



AuPS News

September, 2007

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President's Report

The upcoming joint AuPS / Australian Society for Biophysics meeting to be held in December promises to be an outstanding meeting with numerous distinguished international speakers delivering Plenary Lectures or participating in Symposia. The Plenary Lecture is to be given by Professor Mike Sanguinetti (University of Utah, Salt Lake City, USA), the UK Physiological Society Visiting Lecturer is Professor Mark Dunne (University of Manchester, Manchester, UK) and the AuPS Invited Lecture is to be delivered by Professor Don Robertson (University of Western Australia). I would also draw members' attention to the Physiology Education Symposium to be held 2 pm Sunday, 2nd December and the AuPS Student Symposium (Post-docs: Life after a PhD) and mixer to be held at 6 pm Monday 3 December 2007.

It is hoped that the AuPS meeting this year will welcome many new members some of whom have recently taken up appointments as Chairs of Physiology including Professor Iain Clarke at Monash University, Professor Gary Housley at the University of NSW, and Profes-



sor Andrea Yool at the University of Adelaide. The meeting will also be an occasion to recognise four eminent Australia physiologists (Chris Bell, Jack Carmody, Bill Levick, Mark Rowe) who have been nominated for Honorary Membership of AuPS in recognition of their contributions to the Society and physiology in Australia. The AuPS Council would welcome nominations of members for election to Honorary Membership in recognition of their significant contributions to the Society and physiology research and teaching in Australia.

The Australian Academy of Sciences, through the National Committee on Biomedical Sciences (NCBMS), has endorsed a National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences (NFEBMS). The AuPS is a member Society of NCBMS and the Forum will be of interest to many of our members. This National forum is to be hosted by the School of Biomedical Sciences (SOBS) at Monash University on Tuesday 11 December 2007. Topics proposed for discussion at the Forum include: the development of core curriculum and a common set of graduate attributes for students

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completing a first degree in biomedical sciences; the roles of traditional as well as innovative educational modalities, including problem-based learning; assessment and evaluations; employment patterns of graduates; working with appropriate stakeholders for educational programs in biomedical sciences; resourcing issues for biomedical science education, particularly the role of hands-on practical laboratory training and IT issues; research interfaces in such undergraduate courses; and the development of awareness of OHSE and ethical issues affecting the practice of biomedical sciences both in academic and research institutions as well as in the wider community. Further details of this event appear in the meetings listing later in this newsletter.

With regard to future AuPS meetings, the AuPS Council will be considering a stand alone AuPS meeting to be held in Melbourne in 2008

and I invite feedback from members. I wish to remind members that the IUPS 36th World Congress will be held in Kyoto, Japan in July-August 2009 and that the 2010 Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary of AuPS will be held jointly with the Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) at the Sydney Convention Centre, 31 January – 3 February 2010.

Finally, I wish to thank the Local AuPS Organising Committee and in particular the Local Secretary, Dr. Derek Laver, for putting together such an excellent scientific and social programme. I encourage all members, including student members, to attend the AuPS Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 5 December and become involved in the activities and future of your professional society.

David Adams
President



Postcard from “Red Stick”

Red Stick is the meaning behind the name Baton Rouge that was given by the French explorers who landed on the east shores of the Mississippi River in 1699. What they found was a Cypress tree that was stripped of its bark and stained with animal blood to mark the hunting boundaries of two Indian tribes. At that time what the settlers did not know was that Red Stick would one day be home to the largest academic-based research institute for nutrition in the world. Pennington Biomedical Research Center (PBRC) is where I have spent almost two years in the overseas portion of my NHMRC Overseas Clinical Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Pennington Biomedical Research Center is named after C.B. Pennington, an oilman and philanthropist who donated \$125 million dollars to Louisiana State Univer-

sity to establish a center of nutrition research to improve the health of Louisiana. The centers' mission of 'promoting healthier lives through research and education in nutrition and preventive medicine' is achieved by more than 70 faculty and 50 post-doctoral fellows from around the globe and 600 support staff. The center is organized around six key research areas: Functional Foods, Experimental Obesity, Clinical Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome, Nutrition and Chronic Diseases, Health and Performance Enhancement, Nutrition and the Brain. Pennington plays a vital role in the economic development for the state of Louisiana. In the 2003-04 fiscal year PBRC had 24 technology disclosures, eight patent applications and one start-up company and the economic achievements continue to grow. I will continue to learn and experience the benefits of completing my post-doc at this tremendous research center. I encourage all members with an interest in nutrition and obesity related research to explore employment opportunities at Pennington or include a visit to the Red Stick in their next trip to the United States. It certainly deserves a look.

Leanne Redman
NHMRC Neil Hamilton-Fairley
Postdoctoral Fellow
Pennington Biomedical Research Fellow
Baton Rouge, Louisiana USA



Newcastle 2-5 December 2007



KEY DATES

28 Sep 2007 Abstract deadline.

28 Sep 2007 Early registration deadline.

2-5 Dec 2007 Scientific meeting.

Call for Abstracts

The online registration and abstract submission system is now open for the Newcastle scientific meeting.

It will be necessary to register and pay the registration fee before you are able to submit an abstract. If you want to pay by a method other than by credit card, you should register well in advance of the abstract deadline so that there will be time for their cheque or direct debit to be processed. Some banks have 48 hr delay on direct debit processing to reduce fraudulent electronic transfers.

Please note that the deadline for acceptance of abstracts is **28 Sep 2007**, which falls at the end of the mid-semester break. This may mean you will have a bit more time to prepare your abstract in this week, but if you are going away or have other conference activities in this week, you will need to plan ahead.

It will be cheaper to register as a member than as a non-member. Anyone planning to join before registering and submitting an abstract should do so well before the abstract deadline. Processing of on-line applications for membership can go through quite quickly, but do depend on the sponsor(s) responding to the request for

endorsement issued by the server to be sent to Stefan. Sometimes this introduces a significant delay.

Anyone planning to register as a non-member, or applying for membership should be aware that the process requires that they receive an emailed 'access key.' Some institutions try to reduce spam using a delay tactic known as 'greylisting.' In some cases this can introduce a significant delay. Again the advice is act early.

Travel planning

To assist with planning your travel, please be aware that the Education symposium starts at 2.00 pm on Sunday 2 December, with the Plenary Lecture delivered by Prof. Mike Sanguinetti at 4.30 pm. Sessions each day will start at 8.30 am and the meeting will finish by 4.30 pm on Wednesday 5 December.

Registration Fee

The registration fee includes the welcome reception on Sunday evening, lunches each day from Monday to Wednesday and morning and afternoon teas. For students, it also includes the student mixer event on Monday evening.

Honours Student registration

Honours students (non-members) wishing to attend and present at the Newcastle meeting will be able to register at the discounted rate of \$150. For the registration to be valid a free communication abstract must be submitted for inclusion in the program and the student must be the presenting author on that abstract. The abstract must have a Society member as a co-author, or

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REGISTRATION FEES

Full member: \$300

Student member: \$150

Full non-member: \$400

Student non-member: \$250

Honours student presenters: \$150

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be introduced by a Society member. The Society member will be contacted to verify the enrolment status of the Honours student.

Student Presentation Prizes

As ever, student members will be eligible for prizes awarded to the best oral and poster presentations. Make sure you indicate you wish to be considered for a prize when you register.

Proceedings

With the Newcastle meeting abstracts will be back to their normal size in our Proceedings. This makes it feasible to include a figure, including those in colour. Full instructions on the preparation of abstracts is available on the AuPS web site:

<http://www.aups.org.au/Proceedings/preparation.html>

Remember that our abstracts are indexed by Google and the like, so making them useful to and approachable by a general audience is worth a little effort.

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner will be held on Tuesday evening (4 Dec) in the Harbourview function centre. This is located on Queens Wharf on the river foreshore, just a short walk from the conference venue, City Hall. The dinner costs \$85 and for students \$50 (subsidised).

Physiology Education Symposium

The keynote speaker at this year's physiology education symposium is Barbara Goodman (University of South Dakota). The symposium will start at 2.00 pm on Sunday afternoon.

LECTURES

AuPS Lecturer

Prof. Don Robertson, University of WA

Plenary Lecturer

Prof. Mike Sanguinetti, University of Utah

Physiological Society Exchange Lecturer

Prof. Mark Dunne, University of Manchester

Robertson Lecture

The Bob Robertson Award of the Australian Society for Biophysics, to be announced at the lecture.

SUMMARY OF SYMPOSIA

Amino Acid Transport and Signaling

Artificial Photosynthesis

Calcium Channels, Microdomains and Muscle

EC Coupling and Fatigue

Endocrinology, reproduction and fetal development

Exercise, Free Radicals and Skeletal Muscle

Influencing Factors in the Fate of Cardiac Myocytes in Heart Disease

Insulin Signalling in Health and Disease

Magnetic Techniques in Protein Studies

Protein Structure, Interactions and Dynamics

Potassium Channels

Tissue Engineering

TRP and the other channels

SUNDAY

Physiology Education

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Postdocs: Life after a PhD

Program change

There has been one unavoidable change to the program. Unfortunately, Prof. Andrew Marks (Columbia University) will not be able to attend the meeting due to changes in his commitments. The Plenary Lecture will now be presented by Prof. Mike Sanguinetti (University of Utah).

There are a total of fourteen symposia being presented at the conference. A full list of all the symposia can be found on the AuPS web site, which now also have details of the speakers for each of the symposia. To keep up-to-date with the programme for the meeting, visit the conference web page at:

<http://www.aups.org.au/Meetings/>

Derek Laver

on behalf of the
Local Organising Committee



Student Events in Newcastle

There will be a student mixer for all AuPS students attending the Newcastle meeting on Monday 3 December at 7pm (straight after the plenary lecture). It will be held at Finnegan's Irish pub (about 200 m from City Hall). As usual, there will be plenty to eat and drink and lots of opportunities to network with other students. It is a fantastic opportunity for all AuPS students to get to know each other.

This year's AuPS meeting will also feature a student symposium (date to be confirmed) on 'Post-docs: life after a PhD'. We have two exciting speakers secured for this event: Dr Matthew Watt (St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne; NHMRC RD Wright fellow) will present on 'Establishing independence in science - the years post-doc' and AProf Gordon Lynch (Department of Physiology, University of Melbourne) will be giving us an insight into 'Writing academic CVs – what the employer is looking for.'

So get those abstracts in for what promises to be another great meeting for students in Newcastle. I look forward to meeting you all in the warmer weather of Newcastle in December.

Enzo Porrello

AuPS Student Representative

PhD Candidate
Department of Physiology
The University of Melbourne



AuPS Announcements



Call for nominations

Trevor Lewis, our current Associate Editor will step down at the AGM in December. The Society is therefore looking for someone to take over this roll. The position provides an excellent way of getting involved with the Society and physiology generally in Australia. It presents an opportunity to make a lot of contacts and keep up with what is happening across the county. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for this position, please contact the National Secretary. If you would like to know more about what is involved with the position, please contact Trevor Lewis directly (t.lewis@unsw.edu.au).

The other position that will become vacant at the AGM is that of National Secretary. David Saint will be stepping down after having served the Society for five years. As set out in the Constitution, any three members can nominate someone for the position. In the past this has been interpreted as being the nominee themselves, a proposer and a seconder, all of whom must be financial members of the Society. Please complete the nomination form that was emailed out to members and return by the end

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New from SDR Clinical Technology: Ion Optix (USA)

We are pleased to announce that we now represent **IonOptix**, who manufacture specialised systems for fast cardiomyocyte imaging and measurement, as well their **C Pace** system for chronic stimulation of myocytes in culture.

Chronic electrical stimulation has been shown to prevent the dedifferentiation of myocytes that occurs in long term culture. Pacing will maintain the rod shaped, striated morphology of the myocyte for several days. Protein synthesis is also maintained and cells kept in normal nitrogen balance for at least 72 hours. The C-Pace System from IonOptix represents the first commercially available cell culture stimulator.



W: www.sdr.com.au **E:** sdr@sdr.com.au **T:** (02) 9958 2688 **F:** (02) 9958 2655

continued from page 5 of September. In the event of there being more than one nomination, an election will be called. Further details of what the position entails can be obtained by contacting David Saint directly (david.saint@adelaide.edu.au).

Joint meeting in Beijing

The AuPS is joining in an exciting initiative from the Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences (CAPS) who will host a joint meeting in Beijing on 20-22 October 2008.



The meeting will bring together CAPS, AuPS, the Canadian Physiological Society, the American Physiological Society and The Physiologi-

cal Society (UK). A local organising committee has been assembled and the program is beginning to take shape. Further information will be distributed to members as it becomes available

Future scientific meetings

Forwards planning is already taking shape for the AuPS scientific meetings over the next couple of years. At present the proposal is to hold the scientific meeting in Melbourne in 2008, in 2009 there will be the IUPS Congress held in Kyoto, and in 2010 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the AuPS in a joint meeting with the Australian Neuroscience Society in Sydney.

Trevor Lewis

NEW APPOINTMENTS



Prof. Andrea Yool recently joined the faculty of the Discipline of Physiology in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Adelaide in July of this year. Prior to her move to Adelaide, she was a Professor of Physiology at the University of Arizona in Tucson, with joint appointments in several departments and in the Evelyn McKnight Brain Institute. Before taking a position as an Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona in 1992, her Ph.D. work at the University of California Santa Barbara investigated the role of sensory input in controlling developmental metamorphosis in marine invertebrates. In post-doctoral work at Scripps Clinic in San Diego and at Stanford University in Palo Alto California, she used molecular and electrophysiological methods to study potassium channel function. Her current research interests focus on the molecular regulation and physiological roles of aquaporins as water and ion channels, with particular emphasis on fluid homeostasis in the brain and eye. Andrea is an active proponent of interdisciplinary education and research, and is looking forward to building a broad collaborative research program on translational drug discovery for aquaporin channels.



Prof. Iain Clarke has been appointed Chair and Professor of Physiology at Monash University. After undergraduate studies at Massey University, New Zealand, Iain went on to PhD studies at the University of Edinburgh, investigating neuroendocrinology and reproductive behaviour. He moved to Australia in 1977 with an Australian Wool Corporation Fellowship and later moved to Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research where he remained for 25 years, establishing the Neuroendocrinology group. Iain and his research group has an internationally recognized reputation in the field of neuroendocrinology and brain mechanisms relevant to the control of food intake and peripheral body function. His method of hypophysial portal access, published in 1982, remains the method of choice for monitoring hypophysiotropic function. He also developed the hypothalamo-pituitary disconnection (HPD), which is another very powerful experimental model, used to define pituitary function. Most recently, his laboratory has made a major impact in the field of regulation of body weight and factors relevant to control of obesity. Iain was offered a Professorship in the Department of Physiology at Monash in 2005.

Trevor Lewis



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 Roger Evans and Ding Feng Su
 (New Editors in 2007)

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Frontiers in Research Series!

Issue Four:

Gaseous Molecules and Radicals in Health and Disease

Vol. 34 Issue 9 September 2007

This section, 'Gaseous Molecules and Radicals in Health and in Disease' of the special series in 'New Frontiers in Research', includes seven invited mini-reviews covering exciting areas related to the regulation of the endogenous gaseous molecules nitric oxide (NO) and superoxide (O_2^-). Current literature increasingly recognizes that these molecules play significant roles in both the physiology and pathophysiology of many disease processes. Overall, it is hoped that this issue will stimulate further studies aimed at delineating the complexities of the interaction between NO and O_2^- , which would help unravel the mysteries of the oxidative mechanisms that influence body function in both health and disease.

Highlights from this special issue include:

Interplay of Reactive Oxygen Species and Nitric Oxide In The Pathogenesis Of Experimental Lead-Induced Hypertension

Nd Vaziri and M Khan

Cardiovascular Effects of Peroxynitrite

Rao M Uppu, Bobby D Nossaman, Anthony J Greco, Alex Fokin, Subramanyam N Murthy, Vivian A Fonseca and Philip J Kadowitz

Sickle Cell Disease: Role of Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Metabolites

Katherine C Wood and D Neil Granger

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Profile: Prof Don Robertson



At the upcoming ASB / AuPS joint scientific meeting, Prof. Don Robertson will be presenting the AuPS Invited Lecture. Prof. Robertson completed his undergraduate training in Physiology at UWA and then undertook a PhD at McGill University, Canada, investigating the mechanism of sharp tuning in the mammalian cochlea. During his PhD he also carried out vacation research at the Brain Research Institute University of Brussels, on the ionic mechanism of the intracochlear action of the auditory efferent system. This was the start of a long-term interest in the auditory efferent system. Prof. Robertson returned to Brussels after his PhD and carried out research on cognitive components in evoked potentials. In 1978 he returned to UWA as a QEII Fellow in the auditory laboratory of Brian Johnstone and has remained there ever since, gaining a faculty position in 1982 and promotion to Professor in 2002. His research focus has been on the physiology of central and peripheral auditory system in mammals. Prof. Robertson lists his major contributions to this field as demonstrating the lability of tuning of primary auditory afferents and role of outer hair cells, and elucidation of the mechanism of action and role of olivocochlear efferents both peripherally and centrally.

When did you first know you wanted to be a scientist / physiologist?

Probably in second year university-on leaving school I was torn between arts and science and combined degrees did not exist at that time

Who has been most influential upon in your career and why?

Brian Johnstone (founder of the auditory physiology laboratory, UWA) for inspiring me about the power of physiology as a discipline

What makes a good scientific mentor or supervisor?

Putting yourself in the students' place!

What book has been most influential in your scientific career?

John C. Eccles (1964) *The Physiology of Synapses*, Springer-Verlag.

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What do you enjoy most about research?

The rare but exhilarating moments of real discovery.

What is the best piece of advice you've received?

Go back to basics!!!!!! (Brian Johnstone)

What is the most memorable comment you ever received from a referee?

The first is 'Robertson and Desmedt have opened up a new perspective on the mind-brain problem' (Eccles comment on a publication by John Desmedt and myself), and the second is 'This proposal lacks the applicant's usual flair and originality!'

What are your major frustrations?

Decreasing time to DO experiments

If you were in a position to change anything about research funding in Australia, what would it be?

More funding for all the good grants that don't get over the barrier!

What would you have become, if not a scientist?

Painter (of canvasses!)

What do you do to relax?

Gardening

What interesting discovery do you think is not too far off?

The biological key to immortality?

Trevor Lewis

With the generous assistance of Prof Don Robertson

Notes:

Biography of Brian Johnstone available at Bright Sparcs:
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P004661b.htm>



AuPS Awards: Call for nominations



Student and Postdoc publication awards

The AuPS offers two annual awards of \$500 each for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during the course of their PhD studies, and for early postdoctoral researchers. To be eligible for these awards:

- You must be a current AuPS member.
- The paper must have been published (either on paper or online) between 30th September 2006 and 1st October 2007.
- The award must be used to present work at a conference. Winners will be reimbursed after providing a copy of an invoice of conference expenses.

In addition, for the PhD student award, the paper must be based on work carried out during your PhD and accepted for publication within one year of the award of your PhD. For the postdoc award, the paper must be based on work carried out and published during your first 4 postdoctoral years.

- Applications should include the following:
- A pdf of the publication,
- A statement of date of award of your PhD,
- A short statement on the paper's impact, and
- An explanation of your contribution (to multi-author papers only)

Papers will be ranked by a committee of AuPS Council members according to the impact of the publication on the field, the applicant's contribution to the publication, the innovation and originality exhibited in the publications, the technical difficulty, scientific rigour and the clarity of organization and writing style.

Winners will be announced in the December AuPS newsletter and presented at the Newcastle scientific meeting.

Email you applications to:

AProf. Joe Lynch (j.lynch@uq.edu.au)

The closing date for applications is:

31st October 2007

Full details are available on the AuPS web site at: <http://www.aups.org.au/Prizes>

Update on Cardiac Arrhythmias: A Challenge for the 21st Century

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
30 November 2007

In addition to the basic science symposium on Friday 30 November there will be a clinical cardiology symposium on 1-2 December (Saturday and Sunday). The two symposia are being run as a joint conference although it will be possible to register for just one or both symposia. The Cardiac Arrhythmias symposium on Friday 30th November will be free but there will be a charge for the clinical symposium.

Full details are available on the website:

<http://www.victorchang.edu.au/research/HomeandNews.cfm?cid=289>

It is anticipated that registrations will open late August. In the meantime please register an expression of interest by filling in your details on the form at:

https://secure.conexion.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=50&s=_0UC0Y4GW5

Looking forward to seeing you there on Friday the 30 November.

Jamie Vandenberg

Chair, Local Organising Committee

UPCOMING MEETINGS

23 November 2007

4th National Symposium on Advances in Urogenital Research

Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville VIC.

Abstract and registration deadline:
12 Nov 2007

For further information contact Liz Burcher (e.burcher@unsw.edu.au) or Sab Ventura (sab.ventura@vcp.monash.edu.au)

30 November 2007

Cardiac Arrhythmias: A challenge for the 21st century

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Further information: contact Gabby Thomson (g.thomson@victorchang.unsw.edu.au)

2 to 5 December 2007

Joint AuPS and ASB scientific meeting Newcastle

Abstract deadline: 28 Sep 2007. For further information, check this issue of the Newsletter and the AuPS website-
www.aups.org.au/Meetings

11 December 2007

National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences

The School of Biomedical Sciences, Monash University.

A one day workshop, with keynote speaker Prof. Trevor Anderson (University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, South Africa) and other academic

and educational specialists. Further details, including registration form and the final program will be posted at:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sobs/>

Any enquiries can be directed to:
biomed@med.monash.edu.au

17 to 21 February 2008

International Symposium on Resistance Arteries.

Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, Australia

Organised by Mike Hill (Missouri), Chris Triggle (Calgary), Shaun Sandow (Sydney)

Further information: <http://medicalsciences.med.unsw.edu.au/SOMSWeb.nsf/page/9thISRA2008>

20 to 22 October 2008

Joint International Meeting of the Chinese Association for Physiological Sciences, The Canadian Physiological Society, The Australian Physiological Society, the American Physiological Society and The Physiological Society

Beijing, China. Further information will be posted on the AuPS web site as it becomes available.

27 July to 1 August 2009

XXXVI International Congress of Physiological Sciences

Kyoto, Japan. The theme for the meeting is Function of Life: Elements and Integration.

Further information: <http://www.iups.org>

AUPS - SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Muscle

- Graham Lamb
- Gordon Lynch

Smooth Muscle and Autonomic NS

- Caryl Hill
- Dirk Van Helden
- James Brock

Physiology Education

- Phil Poronnik
- Jeff Schwartz
- Anne Sefton

Endocrinology, Reproduction and Fetal Development

- Chen Chen
- Karen Gibson

Cardiovascular

- Livia Hool
- David Allen
- Lea Delbridge

Neurophysiology

- Pankaj Sah

Exercise

- Mark Hargreaves
- Mike McKenna

Metabolism and Signalling

- Mark Febbraio

Cell signalling

- David Cook
- Grigori Rychkov

Channels and Transporters

- Stefan Broer
- Jamie Vandenberg

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