

Supercourse Newsletter
October 13, 2004

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

Dear Friends:

We are all very excited about the possibility of working with the NIH to establish an NIH Supercourse. Dr. Zerhouni is a most impressive person, and to work with him would be a privilege. Currently several of his staff are looking into various avenues of funding. Hopefully some will be available. Eugene, Faina and I developed a Supercourse lecture which describes the possibility of a NIH Supercourse:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec25081/index.htm>

There are several reasons that an NIH Supercourse is needed:

1. Bridging between research and education
2. A platform for trans-NIH and trans-world research
3. A window of transparency so that the world can see what NIH does
4. e-mail means for recruiting into science as fewer and fewer of the best students go into science
5. Taxpayer accountability: We open up so that taxpayers can see what we are doing

A friend of mine suggested that we can take this one step further, a Supercourse of Science across the whole US government. It is pretty exciting.

..., new National Institutes of Health chief Elias Zerhouni outlined his goals. He said he aims to make sure that biomedical research results are translated into public health benefits

Presentation Concept: Dean Burke from our university had a great idea to present the Supercourse. In the demonstration he would have people from the Audience suggest public health terms, like, morbidity, Dengue, life table etc. He would put this into the google search engine on the Supercourse to show the depth knowledge and wisdom we have collected.

Goblins and ghosts: On Oct. 31 is Halloween. We would love to have a lecture on the health effects of Halloween!!!! All that candy must make some kids vomit. The masks prevent kids from seeing very well. What is the incidence of “tricks”? To my knowledge there has never been a major investigation of the health effects of Halloween. Are little girls dressed as witches more likely to be injured than if they are dressed as angels? If we do a prospective study, do boys in “bad costumes” (bikers, ax murders, or devils)

compared with good costumes (Spiderman, Epidemiologists or Benson) have better outcomes? Would the bad costumes be predictors of juvenile delinquents, would they be more likely to be politicians?

Halloween Groan Joke:

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
He didn't have the guts.

The questions are endless, and may lead to a Halloween Nobel Prize.

For those unfamiliar with Halloween, please go to:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>

Indian Supercourse Network - by Mita Lovalekar

Since the past 3 years, we have developed the "Indian Supercourse" as a part of the main Supercourse. The Indian Supercourse is a collection of lectures in Epidemiology, Public Health and Community Medicine, on topics of particular interest to teachers and students in India. Currently, we have 5500 active collaborators in India, who are physicians, academics and researchers, who have contributed more than 120 lectures. All these lectures are available online at the Indian Supercourse website <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/india/india.htm> These lectures are available free of charge. Since the beginning of this year, we have had more than 1100 students learn epidemiology from the Indian Supercourse lectures.

Lecture of the Week – by Mita Lovalekar

The Supercourse Team is proud to announce a new Just-In-Time Lecture by our faculty member from India, Dr. I. Selvaraj, M.D. This lecture is on Chikungunya, which is a viral fever spread by mosquito bites from the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. There was a recent outbreak of Chikungunya in India, and this lecture provides an excellent overview of the epidemiology of this disease, as well as prevention and control measures. Please read Dr. Selvaraj's lecture to find out more about this topic at www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec25231/index.htm

Interestingly, the New York Times also carried an article on this rare disease but painful fever. To see The New York Times article go to http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/10/health/10sick.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

Cross your fingers about NIH funding. We would love to expand our efforts with you.

Best Regards, and a happy HOOOOOwling

Ron, Mita, Frank N. Stein, Faina, Eugene, Soni, Ali, Dracula, Francois, Raina, Julia, Casper

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