# THE CUPOLA



Spring 2009 Vol. XI, No. VII

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kenneth W.Wilkins, M.D.

Greetings from Cooperstown and New Bern, N.C.

Recent NCAA events brought back fond memories of watching basketball games with the Carolina contingent while in Cooperstown. We often had to drive to Oneonta to find the games, so I am glad to hear of the talks with Fox Hospital.

This edition of The Cupola is full of information: Surgery is hoping to grow at Bassett, and please look over the incoming house staff list. Particularly exciting is the information from Dr. Thomas Cassidy about his experience in Thailand. Of course, it is really nice to see that Bassett's commitment to research continues.

Enjoy the rest of this issue, and as always, let us hear from you.

Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

### RESIDENT RESEARCH PROGRAM SETS BASSETT APART

Two Bassett residents have presented their research on PKC delta protein as a potential therapeutic target in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes at national poster sessions, drawing attention to a resident research program of a depth not often found at a hospital of Bassett's size.

Second-year resident Atipon
Kangwanpornsiri, M.D., won second
place at the American College of
Physicians Upstate Associate
Research Paper Competition in
Rochester for his abstract, "PKC
delta activation in vivo and in vitro
in experimental models of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis." He was also
invited to present his poster in
Philadelphia on April 23 as a finalist
in the national competition.

Third-year resident Tepsiri Chongkrairatanakul, M.D., who will be a chief resident next year, presented his abstract, "PKC Delta in Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis" during a poster session last year at the American Diabetes Association meeting in San Francisco.

"I'm very pleased with the success that they've had," said Bassett Research Scientist Mike Greene, Ph.D., who has served as faculty preceptor to Atipon and Tepsiri, as well as third-year resident Niyutchai "Tone" Chaithongdi, M.D., who has submitted his abstract, "High Fat Diet-Induced Insulin Resistance and PKC Delta,"



Congratulations to the winner of the E. Donnall Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award for 2009, Tepsiri Chongkrairatanakul, M.D., for his poster, "PKC Delta in Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis." Tepsiri will present Interdepartmental Grand Rounds related to his research on May 20.

to this year's ADA meeting.

"Without Dr. Greene and Mary Ruhoff, I would not have been able to have this honorable experience," said Atipon. "Presenting at the ACP national conference provided me great experience that will be invaluable for my current research to proceed forward and for my future research as a fellow."

Thirteen residents presented posters this spring during the annual E. Donnall Thomas Research Day. Building on Bassett's strong tradition of research, the resident research program is proving to be a win-win situation, helping Bassett attract topnotch trainees and benefiting residents in a variety of ways, including giving them a leg up when it comes to applying for fellowships.

"High-quality basic science work is especially rare at smaller hospital programs. Our ability to offer this gives Bassett an important competitive advantage in recruiting," said Bill LeCates, M.D., attending nephrologist and Internal Medicine Residency program director.

The research program is voluntary. Sometimes, the idea for a project forms when a resident encounters a question and wants to know the answer. In other cases, projects build on the work of a previous resident or a scientist at the Bassett Research Institute. Residents work with a faculty preceptor to draft project proposals,

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"The word is out that there's some exciting stuff going on."

Research Scientist Michael Greene, Ph.D.

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

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# Breaking News

# BASSETT, FOX DISCUSS AFFILIATION

After several months of exploring the opportunity to share cardiac, cancer and orthopedic services, the board of trustees of A.O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta and Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown have agreed to consider formal affiliation. Officials of both organizations say such an agreement would strengthen the delivery of health care in the region at a time when the industry faces significant challenges.

The announcement followed a vote by the Fox Hospital board Friday, Feb. 27, to continue discussions on the coordination of services across all lines of business, including corporate affiliation. The vote will allow both organizations to evaluate the benefits to the community of affiliating the organizations in a yet-to-bedetermined manner.

Bassett CEO William F. Streck, M.D., and John Remillard, CEO of Fox, said in a statement, "The next course of action is the due diligence process. This will include a thorough review of the clinical, governance, regulatory, cultural and administrative data and issues to ensure that an affiliation is in the best interest of the

communities served by the institutions. Once that process is complete, it would be followed by the development of a formal affiliation plan for consideration by the institutions' respective governing boards."

While no timetable is set, the complexity of the evaluation process makes it unlikely details can be finalized before mid-year.

# GRANTS AIM TO HELP UNDERSERVED AREAS

Bassett has been awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants as part of New York state's Doctors Across New York Program, an initiative designed to help train and place physicians in medically underserved communities across the state. A total of \$1.2 million will go directly to physicians to help with medical school loan repayment in return for a minimum five-year commitment to practice in an underserved area. Additionally, the funds will help health care facilities recruit new physicians to practice in underserved areas. The Doctors Across New York program was approved as part of the 2008-2009 state budget.

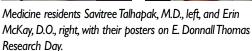
# RESEARCH

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which are vetted by the Institutional Review Board for safety and ethical issues and then sent to the EDT Committee, which determines whether projects have merit and deserve funding.

The experience of undertaking and presenting a research project helps residents become smarter consumers of medical studies. "It's very important to become familiar with research methodology in order to intelligently interpret medical literature, which is what guides current practice," said Erin McKay, D.O., a second-year medicine resident whose project examines the link between asthma and obesity. In a clinical study still in progress, she hopes to





determine whether airway reactivity and venous Creactive protein levels decrease following surgical weight loss.

Understanding research methodology also helps residents think more critically. "Doing research on your own, you get to control all the variables; whereas reading it in a book, you base your assumptions on what someone else did,"

said Tarun Bajaj, M.D., a second-year surgical resident whose project, "Preoperative Skin Preparation: One Scrub or Two?" found evidence that using two scrubs of chlorhexidine gluconate was significantly more effective at eradicating skin bacteria.

For some residents, working in the lab is simply a new and exciting experience. "I never had an opportunity to do research, especially in basic science. It's like a whole new world to me. ... This is a special part of Bassett," said Savitree Talhapak, M.D., a third-year resident who worked with Dr. Allan Green on a project examining the short- and long-term effects of curcumin, the orange-yellow component of the spice turmeric, on adipocyte lipolysis.

There are rewards for faculty preceptors as well. "The satisfaction comes from being able to pass on my knowledge and give them the opportunity," said Greene, who worked with three residents this year and will have six next year. "The word is out that there's some exciting stuff going on," he said, "and they want to be a part of it."

# BASSETT LOOKS BACK

Enjoy reminiscing!

Excerpts from a conversation on March 17, 2009, between two retired Bassett physicians: pediatrician Arthur E. Laidlaw, M.D., and internist John S. Davis, M.D. Many of us can relate to the serendipity by which Dr. Laidlaw wound up at Bassett.

"I went to public school in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I won a scholarship to Yale, then to Yale Medical School [where Dr. Laidlaw met a medical technician who would become his wife], then intern at Hopkins, and on to Children's in Boston. So. I have been at the best places; that doesn't make me a good doctor, but I know how good medicine should be done. I was fortunate that I was able to go to those places. Probably the reason I got an internship at Hopkins was because at the time of my senior year in medical school, I was taking care of some children off the coast of Maine, one of the islands up there, and Emmett Holt, who was a professor at Hopkins, was looking for somebody to sail from Maine to Baltimore, and there were two candidates. There was one guy who apparently was a pretty good sailor but was said to be a little wacky, and I wasn't a great navigator, but at that time wasn't too wacky, so I was chosen to go on that cruise from Maine to Baltimore with Professor Emmett Holt, and I think that helped me get an internship there."

Now a sprightly 93, pediatrician Art Laidlaw first came to Bassett in 1947 when an unexpected position in Bassett's Department of Pediatrics opened up. "Dr. (T. Campbell) Goodwin had been appointed head of the pediatric department, but he was not able to come for several months, and I had known him at Hopkins where he was an attending when I was an intern. For some reason or other, he and I got together, and I came to run the department of pediatrics for several months until Dr. Goodwin



Arthur Laidlaw, M.D., in March 2009

arrived. The pediatric department at that time was a resident, Jack Hoes, and myself, and he and I were the department for quite a few months, and then Dr. Goodwin came and they only needed one pediatrician, so I left and practiced in New Hampshire for about 10 years."

After his New Hampshire years, Dr. Laidlaw came back to Bassett "because at that time they did have a couple of pediatricians full time" and one had just left. "It just happened to be that I was casting about for some place to go after New Hampshire. I was busy all the time and I was just getting to the point where I couldn't handle it."

During his years at Bassett, Dr. Laidlaw recalls that, "Our offices were in the original building, and the patients and the doctors had to walk up steps to get into the clinic. It

was interesting to see mothers come in with a couple of children, a babe in the arms to struggle up the steps to get to the pediatric clinic." He noted that "so much of pediatrics is saying hello to the mother, trying to convince a child you are not really going to destroy him. One of the things that I objected to was parents who would tell their children at home. You better behave or I am going to take you to the doctor.' 'Straighten out or we'll go see the doctor.' Some children, I think, began to cry when they entered the front door of Bassett Hospital."

He also recalled giving a grand rounds on the pediatric illness known as Exanthem Subitum (Roseola Infantum); afterward, a colleague noted: "Well you really have the gift of gab; anybody who can take up an hour talking about exanthem subitum when it all can be said in about five minutes!"

Dr. Laidlaw continued to practice pediatrics at Bassett until he retired in 1975. His vigorous life has continued, and he and his wife of 65 years, Bunny Laidlaw, now live in the Clara Welch Thanksgiving Home in Cooperstown.



Bassett Hospital in 1947, about the time of Art Laidlaw's first arrival.

# DR. ARTHUR E. LAIDLAW AND CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

"Over the years, I've seen how important philanthropy has become to health care, especially in today's environment," observed Dr. Laidlaw. "In response, I've supported Bassett through the creation of charitable gift annuities, which has proven to be a very good thing for me and Bunny, and Bassett."

A charitable gift annuity is a way to make a gift and receive an income for yourself or others. It is a contract under which a charity, in return for a transfer of cash or other property, agrees to pay a fixed sum of money for a period measured by one or two lives. The person who contributes an asset for the annuity is called the donor, and the person who receives payments is called the annuitant or beneficiary. Usually, the annuitant is also the donor, but this is not always true. The maximum number of annuitants is two, and payments can be made to them jointly or successively.

Whatever happens to interest rates or the stock market, payments neither increase nor decrease. Like Dr. and Mrs. Laidlaw, most gift annuity donors are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments, and would like to save taxes.

Planned giving offers creative strategies for supporters of Bassett to make a gift while also achieving some of their own financial goals. The choice to support Bassett is a personal one, unique to each individual, and the choice of planned giving options is the same. One's individual financial situation and goals, family structure and interests can all be taken into account through one of several gift options. Many donors use a planned giving choice to support a Bassett initiative or program that has special meaning to them, knowing that their gift is supporting accessible, high-quality health care.

To make an appointment to discuss charitable gift annuity options, call Scott A. Barrett, executive director of the Friends of Bassett, at (607) 547-3928.

### FRIENDSHIP LEADS TO THAILAND ROTATION

Tom Cassidy, D.O., and Niyutchai "Tone" Chaithongdi, M.D., both thirdyear medical residents, are roommates. The more Tom learned about Tone's medical training in Thailand, the more interested he became in experiencing it for himself. Tom recently returned from a three-week rotation that Tone helped arrange at the 1,800-bed Maharaj Nakorn Hospital in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Tom worked primarily with infectious disease specialists and saw numerous cases of tuberculosis, AIDS and parasitic diseases. He was impressed with the efficiency of the health care system, especially in its ability to deal with patients with complex social as well as medical issues. As a result of his experience, Tom, who will be staying on as a chief medical resident, is now considering a future in international medicine.





Tom Cassidy, D.O

Niyutchai "Tone" Chaithongdi, M.D.

## GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POSTGRADUATE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The following physicians will join the Bassett house staff during the 2009-2010 academic year:

#### **GENERAL SURGERY**

Joan Delto, M.D., University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine; Andrew Griffiths, M.D., Loma Linda University School of Medicine; Lisa Hamilton, M.D., University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health;

Olivier Urayeneza, M.D., Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

#### **INTERNAL MEDICINE**

Madiha Alvi, M.B., B.S., Fatima Jinnah Medical College For Women, Pakistan;

Senthil Aruchamy, M.B., B.S., Psg Institute of Medical Sciences, India; Sirisak Chanprasert, M.D., Mahidol University, Siriraj Hospital, Thailand; Qi Chen, M.D., M.P.H., Peking Union Medical College, China; Shailaja Chikoti, M.B., B.S., Kakatiya Medical College, India; Daych Chongnarungsin, M.D, Mahidol University, Siriraj Hospital,

#### Thailand;

Teeranun Jirajariyavej, M.D., Mahidol University, Siriraj Hospital, Thailand; Mather Jogendra, M.B., Ch.B., University College Galway, Ireland; Gitanjali Patel, M.D., Saint George's University; Sareem Wani, M.B., B.S., Government Medical College Srinagar, India.

#### **TRANSITIONAL YEAR**

Arkaprava Deb, M.D., New York University School of Medicine; Weili Deng, M.D., University of Connecticut School of Medicine; Aaron Eisenberg, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Bridget Grant, M.D., Albany Medical College; Mohini Gurme, M.D., SUNY Syracuse College of Medicine; Larson Hsu, M.D., SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine; Ichiro Ikuta, M.D., SUNY Syracuse College of Medicine; Brian McElhinney, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine;

Brandon Miller, M.D., UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School.

### SURGERY RESIDENCY EXPANDS

Bassett's Department of Surgery has received approval for an expansion of the General Surgery Residency Training Program from the Residency Review Committee for Surgery, a division of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

The General Surgery Residency at Bassett has a rich history, extending well over 50 years, and since 1974 it has finished two chief residents per year. Beginning in 2009, the program will expand to three residents per year, with further expansion to be phased in over the next four years, eventually graduating three chief surgical residents from the program.

In a prepared statement, Program Director Dr. David Borgstrom offered these comments: "We are pleased that the RRC for surgery has recognized our institution and program growth and our commitment to surgery education. And we are pleased that Bassett continues to show its support for education and its support for our program growth."

# **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

The following positions are available for physicians at Bassett Healthcare. Positions are at the Cooperstown campus, unless otherwise listed. There are also openings for physician extender and administrative positions. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Sharon Butts, Medical Staff Affairs, at (607) 547-6982 or sharon.butts@bassett.org.

Anesthesiologist **Ophthalmologist** Cardiologist, General **Emergency Medicine** Orthopaedic / Joint Gastroenterologist General Surgeon Hospitalist - Cooperstown Hospitalist - Hamilton Internal Medicine / Herkimer Internal Medicine / Oneonta Internal Medicine / Prime Care

OB / GYN Physician

Orthopaedic / Hand Surgeon

Reconstruction Pediatrician (Herkimer) Pediatrician, General Physiatrist - Interventional Psychiatrist - one child &

one adult Radiation Oncologist

Radiologist

### THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

# Again, thanks to those who have sent the following news. Keep your notes and photos coming!

#### 1940s

David C.Thurber, M.D., (Assistant in Medicine 1944-45) comments from his home in Fairport, N.Y., that "I was fortunate to serve under Dr. George MacKenzie in the '40s at Bassett." Thanks for reminding us of our distinguished roots, Dr. Thurber.

#### 1960s

Bruce L. McClennan, M.D., (Rotating Intern 1967-68) is a recipient of the ARRS Gold Medal, the American Roentgen Ray Society's highest honor awarded to recipients for distinguished service to radiology.

#### 1970s



Anthony and Jenny Cabot

Anthony Cabot, M.D., (Assistant Resident in Surgery 1973-74) writes, "My daughter, Jennifer Cabot, is graduating from The Columbia University College of P&S in the Class of 2009. She will be

starting a residency in General Surgery. Her professional goals are to do a fellowship in Surgical Oncology or Hepato-biliary Surgery. I did my first year of General Surgery Residency at The Bassett under Drs. Olson and Carter, on the way to Orthopaedics at NYOH. Surgery seems to run in this family! The photograph is of Jenny and me taken at the 'White Coat Ceremony' when she began medical school. My wife, Betsy, and I are very proud of her and her hard work." Dr. Cabot adds, "For 31 years, I have had a wonderful practice in general orthopaedics in the Atlanta suburbs. It is a solo practice, in which I enjoy the help of my wife, Nurse Betsy (graduate of Columbia School of Nursing), in surgery. We spend weekends at our lake house and love to sail. Photography, both black and white and color, remains a strong passion, and we recently returned from an African safari. which was great. I remember my days at Bassett being filled with fun and learning, and they influenced me greatly."

Gary Hoffman, M.D., (Bassett's second rheumatologist, who joined Walt Franck in 1976) has made some changes in the past year. He stepped down from the chairmanship of the Cleveland Clinic's Department of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases to establish a new role, building a unit to stage and promote staff volunteerism. The latter has included community outreach such as expanding physician and scientist involvement in the local school systems (emphasis on mentoring inner-city youth), free clinics, disaster relief and international medical brigades. The next year will also focus on establishing multi-center consortia devoted to sustaining care through multiple medical brigades working together in one locale for the underserved in Central America. Other institutions that include a cadre of physician staff, managers and trainees and wish to participate can contact him at the Cleveland Clinic, hoffmag@ccf.org.

#### 1980s

Kenneth Arthur, M.D., (Surgery Resident 1983-87) writes that "I am in private group practice as a plastic surgeon with Plastic Surgery Associates of Lancaster and have been with the practice since fine.

ing in Lexington, Ky., and a hand/microsurgery fellowship in Birmingham, Ala., (18 years now!). Our practice is a mix of reconstructive and cosmetic plastic surgery. I am also currently serving as chairman of the Department of Surgery at Lancaster General Hospital.... My wife, Jennifer, remains a stay-at-home mom, with our youngest, Vickie, entering her junior year of high school this fall. Our oldest, Ken, is now 24 and recently finished his master's in computer science at UCLA and is looking for a job in computer gaming. Jessica, our older daughter, is 21 and will be a senior at York College in the RN/BSN program and hopes to become a nurse midwife in the future. She has a daughter, Morgan, who will be 5 in August and will start kindergarten in the fall, so I'm a grandparent, also. We enjoy living in Lancaster, Pa., as it's a very nice area and close to family. Fellow Bassett alum Matt Bacharach (Surgery Resident 1981-86) is also in practice here. Hope things are going well in Cooperstown, and I hope to get back at some point and see the various changes in the hospital,

#### 1990s

Damon R. Korb, M.D., (Attending Pediatrician Bassett Healthcare-Oneonta 1997-98) sends word that he founded and directs the Center for Developing Minds in Los Gatos, Calif. The CDM is a multidisciplinary program that provides care for children and young adults who struggle at home and school due to developmental variations. He and his wife, Amy, have five children.

Paul M. Willis, M.D., (Surgery Resident, incl. Chief Resident, 1994-2000) submits this photo of the Willis family taken on the shore of Otsego Lake at last October's Family Reunion. They live in Harrison City, Pa., where Paul has his surgery practice (Catalane and Willis Surgical Associates) in nearby McKees Rocks. It was great to have you back, Paul!



The Willis family

# with the practice since fin- changed ishing plastic surgery train- etc."

BASSETT USING DAVINCE SYSTEM

Bassett is now offering robotic-assisted surgery to remove the prostate, one of the most innovative treatments available for prostate cancer. Bassett is the first hospital between Albany and Syracuse to offer this minimally invasive, high-tech treatment.

Dr. Carlos Bermejo performed the first prostate cancer operation at Bassett using the da Vinci Surgical System, last fall. "Robot is a misnomer, because there are no independent motions initiated by the instrument. All the motions are translations of the surgeon's movements, and we're able, through this robotic-assisted technology, to eliminate tremors and complete very delicate hand movements at an even more precise level."

Chief of Surgery Steven Heneghan, M.D., said benefits of the robotic-assisted technique include faster recovery, less pain, less scarring and better outcomes. The size of the surgical incision is smaller, so there is also less risk of infection.

In addition to prostatectomies, surgeons at Bassett will be using robotic-assisted surgery in the treatment of certain gynecologic cancers, head and neck cancers, rectal cancers, and eventually for cardiac valve and bypass cases and some general surgical procedures.

### IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

(Please forward to us information about former Bassett physicians who have passed on.)

#### ROBERT H. EDDY, M.D.

Dr. Robert Eddy, 84, of Camden, Maine, died following a short illness on March 16, 2009. Born Sept. 11, 1924, in Evanston, Ill., he moved with his parents and brother to Bangor in 1933. There he met his future wife, Mary Spangler, in the third grade. Dr. Eddy attended the University of Maine for one year (1943) before being called to serve in the U.S Army during World War II. He served three years in the Philippines as a first lieutenant and was wounded in combat, for which he received the Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart. After the war, he returned to the University of Maine and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1949. He married Mary, in 1948, a wonderful marriage that spanned 60 years. Dr. Eddy went on to study medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1953, followed by internship and residency in Medicine at Bassett (1953-57). John Davis recalls that Bob was an awe-inspiring Chief Resident: "You knew you had to do it right...." He then moved with his family to



Dr. Eddy

Camden in 1957 to practice internal medicine at Knox County
General Hospital. He became committed to and influential in the founding of Penobscot Bay Medical Center, where he practiced until his retirement in 1987.

Dr. Eddy loved Midcoast Maine and in retirement took advantage of all it has to offer. From skiing at the Camden Snow Bowl to walking downtown checking on the activity at the harbor, he was seen as an integral member of the community. He was a sailor at heart who loved cruising the Maine coast on his sloop, Panacea II, with his wife, Mary. He was a longtime member of the Camden Yacht Club, serving as commodore. Lured to a "harbor

check" every day, he spent countless hours observing the weather and harbor activities. His life was oriented to his family and to the Maine coast but reached well beyond through his fascination with history and extensive world travel. In retirement, Dr. Eddy gave back to the community he loved by working on many hospital-related affairs, attending clinical conferences and working with Habitat for Humanity.

He is survived by his wife, Mary S. Eddy; five children, Jonathan Eddy and his wife, Gail Butterfield, of Williston, Vt., Christine Thompson and her husband, Jonathan Cohen, of Winchester, Mass., Robert Eddy Jr. and his wife, Patricia, of Camden, Thomas Eddy of Appleton and William Eddy of Warren; along with eight grandchildren, Lisa Thompson, Robert Thompson, Nicholas Eddy, Heather Eddy, Alanna Eddy, Tanya Eddy, Molly Eddy and Grace Eddy.



The 1956-57 Bassett House Staff. In the front row left to right are Chief Residents Bob Eddy (Medicine), John Hegeman (Surgery) and Doug Barns (Ob/Gyn). Second row: Don Pollock, John Olson, Bill Chastain, John Davis, Paul Scharff, David Blumenstock. Third Row: Chuck Greenblatt, Tom Clendenin, Brad Brownlow, Reese Wakeman, Russ Lane, Chuck Hopper. Not in photo Rod Carter, Jim Hastings.

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