

Supercourse Newsletter  
8 June 2010

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Dear Super Friends,

Please forward to people interested in doubling the number of people trained in global health.

Nobel Prize Winners: We have received very positive responses to our BA Nobel Prize site that Eric Marler and Eugene Shubnikov developed. The Nobel prize winners view this as an excellent collection of their research and life.

Done fishing, now to catch Deans, Faculty and Students

The major event for this summer is collaboration of the World Health Organization, the Library of Alexandria and the Supercourse to contact all 2000 of the Deans of Medical Schools, Public Health Schools, Deans of Agriculture Schools, and the heads of National medical associations, and public health associations. First of all I would like to congratulate our team of fishers who can be found at:

For Agriculture: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/Science/agriculturetrack.htm>  
The "Fish for Deans" Project fishers are located at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/Science/Deansfish.htm>

This remarkable group of young people spent over 500 hours fishing the web. The deans are Gate keepers, and what we want them to join us by forwarding our message to their faculty and students not only now, but the future, to bring global health and prevention to their students. We would very much like your advice as to what the message will be, and if you would like to help. Contact ([ronaldlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldlaporte@gmail.com)). In addition, you and our network cover over 50% of the schools. Our mission is to inform them about global health and prevention, and for the faculty to markedly increase global health training for their students. We plan to approach them by the end of the year.

A second component will be to form a global network of medical faculty and students for the sharing of knowledge and disasters. Overall with the 2000 schools and ministries, the total network will be over 2 million.

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes. Proust

Shortage of Trained Public Health workers: There are 233 clinicians for every one trained in Public Health, and 24 times more Morticians than those in Public Health. We thus know how to bury people better than we prevent diseases. It is likely that we will never be able to markedly

increase those who have MPH and Ph.D. degrees in public health. However, we should target clinicians as well as those in public health to carry the flag of global health and be on our global health team. With the Supercourse, our DVD and the golden lectures, we make it very easy for anyone to teach about global health and prevention. It is very easy for a clinician to take 1-30 slides and include these lectures to medical students. It is very likely that Clinicians would be more interested in teaching about global health than public health. It is a win for everyone. Clinical instructors, have difficult teaching public health as they have little training. However, by providing clinicians global health and prevention slides, then they too can present about global health and prevention to their medical students and carry forth our message with little preparation effort. Therefore a most important target group for global health and preventions are clinicians. We plan to reach them through the deans.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm (Emerson)

Contributions: We would greatly appreciate if you could consider contributing to the supercourse ([www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/)). If you used one of our lectures last year to teach, your lecture was better, also, preparation time reduced from 12 to 2-3 hours. How much is the additional 10 hours time that the Supercourse give you? We very much appreciate your consideration.

TMU 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Last week I was in Taiwan meeting Wen-Ta Chiu, M.D. Wen-ta is my age, and a neurosurgeon. However, he obtained his doctorate in Epidemiology with me, and has set up a system to monitor and prevention head injuries. He is the President of Taipei Medical University, one of the most prestigious universities in Asia. His head injury program prevention 3000 death per year. Pretty amazing. It was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TMU, and we had a wonderful time. I was 11 years old when the school started in 1960. The year of the opening was also one of Elvis's greatest hits, the IBM 7090, the first computer with Transistors (3 million dollars) and birth control pills (hmm, I wonder which has had the most impact on our life. Wen-ta has been successfully developing national as well as global programs in head injury prevention. It appears that of all the chronic disorders, severe injuries may be the one that is cheap, and easiest to intervene upon. Please contact him at: [luan@tmu.edu.tw](mailto:luan@tmu.edu.tw) if you are interested in collaborating in global Injury prevention.

Zen Birthday:

May 29 was my birthday. I got off the plan in Taiwan and the customs person wished me a happy birthday. It was a Zen type philosophical moment that is still not resolved. I called Jan, and it was only may 28<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh. Then there was the sudden realization that if I celebrated May 29 in Taiwan, and May 29 in Pittsburgh I could have two birthdays, which was rather cool. But then came the horrible realization that if I celebrated two birthdays, I would be 62 rather than 61.

Learning Epidemiology: We think that everyone should learn about epidemiology. One way to do this is to go to a short course on epidemiology in Edinburgh. such as: <http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/cpd/courses/medicine?Course=K1797>

This is a 5 days course by some of the leaders in epidemiology. The organizer of the course is a wonderful epidemiologist. This course has received extremely positive reviews. S Bhopal, University of Edinburgh. Raj has also produced a very interesting project called: Seven mistakes and Seven solutions of epidemiology. It is a thought provoking lecture and he is looking for feedback. <http://www.ete-online.com/content/6/1/6>

Liver: Ella our young Sheltie dog is now 14 weeks old and weighs 3 Kilos, she is a most small dog. Jan and I have been reading many books about training, and taking her to obedience school (which really is not for the dog, but us). Jan read that the gourmet dish for shelties is fried liver. Jan bought me for my birthday a very nice blazer and I wore it for the first time today. It was strange as I was meeting with people on this hot day, an interesting aroma wafted up to my nose. I had forgotten to take the liver pieces from my jacket, and smelled like a fried chicken liver. I was wondering if there was a problem as I was walking in front of the Graduate School, and 17 dogs were following me. I was the “pied piper” of liver bits!.

If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people. Confucius

Faina’s pick of the week:

Jonathon Erlen

Si nescis unde venias, nescis quo adeas: If you don’t know where you come from, you don’t know where you are going...

As medical and public health professionals, we must understand our past before moving forward. In order to understand our past better and share the knowledge of medical history with the Supercourse audience, Dr. Erlen, a medical historian at the University of Pittsburgh, is taking a lead on compiling a lecture library of history of medicine lectures.

Our History website is available at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/History/history.htm>

Our lecture of the week is “BYZANTINE AND ISLAMIC MEDICINE” available at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec37941/index.htm>

This lecture talks about the ancient history of medicine, as well as the health of the Islamic Empire. The Islamic Empire was a major force in the growth of Western European medicine, both in terms of preserving, to a much greater extent than had Byzantium, the important Greco-Roman medical works, and in providing new ideas in the areas of pharmacology, medical diagnosis, and hospital design and management.

Best Regards

Ron, Ella, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Meredith, Raj, Eric, Ismail, Vint, Gil, Nicholas, Ali, Jesse, Kawkab, Najeeb

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