

Supercourse Newsletter
March 5, 2003

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

Dear Friends,

Real Jobs:

I am sorry I have not had a chance to send a newsletter. I had to spend more time on the job that I get paid for. Isn't that sad? During the past 3 weeks we submitted 4 NIH grants. The last one was on the building of a Cancer Translation Supercourse. There were 31 of our membership who joined this. If you would like a copy of this cancer grant, please send a message to Super1@pitt.edu.

Incredible Progress:

During the past few weeks there has been enormous progress in the collection of lectures. We currently have 1219 lectures, beyond our wildest dreams. Rania Saad from Egypt contributed a new concept in lectures, that of Poison lectures that are targeted to training field personnel. The lectures will also be in Arabic. It is amazing as in the original NIH grant 3 years ago we thought that we would have only 200 lectures in a period of 4 years, now we have 6 times as many. It shows how people in prevention will share their work, and it is beautiful.

Jan's Party:

Jan's promotion party was wonderful. We thank our friends world wide for making it so great. Here at the University of Pittsburgh, the chancellor, Mark Nordenberg, the Senior Vice Chancellor, Art Levine and Dean of our Graduate School, Bernie Goldstein were wonderful in that they personally signed a portrait of the Cathedral of Learning (the largest building on campus) for Jan. We then had everyone else sign at the party. We collected 16 desserts from our friends world wide. Caremen Mcvarelas sent 3 beautiful Spanish desserts, one of which flooded your mind with taste. Michele Micazang lead us to French Desserts, Max Pietroma found for us Sicilian Cassata. Birgit Rami guided us to Sacher Torts in Vienna. Akira Sekikawa brought to us Kyoto desserts (very sweet), EunRyoung Sa sent Korea rice cakes and German cookies (Her fiancé, Guther Eysenbach, is German). Daniel Agostini sent Choccolata Scorra which is a fantastic chocolate bark from Bologna. Benjamin Acosta contributed Marias Gamesa cookies that every children eats in Mexico with a caramel sauce. These were the first desserts in the Americans, having been brought by the Spanish. A great friend Nat Mass guided us to the best cheese cake and Mud Pie in NYC. Evelyn Talbot brought a fantastic burnt almond tort from Pittsburgh. My sister, Susan Bennett sent a beautiful flower arrangement to Jan and the party. It was a fun party, and we are all very happy that so many people could attend. If you would like to see pictures of the party, please send a note to Super1@pitt.edu. Once again, congratulations to Jan for her becoming a professor.

Who we are:

We have been moving at a furious pace, more and more people have joined, and lectures (and desserts) have been rolling in. We are perhaps the first and largest global training system, not only in health, but any discipline. We have therefore included at the end a short abstract that describes who we are and what we have been doing as we establish perhaps the first successful

system of high quality open source global training. Please distribute this abstract to any people how might be interested, in your department, in your family, in your state or prefecture or in your country.

Best regards from Pittsburgh, thanks for all your help with Jan's party.

Ron, Jan, Faina, Mita, EunRyoung, Eugene, Akira, Soni, Rania, Julia, Abed, Wendy, Tom, Deb

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

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Globalization of Prevention Education: the Supercourse
(www.pitt.edu/~super1)(super6@pitt.edu)

Question: What is the best way to improve prevention training worldwide?

Answer: Get better lectures.

Question: How do we improve lectures and research translation?

Answer: Have academic faculty worldwide share their lectures:

Question: Will faculty share lectures?

Answer: Yes, The Supercourse has 9300 faculty from >7500 universities from 148 countries who created an open source Library of Lectures with 1219 lectures available on the Internet for free. This is being shared worldwide.

We were funded three times by NASA, and we are now the only grant on prevention funded by the National Library of Medicine. We are developing an Internet "Library of Lectures" with passionate lectures in epidemiology, global health and the Internet. Our program consists of:

1. Shareware: A Global faculty is developing and sharing their best, most passionate lectures. This benefits all. The experienced faculty member can beef up old lectures. New instructors reduce preparation time and improve their lectures, using state of the art lecture templates from others. Faculty in developing countries have access to the latest prevention information for the first time the format is annotated Power-Point. All CDC lectures are available on our site.
2. Statistical Quality Assurance: We have established a Deming Model of Statistical Quality Control to monitor lectures over time
3. Supporting the teachers: The Library of Lectures consists of exciting template lectures by academic prevention experts in the field. It is targeted to the teacher, not the student. The classroom teacher "takes" them out for free like a library book. We train the teacher rather than direct distance teaching of students.
4. Hypertext comic book: The lectures are icon driven, and the students can go deep into the Internet for more information.
5. Presentation Speed: We have developed technologies to speed access to lectures world wide
6. Text books: British Medical Association has put current text books on line for us
7. Multilingual: For global use, the first lecture is in 8 languages
8. Faculty: Jeff Koplan, former head of CDC, John Patrick, VP from IBM, and John Last, the father of preventive medicine, have provided lectures as has Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet. A noble prize winner, Josh Lederberg has also contributed a lecture as well as the director of the American Cancer Society.
9. Leapfrogging the Digital Divide: We are copying the Supercourse on CDs and floppies to reach the 95% of the world not connected.
10. Leapfrogging the Disability Divide: Most prevention information is inaccessible to those who are disabled. We will have all of our lectures accessible to those who are disabled.

We have submitted or published over 110 papers in leading medical journals including the Lancet, British Medical Journal, Nature and Nature Medicine among others. Specialty Supercourses are being developed, including Islamic, Russian, and Indian Health. WHO developed a Supercourse. Ten thousand CDs have been distributed worldwide, reaching over 60,000 students and teachers. The course receives 40-100 million hits a year. We have 35 mirrored servers across the world.

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