

Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)



2013 Annual Report

Protecting All Children from
Environmental Hazards &
Promoting a Healthier Environment

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Message from Nsedu Obot Witherspoon CEHN Executive Director



CEHN was founded in 1992 in response to alarming evidence that the health and development of the nation's children was being increasingly damaged by rising levels of pollution, toxins, and other environmental hazards.

Since our creation, illuminating research has expanded our understanding of children's environmental health to include facets such as the built environment and climate change.

CEHN translates the peer-reviewed science on environmental risks to children's health into action. We built the first pediatric environmental health curriculum, successfully influenced the Federal government to launch initiatives protecting children, and lead educational and policy initiatives that continue to inform practitioners and protect children. Today, from our headquarters in Washington, DC, CEHN is now recognized globally as a trusted source of science-based pediatric environmental health guidance and advocacy, providing leadership and technical assistance at the state and Federal level.

Despite all that we have accomplished, child health trends are improving slowly or not improving at all. We must think even more boldly and take ever more ambitious steps to protect our children today and tomorrow.

CEHN used our 20th anniversary year to celebrate our combined successes for children over the last two decades. However, we also used this important time in CEHN's history to reflect on ways that we can best contribute to the field of children's environmental health protection today. As a result, CEHN developed our first Business Plan that represents our vision and specific short-term goals.

To achieve the dramatic results necessary to protect children, CEHN is now aligning our programs into four content areas—science, policy, marketplace, and leadership—to achieve greater scale and impact.

Within science, CEHN is working to support the best peer-reviewed science and translation of the science into child-protective policy and practice. CEHN's Childhood Leukemia project with UC Berkeley, Articles of the Month, and the updating manual for health care faculty, ***Putting It Into Practice: Pediatric Environmental Health Training Resource*** have all kept us busy this year.

Within policy, CEHN is working to protect children from environmental hazards by identifying priorities and opportunities for effective public health policy improvements. In the marketplace, CEHN's vision is to educate and train the current and next generation of leaders in child health protection and support science-based recommendation to assist consumers. In leadership, CEHN's work is to provide our key partners and the general public with science-based education and recommendations to reduce and/or eliminate environmental hazards to children.

We are excited about and focused on the important work ahead of us and encourage you to read more about the accomplishments CEHN made over the last year. If you are not already connected to CEHN, please reach out to us as we work together to ensure that our children are protected from environmental hazards.

Protecting Children Through Policies

Health professionals, parents, teachers and others who care for children can do much to create a healthier environment for their charges. But, as individuals, they cannot clean the air, remove contaminants from drinking water or assure that all products are safe for children. These and other important contributors to health and development are the responsibility of Federal, state and local policies and programs.

Unfortunately, our policies are seldom protective of children's environmental health. Children's vulnerable developing systems are rarely considered when our decision-makers write laws, regulations, standards and other policies that impact our children. Neither do policy makers routinely take into account children's unique behaviors and environments, which lead to children commonly being exposed to higher levels of chemicals in their environments than are adults.

Yet progress is being made. Thanks to the work of the Network and an increasing number of organizations and individuals, awareness is growing among our policy-makers that children are not just little adults, and that "one size fits all" protections do not protect our most vulnerable, including our children. The Network is proud that its leadership as the Voice for Children's Environmental Health in our nation's Capitol continues.

Educating

The Network continues to educate policy makers on the importance of providing healthy environments for children. Early in 2013, CEHN staff conducted introductory visits with a number of Senate staffers, focusing on staff for newly-elected Senators.

The Network also contributed to a successful Congressional briefing about the work of the Centers of Excellence in Research for Children's Environmental Health.

Through our Health In All Policies project, the Network developed and distributed two foundational education pieces illuminating the impact of various sectors -- such as education, transportation, housing, commerce, land use, and agriculture -- on children's health and development.

As the Network's advisors are updating CEHN's well-regarded manual for health care faculty, ***Putting It Into Practice: Pediatric Environmental Health Training Resource***, the advocacy section continues to be a core topic.

Through interviews with reporters around the nation, the Network staff and advisors increase awareness of this field and educate the public and decision leaders about opportunities to protect children's health.

Advocating

The Network raised its voice in support of improved policies for children in a variety of arenas.

The Network repeatedly urged Congressional appropriators to provide adequate funding and support for key Federal pediatric environmental health activities and programs for FY 2014. This included providing testimony to House and Senate appropriations subcommittees.

As opportunities emerged, the Network spoke out in support of children's health in areas such as:

Chemicals Policy Reform: The Network continued to work for legislation that updates the nation's principal law regulating most chemicals -- the Toxic Substances Control Act or TSCA -- to better protect children's health. TSCA was enacted more than 30 years ago and does not adequately protect human health. Reform of this outdated and ineffective law has been a priority for the Network and for others in the fields of health and environment. The Network continued its efforts to educate decision-makers about the inability of TSCA to protect children's health and the need to improve this statute.

Global Climate Change: CEHN staff attended a White House event on climate change and public health, participated in a White House conference call on the Administration's global climate change plan, and issued a statement on the President's plan. The Network endorsed Rep. Lois Capps' (D-CA) Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Lead Renovation: The Network co-signed a petition developed by the National Center for Healthy Housing to the U.S. EPA that would help advance a new EPA renovation rule pertaining to public and commercial buildings. We also joined a coalition opposing legislation that would undermine EPA's Lead-Safe Certification regulation.

Tier 3 Motor Vehicle Emission and Fuel Standards: The Network submitted docket comments to EPA in support of strengthening tailpipe emission and fuel standards for passenger cars and trucks.

Maryland pesticide legislation: The Network submitted testimony for the record to the Maryland state legislature in February 2013 regarding legislation about pesticide application.

Leadership

More than 20 years ago, CEHN was instrumental in the creation of the field of children's environmental health, as well as behind the impetus to move policy and practice to protect children's environmental health. In the early 1990's CEHN developed the first vision and blueprint for children's environmental health focusing on national policy and regulation, scientific research and knowledge, and the education of health care professionals.

Though much progress has been made, we recognize that the necessary paradigm shift at the policy level and throughout society required to proactively consider children and future generations has not occurred. When progress has been made, it is primarily on a toxicant-by-toxicant level, or by reacting to issues that emerge. The challenges facing children in their environments have broadened to include climate change, obesity, and chronic diseases previously thought of as 'adult only.' As a result, this generation may be the first to see a shorter life expectancy than their parents due to their poor health status.

Recognizing this, the Network has been working to create a proactive vision and blueprint for the 21st century. This work will focus on healthy environments and speak to the widening definition of "environment and health outcomes" and expand to include more sectors.

This year, our 'vision' initiative has:

- Completed and circulated first draft of a "vision" white paper.
- Generated comments from leaders in the field, leaders in new sectors, and through a visioning blog, to further shape a vision and process.
- Prepared for a fall 2013 planning meeting for a major invitation-only meeting in 2014 to generate a consensus vision statement and strategy.

Health in All Policies: Advancing public health and public interest policies usually requires the involvement of multiple public interest groups. To expand the chorus of effective voices speaking out in support of policies to protect children's environmental health, the Network has been working with key public interest partners to expand their capacity for engaging in this field. This year, the Network has partnered with four national health care professional organizations through our Health in All Policies (HIAP) project:

- o National Association for School Nurses (NASN)
- o Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
- o National Medical Association (NMA)
- o National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)

Our partnerships are focused on determining organization-specific activities that will create or increase each organization's role as a champion for children's environmental health.

In October 2012, the Network held a successful webinar "Policy Shapes Children's Health, Development and Future," where more than 60 participants learned how to identify opportunities to improve children's environmental health using a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. This work builds upon the successful Congressional briefing we held in June 2012.

We also engaged with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities to develop language about the known and suspected links between autism and the environment.

The Network's policy efforts would not have been possible without the support and dedication of the Network's Board, Advisory Board, Policy Committee, Science Committee, and many partner groups. This year, we were pleased to welcome Kristin Schafer of Pesticide Action Network and Jack Rayburn of Trust for America's Health to our policy committee.



Childhood Leukemia Project

CEHN has partnered with the University of California at Berkeley (UC Berkeley) to provide research translation and community outreach services for the latter's scientific research on childhood leukemia and environmental exposures. The Network will make this research understandable, accessible and actionable through integration into on-going outreach and training for various stakeholders including care providers, health care professionals, parents, individuals concerned with children's environmental health, and policy makers. This partnership serves as a part of the proposed new Children's Environmental Health Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Childhood Leukemia and the Environment (CIRCLE) based at UC Berkeley and funded by NIEHS and EPA.

CEHN continues to build a database of peer-reviewed research articles focused on childhood leukemia and environmental exposures and is assisting in the development of the narrative to provide content for the research translation plan. The Network has identified a number of opportunities within CEHN's activities to incorporate and communicate key childhood leukemia findings. New research in the field is highlighted via the Article of the Month series and CEHN social media accounts. Our web page, "[Children's Environments and Cancer](#)", will provide factsheets for a variety of audiences and links to other resources, including the CIRCLE website. The first completed [factsheet](#), reviewed by our scientific advisory board and aimed at parents and care-givers, has already been posted. It has also been approved for dissemination to targeted health care provider audiences, pending a final review by the University of California at Berkeley.



**Children's
Environmental
Health
Network**



The Children's Environmental Health Network is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment.

Childhood Leukemia

What is childhood leukemia?

Eco-Healthy Child Care®

Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) is a national program that partners with child care professionals to eliminate or reduce environmental health hazards found in child care facilities, thus improving the environmental health of children. EHCC supports child care providers as they make simple choices that benefit the health and well-being of all children in their care. The program offers training, technical assistance, resources, marketing and an endorsement. By reducing exposure to toxics, the program creates healthier environments in and around child care facilities, and in doing so, it creates healthier kids.

EHCC remains the sole self-directed environmental health endorsement program for child care providers. Since early 2008, 2,145 endorsement applications have met our EHCC requirements. Based on these endorsements, 89,281 children have been protected from environmental toxics in their child care setting.

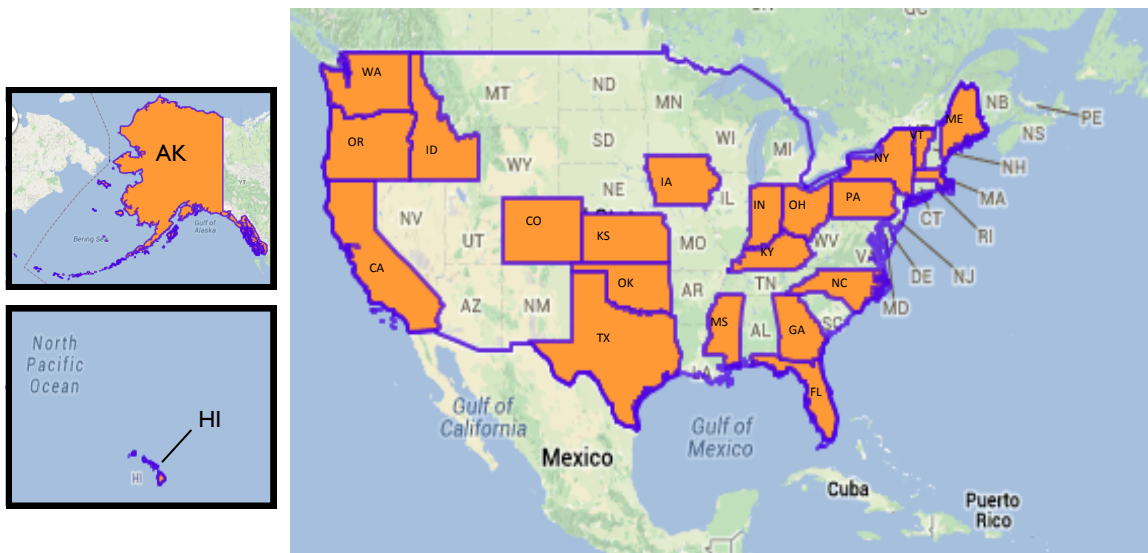
The Eco-Healthy Child Care® program is currently endorsing 808 child care facilities, protecting 32,422 children within 47 states. A variety of corporate and government child care chains (Bright Horizons Family Solutions, with 800+ centers, Children's' Creative Learning Centers, with 100+ centers, and General Services Administration – Child Care Operations (GSA), with 100+ centers) are committed to achieving and maintaining EHCC endorsement for all facilities.

In 2013, EHCC received the *Environmental Health Innovation Award* from the National Environmental Health Association for our innovation and effective approach. Other national awards include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2006 *Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award* and the 2010 *Childcare and School IPM Recognition Award* from the IPM Institute of North America, Inc. EHCC covers the following content areas: Pesticides and Pest Prevention, Air Quality, Household Chemicals, Lead, Mercury, Radon, Art Supplies, Furniture and Carpets, Plastics and Plastic Toys, Arsenic: Treated Wood and Water, and Recycling and Garbage Storage.



Education & Awareness

During 2013, CEHN staff offered the 5-hour EHCC Train the Trainer (TtT) session to child care trainers, child care health consultants, licensing staff and child care resource and referral staff in Alaska, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio and Oklahoma. Since 2008, the EHCC TtT has been offered in 23 states: AK, CA, CO, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, TX, VT, and WA. We look forward to working with Connecticut, Nevada and New Mexico in 2014.



States having participated in EHCC Train the Trainer sessions



New Collaborations & Milestones

EHCC has formed a strong partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH). NCHH is the premier provider of healthy homes/healthy indoor environment trainings in the U.S. for public health and housing professionals. NCHH has developed curricula for 10 different successful and well-regarded trainings. NCHH will be adopting the EHCC curriculum which means that their 56 training partners across the nation will routinely offer the EHCC training. The Network was pleased to receive \$107,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support these efforts.

Evaluation is a key aspect of the EHCC program. We collect and analyze data to help us assess our impact. University of Maryland School of Nursing researchers are working with us to assess some valuable EHCC data. One analysis has reviewed the pre and post tests conducted at EHCC Train the Trainer sessions in five states (FL, ID, KS, TX, VT) to evaluate the effectiveness of the TtT sessions. The results found that a half-day training program on environmental hazards in the child care setting can significantly improve knowledge for upper-level individuals (trainers, licensing staff and health/nurse consultants) in the child care industry.

Another analysis is looking at the checklists submitted by 396 endorsed facilities to identify the frequency of different environmental stewardship practices by child care centers. Both analyses have been developed into articles that are being submitted for publication.

Two upstate New York public interest groups -- Clean and Healthy New York and the Child Care Council -- are using the Eco-Healthy Child Care® program as the foundation of a program to educate child care providers in the Great Lakes Basin about common toxic chemicals and how to choose safer products. Supported by a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the groups will use EHCC and add in additional science-based materials relevant for the area. CEHN is providing not just permission to use EHCC but also some technical support to this creative program.

Policy

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed updating the health and safety requirements for child cares receiving subsidies under the Child Care and Development Fund. CEHN quickly reviewed the proposal and found no mention of environmental health. Working with collaborative partners, CEHN/EHCC drafted and circulated docket comments. CEHN's final comments were co-signed by the Center for Environmental Research & Children's Health (CERCH), the Institute of Neurotoxicology & Neurological Disorders (INND), the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH), and the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. (HHS Rulemaking - Docket ACF-2013-0001).

EHCC Conference Participation

EHCC staff presented at 11 national, regional and state conferences during this fiscal year, including: the National Housing Education and Research Association conference, the National Head Start Association conference, the National Healthy Homes conference, the Association for Early Learning Leaders conference and the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

Leadership

The EHCC program was highlighted in a May 2013 article on the current status of environmental health in U.S. child care settings published by *Environmental Health Perspectives*, the journal of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. In addition, a full page article in *Professional Connections*, a trade journal of the Association of Early Learning Leaders, provided an overview of the EHCC program, resources available and our accomplishments to date.

CEHN staff chair the EHCC National Advisory Committee (NAC) and the EHCC Science Task Force. Since 2008, the EHCC NAC has ensured the growth, development and rapid adoption of the EHCC program. Leaders of both state and national child care agencies and national children's environmental health organizations comprise this committee, including: Child Care Aware of America, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Association for Regulatory Administration, and national children's environmental health organizations comprise this committee, including: Child Care Aware of America, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Association for Regulatory Administration, the National Head Start Association and the U.S. EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, among others.

For more information on the EHCC Program and to download topical fact sheets please visit the EHCC, www.cehn.org/ehcc.



A training session provided to child care providers by CEHN

Communicating the Science

Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month

Understanding the science that supports the field of children's environmental health can be daunting to lay people. The emerging scientific papers are usually highly technical. Judging the priority and translating the results of the growing number and wide variety of articles is confusing. But understanding the science is also key to adopting effective and protective practices and policies.

To help journalists, policy-makers and the general public better understand the outcomes of pediatric environmental health research, CEHN's Science Committee launched the Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month. The Article of the Month covers a broad range of current children's environmental health topics hand-picked by the CEHN Science Committee; its findings and importance are summarized for the general public. The Article of the Month is disseminated via our listservs and on CEHN's web site, <http://bit.ly/1ajhMEU>.

Upcoming Research Conference

CEHN's next pediatric environmental research conference will take place in the first quarter of 2015. The focus of the conference will be on food: food that makes fetuses/children more resistant to environmental hazards, unrecognized environmental hazards in food, and the health outcomes of these positive and negative exposures directly or indirectly. Like the Network's previous conferences, we will highlight cutting edge science in these areas of study and offer the translation of findings to public health practice and policy, where possible. Visit our website, www.cehn.org, to keep abreast of this conference as plans develop.

Efforts such as these increase communication about children's environmental health to broader audiences, promote the field within the science world and highlight the science world and highlight the science-base of current issues with stakeholders.

Events

CEHN's 20th Anniversary

CEHN marked 2012 as a year building on its two decades of leadership in protecting all children from environmental hazards. In September, CEHN took an evening to celebrate their 20th Anniversary as an organization and leader in the field of Children's Environmental Health. It was a fantastic event that included the participation of long-standing friends and leaders in this movement as well as new champions for children's health protection. Awards were presented to key movers and shakers in the areas of student achievement, journalism, and national leadership.

Guests included distinguished health professionals, public health advocates, researchers, and community-based leaders within the field of children's environmental health. The event highlighted not only the history and work of CEHN but also children's unique vulnerabilities and susceptibilities when they are exposed to environmental toxicants.

The Child Health Advocate Honorees were former EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson for her efforts to protect the health and environment for all Americans; *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* investigative reporters Meg Kissinger and Susanne Rust for their award-winning series, "Chemical Fallout," which exposed the failures of the Federal government to regulate toxic chemicals in household product; Christina and Eric Bear, a sister-brother team from Boulder, CO, who created the Radon Awareness Project and were selected as winners of the first Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award (see below). To learn more about our award recipients, visit our 20th Anniversary webpage, <http://bit.ly/1e7UQJF>.



Lisa P. Jackson



Meg Kissinger



Susanne Rust



Eric & Christina Bear

N.O.W. Youth Leadership Award

The evening of CEHN's Gala included the announcement of a new award. The Board announced the Nsedu Obot Witherspoon Youth Leadership Award, or N.O.W. Award, in honor of CEHN's Executive Director who continues to work tirelessly for the health and well-being of our children. To find out more about the award and Ms. Witherspoon the night of the Gala, visit <http://bit.ly/1bVJAv2>.



Collaborating with Partners

Partnerships are key to leveraging resources for CEHN; below are some of our partners in the many productive collaborations we've undertaken this year in our efforts to protect children.



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Principal, Magaña Associates and Hispanic Strategy Group

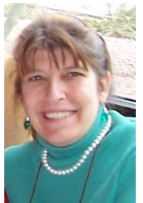
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Executive Director

Children's Environmental Health Network

About Us

The Network focuses on policy, education and research. Our goals are to:

- Promote the development of a sound public health and child-focused national policy, with an emphasis on children most at risk;
- Elevate public awareness of environmental hazards to children;
- Educate health professionals, policy makers, and community members in preventive strategies; and
- Stimulate prevention-oriented research.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental harm

Children's developing systems, exposure patterns and behaviors put them at risk of harm from chemicals in their environments. An exposure which may result in little or no damage for an adult may cause irreversible harm to a child.

Thus, the Network has been working since 1992 to protect children from environmental harm and to promote healthier environments. Emerging research is expanding our understanding of children's environmental health. As a result, we have broadened our work to include additional challenges facing children in their environments, such as climate change, obesity, and chronic diseases previously thought of as 'adult only'.

Changes over recent decades have drastically changed children's environments and children's exposures. As a result of these and other changes, this generation may be the first to see a shorter life expectancy than their parents due to their poor health status.

Funders and Sponsors

The Network is a non-partisan, 501(c)(3) organization and receives funding from Federal sources, private foundations, and individual contributions.

Join us!

To find out more about CEHN, or join our listserv, visit our Website: www.cehn.org

You can also follow us on Twitter (@CEHN), or join our Facebook page (facebook.com/CEHNet).

Funding Partners

CEHN thanks all of its friends and funding partners for their outstanding support and service to the protection of children's health and their environment. In 2012–2013, CEHN received grant funding, donations and in-kind support from the following individuals and organizations:

Brenda & Muhammad Afzal

Scott Afzal

Lisa Andraca

Laura Anderko

Elizabeth Blackburn

Alison Carlson

Michael Danzansky

Bryan Davis

Martha Dimes

Leslie Fields

Howard Frumkin

Richard & Susanna Finnell

James Gibney

Robyn Gilden

Benjamin Gitterman

Steve Gladis

James Gibney

Wendy Gordon

Amanda Hawes

Denis Hayes

Joel Hunter

Richard Jackson

Carol Johnson

Felecia Jones

Marva King

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Cara & Kevin McCaffrey

Rachel Metzger

Elise Miller

Donald Milton

Carol Obot

Jerome Paulson

Nick Pimentel

Routt Reigart and Susanne Reigart

James Roberts

Kathleen E. Sykes

Brenda Tobe

Jalonne White-Newsome

Audacious Inquiry

Bullitt Foundation

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Cedar Tree Foundation

Kresge Foundation

Mount Sinai Children Environmental Health Center

National Environmental Education Foundation

Park Foundation

Schwab Charitable

Stacey Vaeth Photography

Steve Gladis Leadership Partners

UC Berkeley Childhood Leukemia Center

U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Financial Statement

Income

Grants	
Government/Federal	\$ 71,428
Foundations	\$355,000
Contributions	\$ 15,133
Program Fees	\$ 16,405
Carry Over from FY 2011	\$167,832
Total Income	\$625,798

Expenses

Personnel/Labor	
Personnel	\$410, 393
Professional/	\$ 15,722
Consultant Fees	\$ 32,938
Program Expense	\$ 5,137
Travel	\$ 24,524
Insurance	\$ 4,028
Rent	\$ 37,660
Utilities	\$ 291
Phone	\$ 5,599
Equipment Rental	\$ 3,890
Postage/Delivery	\$ 4,159
Printing & Reproduction	\$ 18,378
Computer/Web Services	\$ 2,730
Office Supplies	\$ 5,800
Total Expense	\$571, 249

Net Income **\$ 54,549**



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