

Academic Health Department Learning Community Meeting

March 7, 2017

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Housekeeping Items

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- Slides for today’s presentation are available for download in the “Handouts” panel.
- Please use the “Questions” panel to ask questions and submit comments throughout the webinar.
- This webinar is being recorded and will be archived. The archive will be made available following the webinar.



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- Handouts:** Lists one document: "Community Guide Webinar slides.pptx".
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Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

To improve the performance of individuals and organizations within public health by:

- Fostering, coordinating, and monitoring collaboration among the academic, public health practice, and healthcare communities
- Promoting public health education and training for health professionals throughout their careers
- Developing and advancing innovative strategies to build and strengthen public health infrastructure

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22 National Public Health Organizations:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Public Health Association
- Association for Community Health Improvement
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of University Programs in Health Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
- Council on Education for Public Health
- Health Resources and Services Administration
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Library of Medicine
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Public Health Leadership Development Network
- Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations
- Society for Public Health Education

 **The Council on Linkages
Between Academia and
Public Health Practice**



Academic Health Department Learning Community

- A national community designed to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHD partnerships
- Facilitates shared exploration of the AHD concept and collaborative learning about AHDs
- Brings together public health and healthcare professionals to share AHD-related knowledge and experiences and work collaboratively to create AHD resources and tools
- Members can participate in meetings and webinars, engage in discussion, access resources and tools, and receive guidance to support AHD efforts
- Learn more: www.phf.org/AHDLC



Today's Speaker



Sophie Wenzel, MPH
Coordinator, New River Academic Health Department
Associate Director, Center for Public Health Practice
and Research, Virginia Tech



NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
NEW RIVER HEALTH DISTRICT, AND THE VIRGINIA TECH
DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION HEALTH SCIENCES

March 7, 2017

Academic Health Department Learning Community



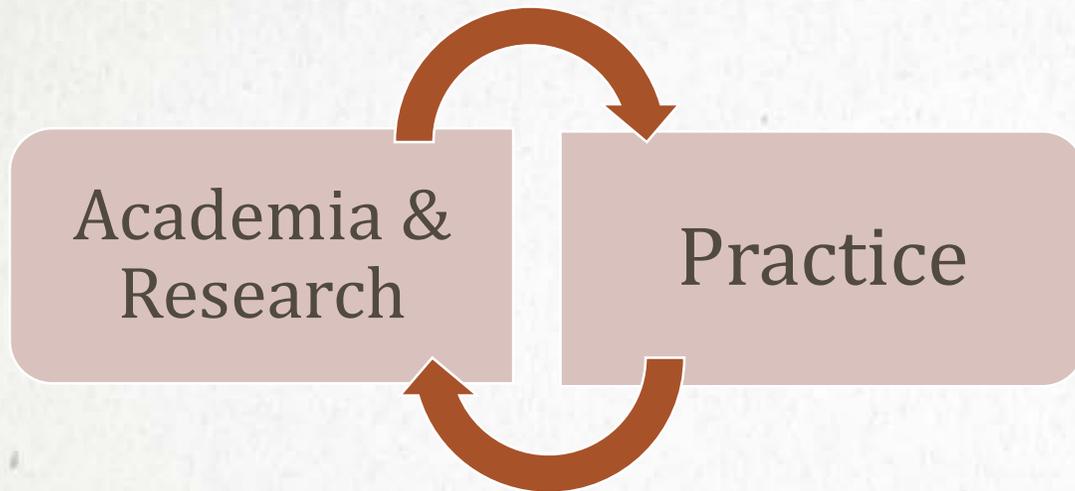
Virginia Tech
Center for Public Health
Practice and Research



Virginia Tech
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WHAT IS AN ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

A partnership between a state or local health department and an academic institution



- The local health department provides a real world learning environment for students and a wealth of data for researchers
- Academia provides workforce development opportunities, research expertise and workforce support in the form of both faculty and students.

GETTING STARTED

- Informal relationship between New River Health District (NRHD) and VT MPH program since 2012
- No formal AHD mentorship community at the time we wanted to start an AHD (2013)
- Kathleen Amos at Public Health Foundation offered informal mentoring
 - Talked to other AHDs throughout the country (Julie Grubaugh in Tennessee)
 - Shared sample MOAs
- Bill Keck articles/presentations helpful to understand concept
- Attended sessions at national conferences, reached out to presenters

TIPS:

- Use the AHD mentorship community
http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLC/Pages/AHD_Mentorship_Program.aspx
- Informal mentorships are great too

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Forming partnerships
 - Find out who might be willing- test the waters
 - Are there any natural partners?
 - Who are your outside the box partners?
 - Multiple LHDs/universities- how do you choose which ones to partner with?
 - Where do you have existing relationships? How can you leverage those?
 - Who has funding?

TIP:

- Leverage existing relationships

DEVELOPING A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

- Existing MOA for practicums between NRHD and VT
- Started AHD MOA process in 2014, signed in 2015
- Reviewed example MOAs from Kathleen Amos

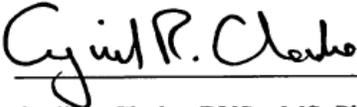
MOA categories:

- Purpose
- Scope of Activities
 - Opportunities for collaborative public health professional preparation
 - Opportunities for workforce development
 - Opportunities for enhanced public health practice and research
 - Shared personnel
 - Advisory committee
 - Shared resources
 - Timely communication
 - Future possibilities
- Payment
- Renewal, termination and amendment

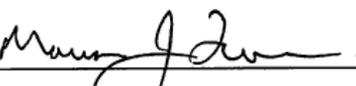
TIP: Review existing MOAs to get inspired...


Robert W. Hicks
Deputy Commissioner
Community Health Services
Virginia Department of Health

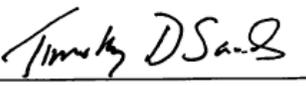
4/29/15
Date


Cyril R. Clarke, BVSc, MS, PhD
Dean, Virginia-Maryland College of
Veterinary Medicine

5-1-15
Date


Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Health

5/1/15
Date


Timothy D. Sands, PhD
President, Virginia Tech

5/1/15
Date

MAKING IT OFFICIAL

In May 2015, Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands and Virginia Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Marissa Levine signed a memorandum of agreement to establish the New River Academic Health Department.

“We have already taken the first step with our Master of Public Health students who have completed their practicum with the New River Health District and our faculty members who are working together on research and outreach projects, but now we will be taking another step to expand these efforts.”

- Dr. François Elvinger, head of Department of Population Health Sciences



JOINT POSITION

- A full-time shared AHD coordinator manages the day-to-day operations.
- The coordinator position is a professional faculty position, which is held by VT, and is funded in part (20%) by NRHD.
- The coordinator maintains an office at both locations and invests her time between the two.
- Having a person on the ground at both sites has been vital to assuring:
 - a) a central point of contact;
 - b) implementation of initiatives; and
 - c) clear and consistent communication between the two organizations.

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

New River
Academic
Health
Department



New River
Health District



Center for
Public Health
Practice and
Research



VT Department
of Population
Health Sciences

This mutually beneficial partnership is designed to enhance public health training, practice, research and workforce development to improve community health in the New River Valley. Main scope of projects:

- Joint Practice-Based Research Projects
- Public Health Education and Training
- Workforce Development

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Kathy Hosig, PhD, MPH,
RD

Director, VT Center for
Public Health Research
and Practice



Hannah Menefee, MPH

Practicum Coordinator,
Virginia Tech Public
Health Program



Sophie Wenzel, MPH

AHD Coordinator
Associate Director, VT
Center for Public Health
Research and Practice



Molly O'Dell, MD, MFA

(Retired) Director, New
River Health District

ADVISORY BOARD

Gary Coggins

Environmental Health Manager Senior, New River Health District

Tiffany Norman

Business Administrator, New River Health District

Kerry Redican

Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech

Susan Marmagas

Associate Professor of Practice

Program Director, Public Health Program, Department of Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech

NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

Major accomplishments,
2015-2016

Joint
practice-
based
research

Public Health
Education
and Training

Workforce
Development

GRANTS (2015, 2016)

FUNDED

- Virginia Department of Health- Obesity Prevention in Christiansburg, VA
- Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth- Obesity Prevention in Pulaski County, VA
- Community Foundation of the New River Valley- SCRIPT (smoking cessation for pregnant women)
- NACCHO- Chronic Disease Self Management Program implementation
- Virginia Department of Health-Tobacco Use and Control Program
- USDA- Farm to School in Pulaski County, VA

NOT FUNDED

- March of Dimes tobacco cessation for pregnant and pre-conception women
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Evidence for Action-Focus on Communities Utilizing Services, Giles County
- Aetna Foundation- Community gardens in Giles County
- Hillman Foundation- Expansion of Babycare program
- NIH- Home based obesity prevention with WIC clients
- NIH- Academic Community Partnership workshop series

JOINT PRACTICE BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- AHD coordinator, along with health educator writes the grants
- NRHD staff implement the project on the ground, manage programs
- CPHPR staff evaluates. Built in external evaluator, successful model- this is the strongest collaboration for the AHD to date.
- Bigger research grants written by VT faculty
- Pilot projects lead to more funding opportunities

LEVERAGING RESOURCES

- AHD coordinator joint position (80% VT CPHPR, 20% NRHD)
- NRHD Health Educator- 80% employee, works at Health Department, paid by Virginia Tech (grant from health department)
- External evaluator built into all NRHD chronic disease grants
- Student engagement on various practice projects at NRHD to save on costs

AHD COORDINATOR OTHER DUTIES

- Lead strategic planning process for NRHD [approximately 10 meetings, develop comprehensive strategic plan]
- Convene and lead NRHD marketing team to market the health department
- Lots of grant writing!
- Other duties as the need arises

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING



NEW RIVER ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

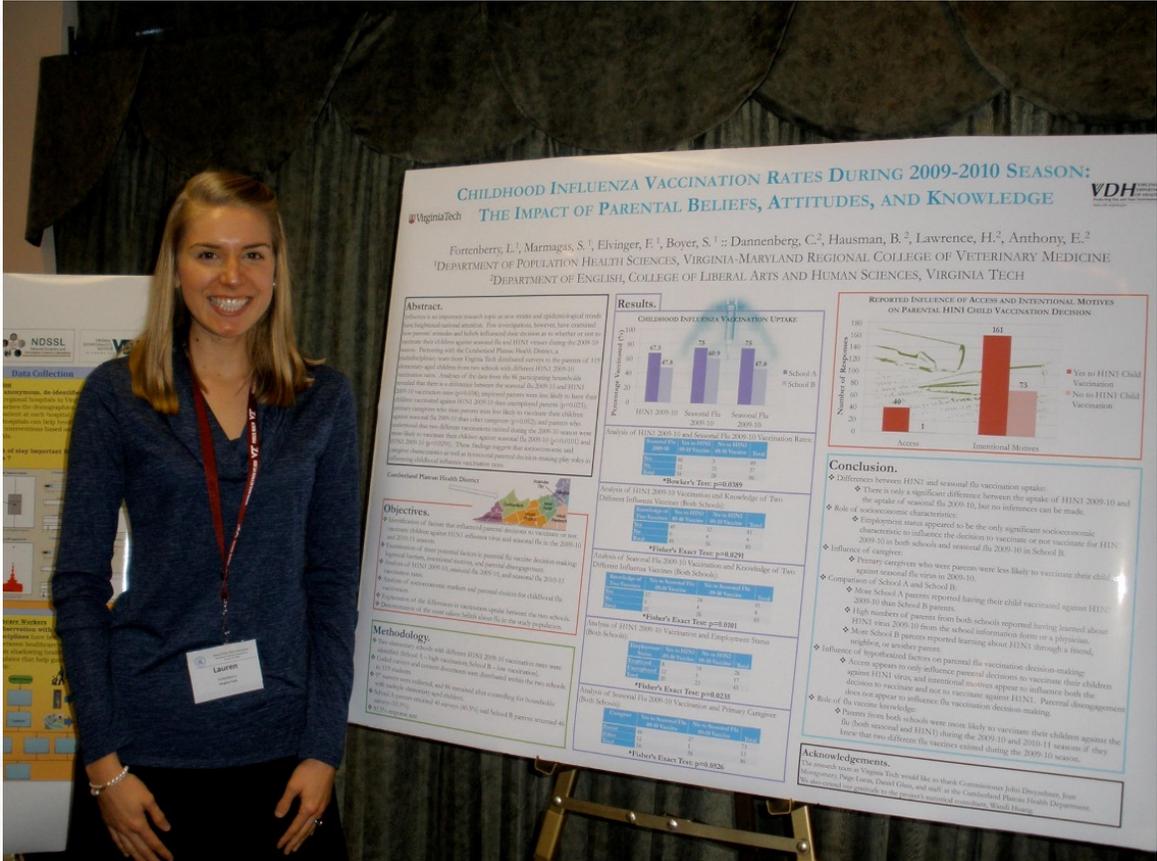
A SAMPLING OF HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECTS

- Develop NRHD marketing materials and strategies
- Assess women's knowledge and utilization of preconception healthcare services in Giles County
- Conduct needs assessment survey for restaurant owners and general public to identify risk factors associated with food safety violations
- Identify barriers that prevent men and women from accessing prevention services and women from accessing prenatal care in Giles County
- Analyze Montgomery County restaurants, including frequency of inspections, violations, and outbreaks, and knowledge of employees
- Evaluate Blacksburg Market Kids program to determine feasibility of nutrition education integration
- Assess breastfeeding decisions and practices among participants of WIC clinic locations in the New River Valley
- Conduct rabies knowledge, attitude, and perception survey

A SAMPLING OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROJECTS

- Conduct HPV Vaccine uptake Study: 2006-2011
- Assess geographic distribution and risk factors of Hep C in the NRV
- Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of the 2011 Pertussis outbreak in Floyd county
- Verify that the administration of epidural spinal injections was in compliance with established standards of care for the 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak
- Determine HSV prevalence and education in college students in SW VA
- Monitor infectious disease outbreaks in long-term care facilities in the NRV
- Conduct cost analysis of NRHD rabies investigations
- Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of 2012 Fungal Meningitis outbreak in Southwest Virginia from clinical local health department perspective
- Create a health education initiative on the risk factors and consequences of Hep C for Narrows High School students in Giles County
- Map Lyme disease cases in the New River Valley and create Lyme disease clinician education presentation.
- Conduct study on the diagnosis of Lyme disease association in canines and humans.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

- Dorratohtaj N, O'Dell ML, Bordwine P, Kerkering TM, Redican KJ, Abbas KM. Epidemiological Effectiveness and Cost of Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Response in New River Valley: Local Health Department and Clinical Perspectives. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. (In press)
- Abbas KM, Dorratohtaj N, O'Dell ML, Bordwine P, Kerkering TM, Redican KJ. *Clinical Response, Outbreak Investigation, and Epidemiology of the Fungal Meningitis Epidemic in the United States: Systematic Review*. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 145-151, 2016.
- Abbas KM, Dorratohtaj N, O'Dell ML, Bordwine P, Kerkering TM, Redican KJ. *Economic Evaluation of a Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Response in New River Valley: Local Health Department Perspective*. *Frontiers in Public Health Services and Systems Research*, vol. 4, no. 4, 2015.

PHAP FELLOW

- Applied for a CDC PHAP fellow through Health Department unsuccessfully 2 times
- Decided to take a different approach-applied as AHD.
- Antonio Brown, PHAP fellow (2016-2018)
- Works on Hepatitis C
 - Conducting case follow up and designing a prevention plan for NRHD
 - Mapping and modeling of disease at VT



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- CEPH accreditation requires MPH program to perform workforce development activities
- Center for Public Health Practice and Research, through the AHD, conducts many of these activities
- Workforce development activities relate back to MPH program mission and faculty expertise
- Workforce development activities relate to community needs

Outcome Measure	Target
Represent the program through faculty and student service in state/national/international public health and health-related organizations.	All primary faculty will engage in service activities related to public health at the state, national or international level annually (defined as serving on boards, editing journals, reviewing grant applications, or performing outreach activities)
Develop partnerships with public and community health agencies.	All primary faculty will engage in at least one service activity per year related to public health with public and community health agencies (defined as providing technical assistance, workforce development, outreach, being a subject matter expert, or serving on a community coalition)
	At least one primary faculty will collaborate with communities to conduct at least one public health needs assessment every 2 years
Implement an engagement agenda that enhances strategic public health plans in Southside, Southwest and Central Appalachia so as to promote health equities in communities through inter-institutional engagement efforts.	Survey public health agencies and existing strategic plans in the region to identify potential service and/or community intervention collaborations every other year
	Identify at least one public health priority related to health education and one public health priority related to infectious disease where the public health program has specific practice expertise and time to contribute
	At least 2 community agencies or organizations will be involved in collaborative service activities each year
Address the workforce needs of the public health community in Southwest and Southside Virginia.	Conduct a survey of Southwest and Southside Virginia community agencies to identify workforce needs every other year
	Conduct at least two workforce trainings or continuing education programs each year that align with the mission and meet the needs identified in the needs assessment

NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Commonwealth Public Health Training Center Pipeline Initiative	A needs assessment with youth and parents to identify how to most effectively reach them with messages and interventions about public health and career opportunities.
Online workforce development needs assessment	Identifying the workforce development needs of health professionals in Southwest and Southside VA
VDH-VT Health Literacy Kick-off	Collaboration with VT HNFE and VDH. Our role was to assess training needs of VDH employees in SWVA.
VDH-VT Health Literacy Kick-off evaluation	Post event evaluation that included questions on training needs



TOP PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE NEEDS

- Health communication
- Cultural competency
- Research methods
- Survey design
- Design and identification of evidence based programs
- Policy development/program planning
- Community dimensions of practice
- Financial planning and management/budgeting

SOME OF OUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (PRE NEEDS ASSESSMENT)

- Let's Talk Public Health- pipeline training for High School students
- NRHD In-service training on Civil Rights Act of 1964
- NRHD In-service training on the Affordable Care Act
- Public Health Career Day- for graduate students and employers across Virginia
- VT Biocomplexity Institute- summer conference for High School teachers (intro to public health)
- In-service for Virginia Cooperative Extension Agents participating in Balanced Living with Diabetes Program
- Graduate Medical Education Consortium Conference- Nutrition Tips for your Patients

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MOVING FORWARD

- Reach out to individual LHDs across region to offer specific trainings based on identified need
- Match community need with faculty expertise
- Deliver trainings in person, at their place of work
- Develop long term workforce development strategy

PROMOTING THE NEW RIVER AHD AND SHARING LESSONS LEARNED

- Mentor 2 professionals in AHD Mentorship Community
- November 2016- American Public Health Association Annual Meeting (poster)- pictured on right
- March 2017- AHD Learning Community (today)
- March 2017- Appalachian Studies Conference (poster)
- Statewide and National presentations promoting joint practice-based projects



MEASURING SUCCESS

- Student placements
- Quality of student placements
- Workforce development sessions conducted
- Quality of workforce development sessions
- Faculty members involved in workforce development sessions
- Collaboration across organizations
- Needs assessments conducted
- Formal presentations conducted
- Grant submitted and accepted
- Joint research projects
- Joint publications
- Number of new funding opportunities arising from joint research projects

LESSONS LEARNED

- Don't reinvent the wheel
- Joint position is key
- Need buy-in from both organizations, including higher-ups who approve/sign MOAs/make funding decisions
- Need specific position/assignment and description for students and on-the-ground mentorship
- Hard to recruit professionals to attend workforce development trainings- make opportunities more tailored
- Leverage resources where you can

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Continue successful partnership and all activities
- Continue mentoring/sharing expertise
- Evaluate and refine scope of AHD activities as needed
- Proposal to Health Commissioner's office to expand out to 3 other LHDs in the region
 - Hire a regional AHD coordinator
 - Hire a biostatistician for data analysis and research design
- Strengthen workforce development activities
 - Reach out to LHDs throughout the region to offer training opportunities
 - Develop workforce development strategy

MORE INFORMATION

RESOURCES

- Public Health Foundation – “Academic Health Departments”
(http://www.phf.org/programs/AHDLC/Pages/Academic_Health_Departments.aspx)
- The University of Tennessee Knoxville Academic Health Department
(<http://publichealth.utk.edu/ahd/>)
- The University of Kansas Academic Health Department
(<https://communityhealth.ku.edu/academic-health-department>)

RESEARCH

- Archer, R., Cary, A. H., & Malone, B. (2014). The academic health department: The case for building partnerships to enhance the health of the public. *Public Health Nursing, 31*(3), 193-195. doi:10.1111/phn.12124
- Erwin, P. C., Barlow, P., Brownson, R. C., Amos, K., & Keck, C. W. (2015). Characteristics of academic health departments: Initial findings from a cross-sectional survey. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, 1*. doi:10.1097/PHH.0000000000000237
- Erwin, P., & Keck, C. (2014). The academic health department: The process of maturation. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, 20*(3), 270-277. doi:10.1097/PHH.0000000000000016

CONTACT INFORMATION

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<http://cphpr.mph.vetmed.vt.edu/nrahd.html>

AHD Mentorship Program

- Connects individuals seeking guidance in an area of AHD development or operation with those having experience in that area
- Supports mutual learning and the sharing of expertise
- Mentors and mentees share information and advice and serve as mutual resources in enhancing AHD partnerships and improving the quality of public health
- Join today: www.phf.org/AHDMentorship



Additional Resources

- Stay Informed:
 - AHD Learning Community Listserv – kamos@phf.org
 - Council on Linkages Update – www.phf.org/councilupdate
 - PHF E-News – www.phf.org/e-news

- Email Questions: Kathleen Amos, kamos@phf.org



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ACADEMIC PRACTICE LINKAGES

Furthering academic/practice collaboration to assure a well-trained, competent workforce and strong, evidence-based public health infrastructure

- Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice
- Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals
- Academic Health Department Learning Community

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