

Year of the Fire Boar

Supercourse Newsletter
01 Jan. 2007

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

Dear Friends:

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. O. Winfrey

Happy New Year Newsletter: The first newsletter of the year we like to tell you a bit about where we have been and what we would love to collaborate with you in the up coming year to bring global health training to the world from all 38,000 members of the Supercourse!

Please distribute this newsletters to your friends, family and students who might be interested in global health. If they want to join our efforts, please write to super1@pitt.edu. We would love top quality lectures from you!!

Growth and development

	Faculty		Lectures/yr	Total	Lectures
1999			800	70	70
2000			1750	225	295
2001			4700	305	600
2002			10000	500	1100
2003			14000	500	1611
2004			18000	421	2032
2005			31208	423	2455
2006	38000	545	3000		

Amazingly this year we crashed the 3000 barrier right before Jan. 1. We began the Supercourse in 1999 under a grant from NASA and then from the NLM. We were funded to build a network of 500 scientists worldwide and collect 200 lectures by 2003. Instead the Supercourse exploded, such that we have almost 80 times more faculty and 15 times more lectures than what we expected. Our page rankings indicate that our impact is greater now than all epidemiology journals and up among the lofty journals such as BMJ, Science and Nature. Please review our page rankings at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec26131/index.htm>. It is an interesting concept that by putting a lecture in the Supercourse more people will see it than in an Epidemiology Journal. It would seem that if one plans to publish in a journal about global health, public health, epidemiology and other areas, one should consider also including a lecture in the Supercourse for even broader exposures.

In many countries at the first of the year one makes new years resolutions. One obvious resolution for me is that that I should lose 3 kilos, as this was a major year of epidemiologist fatification. However, I may not as seen below.

Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average... which means, you have met your New Year's resolution. J. Leno

Resolution: The Supercourse will teach every medical and public health student in the world about Global Health, we will become the Global Health Grover.

There are about 800 medical and public health schools in the world representing over 320,000 students. Year 2007 is the Chinese year of the Fire Boar which comes around only every 60 years. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pig_\(zodiac\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pig_(zodiac)). It is very exciting.

We will be like Fire Boars this year. We will not be "boring". Those lectures born in the year of the fire boar will be fertile, and viral, with everyone loving them. They will change global health.

The birth of the Global Health Fire Boar lecture in 2007.

We hit upon this idea based upon work that Faina Linkov did 3 years ago called the Golden Lecture of prevention. With this we decided to teach 1000s of students world wide about prevention and have the results presented on the day that Hippocrates birthday is celebrated in Greece, on Sept. 15. In the beginning of 2004 she put together outstanding slides with your help using materials from the Supercourse lecture. <http://www.pitt.edu/~Super1/lecture/lec10511/index.htm>. Then you translated the lecture into 14 different languages. You all helped to lecture teach the golden lecture to yours and other students. It was wildly successful, it was taught in 136 countries. We crudely estimated that it was seen by 300,000 students. It most certainly could have been in the Guinness book of world records as the "lecture heard around the world". This was subsequently published in the Lancet. But we can do better.

What was amazing is the lasting effect of this lecture. We just did a Google page ranking search on the title "global health" in Google for 9 of the languages that Google supported. For 6 of the languages our lectures came up number 1-5 and for 4, number 1. We thus are having a major impact on the teaching of global health world wide with the translated versions of the Golden Lecture. It's impact continues.

We think in 2007 we can do this even better, by teaching all medical and public health students about Global health. The world is being transformed due to Mass Collaboration, and we are a prime example with a group of global friends we can educate the world about global health.

Our steps will be similar to the global lecture. We will first construct a Golden Lecture of Global health and distribute this to some of you for comments. Then we will seek people to translate the lecture in at least 20 different languages. We will then contact all of you to ask that the lectures be presented to your students. By the end of the year we will reach almost all the medical students and public health students in the world.

Once this system is in place, we can do the same for lectures such as on disasters, or health and agriculture, or drug abuse, or Avian Flu, or any other disease.

We would love your comments, please write to rlaporte@pitt.edu

Ron, Eugene, Faina, Mita, Ali, Francois, Aleshia, Francois, Julia, Rania, Soni

You have received this newsletter in the genuine belief that its contents would be of interest to you. If you would like to unsubscribe from future mailing of the Supercourse Newsletter, please reply to this message and resend it to us with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thanks.