As the Department of Surgery begins its 64th year of clinical service, education, and research, we wish to apprise you of the professional activities of our students, residents, and faculty. They have been involved in numerous collaborative academic, scholarly, educational, and humanitarian endeavors. We hope this inaugural issue of this newsletter will be informative to you and foster memories. My colleagues and I wish you a happy, productive, and prosperous 2014.

William O. Richards, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor and Chair

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA (USA)

The University of South Alabama (USA) is a public institution of higher learning. The USA Medical Center and USA Children's & Women's Hospital are public, not-for-profit, critical access, and safety-net hospitals. The Department of Surgery is a critical component of these entities, which rely upon both public and private funds to fulfill the missions of clinical service, education, and research. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Department of Surgery to enable us to enhance and expand our programs.

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  Annually to support resident education & travel

- Dr. Gaylord T. Walker Endowed Professorship in Surgery Fund
  
  To create an endowed professorship

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  Annually to support a visiting professorship

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- Milton M. Leigh Endowed Lectureship in Surgery Fund
  
  Annually to support a visiting professorship

- Thomas Robert Johnson Endowed Scholarship Award Fund
  
  Annually funds an award to a mid-level resident chosen by their peers

- William A.L. Mitchell Endowed Lectureship in Traumatology & Surgical Critical Care Fund
  
  Annually to support a visiting professorship

- John Watson Donald, Sr. Endowed Scholarship Award Fund
  
  Annually to fund a senior medical student award

- Medical Science Foundation, Department of Surgery
  
  Funds for surgical residents and faculty

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Please visit the web site of the Department of Surgery at http://www.usahealthsystem.com/surgeryresidency or University of South Alabama web site: www.southalabama.edu

We would welcome feed back from you at:

brichards@health.southalabama.edu
jdsimmons@health.southalabama.edu
rscarbrough@health.southalabama.edu

USA COM WELCOMES DR. MARCUS TAN

Dr. Marcus Tan was recently appointed as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

Dr. Tan earned his medical degree at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. After completing an internship at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, Australia, he moved to the United States.

At Barnes-Jewish Hospital of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., he completed a general surgery residency, serving as chief resident in 2010-11. From 2011-2013, Dr. Tan served as a Surgical Oncology Fellow at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.

Dr. Tan is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a candidate member of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO), the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA), and the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). His research on pancreatic cancer and colorectal liver metastasis has been presented at numerous national meetings and has been published in several journals, including the Annals of Surgery, Clinical Cancer Research, and the Journal of Immunology.

Dr. Tan's clinical interests are in complex surgical oncology, including cancers of the upper gastrointestinal tract, liver, and pancreas; sarcoma; and melanoma.

E-mail: mctan@health.southalabama.edu

USA COM WELCOMES DR. SALIL GULATI

Dr. Salil Gulati was recently appointed assistant professor of surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. A plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Gulati will support the USA Arnold Luterman Regional Burn Center and the USA Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Center.

Prior to his appointment at USA, Dr. Gulati was chief fellow in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, NY. He also completed a clinical and research fellowship in burns in the Division of Plastic Surgery at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, Ill.

Dr. Gulati earned medical, M.S., and M.Ch. degrees from Grant Medical College at the University of Bombay in Maharashtra, India. He completed his residency training in surgery at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY.

Dr. Gulati is board certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. In addition, he holds memberships and fellowships in the American Burn Association, International Society for Burn Injuries, American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin).

E-mail: sgulati@health.southalabama.edu
USA COM WELCOMES
DR. LEANDER GRIMM, JR.

Dr. Leander (Lee) Grimm Jr. was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

Dr. Grimm earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and his medical degree from the University of Texas School of Medicine, Houston, Texas. He completed a general surgery residency at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 2012, where he served as administrative chief resident. In 2013, Dr. Grimm completed a Colon and Rectal Surgery Residency at Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Grimm is a candidate member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. His recent publication in Seminars in Colorectal Surgery is very noteworthy.

E-mail: lgrimm@health.southalabama.edu

USA COM WELCOMES
DR. JOHN GOSCHE

Dr. John Gosche was recently appointed Professor of Surgery and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine.

Dr. Gosche earned B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, and Ph.D. degree in Cardiovascular Physiology from the University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. He completed his graduate general surgical education at the University of Louisville and a fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at Columbus Children’s Hospital/Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Gosche is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Pediatric Surgery. He is a member of numerous prestigious professional societies including Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons. He has published numerous articles, reviews, and books in the peer-reviewed-literature and presented-form-platform in a variety of venues. He has previously served as pediatric surgeon at Yale University, University of Mississippi, and University of Nevada.

E-mail: jgosche@health.southalabama.edu

USA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE WELCOMES
DR. M. AMIN FROTAN

Dr. M. Amin Frotan was recently appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. He will serve in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care, Burn, and Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Frotan earned his medical degree from the Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Lubbock, Texas. He completed residency training in general surgery at the USA College of Medicine, and his Trauma Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas. His chapter in the textbook Physiologic Basis of Surgery is superbly written.
After completing two years of residency in general surgery at University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Dr. Larry Lee decided to take a hiatus from residency training to enhance his education and appreciation for the basic science aspect of clinical care by conducting research with Dr. Mark Gillespie, Professor and Chair of Pharmacology.

Dr. Lee, who investigates the multiple organ dysfunction syndrome in trauma patients, was recently awarded first place in the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Residents Poster Competition for his research presentation. Dr. Lee is also a recipient of an American Heart Association post-doctoral fellowship, and a grantee of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In addition to being an exciting step for Dr. Lee, the award also recognizes the recent, unique collaboration between the Department of Pharmacology, Department of Surgery, and a host of clinicians and scientists.

Since the beginning of this research project in 2011, Dr. Gillespie, along with Dr. William Richards, Professor and Chair of Surgery; and Dr. Jon Simmons, trauma surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery, have led the partnership, a collaboration that, according to Dr. Richards, is the way of the future for the department of surgery to conduct meaningful NIH-funded research and to open doors for the basic scientists to explore clinically relevant problems.

“Biomedical research now requires translation from basic science to clinical science—from the bench to the bedside,” explained Dr. Richards. “We are placing our residents in the basic science laboratories where they are working on first-class biomedical research. The focus of this research project is to better understand why some trauma patients who are resuscitated and treated with medications and surgery appear to initially recover, but then go on to develop multiple organs dysfunction and failure days later.

“At the point when the patient develops multiple organ failure, there’s little we can do except to support them and hope,” explained Dr. Richards.

continued on page 6
Since he joined the Department of Surgery at this institution, he has served as Assistant Professor in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care, Burn, and Acute Care Surgery; and as Associate Program Director. Prior to his appoint Dr. Simmons completed a Fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Dr. Simmons is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the Association for Academic Surgery. He is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the Association for Academic Surgery. We are very proud that Dr. Simmons was recently awarded the George H.A. Clowes, Jr., MD, FACS Memorial Research Career Development Award from the American College of Surgeons; and the Mentored Clinical Research Award from the American Heart Association. Also, Dr. Simmons has energized our recruitment of surgical residents and is highly respected as a mentor to our current house officers.

According to Dr. Lee, for the first time in history, this research has identified what could be causing the chain of events leading to multiple organ failure in trauma patients. "If someone is severely injured, this causes mitochondrial DNA damage," explained Dr. Lee. "The damage results in mitochondrial DNA fragments entering circulation and causing a systemic inflammatory response, which we've associated with multiple organ failure." Dr. Gillespie noted that in addition to making a breakthrough in multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, the team has also identified a potential therapy and target for new drugs.

A previous USA recipient of the ACS Alabama Resident Poster Competition Award was Dr. Josh Chouteau in 2011, also a research Fellow in Dr. Gillespie's laboratory. Dr. Chouteau broke out of his clinical residency to initiate studies in Dr. Gillespie's laboratory that served as a foundation for Dr. Lee's award-winning research. "For Dr. Lee's project to be recognized by the Alabama Chapter of the ACS out of all the different surgical programs in the State of Alabama, shows his outstanding work, and that our team, including trauma surgeons Drs. Dick Gonzalez and Sid Brevard, successfully translated basic science discoveries into clinically relevant information that deepens our understanding of why some trauma patients fail to respond to treatment," said Dr. Richards.

"The collaboration of scientists and physicians is greater than the work we do individually," Dr. Richards added. "We are excited about working with basic science researchers in addition to clinicians like Dr. Jon Simmons—each of whom bring a unique perspective to the table. This research project was made possible by the many surgeons, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, administrators, technicians, and physicians who provide expert care to the patients admitted to the USA Level 1 Trauma and Burn Centers."

USA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE WELCOMES DR. JON D. SIMMONS

Since he joined the Department of Surgery at this institution, he has served as Assistant Professor in the Division of Traumatology, Surgical Critical Care, Burn, and Acute Care Surgery; and as Associate Program Director. Prior to his appoint Dr. Simmons completed a Fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD. Previously, he was an Assistant Professor in the Division of Trauma and Critical Care Surgery at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Dr. Simmons is Board Certified by the American Board of Surgery in General Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. He is a member of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the Association for Academic Surgery. We are very proud that Dr. Simmons was recently awarded the George H.A. Clowes, Jr., MD, FACS Memorial Research Career Development Award from the American College of Surgeons; and the Mentored Clinical Research Award from the American Heart Association. Also, Dr. Simmons has energized our recruitment of surgical residents and is highly respected as a mentor to our current house officers.

E-mail: jdsimmons@health.southalabama.edu

USA MEDICAL CENTER NAMED TOP PERFORMER

The University of South Alabama Medical Center was named “Top Performer on Key Quality Measures” by The Joint Commission, the accreditor of health care organizations in America. The Medical Center was recognized by the Joint Commission for exemplary performance in using evidence based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions.

The list of Top Performer organizations increased by 77 percent from last year and it represented 33 percent of all Joint Commission accredited hospitals reporting accountability measure performance data for 2012-2013.

“We understand that what matters most to patients at the USA Medical Center is patient centered care that is safe and effective,” said Medical Center Administrator Beth Anderson. “That’s why we have made a commitment to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence based processes.”
The William A.L. Mitchell Memorial Lecture is presented annually in memory of the life of William A.L. Mitchell, who died in 2005 from traumatic injuries. William succumbed to his injuries while receiving care at USA Medical Center. In appreciation for the care he received—his family established the endowed lecture series both to memorialize William and to improve trauma care.

In association with the Christian Medical Ministry for South Alabama (CMMSA), Dr. Jon Simmons led a team of two surgical residents and eight senior medical students on a medical mission trip to Rwanda, Africa. The team traveled three days to reach the city of Kibogora, located on the border between Rwanda and Congo. While there, they performed a variety of complex operations and mentored local Rwandan and Congolese surgeons in modern surgical techniques. Dr. Simmons will continue to take two surgical residents to Rwanda each year.

The 5th Annual Greater Gulf Coast Trauma & Acute Care Surgery Symposium was held on March 27 & 28, 2014, at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in downtown Mobile. Our guest speaker was Timothy C. Fabian, MD, FACS, Wilson Alumni Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Tennessee, Health Science Center, Memphis, TN.

- End of Life Issues
- Complications of Bariatric Operations
- Complex Abdominal Wall Reconstruction
- Orthopaedic Trauma
- Blunt Aortic Injury
- Management of Gunshot Wounds to the Head
- Novel Pharmacological Strategies to Treat Multiple Organ Failure
- Nutritional Support of the Critically Injured
- Role of Laparoscopy in Trauma Surgery
- Ultrasound in the ICU
- Cerebrovascular Injury

For additional information, please contact Dr. Sidney B. Brevard at sbrevard@health.southalabama.edu or Ms. Rebecca M. Scarbrough at rscarbrough@health.southalabama.edu
Dr. Arnold Luterman, the Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery and Vice-Chair of Academic Development and Education, received the 2013 Distinguished Service Award sponsored by the University of South Alabama Medical Alumni Association. The honor recognizes a faculty member who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to advancing medical education and who has provided outstanding leadership to the USA College of Medicine.

“Dr. Luterman has played a significant leadership role in the Department of Surgery, their residency program and in medical education on multiple levels,” said Dr. Samuel Strada, Dean of the USA College of Medicine. “His input has been invaluable to our growth both in curricular and clinical responsibilities.”

“Dr. Luterman has served diligently, promoting the advancement of the USA College of Medicine and his department on national, state, and community levels. He exemplifies the ideals of professionalism and has been an inspiration and mentor for College of Medicine graduates and residents.”

Dr. Luterman joined the USA Faculty in 1981 and served as Chair of the Department of Surgery from 1994 to 2001. For 31 years, Dr. Luterman served as the Medical Director of the USA Regional Burn and Wound Care Center. His academic awards are numerous and he has provided a wide range of editorial and consulting functions. USA medical students have honored him over 20 times with a Red Sash Faculty Award, given to faculty members who had the most meaningful impact on their medical education.

The Board of Trustees of the University of South Alabama approved a resolution to name the USA Medical Center Regional Burn Center in honor of Dr. Arnold Luterman, the Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine and former head of the Burn Center at the USA Medical Center.

Dr. Luterman recently retired from the University after more than 30 years of service. He is a nationally known burn care expert who has played a vital role in the care of burn victims in our region.

The burn center will now be known as the USA Arnold Luterman Regional Burn Center.
USA MEDICAL CENTER RANKED NO. 1 IN QUALITY CARE REPORT

A recent quality measures report released by the University Health System Consortium (UHC) showed that the University of South Alabama Medical Center was ranked No. 1 in quality of care among 158 university teaching hospitals.

In addition to receiving the No. 1 position in all core composite measures for the 4th quarter of 2012, the USA Medical Center was ranked No. 1 in numerous measures for the entire year, including CMS Appropriate Care Measures, Acute Myocardial Infarction Composite Measures, Heart Failure Composite Measures, and Surgical Care Improvement Project Composite Measures.

“Our hospital takes great pride in providing the highest quality of care for our patients,” said Beth Anderson, hospital administrator at USA Medical Center. “These high marks reflect the careful attention to quality of care by both our physicians and staff.”

UHC, formed in 1984 and located in Chicago, IL, is an alliance of 118 academic medical centers and 293 of their affiliated hospitals representing the nation’s leading academic medical centers.

RECEPTION HELD FOR GRADUATING CHIEF RESIDENTS IN JUNE 2013

Pictured From Left to Right

Dr. Jabbar Saliba: Private Practice, Martin, Tennessee.
Dr. Tam Mai: Fellowship, Mammary Gland Disease, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.
Dr. Juvonda Hodge, Teacher of the Year awardee.
Dr. Melanie K. Rose: Fellowship, Peripheral Vascular Disease, School of Medicine, University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama.
Dr. Derek Cannon: Private Practice, Philadelphia, Mississippi.
Dr. Bassam Shukrallah: Fellowship, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Health Sciences Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Dr. Loretta Brestan, a native of Pensacola, Florida was selected as the first fellow for the newly accredited Surgical Critical Care Fellowship in the Department of Surgery at USA for academic year 2013-2014. Dr. Brestan earned her medical degree from University of Miami School of Medicine in Miami, Florida and completed her residency training in General Surgery at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Brestan completed a Minimally Invasive Surgery fellowship at The Texas Endosurgery Institute. As the Surgical Critical Care Fellow, Dr. Brestan is responsible for the care and management of all patients in the 16-bed surgical/trauma ICU, which admits trauma, general surgery, neurosurgery, surgical oncology and other surgical sub-specialty patients. Dr. Brestan directs resuscitations in the surgical/trauma ICU, takes trauma call and leads a surgical critical care team of residents, medical students, and nurse practitioners. Dr. Brestan works closely with the trauma/critical care attending staff in the clinical management of critically ill patients and also works closely with attending staff in pursuit of administrative, educational, and research endeavors. During her fellowship, Dr. Brestan will also have experience in the Medical and Burn Intensive Care Units. Following completion of the fellowship, Dr. Brestan intends on pursuing a career in trauma and surgical critical care.

This year, six physicians from the University of South Alabama Physicians Group and USA Mitchell Cancer Institute appear in the Top Doctors directory issued by U.S. News and World Report. They are the only doctors in our region to receive that honor.

Dr. Arnold Luterman recently retired as the Ripps-Meisler Professor of Surgery at the USA College of Medicine and Medical Director of the USA Burn Center. He is a nationally known burn care expert, and is noted for his cutting-edge burn and wound treatment and research. He helped establish the USA Burn Center in 1981 and has played a vital role in the care of burn victims in our region for more than 30 years.

Dr. William O. Richards serves as Professor and Chair of Surgery at the USA College of Medicine. He directs the laparoscopic and bariatric surgery programs and is also a member surgeon with the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute. Dr. Richard’s clinical interests focus on surgical treatment of achalasia, paraesophageal hernias, Barrett’s esophagus, adrenal tumors, gastroesophageal reflux disease, Type 2 diabetes mellitus and motility disorders of the gastrointestinal tract using minimally invasive surgical procedures. He has performed thousands of laparoscopic procedures since 1989 and is internationally recognized for his research and surgical expertise in those disorders.

U.S. News Top Doctors was created in collaboration with Castle Connolly Medical, Ltd. It draws from their database of America’s Top Doctors, all recommended for their clinical skills by other doctors and individually vetted by a physician-led research team. Consumers can search for a Top Doctor by location, hospital affiliation, and a full range of specialties and subspecialties. The site lists nearly 30,000 peer-nominated physicians across the country.

The selection process for America’s Top Doctors is based on a rigorous research process that begins with mail and telephone surveys of board certified physicians. A comprehensive review of the training and credentials of those physicians considered for inclusion is conducted by the Castle Connolly physician-led research team.
USA RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES ENHANCING THE PRESENT................
INVENTING OUR TOMORROW

Commemorating 50 Outstanding Research, Scholarly, and Creative Accomplishments Over the Past 50 Years: 1963-2013

Extraordinary accomplishments in research, scholarship, and creative works have distinguished the intellectual and collaborative community of scholars at the University of South Alabama for half a century. Fifty research, scholarly, and creative works were recently selected for recognition at Semi-Centennial celebration of the University of South Alabama.

Selections were made by a diverse committee comprised of both USA faculty and administrators. The significance and the impact of these works are representative of the exceptional research, scholarship, and creative works that have been accomplished over the past 50 years at USA.

Two members of the Department of Surgery were so acknowledged: Dr. Arnold Luterman for research in relationship to thermal injury from physical, mental, emotional, psychological, and spiritual perspectives; and Dr. Charles B. Rodning for research and writing in relationship to the humanities and humanism in medicine and surgery.

USA CHILDREN’S & WOMEN’S HOSPITAL EXPANSION COMPLETED
The Department of Surgery begins its 64th year of clinical service, graduate educational, and research. Under the leadership of William O. Richards, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chair and Jon D. Simmons, M.D., F.A.C.S., Assistant Professor and Program Director, our residents and faculty have been involved in numerous collaborative academic, scholarly, educational, and humanitarian endeavors.
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA HOSPITALS
SURGERY HOUSESTAFF RESIDENTS 2013/2014

CHIEF RESIDENTS

Andrew
Bright
Gwen
Deleon
Lee
Ferguson
Ryan
Kennedy

PGY-IV

Kristin
Hummel
Cassidy
Koonce
Joseph
Ogrodnik
Jack
Rostas, III
Katrina
Weaver

PGY-III

Barry
Ballard
Scott
Blair
Jeremy
Drake
Julie
Dricken
Luke
Fife

PGY-II

Caleb
Butts
Kelsey
McKee
Issac
Payne
Gregory
Quatrino
Justin
Sobrino

PGY-I

Gifty
Abraham
Daniel
Freno
Brian
Jones
Kaci
Sims
Celia
Quang
Patrick
Murphy
Nicholas
Prylinski
Andrew Bright, D.O., L.CDR., M.C., U.S.N.R.
Active Duty, Regional Naval Medical Center, Pensacola, Florida

Gwendolyn DeLeon, M.D.
Fellowship, Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

Lee C. Ferguson, D.O.
Fellowship, Peripheral Vascular Surgery, University of Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi

Ryan D. Kennedy, M.D.
Fellowship, Traumatology and Surgical Critical Care Parkland Hospital, University of Texas/Southwestern, Dallas, Texas
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☐ Until I provide notification to Stop    OR    ☐ Until _________ (month/year)

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☐ Monthly/Bi-Weekly(circle one) $____________

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