

Supercourse Newsletter  
[www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/)  
June 29, 2011

**Lazy Hazy Days of Summer:** Today is a beautiful day in Pittsburgh. We all are looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend to have a cookout with Hamburgers, corn, Potato Salad and fresh tomatoes. It is the best cookout of the season. If you are close to Pittsburgh, why not come over to our house!

**IEA:** The International Epidemiology Meetings will be held early in August in Scotland. It will likely be the premier epidemiologic event this year. We hope you can all come: <http://www.epidemiology2011.com/> . Nicholas, Eugene, Faina and I will be presenting on the Supercourse on Aug.10 in the morning, and you are all invited. After the presentation we will treat you to a single malt Scotch (or a diet coke). We have asked selected presenters to share with the Supercourse a lecture about their topic. Their slides will be made available immediately after the IEA, so that educators world wide can present from the freshest and best epidemiologic materials

I love to sing, and I love to drink scotch. Most people would rather hear me drink Scotch (George Burns)

**Mobile Global Health:** Mobile global health is the future of epidemiology and global health. There currently are more cell phones than tooth brushes in the world. In a year there will be more cell phones than people on earth. Dr. Najeeb Al-Shorbaji, Director of Knowledge Management for WHO just published a wonderful global survey on mhealth. [http://www.who.int/goe/publications/ehealth\\_series\\_vol3/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/goe/publications/ehealth_series_vol3/en/index.html) .

One of the striking findings is that despite the fact there are 6 billion cell phones, the number of global mobile health applications is but a handful for each country, and most are Mobile Applications for health care, not global health and prevention. A major power of global health and prevention is broad scale education on prevention. Now at our desks we can communicate with over 6 million people. We have over 50,000 faculty in the supercourse. It would be wonderful if you could send to us wild and crazy ideas about app-epidemiology. For example Steve Blair suggested a randomized exercise trial of 1 million people world wide. One could also do a global health survey with machine translations into 70 languages. There is telephone based case control study in Africa. A global network of citizen scientists could use chemical or radiation detectors hitched to cell phones. Cell technology is especially important for women's health as this is a technology that as women have greater access to cell technology than just about any other technology. We would love to hear creative new ideas as we need to start to use Cell phones as a backbone for global health. Please write to me with your wild and crazy ideas ([ronaldlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldlaporte@gmail.com)). We need to break out of our mind set to include cell phones in novel ways.

A nation's treasures is in its scholars (Chinese quote)

**Linking to the Supercourse:** We suggest that you put a link of the Supercourse ([www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/)) into your personal website or blog, each of your courses as well as your department and university. The more the links, the more people will learn about global health.

**Neat Apps:** Any suggestions for neat app-demiology? There is a wonderful app called leafsnap. This is a free app that you can use while walking through the woods. You can take a picture of any leaf, and it will tell you the name of the tree, its history, diseases, geographic spread, and the information will also be sent to a data base to map the foliage of the US.

Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet (Chinese proverb)

**Supercourse Status:** We have a remarkable 4855 lectures from over 1500 authors. Some of our lectures are now 10 years old. It would be wonderful if you could share with us one of your new lectures.

**Lecture of the week: Blindness**

Every five seconds somebody in the world goes blind. What causes blindness? How come blindness is so prevalent among children in poor countries? What are the best option to control this devastating disability? To get an answer to all this questions, you can access new supercourse lecture on blindness, donated to the supercourse by Drs Serrano and Waxman. Lecture also describes burden of illness among various population groups, pointing out that it is especially devastating in women and children. We hope in the future to build a vision supercourse if we can obtain funding. Please forward this to your colleagues interested in vision Lecture on blindness can be accessed <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec42271/051.htm>.

Best Regards,

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Jesse, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Meredith