors report that they see increased rate for hospitalizations around major holidays. How do we stay healthy facing approaching holiday season? The key is to conquer chronic disease. Dr. Alwan's report on Chronic Diseases appears as a Supercourse lecture. He discusses what Countries can do to face the ever increasing burden of NCDs.

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec33981/index.htm>

Please visit to find out more.

We also recently received a wonderful lecture on "Genetics for Epidemiologists" <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec36291/001.htm> from Drs. Manolio and Pearson. The

goal of this lecture is to familiarize epidemiologists and population-based investigators with recent developments in the theory and methods of human genetics and genomics.

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Mita, Ismail, Vint, Gil, Francois, Kawkab, Nicholas, Jesse, Ali, Kuntoro, Mazen, Anne, Rupali, Sara, Meredith

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