

Supercourse Newsletter  
April 16, 2011  
[www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/)

Do not distribute this to people who hate global health

Dear Supercourse Friends

Ismail Serageldin, Ph.D. Dr. Serageldin directs the Library of Alexandria, and is one of my best friends. He also has been the main supporter of the Supercourse and responsible for the new Supercourse of Science. He will be receiving the highest award from the National Academy of Sciences on May 1. Please send a note to [Hanan.Mounir@bibalex.org](mailto:Hanan.Mounir@bibalex.org). The presentation will be recorded and available afterwards.

I am easily satisfied with the very best. (W. Churchill)

During the past few months we have been pleased to markedly increase training about global health in the world. Our Golden lecture <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec40341/index.htm> was sent to all the deans of medical schools, public health schools, Ministries of Health, Medical and public health societies, and many distributed this to their faculty, staff and students. We had a modest goal of having each faculty member in the world teach one slide about global health to their students. It is impossible to tell but we likely made millions of students world wide aware of global health. Annually we will share a new golden lecture on global health and prevention, for example on Non-communicable diseases, exercise, etc. so that each new class is exposed to global health. As a result our global health lecture “going viral” if you search on global health lectures, the Supercourse is ranked 1, 2 and 5 out of 11 million. We thank you very much.

Please ask yourself: Do your students know the WHO Definition of Health?  
*“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”* (WHO) It is beautiful in French, Arabic, Farsi, Hebrew, Chinese, Russian, and all languages. (<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec40341/index.htm>). Please use this slide from the golden lecture to teach your students about health.

We are pleased to help build awareness about global health. Different schools from around the world have approached us about distance learning, certificates and training. We have sent to all information about our formal MPH program, <http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/interior.php?pageID=203> there are now about 70 global health training programs in the world, and this is expanding rapidly. There is keen interest in building global health training programs in developed and developing countries alike. We want to help facilitate this. Here is the description of several programs that can help. If you know of others, please let us know.

Supercourse: Our Supercourse is not a formal degree program, or even a certificate program. We are a library of PowerPoint lectures. Many people ask why we do not have video as with traditional distance learning programs. The most important reason is that if

I create a video on diabetes epidemiology and this is presented in Egypt, then I am teaching the students in Egypt, not the teachers in Egypt. We want to empower and help teachers around the world with the best, up to date materials on global health. The Supercourse has a network of 56,000 faculty and 4802 lectures. In addition we have several full courses on epidemiology and statistics. We also have picked selected slides and lectures, e.g. if one wanted to present 1 slide on global health, what we would recommend, one lecture, or 50 lectures when building a curriculum.

Global Health Education Consortium: <http://globalhealtheducation.org/>

GHEC was initiated in 1998, the bibliography is designed to help students and faculty make the best use of the massive literature relevant to global health. The 3rd edition of the bibliography, completed in late 2007, now has > 800 citations grouped into 27 topic categories. Citations were selected based on some or most of these criteria: recent publication (except for "classics"); topic reviews; readily accessible; moderate cost (except for some books); not highly technical; available on the internet (an increasingly important criterion); and recommended by GHEC members. (abstracted from GHEC site). The GHEC site provide also provides a rich set of lecture modules and many other materials. Please contact Tom Hall ([Thall@epi.ucsf.edu](mailto:Thall@epi.ucsf.edu)) to find out more about this wonderful initiative.

If you would like to build a program of global health at your university, we can get you in contact with established global health centers as we have networked all of them. Please let us know of other initiatives which could help to build and promote Global Health and Training ([ronaldlaporte@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldlaporte@gmail.com))

**World Health Day:** We were very pleased to help promote World Health Day for WHO. We sent the WHO description of World Health day to you and others world wide. Google Trends revealed an immediate 5-fold "bump" in early interest after we distributed the newsletter. Some of the increase was likely was due to the Supercourse. Also, of interest is that World Health day 2011 was the most searched World Health day for a decade. We are proud to have helped a little bit. We plan to help promote other days such as Diabetes Day, TB Day, AIDs day, etc.

**Epidemiology, Head Cheese and the World Congress of Epidemiology:** Edinburgh, Scotland Aug. 7-11

<http://www.epidemiology2011.com/>

Please come to the World Congress of Epidemiology. Faina, Eugene, and I will be there.. We will be presenting about the Supercourse. If you are coming and would like to present with us, we would consider this. I have offered to treat all the Supercourse faculty to a single malt whiskey to toast the Supercourse. I also would be pleased to treat you with Scottish Potted brawn (head cheese) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head\\_cheese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_cheese). This is cheese made from simmered brains, eyes, and heads of pigs. It has a fascinating epidemiologic history, as it was thought to be related to the high rates of MS in the Shetland Islands (where Ella, our sheltie, ancestors came from). The conference is one of

the best conferences on epidemiology. We would love to have some “face time” with you.

There is a foolish corner in the brain of the wisest man. Aristotle

### **News from WHO**

Global Health Histories Seminars: Mobilizing communities for sexual reproductive, and maternal health promotion. Webinar April 27 (reported from Dr. Hooman Momen)  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/374077281>

**World report on Disability** The international launch of the World report on disability will take place in the United Nations Building in New York on June 9, 2011  
[http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/en/). The US launch can be found at: <http://cirrie.buffalo.edu/>

Come and participate in the International Clinical Trials day, May 20  
<http://www.cochrane.org/podcasts/issue/International%20Clinical%20Trials%20Day%202010/457>  
<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/details/collection/696959/International-Clinical-Trials-Day.html>

Ron LaPorte’s 62 Birthday, May 29  
All good lectures are accepted as wonderful gifts to me, and to the world

Faina’s Pick of the week: Epidemiology is a great subject to learn, but unfortunately most medical schools spend little time teaching it. Existing courses in epidemiology taught in medical schools are not always high quality and do not give medical students full appreciation of this exciting field. We are very fortunate to have new set of lectures on descriptive epidemiology from Dr. Kanupriya Chaturvedi from India

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec41691/index.htm>

This course is perfect for medical students and those who want to get a general basic flavor of epidemiology.

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