

Supercourse Newsletter

July 14, 2008

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

OIC Supercourse

Farshad Pourmalek from Iran just translated the strategic plan for the OIC countries. Here is the lecture both in English and Farsi <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec32301/index.htm>. Farshad wrote a wonderful letter about the translation and Supercourse.

“Knowledge and peace can make their way for the well-being of the most number of people all over the world. I spent only one night on this translation and enjoyed it much. I also spent some several nights on a book for youth audience in sub-Saharan Africa for their protection against HIV. If one night of my life can serve one human life (or at least one DALY!), then I count it as a successful shift much more pleasurable than an overnight duty shift in the emergency ward of a hospital. No matter if the saved life is white or black or red or yellow skinned. One of the reasons I like the supercourse is this anonymous nature of the target lives that are eventually saved. Somebody also saves the lives of my daughter and son from early death or preventable disability.

We will see that people do realize the good will behind the dissemination of knowledge.”

Farshad’s Persian translation and letter are beautiful. The Supercourse is anonymous in that it makes no difference where the lectures come and everyone can use our knowledge for free.

Sept. 25 08: On Thursday Sept. 25 I (Ron) will be presenting in Pittsburgh to my department of Epidemiology about the Supercourse . Ali Ardalan will help me by presenting about disasters and the Supercourse from Iran. I am considering setting this up as a Webinar and/or webcast or Pod Cast in addition to a Supercourse lecture. If you would like see the presentation, please let us know and we will try to have lecture go around the world.

Adapt a Lecture:

How many servings of Kim Chi, Indian Pickle, Ceviche, or Starbucks coffee did you have last week? 5? 6? These run into a significant amount of money each year. Perhaps you could reduce your intake of Pickle, and use the saved money to “adapt a lecture” for a year. We are offering an opportunity to contribute just \$100 to adapt a young cute lecture from Guatemala, Guinea or Georgia for a year. You can go to the Supercourse to select a lecture from your native country, e.g. Italy, your area of research, i.e. Cardiovascular Epidemiology, or a good friend, e.g. Steve Blair. We are happy to find a lecture for you. We will indicate on the front page of the lecture that you supported this lecture. We will also include a link to your research program, your university, a YouTube presentation of you dancing or a family picture of your dog. This will bring many eyes to your favorite site. Please consider adapting a Supercourse lecture. Please come and contribute at www.pitt.edu/~super1/.

We will be applying to NIH for a grant to train people about Non-communicable disease implementation research and prevention. Our mission will be to give short courses on NCD translational training, establish a NCD Supercourse and an NCD Supercourse global lecture. In addition to us applying, we would be happy to partner with others who are submitting as one of the missions of the grant is the sharing of curriculum. We can help you to be funded. We have the only effective means for curriculum sharing which is a target for the grant. If you are planning to submit and interested in collaborating, please write to me at ronlaporte@aol.com. We would also like to have comments from Low and Middle income countries as to your thoughts about the need for a Supercourse for NCD training to include in our grant.

Bolje spriječiti nego liječiti.

Better to prevent than to have to cure (Croatian Proverb)

Crash Course: Concepts of Epidemiology: 8-12th of December 2008, Edinburgh, UK:<http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk/cpd/courses/medicine?Course=K1457> in 2007, 100% of respondents indicating that the course had met (or exceeded) their expectations and that they would recommend it to their colleagues. The feedback is on the course website as above. Raj Bhopal's lectures relating to the book Concepts of Epidemiology are in the supercourse." This is an outstanding program.

Mita Lovalekar (mita.lovalekar@gmail.com) will have her final meeting of her Ph.D. on Wednesday July 23 at 10:00.

Lecture of the week

How to Conduct a Meta-Analysis

Our lecture of the week is "How to Conduct a Meta-Analysis" by Dr. Arindum Basu, MD, MPH, from India. We have many great lectures in the Supercourse, Arin's lecture is one of them. His lecture is the most popular in terms of the number of page views. We estimated that it receives more than 18,000 page views per year. This is a considerable underestimate as it is being seen by 1000s at the Library of Alexandria, and the PowerPoint slides are downloaded and used to teach classes of 30 or more. It is a very interesting, well written and systematic lecture on Metaanalysis, which explains its popularity among users of the Supercourse. This lecture also demonstrates that the Supercourse is a two way street, lectures not only flow from developed countries to developing. As seen with the Metaanalysis lecture many thousands are using his wonderful lecture from both developed and developing countries alike. Please visit this lecture at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec1171/index.htm>. It is really exciting.

□ 故而知新，可以為師矣。

Translation: Reviewing what you have learned and learning anew, you are fit to be a teacher (Confucius)

Best Regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Francois, Ali, Jesse, Evan, Nicholas, Gil, Ismail, Vint, Fayrouz, Farshad, Arin

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