

Preceptor News



Excellence in Precepting

University of
Connecticut
of Pharmacy

From the Office of Experiential Education

Peter Tyczkowski Steps Down as Director of Experiential Education

After 12 years of service to UConn's School of Pharmacy, Peter Tyczkowski '78, Director of Experiential Education in the School of Pharmacy, announced that he has accepted a position with Yale New Haven Health as the 340B Pharmacy Program Integrity Manager, effective June 12, 2017.

In his new role, Tyczkowski will be responsible for oversight and development of a program that enables disproportionate share hospitals – those serving a substantial number of low-income patients – to purchase outpatient drugs at reduced cost. Four of the six hospitals in the Yale New Haven health system participate in the 340B Program, including both New Haven Campuses, Bridgeport and Lawrence & Memorial (New London).

The 340B program is administered by the Office of Pharmacy Affairs, a unit within the Health Resource & Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Tyczkowski has been involved with the 340B program for a number of years, reaching back to 2002.

"I won't say I'm a pioneer in this area," he says, "but I worked for the family-owned Pelton's community pharmacies for about 20 years and we were the first pharmacy in Connecticut to develop and operate a 340B contract pharmacy in partnership with a local federally qualified health center.

"Back then, there wasn't a lot of training available and I had to make sure to learn the rules and to set up the operation within our pharmacy so that everything was seamless from a customer's perspective. I continued to have an interest in the program and from there I started helping other pharmacists set up their own 340B operations."

Tyczkowski says that this work included seminars, webinars, and one-on-one consulting services to assist pharmacists with the 340B implementation process and compliance with program requirements. In a real sense, his new position gives him the opportunity to continue following a long-term area of interest as he enters a new phase of his professional life.

It was while he was serving as vice president and director of pharmacy operations at Pelton's that Tyczkowski had the chance

to join his alma mater as coordinator of educational research in 2005. In 2015, he was named director for experiential education where he and his team were responsible for the planning, implementation, and development of the School of Pharmacy's experiential education activities, as well as inter-professional education development.

Throughout his career, he has been active in professional and public engagement, including serving as the School of Pharmacy's liaison to the Connecticut Commission of Pharmacy, as a representative to the United States Pharmacopeia, and in work with the American Pharmacists Association.

He has served as both president and treasurer of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association and was the recipient of the Bowl of Hygieia from the New England Pharmacists Association. He also earned UConn's Public Service Award, in 2006, and was named Outstanding Faculty Liaison by the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation in 2015.

When asked how the School of Pharmacy has

changed since his days as a student, Tyczkowski paused to reflect on the Class of '78 which he describes as a close-knit group that made its own fun, even in the days when the pharmacy program was a bit less flexible than it is now. "I think the thing that has changed the most," he said, "is that over the years we have worked to develop a broader, more inclusive experience for our students. I'm proud to say that we expose them to a wide range of experiences in both academic and practice settings."

When asked what he would miss most about UConn, Tyczkowski replied, "Well, that's a no brainer. It's the people" before listing his staff, his teaching colleagues, preceptors, students, and others he's crossed paths with in the nearly 40 years since his graduation from the School of Pharmacy.

Then he laughed and said, "I think I'm living proof that there is always *life after...* and though my career has changed over the years, I'm looking forward to reinventing myself professionally one more time. I'll miss UConn, but I'm excited about the future."

Story by: Sheila Foran

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Contributor and Editor: Sheila Foran
On the Cover: Almira Cecunjanin '16

Office of Experiential Education Staff



Joshlyn Lucas-Nash
Program Assistant

Joshlyn Lucas-Nash

Working at the School of Pharmacy is something akin to a homecoming for Joshlyn Lucas-Nash. She is a native of Windham, a 2009 graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University, and she now lives in Willington with her husband, John.



Mary Morytko
Field Coordinator

Although she majored in history at ECSU, with an eye towards eventually working in a museum, she had a change of heart and began working in medical billing where she was a patient and collection account specialist.



Mary Ann Phaneuf
Assistant Director of
Experiential Education

She subsequently took her customer service skills to the UConn School of Law in Hartford, where she provided administrative support and served as a liaison between faculty, staff, students, and preceptors. When an opening in the Office of Experiential Education opened up in the School of Pharmacy, Joshlyn saw an opportunity she couldn't resist.



Peter Tyczkowski
Director of
Experiential Education

She says, "I always enjoyed the medical aspects of my first job and I loved being involved with students at the School of Law, so it's really good to be able to combine those interests here in the School of Pharmacy. I went to a small high school and a small college, and even though this campus is huge, the feeling in this building is more like family."

Preceptors of the Year



Robert Guynn
IPPE
Institutional
Preceptor of the Year



Marissa Salvo
APPE Faculty
Preceptor of the Year



John Capuano
IPPE
Service Learning
Preceptor of the Year



James Prota
APPE Adjunct Faculty
Preceptor of the Year



Crystal Bissonnette-
Garosshen
IPPE
Community Practice
Preceptor of the Year

New Faculty

Adrian V. Hernandez M.D., Ph.D., FACC

Adrian Hernandez could be forgiven if he sometimes has to check the schedule on his smartphone to make sure he's in the right place at the right time. An international traveler with colleagues, family, and a broad range of research interests across the globe, his fluency in several languages comes in handy as he navigates his way through far-flung airports.

Hernandez joined the School of Pharmacy in November 2016 as associate professor of comparative effectiveness and outcomes research. He is part of the Health Outcomes Policy and Evidence Synthesis (HOPES) Group – a multidisciplinary cohort of faculty with specific interest in promoting optimal health outcomes through the use of systematic review and meta-analysis of data, economic modeling, clinical trials, and observational research. In addition, he teaches two graduate level courses in research and patient assessment.

A native of Peru where he earned his MD at the San Fernando School of Medicine, the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, his academic career then took him to Rotterdam, The Netherlands, where he earned a Ph.D. in clinical epidemiology.

“As a young doctor,” he says, “I was totally committed to a career as a clinician. But I wanted to know more, and when I read research studies I was aware that my understanding of the data was only superficial. At that time, the government of the Netherlands was offering scholarships to foreign students interested in research training. I was accepted at Erasmus University and awarded a scholarship to study for my master's degree in clinical epidemiology. I ended up staying on for a master's in clinical research in cardiovascular diseases followed by a Ph.D. The decision to stay on for further study was life changing.”

In Rotterdam, Hernandez's major advisor was Ewout Steyerberg, a world-renowned expert in predictive modeling techniques. When Steyerberg was approached by Michael Kattan, also a highly regarded expert in the same field who was looking for a research fellow for a short-term project based in New York City, Hernandez got the call. This successful collaboration subsequently led him to join Kattan at the Cleveland Clinic in 2007 where he worked for five years, honing his skills as assistant professor of medicine and clinical epidemiologist in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences.

Family commitments eventually led Hernandez back to Peru and a teaching and research position at the Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC) in Lima. However, a chance meeting he'd had with Craig Coleman, Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Co-Director of UConn's Evidence-Based Practice Center within the HOPES Group, ultimately changed his professional trajectory.

“Craig and I were both doing poster presentations at an American Heart Association conference in Orlando back in 2011, and it immediately became apparent that we shared many research interests. Over the years we stayed in touch and even collaborated on a number of papers.”

When the HOPES Group had a position that closely matched his area of expertise, Hernandez decided to apply for it. That led to an offer and the rest, as they say, is history. He and his wife Yuani, also a physician, arrived in Hartford late last year and immediately put down roots. Hernandez comments that, all in all, moving to Connecticut has been an easy transition. “It's been almost like coming to work with long-time friends,” he smiles. “Everyone has been very welcoming and they even laugh at my jokes.”



Preceptors

Nathaniel Rickles Pharm.D., Ph.D., BCPP

Although Nate Rickles is the son of a pharmacist, he didn't take a direct route into a career in pharmacy. Instead, he explored both the hard sciences and the social sciences as an undergraduate at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania where he had a double major in Chemistry and Psychology. He earned his PharmD in Clinical Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy & Science and followed that with a psychiatric pharmacy practice residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center, leading to Board certification in this specialty. But he wasn't through yet.

"I always had an interest in the social sciences and when I had the opportunity to enter a PhD program in Social and Administrative Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy, and study with noted medical sociologist Bonnie Svarstad, I jumped right in. She was all about pharmacist-patient communications and patient adherence to drug regimens. That was more or less my calling."

Perhaps because of lessons learned from his father, who had a 45 year career as a community pharmacist, Rickles is particularly attuned to the pivotal role pharmacists play in inter-professional teams and the degree to which they can facilitate healthcare delivery while reducing healthcare disparities.

He is particularly interested in how community pharmacists can improve medication use outcomes among vulnerable populations including older adults, those with mental illness and substance abuse disorders, and other groups at high risk for health disparities. He is also using secondary data analysis to evaluate medication adherence at the population and policy level as well as exploring the use of technology to improve safe medication use.

He is a member of UConn's Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP), Center of Aging, and the Center for Public Health and Health Policy. He is also collaborating with the non-profit Institute for Community Research in Hartford, which is devoted to finding the root causes of health disparities among disadvantaged individuals and communities. Currently, he has a grant with the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to explore community pharmacy's role in

medication adherence interventions among people with major depression. He is also lead editor of the recent third edition of the textbook, *Social and Behavioral Aspects of Pharmacy Practice* (Kendall Hunt Publishers).

Rickles, who joined the School of Pharmacy as an Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice in 2016, says his teaching interests include health communication, health behavior change/health promotion, the sociology of mental health, and research design/methods.

"I have been teaching pharmacy communications and behavior change for over 20 years and I love interacting with students and teaching them not only how to talk with patients effectively, but to hone their inter-professional communications skills. This is becoming an increasingly important part of a pharmacist's role as part of the health delivery team," he says.

Rickles lives in Glastonbury with his wife, Jenny, a quality improvement specialist at Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and their two small children, Evan and Susie.



Story by: Sheila Foran

New Faculty Preceptor

Christina Pornprasert

A typical day for Christina Pornprasert, PharmD '14, is actually anything but typical. Aside from teaching in the classroom as an assistant clinical professor in the UConn School of Pharmacy, she is a population health clinical pharmacist at Hartford HealthCare Integrated Care Partners (HHC ICP), a physician-led clinical integration organization.

A native of Connecticut, Pornprasert graduated from UConn in 2014 with a doctorate of pharmacy and a business minor. She then completed a post-doctoral pharmacy residency at VA Connecticut Healthcare System followed by a specialty residency in ambulatory care at The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

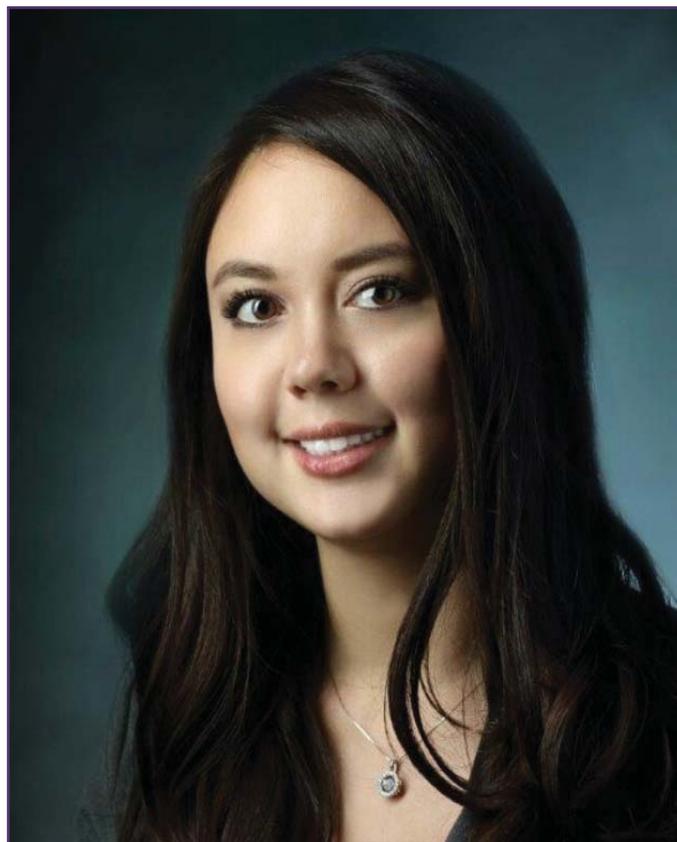
Currently at HHC ICP, Pornprasert is responsible for population health management, the key to accountable care and health reform as demanded by new payment incentives focused on value-based care. She supports the care management team to ensure patients receive appropriate preventive, chronic, and transitional care. She also provides medication therapy management consults and direct patient care for high-modifiable risk patients through home visitations. She says "An interdisciplinary team gives patients the best chance of a favorable outcome. Providers are starting to realize that they need pharmacists to help meet their quality and cost metrics during this value-based healthcare transformation."

Pornprasert says that managing the escalating costs of treating chronic diseases requires partnering with data analysts. She works closely with the data analytics team to identify opportunities related to prescribing practices. "Health systems and payers are interested in population health because of this shift we're seeing from fee-for-service to pay-for-value. The end goal is to improve outcomes, increase patient safety, and decrease cost. We need both clinical data and claims data to do this."

Among her outreach efforts is the development of asynchronous webinar videos for providers, which grant them credit for continuing medical education. These videos raise awareness on cost saving opportunities, new guidelines, and high risk medications with the goal of improving medication-related metrics. She has also developed chronic disease state management algorithms to further facilitate evidence-based prescribing.

Pornprasert feels she has an immediate rapport with the next generation of pharmacists, especially while precepting them during their rotations at HHC ICP. "I'm a recent graduate, so students don't feel intimidated about asking me questions. They appreciate that I have an intimate understanding of their curriculum from a student perspective."

In what spare time she has, Pornprasert is a self-described 'foodie' and an avowed fan of Food Network. While some would relish meeting LeBron James or Lady Gaga, she's proud to list Giada DeLaurentiis, Rachel Ray, Tyler Florence, Paula Deen, Bobby Flay, Robert Irvine, and Alex Guarnaschelli among the world class chefs with whom she has rubbed elbows. Finding a great restaurant is a high point of any time she can carve out of her busy professional schedule, and if it means a little bit of travel to get there, so much the better.



Story by: Sheila Foran

Dennis J. Chapron

Preceptors of the Year

Some of the most significant people that students in the School of Pharmacy will interact with during their academic careers are the preceptors who guide them through many of their most challenging experiences.

Whether it is a P1 getting a first taste of 'real' pharmacy practice in a community pharmacy setting or a seasoned P4 wrapping up a challenging academic experience with one final rotation before heading out for a PGY1 year in some far-off location, the influence of preceptors can't be underestimated.

Although circumstances vary widely, if there's one thing preceptors have in common it's a commitment to the 'next generation' of pharmacists who will one day be taking over leadership positions in the profession.

In his remarks at the UConn School of Pharmacy's 15th annual POI ceremony, Peter Tyczkowski '78, Director of Experiential Education said, "Our professional

lives have been constructively guided by teachers, administrators, preceptors, professional associations, and other role models with whom we have come in contact. Perhaps none of these is more influential than someone engaged in an area of practice who is willing to share their knowledge."

He continued, "While initially most precepting relationships tend to be hierarchical, with very clear lines of authority between the preceptor and the student, over time those lines can begin to fade, providing the opportunity for both the preceptor and student to learn from each other ... often times, a bond between [them] can continue to flourish providing mutual benefits for both over the years as they continue to develop their careers."

POYS NAMED

UConn appreciates all our preceptors, and this year we extend special recognition to those who were nominated by the students and subsequently selected

as Dennis J. Chapron Preceptors of the Year for 2017.

Marissa Salvo, assistant clinical professor of pharmacy, was named *Faculty Preceptor of the Year*. Her teaching expertise includes patient interviewing and counseling, medication therapy management, self-care treatment and management, and written pharmacist documentation. She precepts students during the ambulatory care Advanced Pharmacy Practice experience at UConn Health and says that precepting is like 'icing on the cake' because it's an opportunity to build relationships and help students perform at their highest levels.

"Precepting gives me a chance to really know the students and to help them learn to be part of the health care team," she says.

In describing their experiences working with Salvo, students say she goes 'above and beyond' for them. Their comments include, "Dr.

Salvo makes student instruction an important part of her every day routine. She provides an excellent balance of experiences, in working collaboratively with other health care providers and reviewing disease state management in primary care – she boosted my confidence as I step into a pharmacist's position."

The award for *Adjunct Faculty Preceptor of the Year* went to **James Prota '86** (Pharm). He has been a preceptor since joining Connecticut Hospice in Branford, Connecticut in 2006 and he says, "It was a true honor to receive the award named after my preceptor of 30 years ago, Dennis Chapron. I accepted the award on behalf of my entire staff who play a vital role in the students' experience."

Students in his rotation had nothing but praise for Prota, including, "Jim is by far the best preceptor anyone can have! He's extremely dedicated to his students and teaching, as well as to the hospice and the profession of pharmacy." In addition,

"Jim was an amazing preceptor. He allowed us to engage directly with the hospice medical team and pharmacy staff. He gave us challenging questions and put us in situations that tested our knowledge, but I never felt stressed."

The Community POY went to **Crystal Bissonnette-Garosshen**'07 (PharmD) She earned her PharmD from UConn in 2007 and she is currently a pharmacist at the Rite Aid Pharmacy in Canterbury, Connecticut. She works with P1 students in their introductory experiential program and says that being a preceptor allows her to instill the same values in current students as her preceptors instilled in her. "I chose to become a preceptor to continue to challenge myself and help me grow in my profession," she says.

In turn, her students said, "Not only was she a role model that I hope to someday be like as a pharmacist, but she had a great impact on me as a student." And, "She was never afraid to give me constructive criticism ... she always seemed to be in a great mood and ready to laugh."

John Capuano was named *Service Learning POY*. A pharmacist at the Apothecary and Wellness Center in New Haven, his path to a pharmacy career started when he worked at a drug store soda fountain in Bridgeport, Conn. He says, "My boss gave an untested sixteen year old a chance, but neither he nor I could have imagined that it would mark the start of a career that would span over four decades."

It was that experience that ultimately led him to become a preceptor, and he remarks that you never know when your teaching will positively influence a student. He says, "It's kind of a teachable moment for the teacher!"

His students say things such as, "Going to the migrant farm clinic was a totally new experience for me ... John's calm and reassuring manner helped me focus my concerns so that I was able to participate with the team ... (he) showed me how important a pharmacist is to a health team."

The Institutional Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience Preceptor of the Year

is **Robert Guynn** '80 (Pharm), a pharmacist at UConn Health who was inspired as a student by Dennis J. Chapron, the person for whom the Preceptor of the Year Award is named. This makes this honor especially meaningful for him and he says, "Few professional/educators in our field have embodied the scholarship, energy, and enthusiasm Dennis brought to bear on his students and patients during his time on the UConn faculty."

If the comments of his students are any indication, Guynn has duplicated his mentor's influence. They say, "Bob was an incredible preceptor to have ... it is clear that my education and understanding was a priority to him ... at his pharmacy, he implemented layered learning techniques where student pharmacists at all levels contribute ... Bob took teaching not only a step, but a whole mile further."

In his concluding remarks, Tyczkowski summed it up by saying, "While we have named five 'winners' this evening, I must point out that we had many preceptors nominated

making the committee's work to select the winners that much more challenging. I see this as a wonderful problem to have because it means there are so many of you and your peers doing great work with our students.

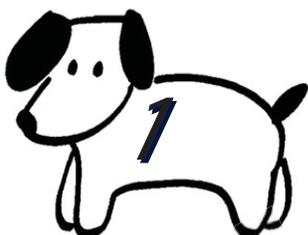
"To put a different perspective on these awards, in addition to the five people celebrating this evening, we have over 400 student winners every year thanks to your hard work and willingness to help the next generation of pharmacists."

Story by: Sheila Foran

Pharmacy

Five fun facts about...

5



Joshlyn's dream is to open her own animal rescue.



She loves to watch Disney movies.



Her favorite hobby is demolition derby and she will be crew chief for her husband this summer in the Northeast off Road Race Series.



She loves to cook.



Her favorite holiday is Halloween!

Joshlyn Lucas-Nash

Experiential Education Program Assistant



Joshlyn poses with her trophy for the 'last chance qualifier winner' at the Hebron Fair's demolition derby.

The Community Pharmacist's Role in Improving Outcomes for Patients with Mental Illness



"It's what we thought we'd be doing when we became pharmacists."

That was one of the comments from an attendee at a training seminar on the administration of long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIs) by licensed pharmacists presented by UConn's School of Pharmacy, the State Division of Drug Control, and Genoa QoL Healthcare on May 17 in Storrs.

"Treating persistent mental health problems such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder is often problematic," says seminar leader and Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice Charles F. Caley, who cited a high rate of treatment non-adherence by those who have been prescribed oral antipsychotic therapy."

All too frequently, once symptoms begin to dissipate, adherence may tail off because patients no longer feel the 'need' to take their meds, according to Caley. This non-adherence often leads to an increase in symptom intensity resulting in repeated hospitalizations, ancillary health problems, and an inability to maintain meaningful

social connections, including full-time employment or student status.

The opportunity for pharmacists to administer LAIs through intra-muscular (IM) injections offers them a meaningful chance of improving treatment outcomes, according to Caley, because not only can the medications provide favorable symptomatic results, but with long-acting dose forms adherence becomes more transparent. Either patients come in for their scheduled injections, or they don't. There is no opportunity to miss oral doses without reporting it, or to be less than candid with mental health care providers.

The vehicle that provides pharmacists in the State of Connecticut with the opportunity to administer LAIs is the State's pharmacist collaborative practice law, which is intended to permit pharmacists to manage drug therapy. Once pharmacists who are specifically interested in mental health care issues enter into signed agreements with one or more psychiatrists in their communities, they can begin offering the service at their individual practices. The eight attendees at Caley's training seminar represented Genoa QoL, a nationwide provider of behavioral health and addiction pharmacy services. Genoa is currently located in 10 behavioral health centers in Connecticut with plans to add three more locations before year-end. The value of these community practices is that pharmacists specifically focus on serving individuals who have significant mental health care needs.

In Connecticut alone, hospitalization for various types of mental illness resulted in some 32,000



This is such a wonderful partnership, leveraging the knowledge and accessibility of the pharmacist to improve patient health!

-Dr. C. Michael White

discharges in 2013 (latest available figures), 260,000 inpatient days, and 8 million total emergency department admissions between 2009 and 2013. LAIA administration service by pharmacists has the potential to reduce these acute mental health care costs. Identifying other pharmacists and pharmacy sites will be focused in parts of the state where there is genuine need for these services.

“Mental health issues often go unresolved,” Caley says, “because there is such a stigma attached to those kinds of illnesses. I’m a Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacist and right now there are only about 1,000 of us in the Country, and that’s not nearly enough. Meanwhile, it’s estimated that as many as one in two people will suffer from a mental illness sometime during their lives. Clearly, there’s a need for more accessible treatment, and community pharmacists can play a really important role in reaching out to these people who have specific needs.”

Administering LAIAs is not like giving a flu shot, Caley adds, and the relationship between patients and pharmacists is intended to be long-term. He says, “Pharmacists who want to provide this service have to be willing to make a commitment that not only includes building relationships with referring physicians and patients, but that also includes a specific set of requirements. This includes learning to administer various approved medications, regular reporting to the physician in charge regarding the patient’s drug therapy management, and configuring space where patients can receive private counseling.”

Caley says that offering the service also includes such things as maintaining the appropriate inventory of medications, and complying with the type of record-keeping required by Medicaid since – unfortunately – many people suffering from these illnesses are unemployed or living at or near the poverty level.

“It’s a service that requires a real commitment,” he says, “but that’s why people go into community pharmacy in the first place.”

Pharmacists interested in finding out more about collaborative drug therapy management agreements, competencies, and training opportunities should contact Troy Ruff with the State’s division of drug control at: troy.ruff@ct.gov.



Story by: Sheila Foran

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