

Supercourse Newsletter
November 5, 2003

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

Medical Detectives:

There were many who liked the concept of the Medical Detectives. In the US there is an excellent TV show called Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), with the introductory song of "Who are you" by the great 60's group the "WHO". It is fascinating as they sift through forensic data to find out that a surfer was lifted from his board and blown inland ½ mile to meet an untimely fate with a BMW. It is quite interesting, using forensic data to find the cause of the death.

Epidemiologists deserve our own TV show. Epidemiologists are also "too cool". The title must be "Epidemiologists, the Medical Detectives". Our theme song should also be by the WHO, we will use the song Faith in Something bigger: "We've got to have faith in something bigger, faith in something bigger, Faith in something big inside ourself". (disclaimer to prevent being sued, WHO does not stand for the World Health Organization).

There is a book by Berton Roueche titled "the Medical Detectives", published in 1991 and available in Amazon. There were short "epidemiologic detective stories" that were most fascinating, with titles like "eleven blue men", "a pig from Jersey", "swim in the Nile". It is a captivating book and shows that epidemiology most certainly is not dull; rather it is the most exciting medical and scientific discipline (of course we are not prejudiced at all). We could have Sherlock Holmes Kabanov, Epidemiology Detective from St. Petersburg, or Perry Mason Liu Xi Li, the health sleuth from Henan China.

APHA

Supercourse presence at APHA Annual conference: APHA conference will take place in San Francisco, November 15-November 19, 2003. Faina will be presenting a poster titled "Bridging South and North: Delivering Public Health Education to Latin America and Caribbean" in the International Health poster session. Poster session will start at 4:30pm, November 18th (Moscone Hotel, Hall D). If any of you are attending the conference and would like to learn more about the Supercourse, please do not miss this opportunity. It will be great to meet you and find further ways to collaborate!

Nicolas Padilla

One of the most helpful members of the Supercourse was just elected to become a new member of the academy of professors and alumni (government organism, maximum authority) in the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. It is indeed an honor and we congratulate him. Despite his new position, Nicolas is eager to follow his work in the Supercourse and develop Latin American Women's health Supercourse.

Lectures, we have lectures, we have lots and lots of lectures:

Eugene reports that we now have 1522 lectures. Amazingly, the pace quickens. Due try to make us happy by Jan. 1, and help us leap over the 1600 lecture barrier.

Epidemiology students: Thanks so much for finding outstanding epidemiology students for us. We have had now almost 80 students express an interest to become Epidemiology Sleuths.

Disasters: We are working to establish a Global Health Disaster Network based upon the very successful FSU model that Eugene and others developed. <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/national/index.htm>. Eric Noji, former head of disasters at CDC and WHO indicated that in a disaster often it is a “battle fog” in that there is not sufficient epidemiologic data, and accurate data do not flow in to the centers. Instead decisions are made by guess work. We propose to build something like what Eugene has established, but in the area of disasters, where administrated epidemiologic are collected. Should a disaster strike, we can then do just in time networks, just in time data, and just in time lectures to get the best possible prevention and mitigation knowledge to the people who are interested. If you would like to join us, please send a note to Ron LaPorte, @pitt.edu.

Lecture of the week

E-health, e-patient, telemedicine, telehealth..... If any of these buzz words sound interesting for you, check out a new lecture by Dr. Ricky Richardson from UK titled “eHealth, eEurope, eVolution”. The lecture has two parts and can be accessed through <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec12181/index.htm>. As a newly elected Vice-President of the International Society for Telemedicine, Dr. Richardson is sharing his ideas about preventive medicine of the future. The lecture also has interesting information about the growth of IT, the concept of eNursing, globalization, healthcare delivery models, etc. If ever you have a chance to see Dr. Richardson, his talks are outstanding and he could be Ricky Daltry Richardson lead singer of the e-WHO group!!

"Supercourse member and utilization survey":

The Supercourse has thousands of lectures and is widely used. However we do not yet understand how and which part users find "useful". Is it the whole lectures, or parts of the lectures, what would they like to see more of, what would they like to see improved? We are contacting you to help us to continue to provide stimulating material on the Supercourse. We have randomly selected 800 members who will receive the survey some time next week. Please take your 5 minutes and share your experiences and thoughts with us for the Supercourse. EunRyoung Sa will obtain her Ph.D. from this. She has done a wonderful job on the Supercourse, and it would be great if you could help her.

Have a happy fall as winter silently approaches the Northern Hemisphere.

Best regards,

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Tomoko, Akira, Sunita, Seok-Won, Abed, Rania and the rest of the Supercourse team

If you would like to come off this list, please send a note to super2@pitt.edu