

Igamirodi !khaes



Welcome to the second edition of the Faculty of Health Sciences' quarterly newsletter, **Igamirodi !khaes** ("Place of the stars"), for 2024. For those who are unfamiliar, igamirodi !khaes is what the indigenous peoples (the Khoi and San) named this area that we now call Observatory. It was an expression of these people's reverence for the magnificent vista of stars at night as well as for the spiritual connection with their ancestors.

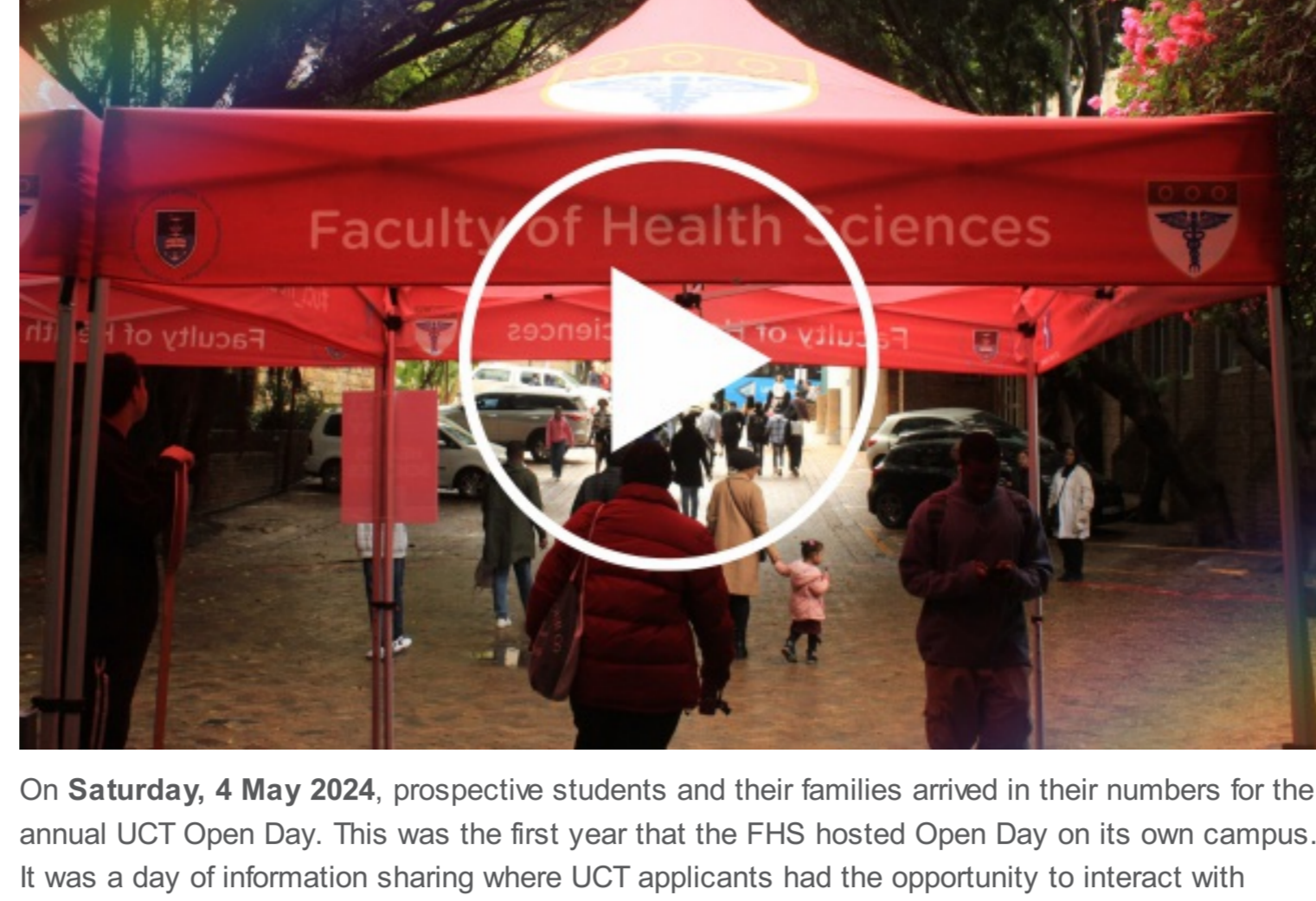
In this edition we recap developments in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS), staff and student achievements and new staff appointees from March 2024 to June 2024.

A special thank you goes to everyone willing to share stories and photos with us. We particularly encourage professional, administrative support and service (PASS) staff to submit contributions.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and feel proud and inspired by the many significant achievements and meaningful activities in the Faculty.

Faculty News

Open Day 2024



On Saturday, 4 May 2024, prospective students and their families arrived in their numbers for the annual UCT Open Day. This was the first year that the FHS hosted Open Day on its own campus. It was a day of information sharing where UCT applicants had the opportunity to interact with teaching staff, current students and student society representatives. [Watch a short clip here.](#)



Faculty celebrates Africa Day
The FHS Pan African Health Sciences Forum hosted an Africa Day celebration on **Monday, 20 May 2024**, in the Neuroscience Institute Auditorium, themed "The Africa We Want." The evening included a panel discussion hosted by Asande Vilane (African Research Society), entertainment by the Siyazama Cultural Dance Group and a selection of traditional African foods to enjoy. [View photos from the evening here.](#)



Training for women leaders in global health gets off the ground
The Women in Global Health Leadership Fellowship, a component of the Healthy Futures South Africa project in the FHS, kicked off its in-person training in Cape Town from **10 to 15 March 2024**. The training is part of a hybrid year-long fellowship that is specially designed to upskill talented African women who are public health professionals. [Read more.](#)



Professor Ntobeko Ntusi delivers valedictory address
Professor Ntobeko Ntusi, the outgoing chair and head of the Department of Medicine, delivered his valedictory address to a full theatre in Groote Schuur Hospital on **Wednesday, 22 May 2024**. He assumes the role of president and CEO of the South African Medical Research Council from July 2024. [Read more.](#)

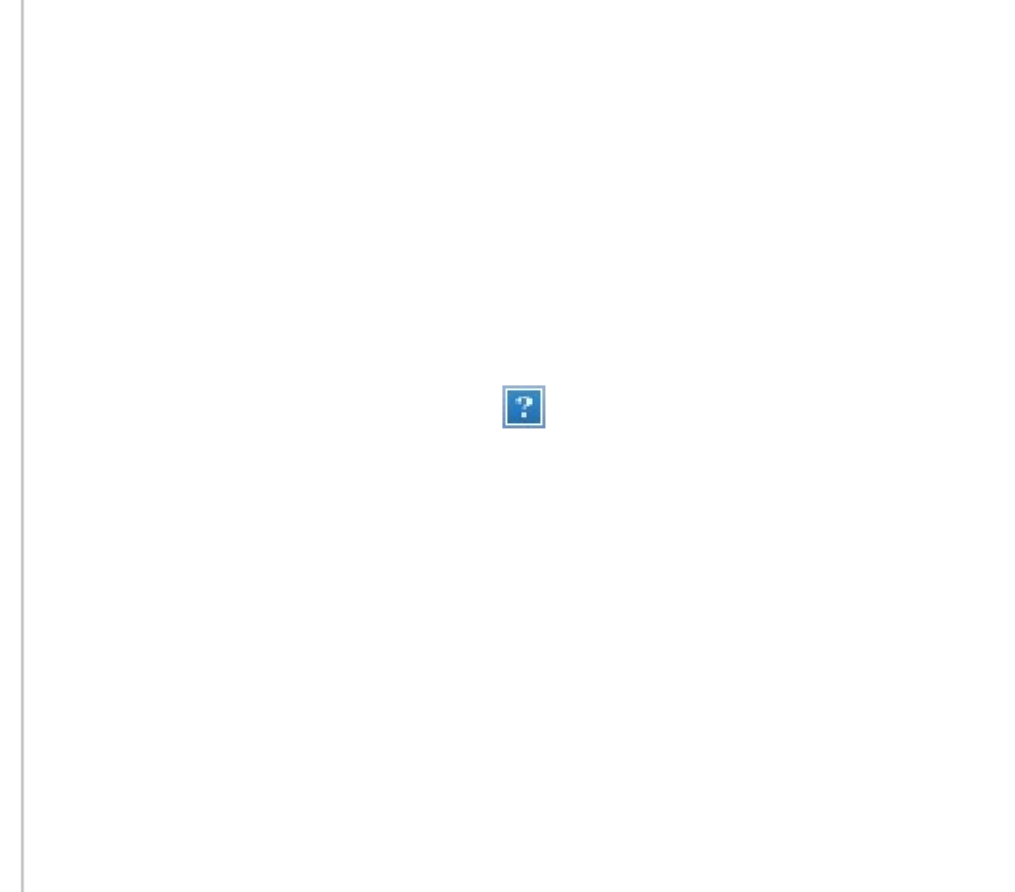
This lecture is also available to watch on the [UCT FHS YouTube](#).



Student Development and Support Office hosts FUN Day
On **Friday, 10 May 2024**, the FHS Student Development and Support Office in collaboration with the mentoring facilitators and student mentors hosted a FUN Day for student mentors and mentees. The purpose of FUN Day was to create a vibrant atmosphere where student mentors and their mentees could come together to connect in a casual setting. Activities included games, challenges, Zumba and yoga sessions. [Read more.](#)



Professor Susan Cleary weighs in on NHI Bill
President Cyril Ramaphosa recently signed the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill into law. In a widely disseminated article, Professor Susan Cleary, the head of the School of Public Health, offered her insights into whether the Bill will enable the country to progress towards universal health coverage. [Read more.](#)



Stories of Exclusion
On **Thursday, 6 June 2024**, Faculty colleagues of multiple generations engaged in an illuminating and deeply personal discussion with Associate Professor Tracey Naledi (Deputy Dean: Social Accountability and Health Systems) on their experiences of discomfort and how they have turned them into opportunities for change.



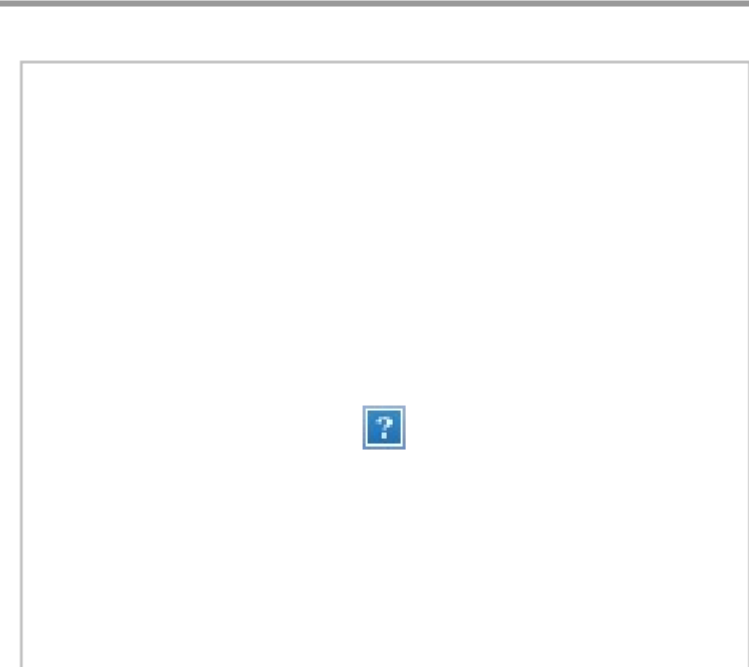
SHAWCO's paediatric clinic brings hope to Hout Bay
In the spirit of "We rise by lifting others", a group of health sciences student volunteers sacrificed their 11 May Saturday morning to serve the children of Hout Bay — bringing primary healthcare services to those in need. [Read more.](#)



Transgender and gender-affirming healthcare in South Africa
On **Thursday, 4 April 2024**, the FHS Transformation and Equity Committee hosted an informative panel discussion centred around the ongoing barriers faced by the transgender community in accessing appropriate healthcare in South Africa. [Watch the event recording here.](#)



Winter soup drive for students until 30 September
The FHS Student Development and Support Office invites undergraduate and postgraduate students to collect vouchers for soup during the winter season from the Food & Connect in the Barnard Fuller Building. The soup will be available on weekdays from 2 June to 30 September 2024. Soup is R25 for staff. For more information please contact **Nonkosi Malala** at nonkosi.malala@uct.ac.za.

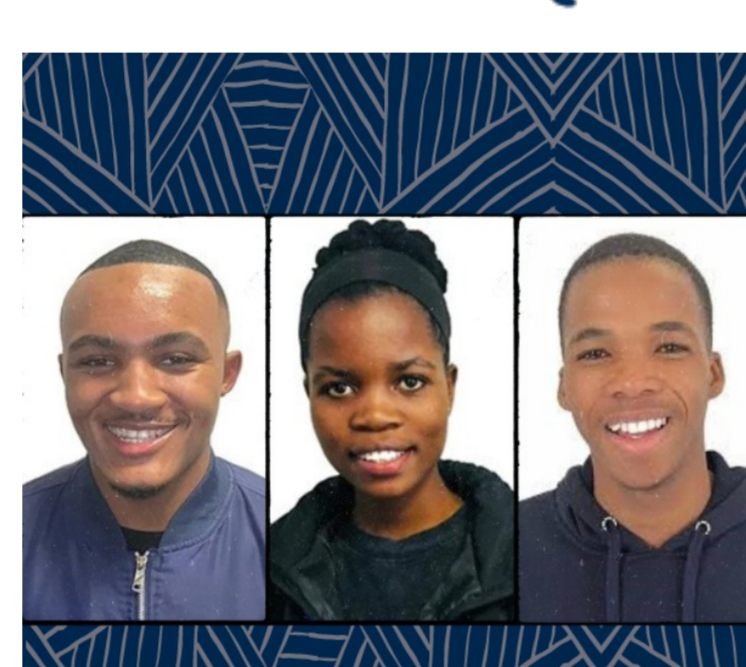


School of Public Health establishes new community partnership
Fourth-year Health in Context students partnered with the Deaf Community of Cape Town, based in Healthfield, in May. The students explored the often overlooked topic of mental health in the deaf community, culminating in a health promotion intervention focusing on recognising and addressing mental health challenges. We are excited to have this new stakeholder and look forward to collaborating further.

Awards and Achievements



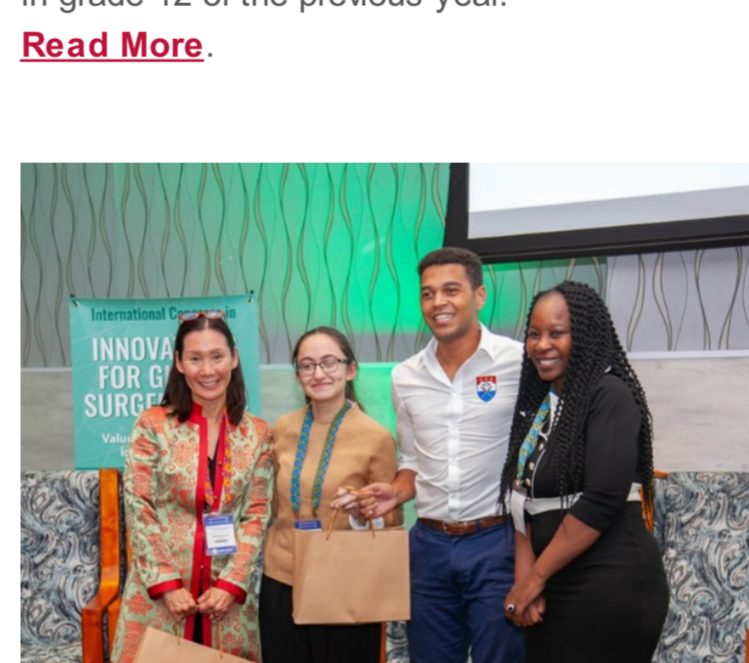
Halala!



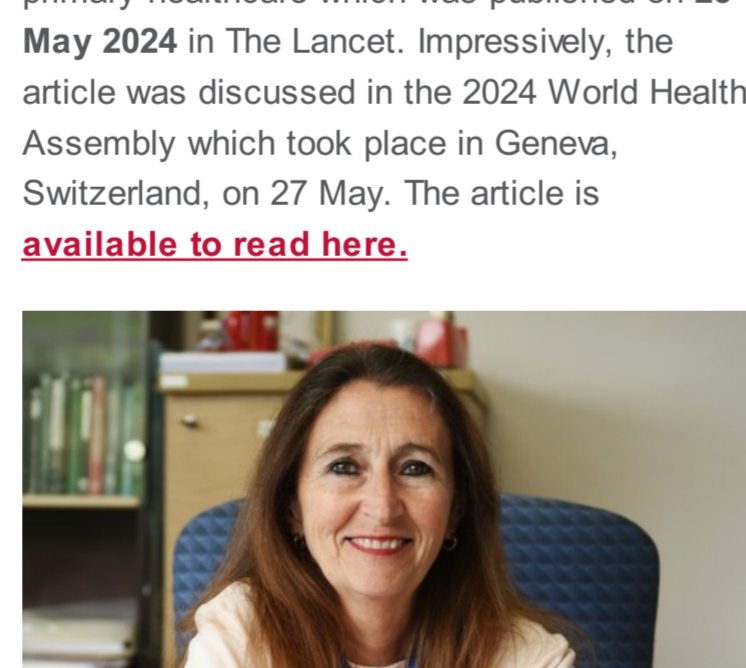
First-year students recognised for excellence in matric
MScIB students Labogging Seleppe, Nomfundo Mthembu and Bonukwenza Mtshali met the criteria for the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) Brilliance Programme. The programme honours first-year students studying in the science, medicine and engineering fields who have achieved top marks in maths and physics in grade 12 of the previous year. [Read More.](#)



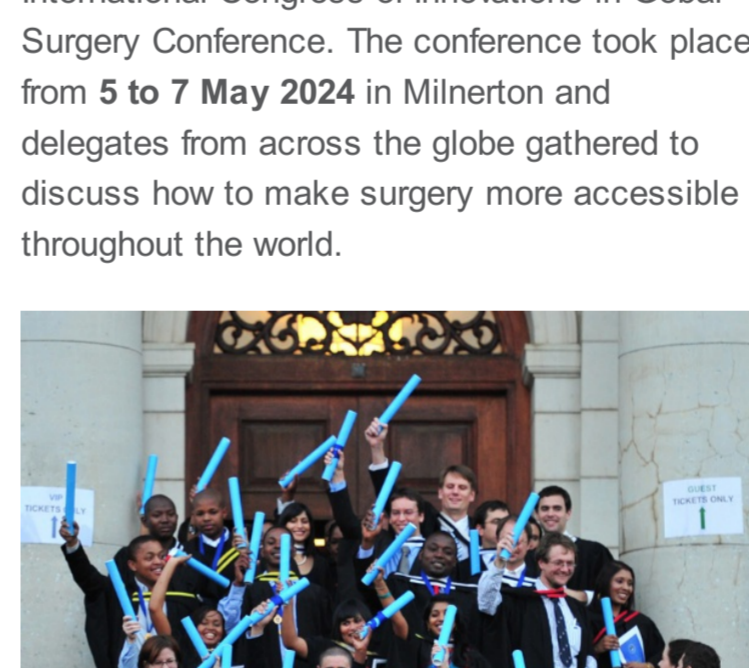
A/Prof Tracey Naledi co-author on innovative primary healthcare article
Associate Professor Tracey Naledi, Deputy Dean: Social Accountability and Health Systems, co-authored an innovative article on primary healthcare which was published on **23 May 2024** in The Lancet. Impressively, the article was discussed in the 2024 World Health Assembly which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 May. The article is [available to read here.](#)



FHS colleagues host Innovations in Global Surgery Conference
Professor Salome Maswime, Head of Global Surgery, and MScIB students Robin Ntshini and Zayna Parker, successfully carried out the 2024 International Congress of Innovations in Global Surgery Conference. The conference took place from **5 to 7 May 2024** in Minnetonka and delegates from across the globe gathered to discuss how to make surgery more accessible throughout the world.



Recognised with a prestigious lifetime fellow honour
Emerita Professor Valerie Mizrahi, the director of the Department of Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit, recently earned a prestigious lifetime fellow honour from the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her impactful work on the biology of tuberculosis. [Read More.](#)



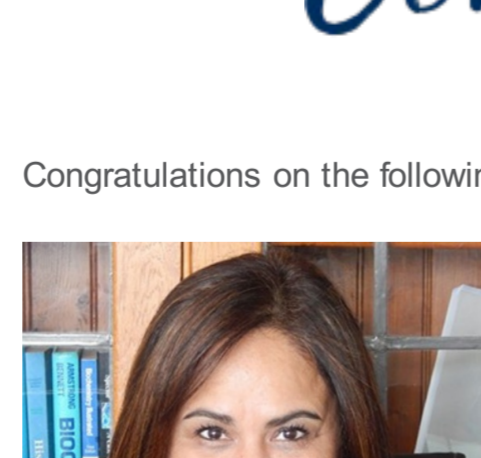
UCT medical course ranked 89th in the world in latest QS report
Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) is a higher education analyst and services provider and its April 2024 report places four UCT subjects in the top 100 globally, with **medicine coming in at 89th**. [Read more.](#)

Staff Appointments

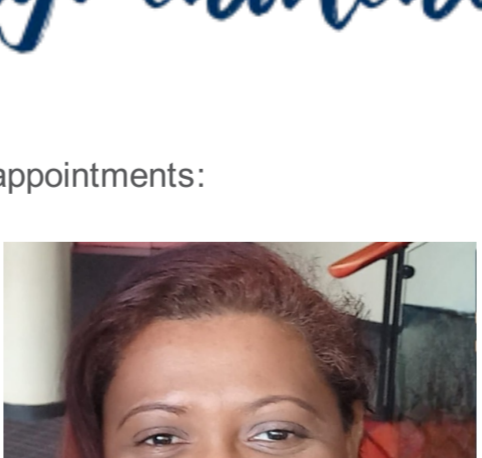


Congratulations

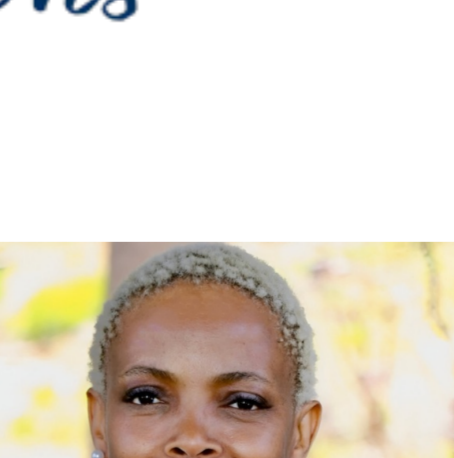
Congratulations on the following appointments:



Professor Virna Leaner has been named the acting head of the Department of Integrative Biomedical Sciences, effective 13 May 2024 to 31 December 2024. [Read more.](#)



Ms Denise O'Reilly assumed the role of Faculty Manager: Health Sciences from 1 June 2024. [Read more.](#)



Professor Mashiko Setshedi has been named the chair and head of the Department of Medicine, effective 1 July 2024. [Read more.](#)



Do you have exciting news or stories to share?
Reach out to FHSNews@uct.ac.za

Issued by the Communications and Marketing Department, Faculty of Health Sciences

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