

St Vincent's Clinic
Research Foundation

Annual Impact Report 2023



Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, including the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, upon whose lands St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation and St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct are situated. We honour their enduring connection to the land, water, and culture, paying our respects to their Elders, past, present, and emerging.



Artist: Anthony Cain

This painting represents the St Vincent's Private Hospital working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve access to appropriate healthcare by providing a culturally inclusive environment that engages and values the community and creates opportunities for employment and further education and training with the aim at strengthening partnerships and closing the gap in health.

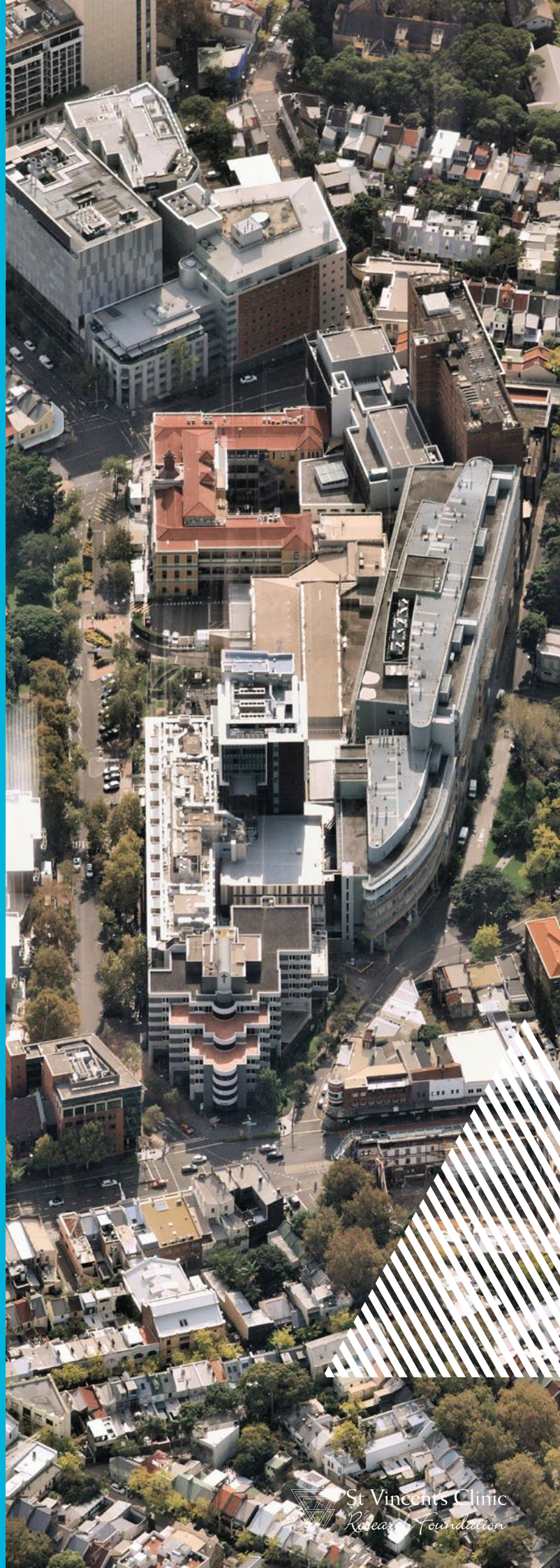
Who We Are

Established in 1992, the St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing patient care through cutting-edge medical research.

As the research arm of St Vincent's Clinic, we are an integral part of a multidisciplinary centre of excellence, facilitating a direct connection between research and patient care. Our double-sided bench-to-bedside approach empowers top doctors and researchers within St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct to shape the future of medicine, creating a real-world impact on patient care.

Our Vision

Our grants are critical in advancing research projects in their infancy that require support to flourish. In turn, they enable researchers to establish a track record, allowing access to larger government and NFP grants. With over 30 years of expertise, we offer a unique perspective to identify research projects with strong potential. This vital research continues to unravel medical mysteries and prevention practices, improves patient care and treatments, and unlocks possible cures.



Dedicated
to defeating
tomorrow's
illness and
disease today.



Message From Our President

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I express my gratitude to all who contributed in 2023. My deepest thanks and admiration go to our researchers and the SVCRF family for their unwavering passion and commitment.

The core of the 'Bench to Bedside' concept is a crucial link between groundbreaking scientific discoveries and their practical application in patient care. This paradigm centres on transforming innovative ideas into tangible treatments that genuinely impact the lives of individuals.

Over the past 31 years, the Foundation has awarded over 470 grants, totalling an impressive \$20 million. These grants have supported early-stage research, fostered innovative ideas, and catalysed breakthrough discoveries that significantly enhanced patient outcomes. We take pride in directly connecting laboratory research to clinical applications, advancing patient care to new heights.


On behalf of the Advisory Board, I acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of our researchers and healthcare professionals. Their unwavering commitment and expertise have been a source of delight and inspiration for me.

I thank our esteemed Advisory Board for providing indispensable expertise that guides our strategic direction. I also appreciate our independent Scientific Committee's commitment to maintaining a rigorous and fair evaluation process, ensuring that funded projects have the utmost potential to impact healthcare outcomes significantly.

Additionally, I express heartfelt gratitude to Dr Sam Milliken, who has been an integral part of the Scientific Committee since 2010. Leading the committee since 2013, Sam has been a beacon of experience, perspective, and wisdom. We are immensely thankful for his contributions while bidding farewell to him this year. Stepping into this significant role is Dr Vanessa Chin, whom we warmly welcome.

The Impact Report showcases the tangible outcomes of our shared dedication to advancing medical knowledge and improving patient care—sincere thanks to all contributors who continue to drive our shared mission forward.

Warmest Regards,



A/Prof Brett Courtenay OAM
President



Message From Our CEO

St Vincent's Clinic and the St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation are part of the St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct in Darlinghurst. The Clinic alone cares for up to 4,000 patients daily, and we have a permanent and ongoing commitment to advance healthcare and research.

As a health promotion charity, St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation actively supports research that positively impacts patients and improves clinical excellence to enhance access to equitable services for individuals and communities. We are in continuous dialogue with St Vincent's Public and Private hospitals regarding their research needs and to support them in building capacity in underserved areas such as mental health and Indigenous health.

Applications were highly competitive again this year, and the successful Grant Recipients represent a wide range of clinical excellence areas, from cardiovascular to cancer research, highlighting our dedication to advancing medical knowledge and patient care. The Foundation also values patient-focused research, and our Multidisciplinary Grants encourage leaders from nursing or allied health backgrounds, emphasising collaboration in a multidisciplinary setting.

In the face of increasing competition for funding, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our donors. Your support is pivotal in nurturing bright minds within the scientific community, enabling them to pursue impactful careers and make ground-breaking medical discoveries. Whether through financial contributions or advocacy, your involvement with St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation is instrumental to our ongoing success. We value your support and look forward to continuing this collaborative journey toward a healthier and more equitable future.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission.

Regards



Ms Katie Viviers
CEO





Bridging the gap from
bench to bedside through
translational research.

Our Advisory Board



A/Prof Brett Courtenay OAM
(President, SVCRF)



Mr Russell Aboud



Mr Leigh Birtles



Mr Tim Bishop



Mr Michael Coombes



Ms Gail Hambly
(Chair, SVC & SVCRF)



Mr Ted Harris AC



Ms Mim Haysom



Mr Ray Itaoui



Mrs Elizabeth Lewin
(Treasurer)



Dr Alan Meagher



Dr Matthew Miles



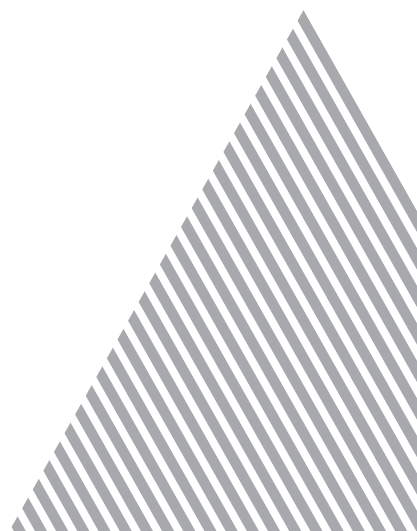
Dr Sam Miliken
(Chair, SVCRF Scientific Committee)



Mrs Ros Packer AC



Ms Katie Viviers
(CEO, SVC & SVCRF)



Our Research Partners

St Vincent's Health Precinct Sydney is defined by our shared values and heritage. The Sisters of Charity originally founded the core Precinct bodies because they saw the power of bringing together health care, research and education to break through complex health issues, and their vision continues today.

We leverage our flexibility in funding the best projects across St Vincent's Sydney Health Innovation Precinct.



Garvan Institute
of Medical Research



ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITAL
SYDNEY



ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH NETWORK
SYDNEY



ST VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL
SYDNEY



Victor Chang
Cardiac Research Institute

Philanthropy support ensures that we continue to champion healthcare trailblazers whose research projects are improving the health outcomes of individuals and communities worldwide.

Thank you to the individuals, organisations and trusts for their generous contributions towards medical research in 2023.



470+
grants awarded

30+
years of breaking
boundaries

\$20m+
funding medical
breakthroughs

A-Z
supporting uncharted
research of all kinds

Projects You Have Helped Fund in 2023

Dr Craig Haifer

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Faecal microbial transplantation in immune checkpoint inhibitor colitis

Dr David Connor

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research

Investigating how platelets and aspirin affect colorectal cancer

A/Prof Christine Chaffer & Dr Sofia Mason

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Adding androgen (male hormone) blockers to standard treatment in brain cancer

Dr Sean Porazinski

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Repurposing the anti fungal drug itraconazole as a novel treatment approach for pancreatic cancer

A/Prof Andrew Jabbour

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney & Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Developing capability to perform highly accurate diagnosis of cardiac rejection to improve management and treatment of heart transplant recipients without the need for invasive surgical procedures

Dr Sandy Stayte & Prof Bryce Vissel

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research

Potential for repurposing existing cannabinoid receptor 2 agonists for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and dyskinesias

Dr Jacqueline Loprete

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Long term clinical, immunological and quality of life impacts of peanut oral immunotherapy: The OPAL Extend Study

Ms Julie Labra

St Joseph's Hospital

Exploring access to motor neurone disease healthcare and the potential use of telehealth for remote, rural and regional New South Wales

Ms Mary Hayes

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

A qualitative study exploring the effects of anal cancer treatment on female sexual function and intimacy

Ms Caroline Brown

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

First Episode Psychosis in the inner city: A qualitative study on caregiver's experiences in an early intervention program for young people

Mr Nathan Nute

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney

Community Connections Program - Investigation of Outcome Measurement Framework

Ms Monica Qiao

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

A Co-Design Approach to Understanding and Addressing Unplanned Readmissions among Aboriginal Peoples at St Vincent's Hospital Network, Sydney, for Culturally Safe and Equitable Healthcare

Dr Paul Preisz & Mrs Pauline Deweerdt

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Enhancing Aboriginal Patient Care in the Emergency Department—Extending Success Through After-Hours Data Analysis and Gap Assessment

Ms Susan Webster & Ms Aine Killeen

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Addressing Cultural Safety in the Pain Assessment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People across Urban and Regional Settings

Ms Gemma Dargin

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Birong Employee Scholarship

Ms Susan Webster

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney

Birong Employee Scholarship

Mrs Wendy Cutmore

St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney

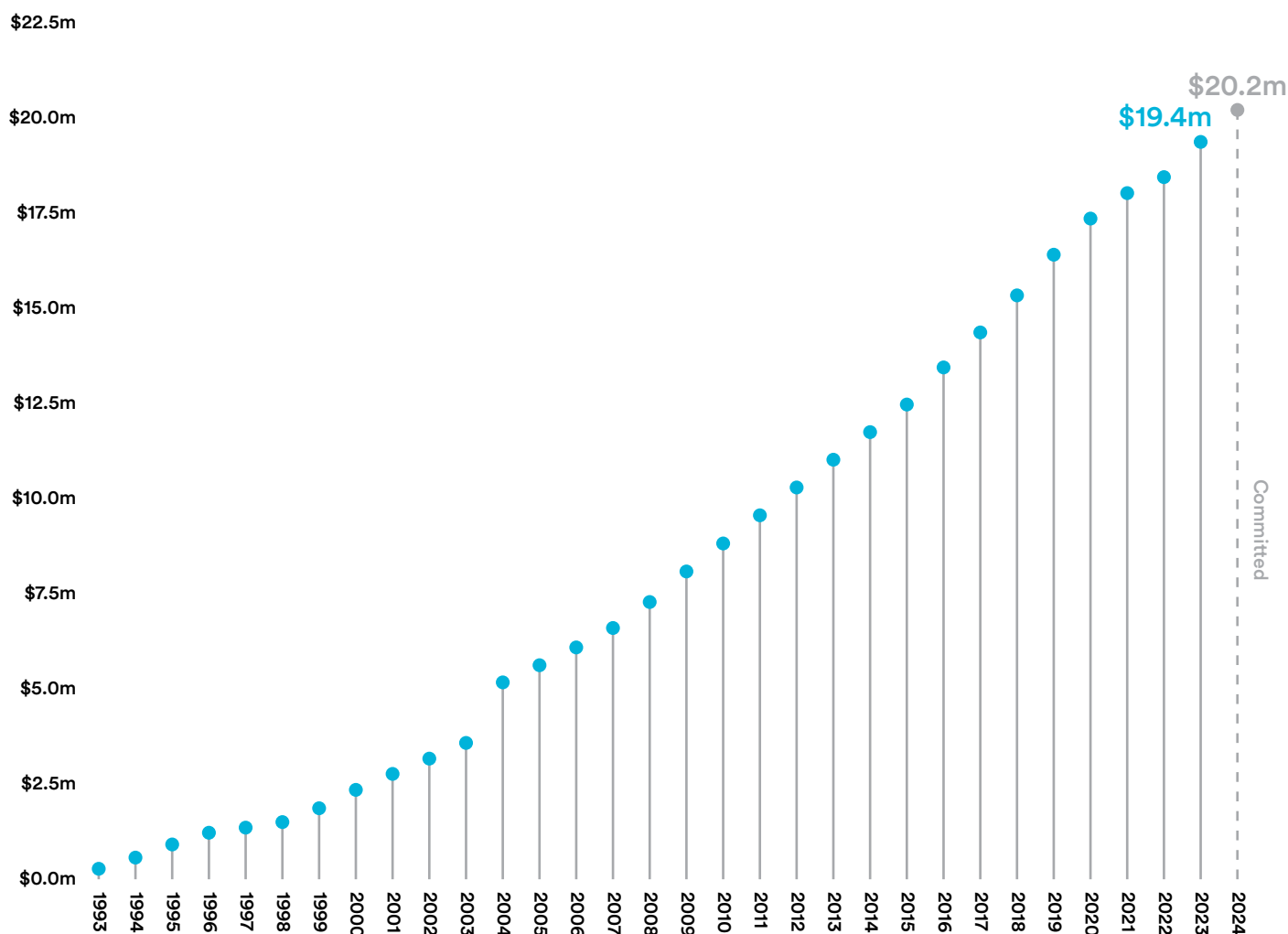
Birong Employee Scholarship





Championing
those who are
unlocking medical
breakthroughs

Cululative Grant Distribution Since 1993



Our goal is to raise \$20,000,000 in 10 years to fund **\$2,000,000** worth of research annually.

\$20.8M

Net assets
as at 30 June 2023

\$840K

Grants awarded
FY 2023

\$395K

Operating expenses
FY 2023

For more information on our financials, please see the audited reports available on the ACNC website.

Already Making A Difference

The ENZAP-p Trial Marks a Milestone in Prostate Cancer Treatment

Prof Louise Emmett, a skilled clinician-researcher at St Vincent's Hospital, has led the groundbreaking ENZAP-p trial, marking a pivotal moment in prostate cancer treatment.

This randomized phase II trial, conducted at 15 centres in Australia and enrolling 162 men with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer, aimed to redefine treatment strategies. By anticipating optimal drug combinations and precisely timing and intensifying treatments, Prof Emmett strategically combined enzalutamide and Lutetium PSMA, yielding promising outcomes.

The significance of ENZAP-p extends globally, offering tailored therapies to individual patients and significantly improving outcomes. The translational aspect of the trial was robust, with 960 PET scans undertaken in the patients, matched to circulating tumour cells sent to the USA, coupled with serial ct DNA samples. This comprehensive approach underscores the commitment to advancing our understanding of prostate cancer at both clinical and biological levels.

The impact of the ENZAP-p trial extends far beyond its initial goals, promising to reshape the future landscape of global prostate cancer treatment. By tailoring treatments to individual patients, the trial aimed to enhance outcomes, offering effective therapies that extend lives. Crucially, seed funding from St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation paved the way for a \$4 million grant from Movember and the Australian Government.

The ENZAP-p trial has delivered transformative results, presented at ASCO GU in 2021 and showcased at ESMO in Madrid on October 20th, 2023, with publication of the interim results expected shortly.

Prof Emmett acknowledges the instrumental role of St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation, marking the trial's success as a beacon of hope for new possibilities in prostate cancer treatment worldwide.





Closing The Gap

We are dedicated to improving healthcare for our Indigenous community by raising awareness of the impact of diseases and promoting health equity for all Australians.

Some years back, I documented my experiences at the Aboriginal Medical Services Redfern. What struck me was the discomfort experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders within the structured environment of mainstream hospital clinics. I often joked about having six patients scheduled but typically seeing a different set than originally booked.

Unfortunately, the onset of COVID-19 and related restrictions halted travel and in-person clinics. Consequently, I stepped back from my clinical and operative roles at St Vincent's Public and St Vincent's Private Hospitals, reaching a particular stage in my career.

Leading up to this decision, my involvement extended beyond the Aboriginal Medical Services Redfern. I played a significant role in the Australian Army, focusing on the health of regional Forces in the top 50% of Australia. Three units—Norforce, Pilbara, and 51 FNQ—each comprised 30% Aboriginal members. As the senior health advisor to the second division, I provided most of their medical support. This role gave me insights into the health disparities among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, notably their heightened susceptibility to Rheumatic fever and the prevalence of diabetes across age groups.

The impact of COVID-19 also affected plans to rotate resident staff to Bamega Hospital, the northernmost hospital in Australia servicing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on the Cape York Peninsula. Diabetes was a prevalent condition in this area, highlighting the challenges faced in providing adequate treatment.

I share these observations because we continue to grapple with the persistent health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and the broader population. A ten-year difference in life expectancy persists, demanding our attention. In Sydney, we're fortunate but mindful of the diverse Indigenous communities nationwide that require support. The St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation actively backs projects addressing the health concerns of people experiencing homelessness, a significant number of whom are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Associate Professor Brett Courtenay OAM is an Orthopaedic Surgeon, specialising in joint replacement, knee surgery, primary and revision hip surgery, and medicolegal consultation, and the President of St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation Advisory Board.



**“St Vincent’s Clinic
Research Foundation
grants are a great way to
turn ideas into research,
and our ongoing study
shows a positive
outcome.”**

Prof Jerry Greenfield,
Endocrinologist and Clinical
Researcher, SVCRF Grant
Recipient

Bench to Bedside Panel Discussion

Our annual event at The Mint is a highlight in the calendar as we hear from current researchers and the incredible impact they are having today on patient outcomes.





St Vincent's Clinic
Research Foundation

**Join St Vincent's Clinic Research Foundation
today and contribute to medical innovation.**



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