

Supercourse Newsletter
March 11, 2005

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

NATO Advanced Research Workshop, run by the Supercourse Team...please consider coming!!

Kaunas, Lithuania, August 8-12, 2005
"SCIENTIFIC NETWORKING FOR THE PREVENTION OF THREAT FROM MAN MADE AND NATURAL DISASTERS" in Kaunas, Lithuania, August 8-12, 2005

Networking of scientists from various disciplines and across the borders may be an important aspect of disaster forecast and prevention. This was demonstrated Supercourse activities in the area of Just in Time Knowledge (JIT lecture on Bam earthquake),(tsunami in South Asia <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec18091/index.htm>). The collapse of public health infrastructure in the countries of the Former Soviet Union became a threat to the health of the people in the FSU, Europe, Mediterranean region, and worldwide. A famine in the FSU could be the tipping point leading to a chain reaction of political, economic and health destabilization in the FSU, markedly escalating nuclear and other types of threat for all other countries. We will hold a meeting to discuss how an infrastructure for the Supercourse and scientific networking could be built to avert the problem of natural disasters spinning out of control to nuclear winter. We would like scientists from many different disciplines and countries to discuss this essential issue. We invite scientists from all eligible countries (below) to apply to the workshop to build new exciting telepreventive networks. Even if you cannot come, we would love to hear your thoughts. Detailed information about the workshop and application information can be found at www.pitt.edu/~super2/nato

You can also contact Faina Linkov (faina.linkov@gmail.com) and Eugene Shubnikov (eshub@mail.nsk.ru) for more information. We have a limited number of partial travel grants.

Eligible countries: All 15 countries of the former Soviet Union, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, UK, USA, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Epidemiologic Diplomacy: Isn't that a cool name? Upon return from Pakistan we were wondering why people liked us a lot, in a country where there is not a great love for Americans. We received wonderful newspaper coverage, in contrast to most of the articles about Americans. Part of the reason is the Supercourse tries to be as a political as possible, as we are scientists and friend first rather than Ukrainians, Japanese, Americans, Kenyans, Brazilians.

However, we served a very useful purpose, to help students see who we really are, and visa versa. We were thinking that with our membership 20,300 strong we can become a network of not only epidemiologist/preventionist scientists, but also a group of epidemiologist diplomats, where we bring science, and perhaps a little bit of rationality to peace projects in the future. When ever peace is about to occur, one of the first thing that happens is the exchange of scientists and health officials. Why cannot our Supercourse faculty world wide be linking, apolitically to interactions between countries as we can collaborate, despite enormous gulfs in our

countries political agenda, epidemiologists in many ways are the voices of truth in the area of health.

BMJ: The BMJ disappointed the world a few months ago when their business people overcame the humanitarians and they decided to charge for access to their literature. This was a great way to reduce the viewing of their journals from a zillion hits a year, to a dribble number of hits. I was on strike against the BMJ (of course they did not know it). Tony Delamothe has been the leader of bringing the BMJ onto the Web. Despite this major set back, alas, they just did something really cool. In the BMJ web site you will be able to click on the figures and tables, and drop these down directly into PowerPoint. Isn't that fantastic??? Although short sighted forcing payment, they are "long sighted" in PowerPoint. Great going Tony!!

Good News: Deb Aaron (debaaron@pitt.edu), has just gotten tenure at the University of Pittsburgh. Deb was one of the founding members of the Supercourse, and now is doing exceptionally well.

Turkey Time: Once again we provide to you a brief description of Turkey Epidemiology. The 40 turkeys in our backyard have gone through a sudden transformation. Six of them have become "wild and crazy" turkeys, their heads have turned blue and they are strutting around, trying to make the gale turkeys pay attention to them. They walk in pairs with the tail feathers held high, all pumped up on testosterone. Sadly, as we males often have been at dances when we were young, no ladies pay attention to them despite their beautiful blue heads.

Lecture of the week: Earlier this year, Supercourse team created a JIT lecture on tsunami, which many of you liked and utilized for teaching. We recently received a specialized lecture on Tsunami in India, contributed by our strong supporter in India, Dr. Avasarala. This lecture gives a very interesting perspective about the history of tsunami in India and the exploration of preventive mechanisms.

For more information visit

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec18991/index.htm>

Best Regards from Pittsburgh, Ron, Faina, Mita, Soni, Eugene, Tony, Samar, Tom, Deb, Ezzeldeen, Julia, Tom

If you would like to come off this list, please send a note to Mital@pitt.edu