Message from Chairperson David Allard, CHP

Many best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas, a wonderful holiday season and New Year. Regardless of the daily national and international tragedies and drama in the news, as Americans we have many blessings to be grateful for… and this is the season to reflect on this fact. Personally, I enjoy the season for time with family and friends and the hope of peace, as well as some relaxation and recharge for the coming New Year.

As I mentioned in the last Newsbrief, our fall Board meeting was in early November. The Board continues to work with our federal and organizational partners for consistent regulations and tackling current radiation protection issues at hand. Many of our partners (e.g., American Association of Physicists in Medicine, American College of Radiology, American Society for Radiation Oncology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration, and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission) joined us for that Board meeting.
After the Board meeting we moved right into the agenda for the 50th anniversary meeting of the CRCPD in Charleston, South Carolina. Please mark your calendar for May 21-24, 2018, as Jared Thompson and the planning committee have a great program shaping-up. Many thanks to all who submitted abstracts and topics for presentations.

At that time we also began our one-on-one agency / organization meetings in the DC area, and finished up those meetings during a second trip in early December.

We continue to address:
- staff training;
- consistent radiation protection criteria;
- use of International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standards for x-ray equipment;
- the implementation of the USEPA’s new Protection Action Guidance (PAG) Manual;
- overall radiological emergency response;
- exercise criteria;
- disused source recovery;
- nuclear power plant closures and decommissioning;
- old non-military radium sites;
- Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM); and
- radiation monitoring at metal recycling facilities, etc.

Equally important are the cross-cutting issues addressed directly by the CRCPD members on the Monthly X-ray Call.

Looking ahead, as Ruth outlines in this issue of the Newsbrief, work is progressing on the International Symposium on Naturally

Ruth McBurney (Executive Director), Karen Beckley (Chair-Elect), Jared Thompson (Past Chair) and Dave Allard (Chair)
at the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
**ICRP Meeting**

“Two key questions related to ‘recommended research’ and application of ‘ethical values’ were presented prior to the meeting.”

David Allard

**Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM IX) Meeting scheduled for September 2019.** We’re excited and pleased the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has asked CRCPD to host this meeting. It will be a very timely meeting, as additional guidance on oil and gas TENORM waste disposal should be available from the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP) around the same time. If you’re interested in this topic, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) has just published a very well done guidance document in this area. See http://astswmo.org/waste-generation-and-disposal-awareness-management-and-disposal-guidance-for-solid-waste-containing-technologically-enhanced-naturally-occurring-radioactive-material-tenorm/

In mid-November, I had the honor to represent the CRCPD at an International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland. This was an organizational liaisons meeting with many other international organizations represented.

Two key questions related to “recommended research” and application of “ethical values” were presented prior to the meeting.

The group collectively felt that more research was needed in the area of linear no threshold (LNT) as it applies to low dose protection standards. It was also concluded that when we get to the point in time where we might be able to determine individual sensitivity to radiation, this will present serious ethical challenges in the application of our protection standards.

In closing, I would again encourage everyone to get actively involved with CRCPD’s many committees and workgroups. It is a rewarding experience. **And, mark your calendar for a very special CRCPD 50th anniversary meeting next May!**

*Peace, Dave*
Greetings from Your Executive Director

As we approach the end of 2017, the CRCPD Board, committees and staff have been quite busy putting some final finishing touches on what to me has seemed to be a quite productive year for the organization. We’re also planning for another great year in 2018, and due to the dedication of our members, federal partners, and other organizations that have collaborated with us, I think we will continue to provide service, guidance and radiation protection tools for the states.

Here are some of the highlights of activities that have been completed or had a finishing touch over the last couple of months.

Radiation Response Volunteer Corps Initiative (RRVC)

Since 2010, CRCPD has been working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote development of self-sustaining volunteer emergency response programs that include volunteer radiation protection professionals, first as a pilot program in a few states, then annually providing sub-awards to other state and local radiation control and public health preparedness groups. Also, during that time, CRCPD gathered tools and best practices and developed a model one-day training program for radiation volunteers to perform population monitoring in community reception centers and provide shelter assistance in the event of a major radiological incident.

All of this has been placed in a toolbox for RRVC Development on the CRCPD website. The finishing touch: We recently redesigned the website and have now included the training modules developed during an expanded meeting of the HS/ER-10 Task Force this year. The toolkit can be accessed at http://www.crcpd.org/page/RRVC

Also, in September, CRCPD completed a project with the HS/ER-11 Task Force for Data Sharing from Community Reception Centers (CRCs) and the contractor for RadResponder to add a module to the data-sharing platform to share aggregate population monitoring data from CRCs during a radiological incident. It was tested by exercising the capabilities by several states. Another finishing touch for the RRVC project: The final report for the last six years’ activities has been completed in December.
Executive Director

Greetings (continued)

NORM IX

“CRCPD will be hosting the next International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM IX).”

Ruth E. McBurney

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met in Arlington, Virginia, in early November to catch up on all the committee work being done in the Councils, the partnering federal agencies, and organizations in the Radiation Protection Council, as well as to conduct matters brought to the Board for consideration. Following the Board meeting, the Technical Planning Committee met to scope out and plan for the 50th National Conference on Radiation Control. Since this will be a very special year for CRCPD, the Planning Committee has really gone all out to make sure the speakers, presentations, training, and other events are top notch and reflect the past, present and future of radiation protection in the United States.

The finishing touch: Following the Planning Committee Meeting, almost all the speakers have been confirmed, and other important topics and presenters have been identified. During our visits with the federal agencies and other organizations, we discussed some of their new initiatives that we felt were important for the membership to hear about during the annual Conference. I am excited about the great program that is being put together for the meeting next May. I hope you will plan to come!

International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM IX)

In the October Newsbrief, I reported that CRCPD will be hosting the next International Symposium on Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM IX). This will be the first time it has been held in the United States and will bring in experts in NORM from all over the world to discuss the issues and options for controlling the various types of NORM, including uranium, thorium, radium, as well as radon and other daughter products, and the industries in which these occur.

The finishing touch: We have established a location and date for the symposium—Denver, Colorado, during the week of September 23-27, 2019, and are in the process of selecting a logo. We will be reaching out to federal and organizational partners, as well as corporations, to assist in making this a great conference on NORM. Do save the date for the NORM IX Symposium and stay tuned for more information on submission of abstracts and other useful material.

My final finishing touch for 2017 is to wish you and yours much happiness for the holidays and a peaceful and productive new year in 2018.

♦

The conference focused on the 2012 Bonn Call-for-Action, which set out 10 actions to improve radiation protection in medicine in the next decade. The conference was held at the half way point and the focus was to see what progress has been made and to create a tool kit to be used going forward.

The 10 Bonn Call-for-Action items are:

1. Enhance the implementation of the principle of justification.
2. Enhance the implementation of the principle of optimization of protection and safety.
3. Strengthen manufactures’ role in contributing to the overall safety regime.
5. Shape and promote a strategic research agenda for radiation protection in medicine.
6. Increase availability of improved global information on medical exposures and occupational exposures in medicine.
7. Improve prevention of medical radiation incidents and accidents.
8. Strengthen radiation safety culture in health care.
10. Strengthen the implementation of safety requirements globally.
International Conference on Radiation in Medicine

IAEA Meeting in Vienna, Austria - continued

The conference was broken up into numerous different topical categories. Below is a partial list:

• How are we strengthening radiation safety culture in healthcare?
• Radiation protection of patients and staff in diagnostic radiography, fluoroscopy and computed tomography (CT).
• Radiation protection of patients and staff in radiotherapy including brachytherapy.
• How are we meeting radiation protection challenges in design and implementation of new technologies?
• Radiation protection in medical exposures of children and pregnant women.
• Lessons from unintended and accidental exposures in medicine.
• How are we meeting challenges in patient dose recording, tracking and data management?

On behalf of CRCPD, two papers were submitted to the conference and posters were displayed on both: 


Additional information will be presented at the CRCPD conference in May, 2018.
Summary of IAEA Technical Meeting
on Strengthening of Safety Culture in Radiotherapy through the Use of Incident Learning Systems

by Jennifer Elee, Chair,
Healing Arts Council and H-38 Committee on Radiation Medical Events

A meeting was held October 10-13, 2017, by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Strengthening of Safety Culture through the use of Incident Learning Systems. Jennifer Elee participated in the meeting on behalf of CRCPD.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss different countries’ experiences with incident learning systems and medical events reporting in radiotherapy at the local, national, and international levels. The participants included regulators, physicists, physicians and radiotherapy technologists from Asia, Europe, Africa, North America and South America. In addition to countries, many organizations participated as well including CRCPD.

The program was broken down into four sessions including:
1. “Accidents do Happen;”
2. “Reporting and Learning Systems;”
3. “Efforts to Prevent Errors;” and

CRCPD was able to lend our knowledge of defining an event and our experience with collecting radiotherapy events for the past six years from the state programs. CRCPD also provided information on inspections and how the safety culture of a facility can be important to event reporting.
Summary of IAEA Technical Meeting on Strengthening of Safety Culture in Radiotherapy through the Use of Incident Learning Systems - continued

In Session 1, “Accidents do Happen,” several presenters discussed major events that have occurred worldwide. These events and the follow up after have led to regulatory event reporting in many countries. In addition, many societies have advocated the use of Incident Learning Systems (ILS) to use at the local level as a way for facilities to track “good catches” and discuss improvements. There were discussions on how tracking events both nationally and internationally can lead to safety improvements in equipment and procedures. *At a minimum, we feel that it would be good if all reportable events are input into SAFRON (a web-based voluntary safety reporting and learning system for radiotherapy) at the international level to look for trends and potential issues.*

Session 2, “Reporting and Learning Systems,” was broken down into two parts:

1. Required reporting; and
2. Voluntary incident learning systems.

In the **required reporting portion**, several presenters, including CRCPD, discussed how their country collects and shares events. Most of the countries seem to be collecting the same types of events using somewhat different methods. Several countries use newsletters to give examples of the types of events that are being reported and to encourage reporting to the national regulatory agency. In the discussion of voluntary ILS, many ILS were discussed. The sharing of information from voluntary ILS is important. **Discussions were held on how to improve the narrative in ILS reports so that enough information is provided to make useful determinations on causes and move forward with improvements.** Although, the ILS should be set up so that it is user friendly at the local level where the information is being supplied, there are minimum fields that are important so that events, near events, and good catches can be compared whether that be at the local, national or international level.
Summary of IAEA Technical Meeting on Strengthening of Safety Culture in Radiotherapy through the Use of Incident Learning Systems - continued

In session three, “Efforts to Prevent Errors,” the group discussed how the safety culture concept can and should relate to event reporting and the use of ILS. Several presenters gave examples of how safety culture relates to radiation safety and to medicine in general. There was discussion on gaps in training and for outreach in error prevention. The concept of getting “buy in” at all levels including the regulatory level is important.

The final session, “Impact of Incident Learning Systems on Strengthening Safety Culture,” was a wrap up for the meeting. The importance of strong leadership including having a “physician champion” was discussed. In addition, the role of professional organizations in promoting the use of ISL and in providing ways for each level of participant in radiotherapy to promote safety culture was discussed. The group finished with reviewing potential activities for collaboration and suggestions for strengthening safety culture.

In considering conclusions and outcomes from the meeting, it was brought up that radiotherapy is a very small subset in medicine. Because of this, the potential to bring all groups together is much less daunting than in other modalities. For CRCPD’s part in this:

- We need to look at what is working in our event reporting and what is not.
- We can improve our reporting forms and content.
- We can also provide guidance for regulators on ILS on questions to ask at inspections on safety culture in radiotherapy, and guidance on root cause analysis for events and how that should look.

Through our Committee on Medical Events and our Committee on Radiation Therapy we will undertake these action items. We plan to hold a special interest meeting at the National Conference on Radiation in Charleston, South Carolina, in May 2017 on ILS, Event Reporting and Safety Culture in Radiotherapy.
RSNA IAC and H-46 Task Force on IEC Standards Update

by Mary Ann Spohrer (IL)

Representatives from both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) and the Medical Imaging and Technology Alliance (MITA) hosted a meeting discussing the Electronic Product Radiation Control (EPRC) to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Transition.

The overall objective of the IEC initiative from USFDA’s perspective is to develop a system whereby manufacturers can use conformance with relevant portions of the IEC standards in lieu of EPRC requirements. This would allow the manufactures to move away from maintenance of U.S.-specific performance standards and rely on globally harmonized standards. As many of you know this has been topic of conversation between the USFDA and CRCPD for a few years now. A number of issues have been discussed including how states can get access to the IEC standards to review them if they were to include them for inspection and regulatory purposes.

Although many interested parties are in agreement that the best solution would be for USFDA to amend their regulations to specifically include the IEC standards, that option is not a likely proposal for any time in the near future. USFDA’s latest proposal is a short term solution that would involve manufacturers wishing to conform to the IEC standard instead of the EPRC regulations to “create a table that highlights, for each modality, product family, or model, where either their product fails to meet an EPRC requirement but meets a corresponding IEC requirement or where unique conformance testing procedures are required to determine compliance with IEC requirements.” An example table was discussed at the meeting. Comments from participating medical physicists centered around how they should use the tables as well as the burden that they present in how
RSNA International Advisory Committee and H-46 Task Force on
IEC Standards Update from RSNA - continued

they would be used to survey specific types of
equipment. They were interested in an example
table that would include case studies so that a
more comprehensive application of the table could
be reviewed.

MITA indicated that manufacturers could develop the needed tables
but the time to do so would be considerable. They agreed to take one
example and develop a table along with a case study to further explore
exactly how the table would be used. MITA also wanted to know that
their efforts would be acceptable to the various stakeholders involved that
include the physicists, accreditation bodies and regulators.

From a regulatory standpoint, I was not sure how or even if states could
use the information presented (and accepted by USFDA) in the form of the
table when it came to developing their own state regulations and enforcing
the alternative standard. Input from various states and their position
is welcome. Input from states addressing how they currently deal
with USFDA variances as well as how your state might deal with this
“table of differences” in your regulatory and inspection compliance
programs would be important.

CRCPD will continue to work with MITA and USFDA through the H-46
Committee on IEC Standards to present state views and issues. Please
provide your comments and concerns to Mary Ann Spohrer at maryann.
spohrer@illinois.gov.
Update on the ROSS Program

by William Irwin, ScD, CHP (VT)

ROSS Program Developments

There are exciting developments with the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) Program. They include more ROSS deployments in exercises, ROSS refresher training, teaching a second class of ROSS candidates, finalizing formal ROSS training courses that will be offered free to State and Local responders, and interim guidance for the deployment of ROSS for planning, exercises and actual incidents.

Exercising ROSS

Gotham Shield 17 was the first time multiple ROSS were deployed simultaneously. I served as ROSS Strike Team Leader, and three ROSS candidates from the 2016 ROSS course sponsored by CRCPD in Baltimore were deployed at State and Local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Angela Leek of Iowa was deployed to New York City, Matt McKinley of Kentucky was deployed to New Jersey and Jennifer O’Riorden of Massachusetts was deployed to New York State.

The scenario played out over several weeks in April 2017. The first week focused on following intelligence that people possessed multiple improvised nuclear devices (INDs) that they sought to detonate. One IND was apprehended by Canadian Authorities and a second was rendered safe by U.S. authorities. Unfortunately, a third IND was detonated at the New Jersey entrance of the Holland Tunnel to New York City, and a fourth detonated two days later in Nova Scotia. The work was challenging, but the rewards for each of us, and for development of the ROSS program were much more immense. We hope to present on Gotham Shield at the 50th Annual Meeting in Charleston.

An equally valuable exercise was conducted in San Francisco in October 2017. The San Francisco Bay area is very interested in the ROSS, so I attended and demonstrated ROSS capabilities at Vigilant Guardian 2017. This exercise also combined elements of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office’s Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection Program and the response elements we call consequence management. In this week-long scenario, multiple blood irradiator sources were stolen, and recovery of the last source ended with the detonation of the radiological dispersal device (RDD). The latest guidance Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Guidance for Response to an RDD, what is often called “the first 100 minutes” guidance, was used by all and RadResponder was used extensively for first responder data collection and emergency management situational awareness.

ROSS Initial and Refresher Training

The team from Homeland Security/Emergency Response Committee 4 created an 8-hour ROSS Refresher Training course for the May CRCPD
Update on the ROSS Program - continued

ROSS Program Developments

Annual Meeting in Scottsdale. The CRCPD course was then taken to the Health Physics Society Annual Meeting in Raleigh for ROSS refresher training there. The CRCPD course was especially fun because students not only learned about the latest radiological and nuclear emergency response guidance, but they put it to the test in a practical exercise. The 35 students formed three survey strike teams and an incident command operation’s support team. The ten-point monitoring survey described in the DHS National Urban Security and Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) guidance for response to an RDD was implemented and managed using RadResponder. Ironically, the mission ended almost exactly 100 minutes after it was initiated. Great thanks to Toby Morales of the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Authority for logistics on this exercise.

The second ROSS initial training course was also offered in September 2017, and was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Twenty-eight students took the class on the campus of Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. Two students from the 2016 course sponsored by the CRCPD joined me as ROSS instructors. It was wonderful to see people grow with understanding about the unique characteristics of RDDs and INDs, the tools that are rapidly being developed to help us more effectively respond to and recover from such catastrophic incidents, and the best ways to effectively communicate actionable recommendations to decision-makers.

We are also proud to announce that initial training of ROSS is moving to the Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) Center for Radiological Nuclear Training at the Nevada National Security Site. Angela Leek, Matt McKinley and I are working as ROSS subject matter experts to revise the lesson plans for pilot courses at CTOS. Angela, Matt and I will also be the lead instructors for the CTOS courses which will be offered to State and Local radiation control program staff to attend free of charge with sponsored travel funding. We hope to start teaching these courses in early 2018, and train hundreds of ROSS. It will be part of CTOS’ Command Level Response Mission Training courses as described here: http://ctosnnnsa.org/pages/what.htm and will be listed in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Radiological Emergency Preparedness training notices as MGT-455.
Update on the ROSS Program - continued

ROSS Program Developments

Interim ROSS Deployment and Cadre Management Guidance

We have now collected the names of about 250 people who want to certify as a ROSS. Every one of them asks about what is next. We tell them that full certification will come from FEMA as part of its National Qualification System (NQS). This is a formal and comprehensive process that links required skills, knowledge and abilities for the ROSS to specific kinds of training and experience in a person’s record. CTOS will make those links to the NQS, and individuals will emerge as Type 1, 2 or 3 ROSS upon completion of the NQS standards for each type. Once certified and typed, ROSS may be deployed with their expenses, care and feeding covered through FEMA cadre management processes.

Because this will take some time, and ROSS may be needed any day, not only for an actual radiological or nuclear emergency, but for exercises and to be a part of other State and Local planning and preparedness activities, interim deployment guidance was recently created by the FEMA Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN) Program. This is a brief synopsis:

• FEMA CBRN maintains the official Roster of trained ROSS.
• The ROSS Steering Committee - Jim Rogers of FEMA CBRN, Dan Blumenthal of the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration, Ben Stevenson of the DHS NUSTL, and I, will type the ROSS as listed in the Roster.
• FEMA will deploy typed ROSS as requested, and cover their costs, compensate them and care for them on either invitational travel, as part of a Reservist Cadre of the FEMA Operations Taskforce Leader, or on a Mission Assignment to the DOE.

This is great news as we work to integrate what is now almost 50 trained ROSS into Local, State and Federal exercises, training functions and planning activities. When our trained ROSS engage in this work, we know it will benefit them immensely, but we are certain it will benefit the Local, State and Federal agencies for whom they work even more.

If you want to know more about the ROSS, write to fema-ross@fema.dhs.gov.

ACRONYMS

CBRN - Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Program
CTOS - Counter Terrorism Operations Support
DHS - US Department of Homeland Security
DOE - U.S. Department of Energy
FEMA - U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
NQS - National Qualification System
NUSTL - National Urban Security and Technology Laboratory
REP - Radiological Emergency Preparedness
ROSS - Radiological Operations Support Specialist
Image Gently Annual Meeting

by Mary Ann Spohrer (IL)

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) annual gathering in Chicago once again brought along the annual meeting of the Image Gently Alliance. This was the 10th annual meeting of the Alliance and this year’s meeting took a different format from years past in that it included the usual updates as well as two panel discussions, one on Challenges and Rewards and the second on Opportunities and Obstacles. Both of the panel discussions involved audience participation with several comments from the American College of Radiology (ACR), American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), medical physicists both independent and those on staff at various institutions, and other Alliance members such as the Society of Nuclear Medicine and international members.

Comments centered around the use of websites and more recently the use of social media networks. A number of organizations employ an individual whose responsibility includes managing the website/social media aspects of the organization. Additional discussion items included the value of the Image Gently Alliance and website, strategies for partnerships, guideline development, regulations, and clinical support for appropriateness criteria.

Alliance activities throughout 2017 included the “Have-A-Heart” campaign that focused on pediatric cardiology which was unveiled in July 2017. Additional information can be found on the Image Gently website. Another campaign unveiled this year was the ”Think-A-Head” campaign that served to update the information on the Image Gently webpage with regard to computed tomography (CT) imaging. Pediatric CT imaging was the initial modality that began the Image Gently Alliance as mentioned earlier, 10 years ago. Today’s Image Gently website looks different than it did 10 years ago but the one thing that remains constant is the wealth of information available on the website. There is information on different procedures such as CT, dental, digital radiography, fluoroscopy, interventional radiography, cardiac imaging, nuclear medicine imaging and ultrasound imaging -- all with the focus on the pediatric patient. Whether the website visitor is a parent, technologist, physicist, radiologist, referring physician, or dental professional, information is presented with that focus in mind. Finally the website has an extensive FAQ section that provides information relative to interventional, dental, nuclear medicine, CT and fluoroscopy with questions directed at medical professionals as well as parents.

CRCPD remains one of approximately a hundred organizations both nationally and internationally that supports Image Gently mission. Please view their webpage if you would like any additional information. There website is http://www.imagegently.org/.
Call for News

Would you like to share some information about your work, or some project or issue that you’re involved in?

CRCPD is interested in what you are doing and would like to share your knowledge and experiences with other CRCPD members through a feature article in the *Newsbrief*.

If you would like to submit an article, please contact Ruth McBurney (rmcburney@crcpd.org) suggesting a topic you’d like to present.

The *Newsbrief* is published six times a year, in even numbered months. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month of publication.

We welcome your news and photographs, too, if you’d like to share.
**CRCPD Board of Directors**

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**CRCPD Councils**

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The Newsbrief is written to address the needs of all radiation control program personnel. Readers are encouraged to contribute newsworthy or informative items for the Newsbrief, with neither charges nor stipends for the items that are selected. News of state radiation control programs is especially sought.

Articles should be sent to CRCPD. Attn: Sue Smith, 1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-7862; email: <ssmith@crcpd.org>). The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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