Greetings from the Co-Directors

Over the past year, CBSSM has experienced some exciting changes. Scott Kim stepped down from the Co-Directorship of CBSSM to take on a new position as Senior Investigator in the Department of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health. While we were very sad to see Scott leave the University and CBSSM, we are delighted to announce that Raymond De Vries will be joining Angie as the new Co-Director of the Center. Ray is a Professor in the UM Departments of Medical Education, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Sociology, as well as a visiting professor at Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He is particularly interested in the regulation of science; clinical trials of genetic therapies and deep brain stimulation; international research ethics; and the social, ethical, and policy issues associated with maternity care.

CBSSM continues to attract scholars from across departmental and disciplinary boundaries. In this newsletter, we spotlight Christian Vercler, MD and his work related to bioethical issues in plastic surgery (page 4). We also welcome Fraukje Mevissen, PhD, our visiting scholar from Maastricht University (page 3). Andrew Shuman, MD joined the University and CBSSM in February and we will profile him in a future newsletter.

The training of future researchers is a core goal of CBSSM. Current post-doctoral fellows Aisha Langford, Janet Childerhose, Erica Sutton (pgs 2-3) and Michele Gornick contribute to ongoing CBSSM research projects and are establishing their own research agendas.

CBSSM continues to promote policy discussions and public outreach activities by sponsoring various events, such as the Bishop Lecture in Bioethics, the CBSSM Research Colloquium, and our bimonthly Seminar series (page 6-9). We are especially pleased with our expanding role in providing ethics learning opportunities for medical students through the Medical School’s Pathways of Excellence (pg 5).

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New Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Aisha Langford, PhD

Aisha came to CBSSM to expand her research skill set, particularly in the areas of decision making, health communications, and qualitative research. Her prior work focused on cancer prevention interventions and clinical trial education programs. Her CBSSM mentor is Angela Fagerlin. They are currently looking at the role of health literacy, education, and numeracy on prostate cancer treatment decisions. She is also working with Sarah Hawley on a paper about a clinical trial decision tool for cancer patients. Lastly, she is also working on a new VA study to assess how doctors communicate with veterans about preventive health behaviors.

Her research interests include chronic disease prevention, medical decision-making, clinical trial enrollment, and the role of health communications on reducing health inequities and medical errors. She received her PhD from the UM School of Public Health in Health Behavior and Health Education. She also directed the UM Comprehensive Cancer Center’s Community Outreach Program. She earned her MPH in Behavioral Science and Epidemiology from Saint Louis University School of Public Health.

Aisha enjoys public speaking, freelance writing for magazines, trying new restaurants, and reading. She also loves New York City and tries to find excuses to go whenever she can. Her two Shih Tzu dogs also keep her busy.

Janet Childerhose, PhD

Janet came to CBSSM to pursue training in web-based survey design and analysis, and to conduct mixed-methods research on the medicalization of children, as the next steps in her professional development. She obtained her PhD in anthropology from McGill University in 2010. She is a medical anthropologist with graduate training in the history and philosophy of science and technology. Prior to arriving at CBSSM, she worked as a Research Associate in the Nursing Research Department of the RI-MUHC in Montreal (2009-2013), where she taught senior medical students and clinical nurse practitioners, and was a member of the Medical Admissions Board of McGill University. Her primary mentor is Dr. Beth Tarini, a primary care pediatrician with appointments at CBSSM and the Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit. Janet’s developing research focus is the ethical dimensions of performing bariatric surgery on obese children and adolescents under 18 years of age.

With Dr. Scott Roberts, her secondary mentor, she is participating in working groups of the Clinical Sequencing Exploratory Research Consortium. She is also a Co-Investigator on a 5-year prospective cohort study funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that examines the psychological and behavioral responses of children following PICU hospitalization in four cities. Other research interests include the migration of diagnostic technologies and practices from the clinic to the home. Janet enjoys swimming, kayaking, sailing, and flying (anywhere).
New Postdoctoral Research Fellows (cont.)

Erica Sutton, PhD

Erica came to CBSSM to develop a program of research that explores how individuals living with rare genetic conditions experience the healthcare they receive. She will focus on the way biotechnologies shape healthcare experiences and decision-making as well as the ethical implications of these technologies for individuals, communities, health policy and practice. Erica is a social scientist with graduate training in the sociology of health and illness, bioethics and public health ethics, qualitative research methods, and new reproductive technologies. In 2013 she earned her PhD in public health from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto.

Erica is currently collaborating with Ray De Vries, Scott Roberts, and Brian Zikmund-Fisher on the MI-OncoSeq project examining ethical issues related to clinical genome sequencing in patients with rare cancers. She is involved in conducting an ethnographic observation of the organizational structure of precision medicine tumor board meetings and implementing a deliberative democracy initiative to explore whether and how patients wish to learn about incidental findings identified through such sequencing. Erica is also working with David Sandberg on a mixed methods analysis of parental and healthcare provider decision-making regarding irreversible genital surgery for children born with disorders of sex development. In her spare time, Erica enjoys playing the fiddle, cross-country skiing, travelling, and spending time with family and friends.

CBSSM Visiting Scholar Fraukje Mevissen, PhD

Fraukje Mevissen is an Assistant Professor in Applied Psychology at Maastricht University, Dept. of Work and Social Psychology (W&SP). For her PhD, she studied risk communication and risk perception regarding sexually transmitted infections among young adults at the department of Health Education and Promotion (Maastricht University). She then continued as a postdoc researcher at the W&SP department, focusing on development and evaluation of behavioral/health interventions.

Her goals for her visit to UM are to further develop her expertise in experimental studies on health/risk communication and decision making. She would like to use the opportunity of visiting our research group to acquire new experience in working in a different research group and to collaborate with some of our researchers on some (ongoing or new) studies and to work together on a grant proposal related to health/risk communication.
Spotlight on Ethics: Christian Vercler, MD

Christian Vercler is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatric Plastic Surgery at the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. He is currently working to develop a curriculum to train plastic surgery residents in ethics and professionalism as part of a joint committee of American Council of Academic Plastic Surgeons, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. His paper “Teaching Ethics and Professionalism in Plastic Surgery: A Systematic Review” will be published in *Annals of Plastic Surgery* this summer. This paper was written with Catherine de Blacam of the Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons. In contrast to U.S. training programs, the Irish training program has well-integrated “Human Factors” curriculum that explicitly teaches ethics and professionalism to its trainees. Dr. Vercler was invited to speak on “Ethics in Plastic Surgery” at the Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons meeting in May 2013. He was also recently appointed to the ethics committee of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons.

He has an interest in teaching ethics and was appointed as part of the core faculty of the new Pathways of Excellence in Ethics at the University of Michigan Medical School. He also regularly presents and discusses cases at the quarterly Otolaryngology Ethics Grand Rounds.

Christian recently submitted his manuscript “Discussing Harm-Causing Errors with Patients: A Primer for Plastic Surgeons” for publication. This paper gives a comprehensive ethical rationale for disclosing medical errors with patients and reviews the Michigan model of disclosure and apology for medical errors, introducing these concepts to the plastic surgery literature.

Over the next year he will be soliciting papers for the *Journal of Narrative Bioethics* as he edits an issue on how surgeons learn to grieve the loss of their patients and learn to deal with the inevitable failure of living up to the idealized perception of self as invincible healer.

As the University of Michigan is moving closer to performing its first hand transplant and establishing a face transplant program, Christian is working with a multidisciplinary group to evaluate the ethical issues involved. Specifically, he is investigating the impact on organ donation in Michigan now that vascularized composite allotransplants are considered organs by organ procurement organizations. The specter is that the fear that “someone may take my face if I sign my organ donor card” could potentially decrease the already small pool of organ donors.

In basic science, he recently submitted an R03 grant entitled “Optimization of Fracture Healing in the Aged Irradiated Mandible” working with his mentor Steven Buchman’s model of distraction osteogenesis in a rat model.
Medical Ethics Pathway of Excellence

CBSSM’s curriculum efforts focus on extending the existing medical ethics curriculum for undergraduate medical students at UM and on making the medical ethics curriculum more systematic and explicit, ideally increasing excitement for ethics among medical students. One of our education initiatives is the Medical Ethics Pathway of Excellence, which represents an opportunity for students to receive mentored training in ethics during medical school.

The Medical Ethics Pathway of Excellence is a co-curricular activity that students can apply to complete over the course of four years of medical school. Approximately 10 students will be accepted in March 2014. Students participate in lunch discussion/didactic sessions, small group activities, the ethics committee and consultation services, and an independent project focused in the area of medical ethics. This is the second Path of Excellence, the first being the Global Health and Disparities Path that started 2 years ago. So far this year, the Path has sponsored 10 ethics lunches/discussion sessions with all M1 and M2 students invited to participate. The faculty that have presented include Adam Marks, Lisa Harris, Christian Vercler, Raymond De Vries, Lauren Smith, Michael Volk, Randy Sung, Sacha Montas, Elias Baumgarten, Naomi Laventhal, and Ed Goldman. In February, we will have lunch sessions led by Beth Tarini, Andy Shuman, Robert Silbergleit, and Andrew Barnosky.

We also continue to facilitate monthly ethics-focused Ob/gyn, Emergency Medicine, and Internal Medicine Sub-Internship sessions with M3 and M4 students.

Lauren Smith is the Director of the Path of Excellence and Raymond De Vries, Andrew Barnosky, and Christian Vercler are core faculty members.

PIHCD Working Group

Working group meetings provide an opportunity for investigators to receive feedback on research proposals, drafts of papers, grant applications, or any other aspects of projects at any stage of development.

In order to better serve our faculty needs, we have decided to merge the Bioethics Working Group (BWG) with the Program in Health Communication and Decision Making (PICHD) Working Group. Both working groups have similar goals and many of the project presented at these working groups touch both on bioethics and health communication and decision making.

PIHCD meets on Wednesdays, alternating between 9 am and 3 pm.

To be added to the PIHCD email list, contact Nicole Exe at nexe@umich.edu OR join the email list through the CBSSM website: http://cbssm.med.umich.edu
2013 CBSSM Event Highlights

2013 Research Colloquium and Bishop Lecture
The 2013 CBSSM Research Colloquium was held last April in the Founders Room in the Alumni Center.

The Bishop Lecture in Bioethics served as the keynote address for the Colloquium. The Bishop Lecture featured speaker Dr. Ruth Macklin, Professor of Epidemiology & Population Health and Dr. Shoshanah Trachtenberg Frackman Faculty Scholar in Biomedical Ethics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Macklin presented the Bishop Lecture with a talk entitled, “Global Gender Justice: Violence against women; whose responsibility?”

The colloquium included three session related to Gender and Justice, Public Perspectives on Biobanks, and Issues in Health Communication. The colloquium presenters and their topics were as follows:

- Mieko Yoshihama, PhD, ACSW, LMSW: PhotoVoice: Promoting individual wellbeing and improving disaster response policies in Japan and beyond
- Carol Jacobsen, MFA: Representing torture of women in custody in the U.S.
- Michele C. Gornick, PhD: Do non-welfare interests play a role in willingness to donate to biobanks?
- C. Daniel Myers, PhD, Daniel B. Thiel, MA: Which research? Public engagement and opinions about the research use of biobank samples
- Andrea C. Sexton, BA: Citizen recommendations for communication about biobank participation and consent: Considering source, message, channel, receiver, and timing
- Monica Marvin, MS: Comparing male and female BRCA mutation carriers’ communication of their BRCA test results to family members
- Allyce Smith, MSW: A Gift for All: Everyone has something to give - Approaching dialysis patients about donating their organs
- Danielle Czarnecki, PhD Candidate: Putting patient-physician communication in context: An empirical analysis of sequential organization and communication transitions during visits for new diagnoses of early stage prostate cancer.

Charles Bosk, PhD Talk
March 13, 2013
Sponsored by CBSSM and the UM Department of Sociology, Charles Bosk, PhD, Professor of Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Perelman School of Medicine, & Senior Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania gave a talk entitled, “Medicine in the Radiant City.” His talk focused on the failure of evidence-based guidelines and clinical epidemiology to achieve the improvements in outcomes its advocates have promised.

Derrick Darby, PhD Talk
April 23, 2013
Derrick Darby, PhD, Professor of Philosophy and Law at the University of Kansas gave a talk entitled, “The As If Challenge to Racial Medicine.” His talk focused on why philosophers and researchers may be troubled by race-targeted genetic research and medicine and led a lively discussion of whether there should be concern.
2013 CBSSM Event Highlights (cont.)

What does the Supreme Court ruling on gene patents mean for public health?
CBSSM Panel Discussion
October 3, 2013

Rebecca Eisenberg, JD, Robert and Barbara Luciano Professor of Law; Sofia Merajver, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Internal Medicine; and Shobita Parthasarathy, PhD, Associate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy were panel presenters for this interesting and informative discussion about the recent gene patent case (AMP et al. v. Myriad), in which the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that human genes cannot be patented. The panel was moderated by Edward Goldman, JD, Associate Professor, UM Department of ObGyn Women’s Hospital and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Health Management and Policy.

Karen Sepucha, PhD Talk
November 7, 2013
Sponsored by CBSSM and the Decision Consortium, Karen Sepucha, PhD, Director of the Health Decision Sciences Center in Massachusetts General Hospital and Assistant Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School gave a talk entitled, “Measuring Decision Quality for Common Medical Decisions: Advances and Challenges.” Her talk highlighted some of the key issues and constructs related to the measurement of shared decision making and decision quality.

Dr. Iris Kesternich Talk
October 10, 2013
Dr. Iris Kesternich, Assistant Professor at the Seminar for Comparative Economics, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München gave a talk entitled, “Homo Hippocraticus or Homo Economics: On Physician Agency, Distributional Preferences and Professional Norms.” Her talk focused on aspects of physician agency related to distributional benefits and medical ethics.

CBSSM Representation at Conferences

CBSSM investigators were well represented at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society of Medical Decision Making (SMDM) in Baltimore, MD, October 19-23, 2013. Here are a few highlights:


Scherer LD and Fagerlin A. Cancer Screening Decisions: The Impact Of The Affect Heuristic In Interpretation Of Test Risks And Benefits. Presentation.


CBSSM investigators were also represented at the 15th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) in Atlanta, GA, October 24-27, 2013. Here are a few highlights:


Upcoming CBSSM Events 2014

2014 CBSSM Research Colloquium and Bishop Lecture, May 15, 2014

The Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine (CBSSM) Research Colloquium will be held Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Vandenberg Meeting Hall (2nd floor), The Michigan League, 911 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

The CBSSM Research Colloquium will feature the Bishop Lecture in Bioethics as the keynote address. This year CBSSM is delighted to announce that Myra Christopher will present the Bishop Lecture with a talk entitled: "The Moral Imperative to Transform the Way Pain is Perceived, Judged and Treated"

Myra Christopher holds the Kathleen M. Foley Chair in Pain and Palliative Care at the Center for Practical Bioethics. Prior to December 2011, Ms. Christopher was President and CEO of the Center for Practical Bioethics since its inception in 1984.

The Bishop Lecture will be jointly presented by CBSSM and the Bishop Lectureship in Bioethics fund.

Abstract submissions for the CBSSM Research Colloquium are welcome from all disciplines. Abstracts should be submitted on the Abstract Submission form. To receive this form or to submit an abstract via email to Kerry Ryan, kryanz@med.umich.edu.

Deadline for abstract submission is Friday, April 11, 2014.

Winter/Spring Seminar Series 2014

Twice-monthly seminars are sponsored by CBSSM on a variety of topics. Seminars are generally scheduled on Wednesdays or Thursdays, at 3:00-4:00 pm.

See http://cbssm.med.umich.edu/news-events/events/cbssm-seminars for updates. You can be added to the CBSSM seminar list from the CBSSM website.

2014 seminar dates:

March 27 Andrew Shuman, MD
April 3 Tanner Caverly, MD, MPH
May 8 Douglas B. White, MD, MAS
May 21 Janet Childerhose, PhD

ACMG Panel Presentation featuring Robert C. Green, MD, MPH
April 21, 2014 (3-5 pm)

CBSSM will be co-sponsoring a panel session regarding the recent American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) guidelines for reporting incidental findings in clinical sequencing.

Keynote Speaker:

Robert Green, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Genetics at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School

Panel presenters:

Wendy Uhlmann, MS, CGC, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Human Genetics and Department of Internal Medicine, University of Michigan

Jeffrey Innis, MD, PhD, Morton S. and Henrietta K. Sellner Professor in Human Genetics and Director, Division of Pediatric Genetics, University of Michigan

The panel will be moderated by Sharon Kardia, PhD, Associate Professor, Public Health Genetics Program and the Life Sciences and Society Program, School of Public Health, University of Michigan

This event is co-sponsored by CBSSM and Life Sciences and Society, Department of Epidemiology.
CBSSM Faculty

CBSSM welcomes faculty involvement across the institution. Faculty affiliated with CBSSM come not only from the Medical School but also from the School of Public Health, the School of Public Policy, the Law School, the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, and the Institute for Social Research.

Selected 2013 Faculty Highlights

Beth Tarini and colleagues have received a great deal of press for their intriguing article in Pediatrics entitled, “Blindness in Walnut Grove: How Did Mary Ingalls Lose Her Sight?” Their article was reported in CNN, CBS News, New York Times, Annarbor.com and many other media outlets.

Michael Fetters, Jennifer Griggs, Lisa H. Harris, Masahito Jimbo and Michael Volk were listed as 2013 Best Doctors in America. The list is compiled every two years by Boston-based Best Doctors, Inc., and based on an in-depth survey of more than 46,000 physicians in 43 specialties and more than 400 subspecialties of medicine.

Beth Tarini was awarded the Benz Birth Defects Research Award for $20,000 to support her research project “Knowing Your Child’s Genome: Exploring Parents’ Decision-Making Process Regarding Genomic Sequencing of Children.”

Susan Goold and colleagues’ recent study, “Focus Groups Highlight That Many Patients Object To Clinicians’ Focusing On Costs” was highlighted in the New York Times Well blog and in the Washington Post.

A study by Laura Scherer, Beth Tarini, Brian Zikmund-Fisher, and Angie Fagerlin about the over-diagnosis of reflux in infants published in the journal Pediatrics was featured in Reuters, Yahoo News, MedPage Today, NPR, MSN Healthy Living, CBS News, and the Chicago Tribune, among others.

Jeff Kullgren’s study on group-based incentivized weight loss received a great deal of press coverage, appearing in Glamour, Reuters, the Boston Globe, US News & World Report, and Time magazine.

Lauren Smith, Robert Silbergleit, Sacha Montas and colleagues fielded a great team in 2013’s Big Ethical Question Slam. The Ethics slam is an annual community event hosted by A2Ethics.org.

Ken Langa was awarded the MICHR Distinguished Clinical and Translational Research Mentor Award.

Reshma Jagsi was promoted to Senior Editor, International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics.

Joel Howell was awarded the American College of Physicians Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award for Scholarly Activities in the Humanities and History of Medicine.

Susan Goold has been elected as the new chair of AMA’s Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. Kathryn Moseley has also been elected to the council.

Dr. Arul Chinnaian and his team were awarded 1 of 4 NIH research grants funded as part of the National Human Genome Research Institute’s Clinical Sequencing Exploratory Research (CSER) program to explore the use of genome sequencing in medical care. Several CBSSM-affiliated faculty are involved with this project, including Scott Kim, Scott Roberts, Raymond De Vries, Brian Zikmund-Fisher, as well as Post-Doctoral Research Fellows, Michele Gornick and Erica Sutton.

Jeff Kullgren won the 2013 Milton W. Hamolsky Junior Faculty Award, Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

Laura Scherer and Angie Fagerlin’s study finding that 1 in 5 women don’t believe a tailored breast cancer risk assessment was featured in CBS “Morning Rounds” and NPR Shots, among other outlets.

Sarah Hawley received considerable press coverage on her presentation, “Is Contralateral Prophylactic Mastectomy Overused?” The findings from her presentation were featured on the Today Show, US News & World Report, NCI Cancer Bulletin, MSN & HealthDay and U of M Health. Reshma Jagsi co-authored this study.

Darin Zahuranec was featured in MedPageToday for his study on intracerebral hemorrhages and how the condition may be both over- and under-treated.

Susan Goold presented to AMA House of Delegates on modernizing the Code of Medical Ethics.

Reshma Jagsi was listed as one of 2013 America’s Top Doctors from Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.


Scherer LD, Zikmund-Fisher BJ, Fagerlin A, Tarini BA. Influence of "Gerd" label on parents' decision to medi-
Recent Selected Faculty Publications (cont.)


New Grants in 2013

De Vries R and Tomlinson T (PIs) and Kim HM (Co-I). Public Preferences for Addressing Donors’ Moral Concerns about Biobank Research. Sponsor: NIH

Chinnaiyan A (PI, parent study), Roberts JS (PI, Project 3), Zikmund-Fisher B, DeVries R (Co-Is, Project 3). Exploring Precision Cancer Medicine for Sarcoma and Rare Cancers. Sponsor: NIH

Wright J. Non-Traditional Patient Characteristics and Attainment. Sponsor: NIH


Tentori F (PI), Wright J, and Fagerlin A (Co-Is). Selection of Peritoneal Dialysis or Hemodialysis for Kidney Failure: Gaining Meaningful Information for Patients and Caregivers. Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

Fagerlin A (PI) and Zikmund-Fisher (Co-I). Effective Communication in Outbreak Management: development of an evidence-based tool for Europe. Sponsor: Erasmus University Rotterdam, European Union

Sandberg D (PI), Tarini B, Goldman E, Keegan C, and Yashar B (Co-Is). Decision Support for Parents Receiving Genetic Information about Child’s Rare Disease. Sponsor: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute


Tarini B (PI). Intervention to Improve PCP-Parent Communication about CF NBS Results. Sponsor: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
CBSSM People

Staff News

Nicole Exe, Michele Gornick, Kerry Ryan & Andrea Fuhrel-Forbis fielded a team in the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor’s 2013 Amazing Race.

Nicole Exe was elected the Chair of the Genomics Forum of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

Knoll Larkin and his wife, Carrie Copeland, welcomed the birth of their son, Everett, on April 8, 2013.

Rochelle DeCastro was first author on two articles that came out in 2013 (see pg. 10).

Sandra Moing participated in the University of Detroit Mercy 24th Annual Midnight Bike Tour of Detroit.

New Ways to Connect...

You can also connect with CBSSM on Twitter, LinkedIn and on Facebook!

Student Staff at CBSSM

Pranavi Midathada (Navi) is a junior at U of M, majoring in International Studies with a Biological Anthropology minor. In her free time, she enjoys drawing and playing the ukulele.

Tolulope Olorode is a MSW/MUP (Master of Urban Planning) dual degree student at U of M. She is from Chicago and enjoys photography. She is working on the PCORI and DECIDERS studies.

Lalan Shah is a sophomore in the UROP program. He is working on the VBAC, Prostate Cancer Recurrence, and VA Overutilization studies. He is majoring in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience and is also pre-med. He is from Parkersburg, WV and enjoys playing tennis and piano.

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