

Supercourse Newsletter
Oct 3, 2011
www.pitt.edu/~super1/

Dear friends,

Autumn is coming to Pittsburgh, the leaves are beautiful. Please come and visit.

“Now Autumn’s fire burns slowly along the woods and day by day the dead leaves fall and melt.” (Allingham)

5000 at 50: Nov. 29, 2011

Eugene Shubnikov, M.D. our Russian Developer and best friend in Novosibirsk, Russia will be turning 50 on Nov. 29, 2011. Many of you have been in contact with him. We have known Eugene almost 30 years. We currently have 4826 lectures in the Supercourse. All we need are 74 more lectures to reach 5000 for his 50th. Please look through your PowerPoint lectures to choose the ones you would like to use to teach the world. Eugene either wants 5000 lectures or a Mercedes from the Supercourse. I think we have a much better chance with the lectures. When we reach 5000 for his 50th, we will celebrate by having lunch at our favorite Indian Restaurant. You are all invited. Please send your birthday lectures to Eugene at evgeniy.shubnikov@gmail.com. Remember, you and our faculty have produced a 100 fold increase in educating the world about global health and prevention. When we started we were hoping to gather 200 lectures. On Nov. 29, we can have a remarkable faculty of 50,000, 5000 lectures, and Eugene will have a cake with 50 candles and teach 50 million. Please come to teach the world.

“There are three hundred and sixty-four days when you might get un-birthday presents and only one for birthday present.” Lewis Carroll

Turkmenistan: Last week I had a most interesting experience. I met the President of Turkmenistan and high level officials from the US State Department. It is very exciting as President Berdymukhamedov of Turkmenistan is very interested in working with the Supercourse to build capacity in Global Health, Science, and Art. We are planning to build a Global Health Supercourse in Turkmenistan to train people in Global health and prevention. We will work with them to promote the Supercourse of Science at the Library of Alexandria. Finally, we have a really cool idea. Much of the art in countries is not seen by the citizens of the countries, or outside. We decided that as part of our efforts we would also build an art supercourse where will be collect the art of the world by high resolution digital cameras. Then we would create the virtual art gallery on the Google Art project (<http://www.googleartproject.com/>). Robert Janz from the CAREN project which is networking most of the Universities in Central Asia offered to try and network the Art Museums in Central Asia. Alexei Tikhomirov from the UN was fantastic in helping us to meet with the President, he also presented the Supercourse to the president as his Russian is far better than my Russian. We are presenting this to the Government. After we receive agreement we will bring the Global Health Supercourse, Scientific Supercourse and Art

Supercourse to many other countries. The president thanked us for inviting him to build a Presidential Supercourse, and offered to help to make this a reality.

“A man paints with his brains and not with his hands.” Michelangelo

Supercourse of Science: The Supercourse of science has been launched and is drawing considerable attention. <http://ssc.bibalex.org/home/>. The Library of Alexandria has harvested close to 180,000 lectures and has made these available for free to help in the education of scientists world wide. It is a monumental effort, a grand Library of Alexandria project. We have to thank Ismail Serageldin, and his incredible team from the library. If you want to develop a lecture related to health, environment, computer engineering, or agriculture you have close to 6 million slides to choose from. In a few years, we plan to harvest over 3 million lectures, which represents close to 90 million slides of science. We feel that this will be a very powerful enhancement to global education in science. Please tell your friends about this.

What is Health? We have had a very successful “What is Health” campaign. We will continue to promote every year to reach and teach all the new students. It is very difficult to estimate how many people we reached, but a very crude estimate in 200-300,000 students now know the WHO definition of health, who did not know what it was 2 months ago. We are proud of this, and how many of you disseminated the poster. We ourselves have framed the poster; it makes a wonderful global health gift for friends and family. Please continue to promote the WHO definition. You can find the poster at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/globalhealth/What%20is%20Health.htm>. I presented in our seminar for epidemiology two weeks ago and asked how many of the 150 students knew what the WHO definition of health was. Sadly, less than 10 knew. We need to do better worldwide.

“He who has health has hope; and he who has hope has everything” Arabic Proverb

In Memory: Jesse Huang, M.D. (from Faina and the Supercourse Team)

Jesse Huang, one of the most active Supercourse supporters passed away August 16, 2011 at the age of 57. Jesse Huang was a Professor of Epidemiology, Assistant President and Dean for School of Public Health, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China. We created a supercourse tribute to the work of Dr. Huang at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/Jesse/jesse.htm>. It has been translated into Chinese. Jesse donated multiple lectures to the Supercourse. They include lectures on introduction to public health, breast cancer epidemiology, etc. We hope that Jesse's memory will stay alive through the legacy of his lectures. Jesse had been one of the most innovative leaders on the Supercourse. He set up a system in Beijing where medical students developed a Chinese Supercourse (www.supercourse.ch). He would recruit 20-30 of the medical students each year and have them translate lectures into Chinese. Over 20 years about 700 students learned about global health by translating and being on Jesse's team. Jesse was also responsible for having 50 million people view the Chinese H1N1 lecture, very likely the largest number of people ever to learn from any lecture. We all will miss him; he has greatly helped education and health in China and the world.

“Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides? (Tzu)

Best Regards,

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Jesse, Kawkab, Vint, Ali,
Meredith

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