

## Your donations at work: Study aims to support decision-making with AI



Research team at Texas A&M University

A cross-disciplinary research team at Texas A&M University, with funding from the OMS Foundation, is applying high-level technology to create a risk assessment tool for surgeons treating patients with orbital fractures.

Andrew M. Read-Fuller, DDS, MD, MS, Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Residency Training at Texas A&M's Department of OMS, is leading a team that includes specialists in artificial intelligence (AI) and medical simulations, an anthropologist and several aspiring OMSs enrolled in the university's dental school and residency program.

"Management of orbital fractures is challenging due to the amount of individual judgment required to evaluate the need for surgery," Dr. Read-Fuller said. "In the absence of definitive indicators for surgery such as muscle entrapment, visible enophthalmos (sunken eye) or double vision, we're evaluating risk based on subjective factors, which may be weighed differently by different clinicians. Our project is applying artificial intelligence to the risk-assessment process to

provide surgeons with a reliable tool for determining the appropriateness of surgical intervention."

Some 502 cases of unilateral orbital fractures were included

in the dataset for the project; these were sorted by demographic, clinical, radiographic and morphometric features (38 variables in all). Analysis of fracture characteristics along with patient-specific characteristics of these cases will be incorporated into a reference tool for clinicians. With access to outcomes from comparable cases, surgeons will be better equipped to advise patients of the risks associated with untreated orbital fractures and avoid unnecessary surgery when there is a low risk of complications.

The Texas A&M team received the Foundation's Stephen B. Milam Award for the highest-rated Research Support Grant proposal submitted in 2021; the project was funded in January 2022. By April, the team had completed the annotation of its baseline dataset using CT imaging. Design and evaluation of machine-learning models to predict outcomes of orbital fractures was the next step.

Dr. Read-Fuller also credits the Foundation grant with helping to support the development of several

aspiring OMSs on the team. Dr. Ritesh Bhattacharjee completed his PhD in oral & cranial biomedical sciences in June and began clinical training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the university's College of Dentistry in July.

Another team member, Neil Mascaren – a fourth-year dental student with ambitions toward OMS residency – received training in CT imaging and 3D image rendering and processing with support from the grant. He was invited to present an abstract at the 2022 AAOMS Annual Meeting's "Hot Off the Press" trauma section. In addition, the grant supported a summer research internship in 2022 for medical and dental students and OMS residents that focused on OMS-specific clinical research and orbital trauma.

"This grant is already helping to expand our understanding of ways to use AI in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery," Dr. Read-Fuller said. "While today's project is specific to facial trauma, we expect this sophisticated technology to have applications for every OMS in the not-too-distant future. Meanwhile, by providing research training and mentorship to dental students and residents, we're cultivating the next generation of OMS researchers who will have their own impact on the specialty." ■



Louis K. Rafetto, DMD,  
Foundation Chair

“How can we do better?” was the principal theme of Dr. Mara Schenker’s presentation to the Faculty Section in New Orleans. She was addressing the challenges of identifying and recruiting the best candidates for residency in any medical specialty (hers happens to be orthopedics), but her question is one that is always at the front of my mind.

This year, the Foundation has made it a priority to “do better.” Dr. Schenker’s talk, delivered during a free Lunch & Learn for faculty at the Annual Meeting, represents a commitment to provide our specialty’s academicians – the custodians of our future – with relevant and practical resources. It’s worth noting that we also subsidized the enrollment of

# Making it a priority to ‘do better’

15 OMS programs in SCORE this year and supported (alongside AAOMS) the career development of four of our specialty’s most promising educators with Faculty Educator Development Award (FEDA) grants.

The front page of this TORCH showcases how researchers at Texas A&M are exploring ways to utilize artificial intelligence to better assess the risks of surgery for facial trauma patients. This new technology is poised to impact the diagnostic and treatment practices of every medical specialty. Our support of this research ensures that the entire OMS specialty will benefit from the knowledge it generates, and that your patients will have access to the most advanced care available. We will all “do better” as a consequence.

Artificial intelligence, 3D bioprinting, alternatives to opioids and anesthesia simulation training are examples of high-priority issues and innovative technologies we are addressing with Foundation research grants this year. We

also are seeing strong returns on recent investments in Student Research Training Awards. Research training and mentorship from the OMS faculty at Loma Linda University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham are introducing exceptional dental students to the specialty, and a majority of them are choosing to pursue OMS residencies.

We celebrated the reboot of our Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) in 2022, offering expense reimbursements to OMS residents eager to travel, learn and serve with OMS-led international humanitarian healthcare teams. We anticipate a surge in applications for this program as COVID-related travel restrictions ease, and we’re grateful for every donation to GIVE we received this year. Dr. Adam Abel shared an account of his GIVE experience with a rapt audience at the Alliance’s 2022 Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE, helping the Alliance raise more than \$15,000 for the program. A tribute appeal honoring Dr. Jim Bertz, a lifelong

healthcare volunteer, raised an additional \$60,000 for GIVE, and 2021-22 AAOMS President Dr. J. David Johnson concluded his term with a donation from AAOMS of \$2,000 to honor the program’s many “individuals united in service.”

I would like to thank everyone who supported our mission this year, especially our ROAAOMS donors – who remind us daily that our work is both important and appreciated – and our OMSFIRE donors. I also would like to thank our legacy donors who share our residents’ hope for a bright future and have provided resources to support it in their estate plans.

Our capacity to do better depends on your support. OMS Partners, LLC, has generously pledged to match every gift to the Annual Fund received by Dec. 31, including inaugural OMSFIRE gifts, up to a total of \$25,000. Please be generous. ■



Dr. Rawle Philbert

## Foundation Board welcomes Dr. Rawle F. Philbert

The OMS Foundation welcomed Rawle F. Philbert, DDS, FACS, to its Board of Directors in October, filling a vacancy left by retiring Director Thomas P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS.

Dr. Philbert is an Associate Professor and Division Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He is a member of AAOMS, the ADA, the American College of Dentists, the American College of Surgeons and has held many regional and national leadership positions.

Dr. Philbert has published on topics ranging from trauma to surgical techniques in *JOMS*, the *European Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Journal of Otolaryngology and Rhinology* and other peer-reviewed journals. He also has been honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lincoln Medical Center Auxiliary, a Doctor of the Year Award from the New York City Health and Hospitals Corp., and a Doctors’ Day Award from the Lincoln Medical Center. ■

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# Tribute appeal honors Dr. Jim Bertz with \$60,000-plus in donations to GIVE



After a two-year hiatus imposed by pandemic-related travel restrictions, the Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) is again offering \$2,500 stipends to OMS residents seeking the opportunity to travel, learn and serve with international humanitarian healthcare teams.

Resources for the program increased substantially in 2022, thanks to successful fundraising events hosted by the OMS Foundation Alliance and a tribute gift appeal honoring a beloved OMS and long-serving healthcare volunteer, Dr. James E. Bertz.

Foundation Directors Dr. James Baker and Dr. Thomas Williams enlisted Drs. Kirby Bunel, Jonathon Jundt, Douglas Sinn and Clark Taylor to help spearhead the effort. The appeal invited donors to honor Dr. Bertz's contributions as a surgeon, educator, speaker and humanitarian healthcare team leader over the course of his 58-year career. During that time, he impacted countless lives including thousands of children with cleft lip and palate deformities.

With support from the Texas and Houston Societies of OMS, the appeal raised more

than \$60,000 for GIVE. Dr. Taylor accompanied his gift with a heartfelt testimonial to Dr. Bertz's continued influence as a colleague and a friend.

"Jim and I have always had a special friendship," Dr. Taylor wrote. "He leads by example and sacrifice. Our lengthy conversations usually end with me admonishing him, 'As long as I see the \*ss end of your horse on the trail ahead, I know there is trail left for me.' He is still the inspiration that keeps me on the trail." ■

Learn more and contribute to GIVE at [OMSFoundation.org/GIVE](https://OMSFoundation.org/GIVE)

## Legacy, OMSFIRE donors step up in New Orleans

Buoyed by an influx of new recruits to the cause, the Louisiana Pavilion of The National WWII Museum was near capacity during the OMS Foundation's R.V. Walker Donor Recognition Reception in New Orleans. Walker Society members, OMSFIRE contributors, major donors to GIVE and the Annual Fund, Foundation volunteers and grant recipients were invited to preview the museum during the Foundation's VIP event. Refreshments, a stage show and photo ops with actors in 1940s military garb were featured.

The Foundation welcomed the new legacy donors to its R.V. Walker Society at the Annual Meeting. Their commitment to support the Foundation with gifts in their estate plans brought the number of new legacy donors in 2022 to 12 as of mid-September. (See related story below). These new Walker Society members notified the Foundation of their

commitment during the 2022 Annual Meeting:

- Drs. Steven Nelson and Helen Kechriotis
- Dr. David E. and Mrs. Janet Yates

New OMSFIRE donors who committed in New Orleans to annual gifts of \$2,500 or more for five years included:

- Dr. Lionel and Mrs. Karil Candelaria
- DSN Software, Inc.
- One Rep, Inc.
- Dr. James and Mrs. Angie Henderson, who pledged an annual gift of \$5,000 for five years, divided equally between the Annual Fund (via OMSFIRE) and the Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE).

The Foundation is grateful to everyone who stopped by its booth, attended an event or donated remotely during the 2022 Annual Meeting. ■

Dr. David and Julie Whiston upgraded their gift. *"We all know how fortunate we are to be part of this specialty,"* they wrote. *"Dr. Walker's enduring legacy continues to inspire us to support the good work accomplished by the Foundation through the Society that bears his name."*



## Protecting the best specialty in the world



Drs. Steven R. Nelson and Helen Kechriotis Nelson

Helen and I were raised in families where education was considered the most important gift you could offer your children, and we believe research is a key component of education. Philanthropic support of our training institutions and community projects has been a constant for us, and we are grateful that the mission of the OMS Foundation so closely reflects our own. We were proud to contribute to REAP (Campaign for Research and Education)

and the Centennial Tree, and gladly continue our support as OMSFIRE and GIVE donors. In tribute to Dr. Walker and the Foundation, we chose this moment to join the R.V. Walker Society with a legacy gift in our estate plan.

Research and education are critical to our ability to provide exemplary care for our patients, and protecting our profession is imperative to ensure access to that care. The Foundation is answering that call.

Dr. Richard Nelson – my dad and partner in practice for nearly 25 years – was a Foundation Ambassador, and I overheard many late-night conversations with his friend, former Director Dr. Gerry Hanson, discussing the importance of the Foundation. I learned early that oral and maxillofacial surgery is the best profession in the world, and we must do everything in our power to protect, promote and advance our specialty. Helen and I can think of no better way to do that than by supporting AAOMS and the OMS Foundation. ■



## Walker Society Anniversary inspires outpouring of giving

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of its R.V. Walker Society in 2022, twelve donors have notified the Foundation of their intent to honor Dr. Walker's memory with commitments to gifts of \$25,000 or more to the Foundation in their estate plans.

Led by commitments of \$250,000 from Dr. Joel Berger and \$75,000 from Drs. Steven and Helen Kechriotis Nelson, these gifts will eventually contribute nearly \$600,000 to support the Foundation's mission.

The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to these new and upgraded 2022 Walker Society members:

- Dr. Joel Berger
- Dr. and Mrs. David A. Bitonti
- Dr. Daniel and Stacy Gesek
- Dr. Robert T. Gramins
- Dr. J. David and Jenny Morrison

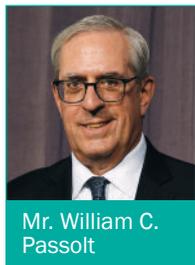
- Drs. Steve Nelson and Helen Kechriotis Nelson
- Dr. John N. Santin
- Drs. John and Debbie Shroyer
- Dr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Tate
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles R. Weber
- Dr. David and Julia Whiston
- Dr. David and Janet Yates

## 2022 awards presented at AAOMS Annual Meeting

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 OMS Foundation Awards, who were recognized onstage at the 2022 AAOMS Annual Meeting Opening Ceremony.

### Torch Award

The Foundation's most prestigious annual award recognizes individuals or organizations who have provided exceptional service to the Foundation. This year's winner is Mr.



Mr. William C. Passolt

William C. Passolt, CPA, who joined the OMS Foundation Board as a Director in 2015 and became its first non-OMS Chair in 2019.

His dual role as Foundation Chair and OMSNIC President/CEO was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, AAOMS recognized Mr. Passolt's extraordinary leadership by naming him an AAOMS Honorary Fellow, the Association's highest distinction bestowed upon non-members. Mr. Passolt was a principal architect of both the strategic alliance between AAOMS and the Foundation and a subsequent, comprehensive strategic plan for the Foundation that facilitated its successful implementation. He helped open the door to a more collaborative relationship between the OMS and IAOMS Foundations and drew on his business acumen to strengthen the Foundation's relationships with AAOMS's corporate sector.

In 2018, Mr. Passolt facilitated a \$100,000 gift match challenge from OMSNIC in support of the Foundation's Centennial Tree campaign, which helped to raise \$1.7 million in donations to the Annual Fund that year. Mr. Passolt retired from both OMSNIC and the OMS Foundation in 2021, but he continues to support the Foundation as an OMSFIRE donor, R.V. Walker Society member and consultant to the Development Committee.

### Research Recognition Award

This annual award recognizes those whose scientific contributions have led to a better understanding of basic disease processes and improvement of care for patients with maxillofacial disorders. This year's recipient is Thomas B. Dodson, DMD, MPH, FACS, Professor and Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Washington School of Dentistry.



Dr. Thomas B. Dodson

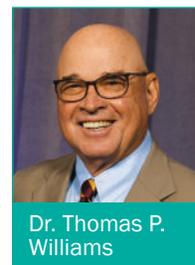
Dr. Dodson is internationally recognized in the specialty as a clinician, researcher, advocate, educator and mentor. The Foundation has funded his work through multiple Research Support Grants, Student Research Training Awards and a clinical fellowship. He also received the Ambassador Service Award in 2007, two Daniel M. Laskin Awards for most outstanding article published in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* (in 2003 and 2010), and the 2019 Torch Award. As a Director, he served on every committee of the Foundation Board, becoming its Chair in 2015. After helping to construct the strategic alliance with AAOMS, he extended his service to the OMS Foundation Board through 2018 to support its implementation.

Dr. Dodson has helped to edit *JOMS* since 2006 and was appointed its Editor-in-Chief in 2022. His research has spanned the spectrum of the specialty, examining risk factors associated with anesthesia, third molar extractions and implant placements, management of HIV-positive OMS patients, and the efficacy of seat belt laws. He is a co-author of AAOMS position papers on MRONJ and clinical articles identifying markers for domestic abuse. He is credited

with more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and countless reviews, chapters, editorials, commentaries and clinical communications.

### Gerald E. Hanson Outstanding Service Award

At the discretion of the Foundation Board, this award recognizes outstanding champions and advocates who have demonstrated extraordinary stewardship, such as this year's recipient – Thomas P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS.



Dr. Thomas P. Williams

Dr. Williams has served on the OMS Foundation's Board of Directors since 2016 and was its co-Vice Chair in 2021-22. He spearheaded the formation of the Foundation's Committee on Humanitarian Programs in 2018 and continues to serve as its Chair. He enlisted a cohort of seasoned international healthcare volunteers to develop and launch the Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE), hoping to infuse the next generation of OMSs with a passion for "giving back."

He is a lifelong volunteer, a tireless champion for the Foundation's mission, a proud member of its R.V. Walker Society and a generous supporter to GIVE. Dr. Williams has served as the staff OMS at the Naval Amphibious Base in California and as a consultant to the Eleventh Naval District. He has traveled extensively to the Philippines, Asia and South America with Health Volunteers Overseas and Uplift International to deliver care to underserved communities, families and (especially) children in those regions. ■

## Volunteer spotlight: Drs. Charles Weber, Jasjit Dillon, Thomas Dodson and Patricia Kelly, WSSOMS

When the Florida Society of OMS announced its tribute appeal honoring Dr. Jim and Judy Davis in November 2021, Dr. Chuck Weber was an enthusiastic contributor. "I've known and respected Jim Davis for years and was pleased to make a gift to the OMS Foundation in his honor," Dr. Weber said.

In early January 2022, Dr. Weber and Dr. Thomas Dodson proposed to the Washington State Society of OMS a similar appeal to honor the Society's "first couple" – Dr. O. Ross and Sheryl Beirne, who had recently retired after decades of leadership and service to the University of Washington and WSSOMS communities.

Drs. Jasjit Dillon and Patricia Kelly signed on to contact graduates and faculty of UW's OMS residency program as well as current and retired WSSOMS members, asking for donations to the OMS Foundation in honor of the Beirnes. It was a herculean effort, and the results were appropriately spectacular. Tribute gifts arrived from OMSs across the country who had trained under Dr. Beirne, often accompanied by heartfelt stories attesting to his impact on the specialty. By mid-February, more than \$105,000 had been contributed to the Foundation in tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Beirne.

In October, the team organized a gathering of the WSSOMS and UW communities to raise a glass to the Beirnes and present a ceremonial check to the OMS Foundation.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and honor the Beirnes' decades of service and myriad contributions to the Washington OMS community," said Dr. Dodson. "At the same time, our gifts to the Foundation will ultimately strengthen our specialty. It absolutely was worth the effort; it seemed like the perfect capstone to the careers of these two wonderful people." ■

# Alliance Committee gets the good times rolling in New Orleans

The OMS Foundation Alliance celebrated its 28th year with good times and high-impact fundraising in New Orleans, La., raising more than \$14,000 for the Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE).



2022 Kelly Scholars Sara Nourani and Ted Dann

With financial support from OMSNIC, the Alliance also welcomed two resident families to the AAOMS community, hosting a pair of Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship winners. Sara Nourani and Ted Dann were greeted as guests of honor at the Alliance's daily Health Walks along the Mississippi River, networking breakfasts, and its Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE.

Speaking to a capacity crowd of OMSs, residents, families, friends and corporate

supporters at the Sept. 15 luncheon, Adam Abel, DMD, MD, captivated with stories from his experience as a humanitarian healthcare volunteer in Bangladesh. He concluded with a sincere thank-you to the Alliance, which helped cover his travel expenses through a \$2,500 GIVE stipend. Also featured was retired New Orleans meteorologist Bob Breck, who deftly combined education, entertainment and real-life experiences in his presentation, Hurricanes Never Retire.



Alliance Luncheon GIVE speaker, Dr. Adam Abel

Thanks to generous gifts from Canfield Inc., OMSNIC, AAOMS, Health Walk registrants and Luncheon attendees, the Alliance helped to fund six future GIVE stipends in 2022. With leadership from Chair Stacy Erickson, this year's Alliance Committee included Vice Chair Olga Schwartz, Past Chair Eilyn Hutton, Kos Lugakingira and Page Rollert. ■



2022 Alliance Committee (from left): Olga Schwartz, Eilyn Hutton, Stacy Erickson, Page Rollert and Kos Lugakingira



2022 Alliance Health Walk participants



2022 Alliance Luncheon and FUNraiser

## Faculty Lunch & Learn draws a crowd



Dr. Mara Schenker

In keeping with its commitment to support the specialty's academic sector, the OMS Foundation hosted a free Lunch & Learn for OMS faculty at the 2022 AAOMS Annual Meeting. With a substantial and attentive audience,

McKinsey & Co., the Navy SEALs and the NFL during her talk. She emphasized the importance of quantifying the metrics of success in a specific field and targeting hiring processes to identify candidates likely to meet those standards. Dr. Schenker, also an Associate Professor at the Emory University School of Medicine, downplayed the value of standardized tests, class rankings and unstructured interviews.

The OMS Foundation is accepting Lunch & Learn topic suggestions for future meetings. ■

the program addressed a challenge experienced by faculty in every medical discipline: how to identify, enroll and retain the best residency candidates.

Mara Schenker, MD, FACS, Chief of Orthopedics at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, referenced candidate selection strategies used by Google,



Lunch & Learn attendees



Your donations to the Annual Fund support innovative research, education opportunities and a strong academic sector. **Donate by Dec. 31** to have your gift matched by OMS Partners, LLC, up to a total of \$25,000. [OMSFoundation.org/Donate](https://www.omsfoundation.org/Donate)



Drs. John V. and Debbie Shroyer

*“As OMSs, we have clearly benefited from Dr. Walker’s tireless dedication to the advancement of our specialty. It is incumbent upon us all to ensure that the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery continues to advance and that future oral surgeons benefit, as we have, from its progress. Debbie and I are pleased to honor this pioneering surgeon’s contributions to our specialty with our legacy gift to the Foundation.”*

– Drs. John V. and Debbie Shroyer



Dr. Gregory and Andrea Tate

*“For our profession to survive and grow, we must continuously discover and validate new treatment modalities and safer ways to help our patients. Research is the way that happens, but few of us can commit the time and energy that meticulous research requires. Instead, it is our responsibility to support the researchers working on our behalf, now and in the future. We’re proud to support the specialty’s current and future growth as OMSFIRE donors and members of the R.V. Walker Society.”*

– Dr. Gregory and Andrea Tate

## Volunteer spotlight: William Passolt, CPA



Mr. William C. Passolt

Contributed by Colin Bell, DDS, MSD

During my career, it has been my good fortune to cross paths with great teachers, great mentors and great leaders. If you

have spent any time with Bill Passolt – OMSNIC’s recently retired President and CEO – you would know that he qualifies in all three categories. Bill is a selfless leader who cares deeply for the well-being of individuals and who has helped enhance the transparency, accountability and credibility of every organization he has led.

His service to the Board of the OMS Foundation from 2015 to 2021 can best be described as “the right person, in the right place, at the right time.” It is fitting that the Foundation honored him with its prestigious Torch award in September.

Bill’s collaborative leadership style was key to the development and implementation of the Foundation’s strategic alliance with AAOMS and the success of its Centennial Tree appeal in 2018. OMSNIC’s \$100,000 gift-match challenge in 2018 inspired \$400,000 in additional donations in just four months, creating a model for corporate support that continues to energize the Foundation’s fundraising today. After the Foundation’s adoption of an ambitious strategic plan in 2018, Bill oversaw the launch of its Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) and a new two-year Clinical Research Support Grant in 2019.

During his term as Foundation Chair in 2020-21, he carefully steered both OMSNIC and the Foundation through the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic with honesty, integrity and accountability, leaving both organizations stronger than ever.

I offer my most heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved honor. As his long-time colleague, I also count myself fortunate to have him as a valued friend. ■



‘This decision was a no-brainer.’

“Giving back to the specialty and to the community around us is a core commitment of our practice. By collaborating with the Foundation, we’re helping to address issues we could never solve alone – and for a fraction of what we spend on other routine expenses. The OMS Foundation’s careful stewardship of its resources made the decision to become an OMSFIRE practice a no-brainer.”

– Oral & Facial Surgery for Adults & Children, Columbus, Ohio



David A. Smeltzer, DDS, MS



Monte E. Masonbrink, DDS, MS



Timothy J. Frey, DDS, MS



Gregory M. Ness, DDS, FACS

Oral & Facial Surgery for Adults & Children Columbus, Ohio



Your gift to the OMS Foundation supports innovative research, education opportunities for residents and a strong academic sector. **Donate now to DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** Every gift to the Annual Fund received by Dec. 31 will be matched by OMS Partners, LLC, up to a total of \$25,000.



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Investing in innovation. Advancing the specialty.



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