

# Foundation Focus

WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION NEWS • FALL 2008

The mission of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation is to advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical and health education.

INSIDE:  
SPECIAL  
REPORT ON  
MEDICAL  
EDUCATION

## Physician mentors critical to fellowship program success

The Foundation Summer Fellowship in Government and Community Service program provided 10 medical students the opportunity to work with community and/or government organizations along with physician mentors to address health issues in Wisconsin this year.

“Expanding our summer fellowship program from one recipient in 2007 to

10 in 2008 is a success worth noting,” said David Falk, MD, Foundation President. “We applaud the physician members of the Society who helped students develop and implement their unique projects.”

These fellowships not only enhance medical student education, they also bring much needed resources to community-based projects. The physician mentors are vital to students in helping them identify a focus, make appropriate contacts and achieve their goals.

“Without Dr. Frederickson, my fellowship would not have been nearly as fulfilling, or really even possible,” said Diane Anderson, who worked with Margie Frederickson, MD, to address gaps in care for the elderly on Madeline Island. “Dr. Frederickson’s involvement was important because as I discovered new things, she was there to guide me, correct me and bounce ideas off of as to the direction a particular project took.”

Marlene Melzer-Lange, MD, played an instrumental role in developing the focus of Stephen Humphrey’s fellowship proposal to evaluate Project Ujima, a program to prevent



Fellowship recipient Jessica Hawley (top right) with other members of the infant mortality focus group planning committee including (bottom left –right): Pamela McGranahan, Mamadou Ndiaye, Hershey Barnett-Bridges, and (top left) Doris Franklin.

violent injury recurrence among youth.

“Together we were able to review the case details and repeat injury outcomes of over 500 victims of violence who came to the Emergency Department/Trauma Center at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin over a two-year period. Without Steve’s help, this would not have been possible,” said Dr.

Melzer-Lange.

Jessica Hawley worked with Thomas Schlenker, MD, to better understand the reasons for a decreased infant mortality rate in Dane County. “Jessica helped the public health team work on the Dane County Birth Outcomes Investigation. She added elements to our research effort that were beyond the capability of our non-professional staff but not quite a priority for our very busy epidemiologist,” said Dr. Schlenker.

While the program goal is primarily to provide student opportunities, both Doctors Melzer-Lange and Schlenker noted other benefits.

“In working with Steve, I found a renewed sense of purpose to serving victims of violence. Working with a summer fellow is a great way to renew your own goals, both personal and professional,” said Dr. Melzer-Lange.

“Jessica’s youth, enthusiasm and energy made the project all the more fun,” said Dr. Schlenker.

*See insert for more details on the 2008 summer fellowships. To learn more visit [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation/support\\_for\\_students](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation/support_for_students).*



# Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation

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# From the President...

Your contributions to the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation are used to advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical and health education—our mission. This newsletter contains a special report on our medical education activities in 2008. You can be proud of the increased support made available to students pursuing medicine and related health care careers. below is a the growth in the last five years:

### Scholarships awarded to medical students:

2003: \$10,000  
2008: \$43,000

### Scholarships awarded to nurses and those pursuing related health careers:

2003: \$19,000  
2008: \$33,400

### Summer Fellowships for medical students:

2003 (One Fellow): \$2500  
2008 (10 Fellows): \$35,000

These are three areas of success we can continue to build on, but only through your ongoing generosity. During this time of increasing costs and decreasing scholarship and loan availability, your support is more vital than ever. Join me in making a difference.

*David K. Falk, MD, is a dermatologist with Dean Health Systems and practices at locations in Madison, Portage and Baraboo. He is an active Foundation volunteer, serving on committees including the Grants, Finance and Executive Committees, as well as a generous financial contributor to the Foundation. He most recently served as the Foundation's Treasurer. Doctor Falk is married to JoAnne Robbins, PhD, and has two children in college.*



David K. Falk, MD  
Foundation President

## Meet our New Staff



### Melissa Breen

Melissa joined the Foundation in September as our new Development Director. Many of you already know Melissa, as she comes to us from the membership department of the Wisconsin Medical Society. She will oversee annual fundraising activities, including the development of our new donor group – the IV League. Melissa's success in the membership department will translate well as she works to keep our donors updated and informed.



### Mary Oleson

We also welcomed Mary in September as Administrative Assistant and Event Coordinator. You may not know her by name, but she has probably greeted you at the front desk of the Wisconsin Medical Society or you may have worked with her on the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*. We are pleased to be drawing on her skills and talents in the critical role of keeping us organized and on track.

Please join us in welcoming both Melissa and Mary to the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation.

# Special Report

WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION • FALL 2008

## FOCUS ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

*We are pleased to provide this report on our support for medical education in 2008.*

*These awards are only possible because of annual donations from people like you, because of those who help make our annual fundraising event a success, and because generous physicians and grateful patients have chosen to give back by establishing funds and endowments that provide enduring support.*



Students react while competing for prizes at the Operation: Education program.



Medical College of Wisconsin students pose after receiving their white coats.

## Throughout Medical School...

*The Foundation works to support students in a variety of ways including providing their first white coat, financial assistance and access to resources.*

### White Coat Campaign

For the eighth consecutive year, the Foundation has provided a white coat and personal message of encouragement from a physician to every first-year medical student in Wisconsin. Thank you to all physicians who contribute to make the white coat ceremony so very meaningful for these students and their families.

### Operation: Education

*Operation: Education* is designed to provide first and second year medical students the opportunity to speak with practicing physicians in an informal setting about their experiences in their chosen field of medicine. The Foundation partners with the Wisconsin Medical Alumni Association at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and the Medical College of Wisconsin-Marquette Medical Alumni Association to host the *Operation: Education* program at each school annually, and we are grateful to the physicians who participate.

### Student Loans

Some of you may have benefited from the Foundation's student loan program, which has assisted students since the early 1960s. Today, our loan program remains an attractive source for helping students finance their medical education with a fixed interest rate comparable to the Stafford loan program, but

with the added benefit of having no interest accrue while in medical school. For the 2008/2009 academic year, the Foundation has provided \$360,000 in loans to students at the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

### Grants to Student Organizations

In addition to grants awarded to various organizations located throughout the state of Wisconsin like Ashland, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Madison and Oconto Falls, the Foundation awarded the following grants to student organizations:

**University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Medical Students for Minority Concerns, Annual Health Fair, \$2500.**

A day-long festival focused on information, medical screenings, prevention and self-care to underinsured and underserved populations in Dane County.

**Medical College of Wisconsin, AMA Medical Student Section, Funding to increase participation at the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago, \$1750.**

*For more information on any of these programs visit [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation) or call 866.442.3800.*

*The goal of the Foundation's Summer Fellowship in Government and Community Service Program is to provide medical students the opportunity to increase their knowledge of how community organizations and/or government works with the medical profession to address health issues in Wisconsin. Each student receives a \$3500 stipend.*

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*These fellowships require the support of physician mentors who help students develop their proposals and provide guidance. We are grateful to this year's mentors. Please contact us for details on how you can get involved.*

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*Watch future issues of the Wisconsin Medical Journal for more detailed reports on these fellowship projects.*

# 2008 Summer Fellowships

## Valuable learning experiences provide research a

### **Assisting Elderly Residents in Rural Wisconsin**

Diane Anderson, UW School of Medicine & Public Health  
Site: LaPointe Community Clinic, Madeline Island  
Physician Mentor: Margie Frederickson, MD

As part of her fellowship this summer, Diane helped establish a medical equipment loan program at the LaPointe Community Clinic on Madeline Island. It started with the need of a patient who required a lift chair to remain independent, but insurance would not cover the cost. This first piece of medical equipment was donated by Earl Thayer, after the loss of his wife, Alice. As the program expands, it will help many elderly residents and their caregivers in this remote area. This fellowship helped provide insight into the unique challenges faced by small town physicians and their patients.

### **Ensuring Infant Safety**

Brittany Bettendorf, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Site: Downtown Health Center, Milwaukee  
Physician Mentors: Suzanne Brixey, MD and John Meurer, MD, MBA

As part of the Downtown Health Center Cribs for Kids program in Milwaukee, new babies without a crib in their home are provided with Graco Pack 'N Plays. Brittany educated families on how to provide a safe sleep environment for their infant and created awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

### **Tailoring Healthy Living Programs to Children and Adolescents**

Laura Copeland, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Site: Cumberland  
Physician Mentor: Jane Kotchen, MD, MPH

Working with the Healthier Cumberland Coalition, Laura translated the healthy lifestyles coaching class that has been successfully used with adult populations into a program that is tailored to and helpful for adolescents—specifically high school students with multiple risk factors for metabolic syndrome. She also led a *Summer Shindig* for elementary students to encourage physical activity and learn about what it takes to be healthy kids.

*"This summer experience has really opened my eyes to the incredible opportunities of community health and community-based interventions. I am so thankful to the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation for making this incredible experience possible for me."* —Laura Copeland

### **Addressing the Obesity Epidemic**

Kristin La Fortune, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Site: Odana Atrium Primary Care Clinic, Madison  
Physician Mentor: David Rakel, MD

Working with David Rakel, MD, and Sarah Kahn, PhD, Kristin's fellowship role was to help with background research to secure funding for a nutrition, exercise and mindfulness education intervention at the Odana

Atrium Primary Care Clinic in Madison. She reviewed literature to support grant proposals and developed a questionnaire for data collection. Several of the grants were recently approved, so Kristin plans to participate in the initial phases of the study, which will include interviewing patients and interpreting data.

*"I now have a better understanding about public health research and its importance in society. I would like to thank the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation for providing me with such an amazing opportunity."*  
—Kristin La Fortune

### **Exploring the Reasons for Infant Mortality Decline**

Jessica Hawley, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Site: Dane County  
Physician Mentor: Thomas Schlenker, MD, MPH

As part of a Madison and Dane County Public Health team consisting of epidemiologists, public health nurses, dietitians, and other public health fellows, Jessica's fellowship focused on the initial stage of a three-year retrospective study to investigate why Dane County's African American infant mortality rate has decreased significantly in the last decade. She reviewed reports on infant mortality rates from other counties around the nation to confirm that Dane County's decrease is unprecedented. She began working with a focus group of African American women to identify why the decrease has occurred.

### **Preventing Firearm Deaths Among Children and Young Adults**

Brian Roach, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Site: Injury Research Center, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Physician Mentor: Stephen W. Hargarten, MD, MPH

Working with Stephen Hargarten, MD, at the Medical College of Wisconsin's Injury Research Center, Brian spent his summer fellowship researching the issue of firearm deaths among children and young adults in Wisconsin. He helped look for trends in data collected from 2001 to 2006 with the hope of identifying areas for future prevention of deaths.

*"Working with the Injury Surveillance Coordinator at the Department of Health Services as well as with the Injury Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin has provided me with a unique perspective on how both organizations are involved in injury research and prevention."* —Brian Roach

### **Developing Protocols for Community-Based Chronic Disease Management**

Bertrand (Emeka) Onuoha, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Site: Milwaukee  
Physician Mentor: Jim Sanders, MD, MPH

In the course of his summer fellowship, Emeka assisted with screening for chronic diseases such as hypertension,

## and community services

diabetes, hyperlipidemia and obesity in a non-traditional, community-based setting. The goal was to reach underserved, inner city Milwaukee residents. In addition to screening and providing services, he worked with Jim Sanders, MD, MPH, to develop protocols for management of chronic conditions and a survey tool to evaluate progress on community-based chronic disease management as well as patient perception and satisfaction.

### Understanding Risks for Suicide Among the Elderly

Brendan Wanta, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Site: Injury Research Center, Medical College of Wisconsin  
Physician Mentor: *Stephen W. Hargarten, MD, MPH*

Given the dramatic increase in the elderly population in the coming years, Brendan used his summer fellowship to describe the risk factors of elderly suicide in Wisconsin and to provide recommendations to physicians, lawmakers and others on how to identify risks and prevent suicide among the elderly. He used linked data from death certificates, medical examiners, coroners and police laboratories collected from 2001 to 2006.

### Improving Emergency Care in Rural Communities

Nathan Vakharia, UW School of Medicine and Public Health  
Site: Rural Wisconsin  
Physician Mentor: *Brad Garber, MD*

As an extension of his interest in practicing in rural Wisconsin after completing his medical degree, Nathan used his fellowship to help develop an information and dissemination campaign on knowledge and hands-on skills training in emergency medicine for rural primary care physicians.

*"My Summer Fellowship in Government and Community Service sharpened my critical reasoning and communication skills. ... It provided me with valuable insights into the myriad problems facing rural health care facilities in Wisconsin and increased my desire to serve the underserved in my future profession"* —Nathan Vakharia

### Analyzing Violence-Related Youth Injuries

Stephen Humphrey, Medical College of Wisconsin Children's Hospital of Wisconsin,  
Site: Milwaukee  
Physician Mentor: *Marlene Melzer-Lange, MD*

During his fellowship, Stephen pored through data on youth aged 7 to 18 who were victims of violent assaults. Comparing reinjury rates between patients who participate in Project Ujima, an intervention program for youth victims at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, and those who don't receive services, Stephen's research will help identify what works to reduce the potential for reinjury.

*"I have gained a solid introduction into the realm of public health and policy through my project and through the Injury Research Center that I believe all medical students should be exposed to during their careers."* —Stephen Humphrey



Diane Anderson (far left) with Joseph Hackett and his caregiver-niece Sue Hackett after receiving an electric lift chair.



Laura Copeland (far left) leads students during the Summer Shindig, a program focusing on physical activity and health.



Brittany Bettendorf (near right) discusses safe sleep for infants with a mom and big brother.



Emeka Onuoha (below right) with a patient at a screening for chronic diseases in inner city Milwaukee.



# The IV League in Wisconsin?

If you're thinking Harvard, Princeton, Yale... think again.

The IV League is a new group of Foundation donors who commit to stepping forward as leaders in supporting medical and health education in Wisconsin. The current focus of the IV League is to guarantee that the Foundation can continue to offer 10 summer fellowships in government and community service to medical students each year.

With a gift of \$1000 or more, you too can become a member of the IV League. IV League members will receive special recognition and will be invited to exclusive gatherings. More important, you will help the Foundation address current needs and secure strategic initiatives. In 2009, the impact of your gift will extend well beyond the education that medical student recipients receive in our fellowships—you will also impact communities, individual patients and in many cases you may also inspire practicing physicians as noted by some of this year's physician mentors.

For more information on how you can become an IV League member, call Melissa Breen at 866.442.3800 or e-mail [melissa.breen@wismed.org](mailto:melissa.breen@wismed.org).

## Scholarships

Each year, the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation assists medical students and those pursuing careers in other health careers identified as having critical workforce shortages. Scholarships and awards for the 2008-2009 academic year total \$76,400.

### PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR AWARD

Jason Jagodzinski	Medicine*	\$3000
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### HOUGHTON AWARDS

Derrick Siebert	Medicine**	\$1000
Kyle Swanson	Medicine*	\$1000

### ROBERT T. COONEY, MD SCHOLARSHIP

Jill Hammersley	Medicine**	\$5000
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### ROBERT "JASON" GORE SCHOLARSHIP

Matthew Niesen	Medicine*	\$5000
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### VICTOR A. BAYLON, MD SCHOLARSHIP

Nyama Sillah	Medicine*	\$2500
Anna Christou	Clinical Lab Science	\$1000

### AMY HUNTER-WILSON, MD, SCHOLARSHIP

(Restricted to American Indian Students)

Whitney Cadotte	Nursing	\$1000
Jennifer Fizell	Clinical Lab. Science/Med. Tech.	\$1500
Michelle Johnson-Jennings	Counseling Psychology PhD	\$4000
Laura Kennedy	Nursing	\$1000
Jayci Malone	Nursing	\$2000
Adam Sturdevant	Neuropsychology	\$1500
Daniel Two Crow	Nursing	\$1000

### GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Brittany Boyer	Nursing	\$1000
Matthew Buelow	Medicine**	\$2500
Nichole Cernat	Nursing	\$1000
Denise Contreras	Nursing	\$1400
Natasha Frye	Nursing	\$1000
Amanda Herzog	Medicine*	\$2500
Kathryn Jacobson	Medicine*	\$2500
Kristin Koehler	Physical Therapy	\$1000
Rachel Kopesky	Nursing	\$1000
Stacy Krusa	Nursing	\$1000
Katie Martin	Nursing	\$1000
Angela McAllister	Medicine*	\$2500
Andrew Navarrete	Medicine*	\$2500
Sarah Schwenn	Nursing	\$1000
Erin Spencer	Physical Therapy	\$1000
Melissa Taavola	Medicine*	\$2500
Rachel Uttech	Medicine*	\$3000
Amy Vogel	Nursing	\$1000
Benjamin Weston	Medicine*	\$2500
Tosha Wright	Nursing	\$1000
April Zehm	Medicine*	\$2500
Jacqueline Ziehr	Medicine**	\$2500

### WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS

Jessica Beckwith	Nursing	\$ 800
Taylor Braun	Physical Therapy	\$ 800
Melissa Brook	Occupational Therapy	\$ 800
Shannon Gregg	Physical Therapy	\$ 800
Alexander Hintz	Pre-Medicine	\$ 800
Kaitlyn Martins	Nursing	\$ 800
Samantha Runingen	Physical Therapy	\$ 800
Brianna Schulthess	Nursing	\$ 800
Katie Tucker	Pre-Medicine	\$ 800
Joanna Zurko	Pre-Medicine	\$ 800

\*UW (University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health)

\*\*MCW (Medical College of Wisconsin)

# Keeping a Legacy Alive

## Victor Baylon, MD Scholarship

Victor A. Baylon, MD, a pathologist at All Saints Hospital in Racine from 1963 until his death in 1995, said a cheery “good morning” to the laboratory staff each and every day. It was his show of respect for his “girls,” as he fondly called the staff. According to his staff, Dr. Baylon exemplified integrity and respect for all throughout his career. He “set the bar” for other physicians.

Doctor Baylon lost his brief battle with an aggressive form of cancer in 1995. After his death, his wife Carol, his friends, and the staff at All Saints Lab responded to this tremendous loss by establishing the Victor A. Baylon, MD, Scholarship Endowment Fund. Many continue to add to the endowment annually to honor Dr. Baylon’s passion for continuing improvement in the quality of medical services.

Each year, the Victor A. Baylon, MD Scholarship assists medical students and clinical laboratory scientists from Racine and Milwaukee Counties who

show promise of continuing in the tradition of Dr. Baylon’s inspiring legacy. Earnings from the Fund, combined with the continuing generosity of donors, have allowed us to award \$11,500 in scholarships to date, including \$3,500 in 2008 to Nyama Sillah at the UW School of Medicine & Public Health and Anna Christou at UW-Milwaukee. Each scholarship recipient receives a copy of Dr. Baylon’s “legacy page” with their award so they can truly appreciate the story behind it and the man it honors.

Setting up a fund within the Foundation is a great way to honor someone like Dr. Baylon who devoted his career to advancing the health of the people of Wisconsin. By working with our staff, you can honor someone or secure your own unique legacy just as the family of Dr. Baylon and his staff have done.

For more information, contact Renée Reback at 608.442.3720.

## Young Physician Nominations Sought



The Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation is pleased to request nominations for the 2009 Young Physician Leadership Award in honor of Kenneth M. Viste, Jr., MD (above.) The deadline for nominations is Monday, February 2, 2009.

This award was established in 2006 in Dr. Viste’s memory to recognize a young physician who demonstrates a commitment to patients, to the community and to the profession of medicine. A young physician is defined as a licensed Wisconsin physician who is less than 40 years old or has been practicing medicine fewer than five years. Both the nominated and nominating physicians must be members of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

In addition to being honored with an engraved award presented at the Wisconsin Medical Society Annual meeting, the Foundation will make a contribution to a charitable organization of the recipient’s choice.

Please help us identify young physicians from your area who might deserve this award.

For more details and the nomination form, visit [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation) or call Eileen Wilson at 866.442.3800 or e-mail [eileen.wilson@wismed.org](mailto:eileen.wilson@wismed.org).

## How You Can Help Us Grow

### *Make a donation...*

Add a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation when renewing your Wisconsin Medical Society membership or when considering annual charitable contributions. Annual donations from people like you are what allow us to assist and encourage more students to choose medical careers and support community-based health education programs throughout the state.

We appreciate and acknowledge each gift through our annual list of donors in the *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, on our donor wall and on-line at [www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation](http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/foundation). All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

### *Name the Foundation in your will...*

Leave a lasting legacy by naming the Foundation in your will or through other estate planning. Estate gifts can change the direction of the Foundation, like the gift from the Jackson Family that established what is now our multi-million dollar student loan program. For details on how to include the Foundation, speak with your financial advisor or call us.

# Niesen chosen as first recipient of the Robert 'Jason' Gore Scholarship

Chivalry. Honor. Loyalty. Those are the values Jason Gore lived and those are the qualities the Foundation's Scholarship Committee considered when selecting Matthew Niesen, a fourth year student at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, as the first recipient of the Robert "Jason" Gore Scholarship.

Robert "Jason" Gore was only 23 when he was killed in Iraq on April 21, 2005. Jason shared a deep connection and sense of adventure with his grandfather, Donald Gore, MD. Doctor Gore and his wife, Jacqueline, established the endowed scholarship within the Foundation to advance their grandson's legacy as a compassionate individual with a zest for life that was tempered by his selflessness, commitment to others and sense of humor. His hope was to study physics or biomedicine.

"Respecting the intent of Dr. and Mrs. Gore to honor Jason's



Matthew Niesen, with his daughter Auden and son Hayes.

spirit by assisting a medical student who shares the values Jason lived was our priority when selecting the recipient," said Eileen Wilson, Scholarship Program Coordinator.

As an undergraduate, Niesen realized a lifelong dream by earning a spot on the Badger Football team as a walk-on. After a year he left the team to concentrate on academics as an avenue to another dream—to become a physician. He has excelled academically and credits his work ethic to the example of his single parent mother and the sacrifices she made to raise four children, all of whom graduated from college.

Now married with two children, Niesen expressed his gratitude for the \$5000 scholarship. "After reading about Jason, I realize how fortunate I am to be seen as someone who exemplifies some of the values that he lived by. I will devote my life to caring for people with the same compassion and love that he showed for others and continue my own personal quest for excellence."

To discuss options for establishing a named fund within the Foundation, contact Renée Reback at 866.442.3800, ext. 3720.



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Wisconsin Medical Society  
Foundation



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