

Economic Development & Innovation Review

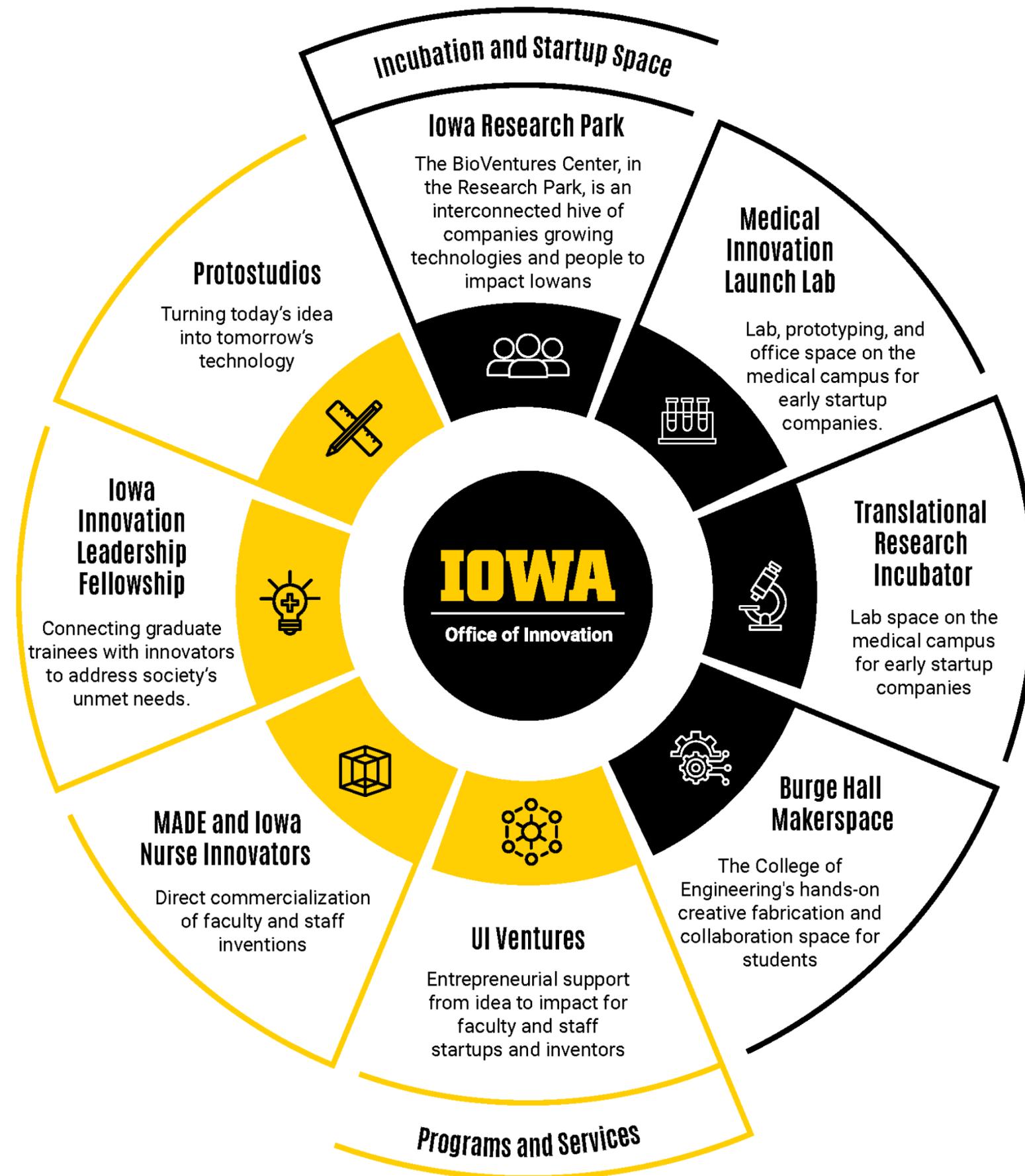
Jon Darsee

Chief Innovation Officer & President, UI Research Park Corporation

March 2, 2026

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Tools, Resources, and Talent to bring inventions to life





Courtney Smith
Inventor, OR Cord Clip
Staff Nurse, Main Operating Room,
University of Iowa Health Care



Michal Brzus
Founder and CEO, NeuroPred
Postdoctoral Research Scholar, University of Iowa

Why Space is Important:

The impact of the Translational Research Incubator was immediate



CCOM donated lab space for startups in 2018:

The first steps toward commercialization...

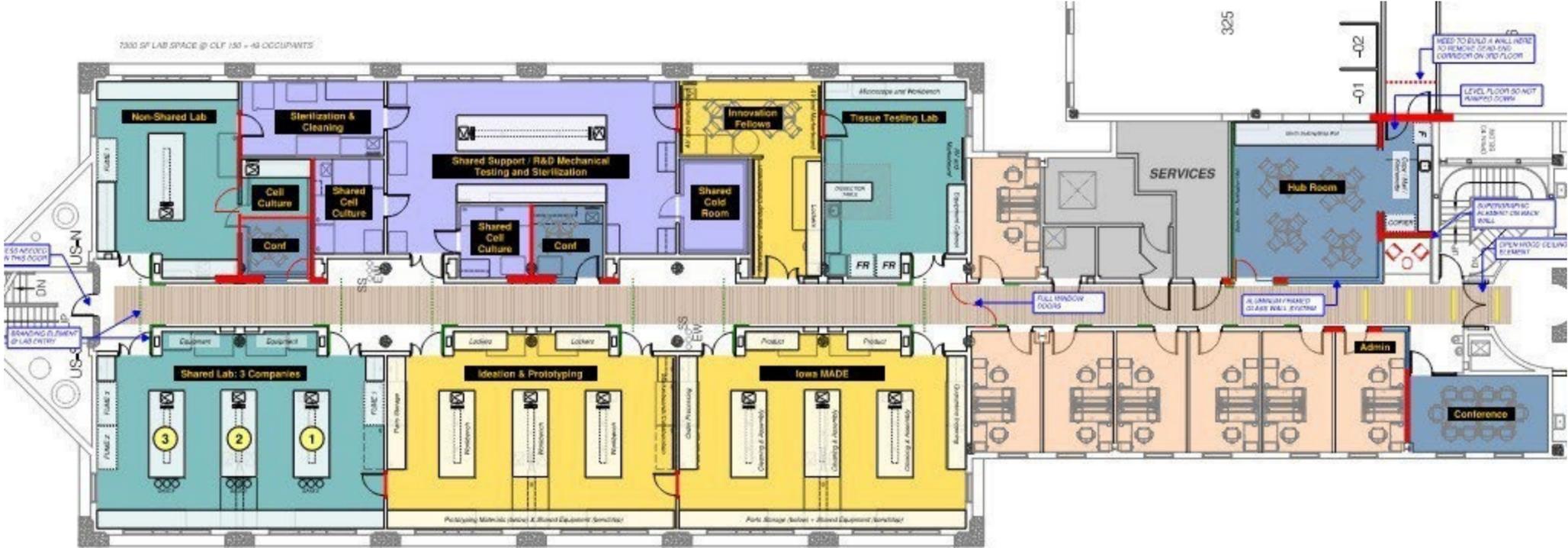
- 13 companies since FY18
- \$342K GAP funding
- \$13M in SBIR
- \$130M Equity raised



Driving Biosciences Impact in Iowa:

Success of the TRI led to funding for the Medical Innovation Launch Laboratory (MILL)

Translating medical innovation from bench to bedside



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UI Ventures

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Iowa Nurse Innovators

protostudios **MADIE**

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Innovation leadership fellows

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Office of Innovation

Assembling a world class medical industry advisory board: Growing Talent, Capital and Culture

Majority built & successfully exited Medtech companies

Blending life sciences superstars with university leadership to strengthen our innovation ecosystem

Mark Day, PhD, MBA
iRhythm Technologies
Retired Chief Technology Officer and Executive Vice President of R&D

Paulo Simas
Kadiko
Managing Partner & serial entrepreneur

Carl Stamp, BS/BME
C M Stamp Consulting, LLC
Principal and CEO former Medtronic exec

Jon Lensing, MD
OpenLoop
CEO and Co-Founder

Mark Kaufman, MS
Athletico
Founder and Executive Chairman

Leslie Williams, MBA, BSN
BioTech Industry
Former Founder and CEO of ImmusanT and HC Bioscience

William Starling, MBA
Synergy Life Science Partners
Former Co-Founder and Managing Director, Synergy Life Science Partners

Debi Durham, BS
Iowa Economic Development Authority and Iowa Finance Authority
Director

Robin Therme
CEO
CIVCO

Judy Lenane, RN, MHA, BSN
NeuroInsights, Inc., and Digital HealthTech Consulting, LLC
CEO & cofounder

Art Krieg, MD
Zola Therapeutics
Founder

Matthew Garrett, MBA
MLG Consulting LLC
Former CFO of iRhythm and Imperative Care

Konna Zoga, PhD
Field Medical
Development Engineer, UI Innovation Fellow Alum

Steven Mickelsen, MD
Field Medical
CEO, Field Medical and formerly founder of Farapulse (acquired by Boston Scientific)

Susan Wood
President and CEO
VIDA Diagnostics Inc.

Drew Oetting, BS
SVC
Founding Partner

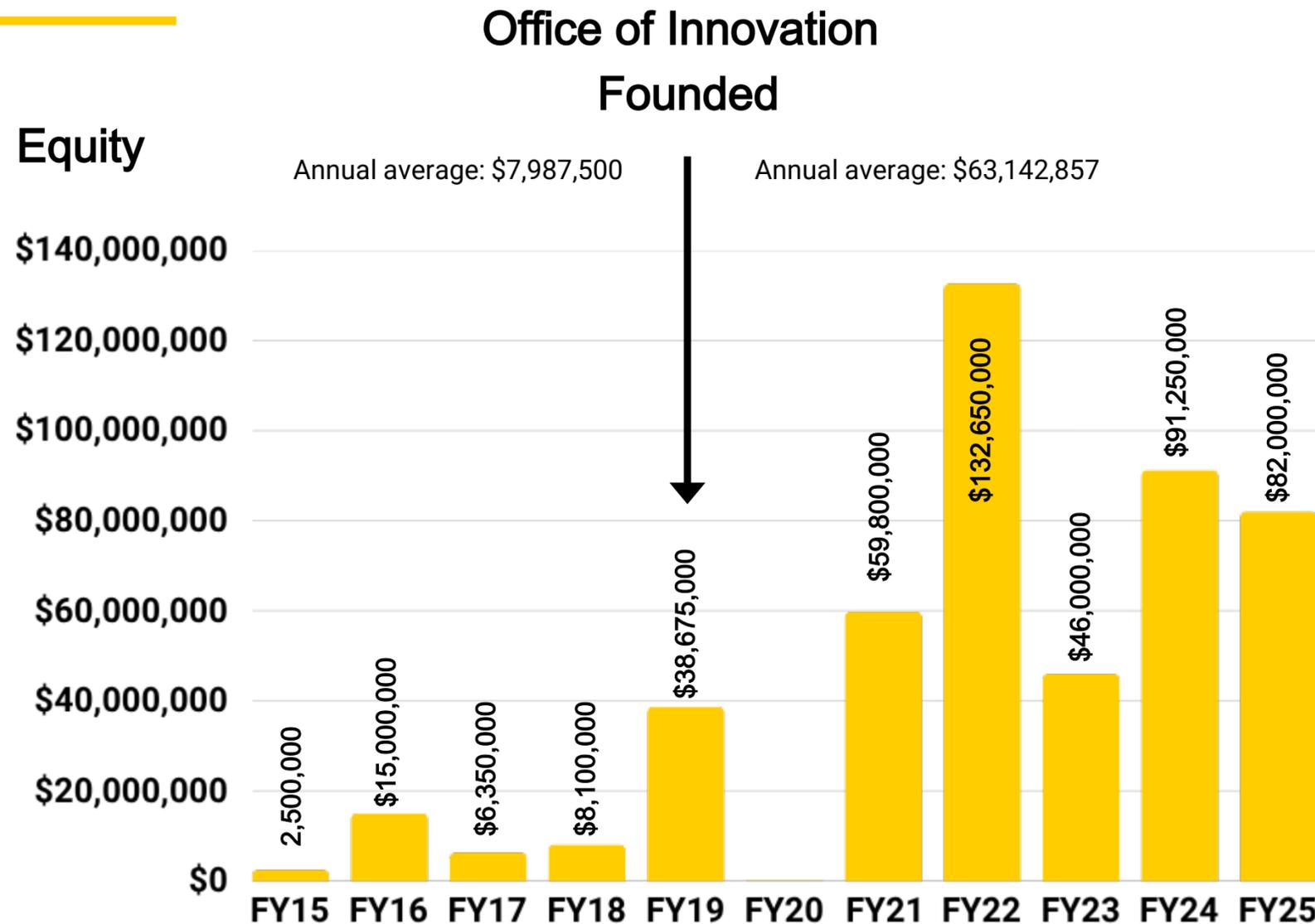
Michael Mirro, MD
Parkview Health
CRO and Founder of the Mirro Center of Research and Innovation at Parkview Health.

University Leadership Board Members	
Aliasger Salem, PhD	Liz Tovar, PhD
Ann McKenna, PhD	Matthew Howard, MD
Emily Ward, DNP, RN, MBA, NEA-BC, CCRN-K	Marlow Hicks, MS
Jill Kolesar, PharmD	Patricia Winokur, MD
Kevin Kregel, PhD	Sheila Baldwin, BBA

State of Iowa funding has generated a remarkable return on investment:

Startup funding has grown significantly

Growth since the Iowa Legislature allocated biosciences appropriations...



Prior to FY19: \$1 allocated generated \$7 in equity funding

Post FY19: \$1 allocated has generated \$34 in equity funding

We are on a roll!

Examples of UI startups impacting the health of Americans

Visionary entrepreneurs addressing unmet needs in healthcare



Michael Abramoff, MD, PhD

- First FDA cleared autonomous AI diagnostic
- Major improvement in diabetes management
- Impact greatest for rural populations

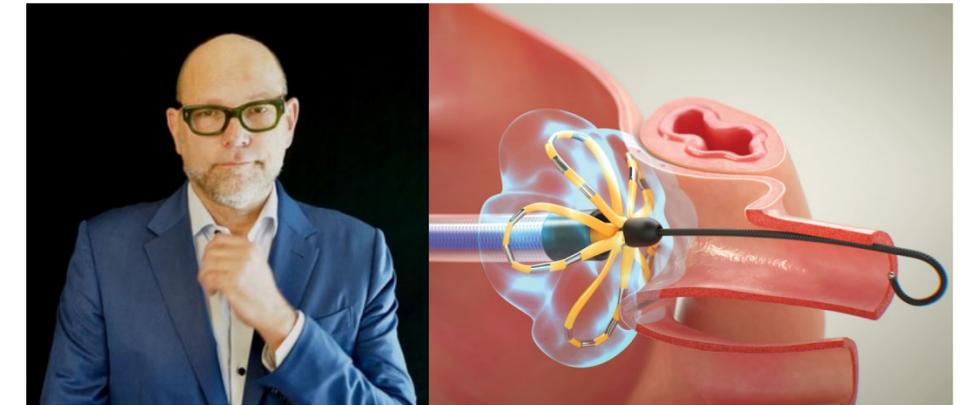
Diabetes



Jon Lensing, MD

- Crossed ~\$1 Billion in revenue in <6 years
- Time Magazine Top 100 Healthcare Companies
- 110 employees at Des Moines headquarters

Telehealth



Steven Mickelsen, MD

- Transformed Atrial Fibrillation surgery
- Did >\$1B in revenues in first year
- Mickelsen's new startup just raised \$75M

Heart Disease

The Office of Innovation is dedicated
to empowering people striving to
create solutions to help humankind.

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