

Supercourse Newsletter
March 9, 2003

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

Friends,

Mita has just sent me some very interesting news. It appears that we have 9250 faculty from 150 countries. This is rather amazing as WHO only has 13,000 people and CDC, 9,000. We are by far the largest academic network of prevention. The 150 countries represent 79% of the countries of the world. Below this newsletter are the countries we do not have...let's get participants from all before the end of the year!!

Philosophy: It is important to reiterate the philosophy of the Supercourse. It is simple, we want to develop a network of the brightest people from science world wide. From this group we want to extract the best scientific lectures, and make these available for free on the Internet. What is important is that this is a scientific network and scientific lectures, not political. During the course of this year we had to exclude 5 lectures as they were almost exclusively political. In addition, we have been asked a few times this week to make a statement on Iraq, which we will not. We are scientists dealing with scientific issues. The way we approach this is that we have developers who are American, Chinese, Indian, South Korean, Mexican, Pakistani, Palestinian, Russian, Ugandan, and Ukrainian. These are Christian, Hindu, Judaism, Islam, and undecided. If one of us views a lecture and we feel that it is not scientific and/or too political, it is excluded.

This is not to say that politics and prevention are not important. Because of our different backgrounds, we have our own beliefs. However, the easiest way to bust the Supercourse apart is to take a political stand, no matter how noble it appears to be. There are very few places one can go to find the science of prevention. There are many, many forums where one can go to in order to present a political statement for prevention. There are burning issues of prevention and health; we target the translation of scientific information into the classroom. We will not use the Supercourse for political purposes.

China: Things are moving very well in China. We have 42 people working in China. Jesse Huang, a good friend from Tennessee will be moving back to China, with an appointment in the MOH and with Peking Union Medical School, one of the best universities in the world. Upon his return he will be working to push the Supercourse. We have talked about having it translated into Chinese, building mirrored sites throughout China and CDs.

Mirroring: The Sudan Site of the Supercourse is up and running very well. We are in the process of putting a site into Mongolia. If it is possible to mirror in these two countries, then is possible to develop this in most other countries.

John Last: An Honor. John Last was a very early supporter of the Supercourse, and still is wonderful in his support. On Saturday July 12, 2003 he will receive an honorary Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Edinburgh. We are indeed proud of him.

Best Regards from Pittsburgh:

Ron, Faina, Mita, EunRyoung, Eugene, Soni, Rania, Abed, Julia, Tom, Deb, Benjamin

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

List of countries where we do not have Supercourse faculty members:

Algeria
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Brunei
Burundi
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Grenada
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Iraq
Kiribati
North Korea
Kyrgyzstan
Lesotho
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Micronesia
Monaco
Nauru
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Qatar
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Sierra Leone
Slovenia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Suriname
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu

Vanuatu
Yemen