

Supercourse Newsletter
May 28, 2003

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

Golden Lecture

Prevention (protection) is better than treatment

This is an ancient Arab saying that a good friend Suad Sulaiman sent to us from the Sudan. Isn't it amazing that almost all cultures have sayings about prevention. Please send us quotes about prevention. We want the golden lecture to be magnificent.

Things are really "cooking" we go over 50 different comments on the lecture. Faina is now working to make the changes. It should be ready early next week. The comments were wonderful, and extremely constructive. The biggest complaints were 1) the size may have been a little too big so some remote areas were having difficulty pulling it down and 2) why wasn't my disease included? Faina should be complimented.

We tried to do our best to address all the comments we received. We would like to get your input on what would be the optimal size of the golden lecture. Please, let us know how big of a file your mailbox can accept, especially if you were one of those who could not open the file. We really need your feedback to figure out what the next draft should look like!

During the next week we are working to translate the lecture, and we need your help. Orlando Barrionue from Argentina amazingly already took it upon himself to translate the lecture into Spanish. That was so kind. During the next week in our group we will translate the lecture into Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian. If you could help to translate into these languages or others it would be wonderful. Please send a note to Faina at fy1@pitt.edu.

At the end of next week we are planning the distribution system to try and capture a million minds for prevention early September. We are trying to think of ways to count the number of people who see the lecture, but it is not easy. We will put at the final slide a form to be sent back to us, but we know this will be incomplete. We thought it would be a neat idea to bring some of our epidemiology concepts into "counting" the people seeing the Golden Lecture. We think we can set up a system of capture recapture to estimate the number of people who see the lecture. <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec0032/index.htm>

Shhhh, a secret

The excitement is rising with the pending marriage of Hippocrates with Hygeia on Sept. 19. This marriage proves our case that prevention is better than treatment. Hygeia has lived somewhere between (95% CI, 3000-infinity) , Hippocrates and his treatment approach lived about 80 years, therefore one is at a minimum 3000/80 or OR 35 better off with prevention. A really good friend Chandra Pandav brilliantly pointed out that we neglected to mention that some of us need do to do the HIV testing on this couple prior to the marriage, as well as to discuss reproductive epidemiology. Now, here is a secret, that you cannot mention to anyone. None of us knows if the rumor is true, but there is a famous reproductive epidemiologist formerly from South Africa whose birth date is Sept. 19 who contributed a full course to the Supercourse. We cannot reveal his name because of confidentiality laws. We coded the name so it would be confidential NEYEGELLY PANTENTH606. There is a rumor floating about concerning, NP's parents truly being Hippocrates and Hygeia.

So, please send us your thoughts concerning translation and distribution of the golden lecture

Why do we do this?

Friends, obviously we are all having fun with the Supercourse. But it is important for us to come back to reality. We get many letters like this a week. This is why all 10,000 of us are doing it, we are making a difference even at the primary health care level across the world

Sir,

Kindly send me two copies each of the several series of the super course. Access to the internet remains an expensive luxury in most parts of Bayelsa State of Nigeria, where several of my colleagues with interest in public practice.

I have talked so much to them about Super Course that I am now barely allowed to restrain my colleagues.

I look forward to your relieving my friends and I by your sending us copies of the super, super-course.

Dr.B.Z.Avah
Dept.Primary Health Care,
Ministry of Health,
P.M.B.24,
Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, NIGERIA

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Akira, EunRyoung, Abed, Soni, Rania, Julia, Beatriz, Deb, Wendy, Tom and 10,000 members of the Global Health Network Supercourse

If you would like to come off this list, please e-mail super2@pitt.edu