

Supercourse Newsletter
July 7, 2010

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

Dear Friends,

Ismail Serageldin, Ph.D.: As you know one of my best friends is Ismail Serageldin, the Director of the Library of Alexandria.

(<http://www.bibalex.org/>). The Library of Alexandria has been just about the only financial supporter of the Supercourse. We have truly a strong partnership between our collaborating center and the Library of Alexandria. Jan and I visited the library of Alexandria 2 months before it opened. I knew upon entry that it was the only place the supercourse could be. It has been truly a wonderful shared collaboration over the past few years. Saturday when I looked at the NYTimes I saw Dr. Serageldin's picture in a large article on Dr. Serageldin. It was remarkable. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/03/world/middleeast/03egypt.html>

Contacting the Deans:

We are ready to roll in contacting the deans. We have a letter prepared from Dr. Serageldin, and Dr. Shorbaji from WHO and me. We will first test this on a sample of 100 deans. Our mission is to have the deans identify a champion in their school who is interested in Global Health and Prevention. At least once a month we will be in contact with the Champions asking them to distribute information from WHO, the Library of Alexandria and the Supercourse to the faculty and students in their schools. We are looking for individuals in medical and public health schools who would like to be a champion. You will become known as the key global health person in your school. There is minimum work, other than forwarding emails. We have names and addresses on about 3000 deans, and 500 previous champions. We would love to have you join at super1@pitt.edu

Slogans:

It is very exciting that the Library of Alexandria soon will have a beta version of the Library of Alexandria Supercourse of Science. They have harvested over 100,000 lectures and plan to have over 2 million. They have a beautiful system to categorize and find the different lectures and slides that people want. We now want to have a slogan for the Supercourse of Science. It would be great if you could look at these below and tell us which one you like best, or even contribute a slogan for yourself.

Connect, empower, educate

Your window to the world of knowledge

Your gateway to better education

Science Sharing Community

SSS...where science is shareware

Where you start the quest for Knowledge

Scientists sharing knowledge for the benefit of humanity

Social Networking: Dear friends, as you know I always respond to people via email. Many of you have asked me to join many, many social networking sites, including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Sadly, I must decline as I can barely keep on top of the emails I am getting. Therefore, Ron LaPorte, cannot be your social buddy, or your BFF, as I would be like BP, and not be able to stop the flow of emails.

WHO News: We are adding a new section to the Newsletter called WHO News.

The reason for this is that the vast majority of us are very impressed with WHO. However, not too many of us know exactly what WHO does. We therefore are contacting friends at WHO to see if they have news that we could include into the Supercourse newsletter.

Please request “e-Publications, Eastern Mediterranean Region Series” on CD-ROM. This CD includes a fully searchable bibliographic database for the cumulative issues of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal (EMHJ) from

1995 to 2009 with offline access to the full-text for 1081 articles. In general, the main objectives of creating the “e-Publications, Eastern Mediterranean Region Series” on CD or DVD are to strengthen and enhance equitable access to EMRO health information products worldwide; increase the efficiency and cut costs of producing and distributing EMRO information products, and contribute in building a fully searchable and specialized e-Library.

Hatem Nour El-Din, Technical Officer, Library and Health Literature Services, WHO EMRO. Please contact Dr. Nour at nourh@emro.who.int if you have any questions. It is quite impressive as to what he is developing in the EMRO region.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization:

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/7/en/index.html>

In an editorial Clarissa Brocklehurst & Jamie Bartram discuss the major impact that water and sanitation have on the lives of women and girls. In a second editorial, Jeremy A Greene discusses the evolving role of essential medicines in public health. In the news section, Jane Parry reports on health problems caused by abandoning traditional foods in the Pacific Islands. Patralekha Chatterjee reports on the Indian health-financing system in which 1.2 billion people have to pay out of their own pocket. In an interview, Melissa Leach says there is much to learn from combining local and scientific knowledge in dealing with hemorrhagic fevers. Justin O Parkhurst investigates the link between HIV infection and household wealth in 12 sub-Saharan countries. The CDI Study Group finds that an approach used in onchocerciasis control in Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda is a good model for involving communities in health interventions. M-F Anaky et al. study a pediatric HIV- care and treatment programme in Côte d’Ivoire. Subhrendu K Pattanayak et al. evaluate the economic benefit of water and sanitation improvements in rural India.

Christiana R Titaley et al. find a significant reduction in deaths of Indonesian newborns whose mothers took iron and folic acid during pregnancy. Margaret E Kruk et al. assess health services five years after the end of the civil war in Liberia. Mohammad Ali et al. show the benefits of using personal digital assistants in a vaccination programme in the United Republic of Tanzania. Jane Cottingham et al. develop a tool to examine States’ human rights obligations. Jennifer Mindell et al. develop a practical guide for doing health impact assessments. Volume 88, Number 7, July 2010, 481-560 IN THIS MONTH'S BULLETIN Africa; Does poverty drive the HIV epidemic?; Cameroon, Nigeria & Uganda; Involving communities in health; Côte d’Ivoire; Care for HIV-infected children; India; Breaking cycle of health-care debt; Price for piped water?;

Indonesia; Reducing neonatal deaths; Liberia; After the war; Pacific islands ; Heavy price for poor diet; United Republic of Tanzania; Digitizing data in the field; Global; Applying human rights for health; Improving the use of evidence Volume 88, Number 7, July 2010, 481-560

Faina 's Pick of the Week

The Supercourse history of medicine collection is becoming larger and larger. The new lecture "1976 Swine Flu Vaccine Debacle and U.S. Vaccine Strategy for Avian Flu: History Repeating Itself?" became a part of the Supercourse and currently accessible at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec37991/index.htm>

Jacqueline Doamekpor created this lecture under the supervision of John Erlen, who is leading the development of the History of Medicine collection in the Supercourse. Recent events of Swine Flu outbreak make this lecture especially interesting.

Best Regards from the Supercourse Team

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

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