

# SAPh Newsletter

Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program

College of Pharmacy University of Minnesota

Issue 2021

## Congratulations to 2021 Fellowship Recipients

### SAPh Alumni First Year: **Anu Bompelli, PharmD, MPH**

Created in 2016 to recognize a PhD student completing their first year of doctoral studies in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Program who exemplifies the qualities and aspirations of a representative of one of the various content areas in SAPh and to encourage their continued growth toward a career of excellence in their chosen content area.

### Wertheimer Leadership: **Sam Hsu, PharmD, MS**

Awarded to encourage and recognize leadership qualities and aspirations among PhD students in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program. Created in 2002.

### St. Peter & Leiner Family Outcomes Research: **Meena Murugappan, PharmD, MPH**

Awarded to encourage and recognize outcomes research among PhD students in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program. Created in 2013.



Pictured L to R: Dr. Joel Farley with Anu Bompelli, Sam Hsu, Meena Murugappan. Fellowship Awards were presented at SAPh Seminar Fall Kickoff September 2021.



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## Director of Graduate Studies Message

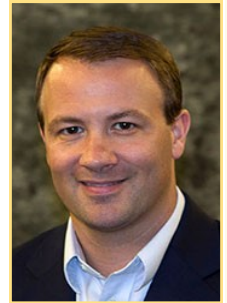
Greetings SAPh Colleagues:

As I think back on the SAPh program and the year that was 2021, one word comes to mind: resilience. In 2020, the pandemic disrupted the graduate program in ways that could never have been expected. Our students and faculty quickly pivoted to meet the challenges the pandemic threw at us. Everything from the way courses were taught, to the way we advised students and conducted research was adapted to accommodate a new virtual environment.

As we enter a new year, it is apparent that a full return to “normal” is still a ways off. Importantly, the changes that were made to accommodate a safe interactions between students and faculty also provided an opportunity to reflect on how we want our program to look moving into the future. Although the pandemic brought less in person interaction, the ease with which we can connect with colleagues far and wide expanded our program’s network. Our SAPh seminars took advantage of greater connectedness to bring in external speakers who would otherwise have to travel to Minnesota to share new ideas. Our student ISPOR group hosted a seminar with participants from several different countries which is something we never would have considered before the pandemic. Students and faculty presented at national and international conferences from the comfort of their own homes.

Throughout it all, the resilience of our students and faculty shined. Our students were recognized for excellence receiving numerous awards, fellowships, and other recognitions. Recent graduates took exciting new positions in academia, industry, and other health sectors. The foundation of our program is strong and the resilience shown by everyone associated with the SAPh program is a source of pride. I hope you enjoy reading about all of the accomplishments of our program as much as I enjoyed being a part of this journey over the past year.

Joel Farley, PhD (SAPh - 2006)  
Director of Graduate Studies



Joel Farley, PhD



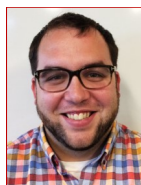
## Student News

### *Minnesota, Hats off to Thee!*

Commencement 2021 was held in person at Northrop Auditorium and virtually for MS, PhD, and PharmD Graduates.

SAPh graduate students **Kamla Ibrahim, BScPharm, MSc, PhD '20**; **Anthony Olson, PharmD, PhD '20**; and **Zachary Rivers, PharmD, PhD '21** attended the event held on Saturday, May 8, 2021

### 2021 Graduates' Final Defense Presentations



**Zachary Rivers, PharmD; Degree: PhD**

*Opportunities for an Impact of Personalization of Colorectal Cancer Treatment in the Medicare Population*

Advisor: David Stenehjem, PharmD



**Tien Vo, MS; Degree: PhD**

*Sleep Problems in Community-Dwelling Older Adults in the United States*

Advisor: Angie Carlson, PhD



**Arun Kumar, MS; Degree: PhD**

*Comparative Effectiveness and Safety of P2Y12 Inhibitors in the Secondary Prophylaxis of Acute Coronary Syndrome*

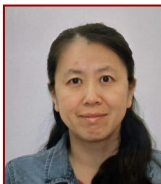
Advisor: Joel Farley, PhD



**Mahsa Salsabili, PharmD; Degree: PhD**

*Atrial Fibrillation Readmissions: Temporal Trends, Risk Factors and Data Driven Modeling*

Advisor: Terrence Adam, RPh, PhD, MD



**Julie Zhao, MPH; Degree: PhD**

*Use of Glucose-Lowering Medication in Patients with Chronic Kidney Diseases and Type 2 Diabetes*

Advisors: Angie Carlson, PhD; Wendy St. Peter, PharmD



**Jordan Mendkoff, PharmD, Degree: MS**

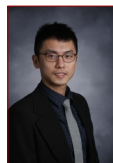
*Refinement of a High Dose Biologic Evaluation Program at a Health System Specialty Pharmacy*

Advisor: Susan Haight, PharmD, MS

## Student News

### Research Day 2021

#### Congratulations to the Poster Presentation Award Recipients!



Second Place is Shared By:

**Sam Hsu, PharmD, MS:**

*Replicating Real World Evidence - Comparing DPP-4 inhibitors and SGL T-2 inhibitors in Cardiovascular Outcomes as an Example*



**Meena Murugappan, PharmD, MPH:**

*Measuring Physical Functioning in Breast Cancer*

### Interdisciplinary Health Data Competition

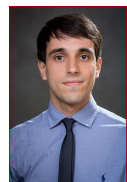
**Congratulations to Sam Hsu** and his team for placing 3rd out of 24 teams at the Carlson Medical Industry Leadership Institute *Racial Health Disparity in COVID-19 Case Fatality Rate*.

The 2nd annual U of M Interdisciplinary Health Data Competition asked teams to complete an exploratory analysis of COVID-19 related data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to assess health disparities and the community impact of COVID-19. A total of 94 graduate students registered to participate in the competition from 12 U of M colleges/schools making up 24 teams.



**Lisa Hillman, PharmD**, is exploring the medication experience of African American women living with or at high risk for chronic kidney disease: [A phenomenological investigation](#).

Her project was funded by the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2019-2020.



**Federico Facciolo, MS** published two articles as first author in 2021:

Facciolo, F., Siracuse, M. V., Galt, K. A., Fuji, K. T., & Bramble, J. D. (2021). Independent community pharmacies' provision of enhanced services: A mixed methods approach. *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association: JAPhA*, 61(6), 819–828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japh.2021.07.005>

Facciolo, F. & Farley, J. F. (2021). Minnesota Policy on Pharmacist-Prescribed Contraceptives: Benefits, Limitations, and Opportunities for Improvement. *Innovations in Pharmacy*, 12(3), 2. <https://doi.org/10.24926/iip.v12i3.3923> (The second article resulted from the final assignment of the SAPh course in pharmaceutical economics and policy) Federico also received a [Culture Corps](#) Presentation Award (\$150) for a guest lecture presentation delivered on Italian pharmacy, community pharmacy, and pharmaceutical industry for SOC 3446 Comparing Healthcare Systems at the College of Liberal Arts.

Facciolo, F. (2021, Nov. 2). *Introduction to Italian Pharmacy and the Roles of Community Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Industry* [In-Person Guest Lecture]. SOC 3446 Comparing Healthcare Systems, College of Liberal Arts & Culture Corps Program, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

# Student News



**Meena Murugappan, PharmD, MPH** began her two-year term (2021-2023) as Postgraduate Officer for APhA-APRS.

Past year accomplishments:

- Served as first author in a Journal of Attention Disorders (JAD): publication: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10870547211073472>
- Served as first author in a Cancer publication: <https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.33959>
- Served as first author in a Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI) publication: <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jnci/djab087/6261320>
- Published four peer-reviewed abstracts submitted to the following national conferences:
  1. ASCO - [https://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2021.39.15\\_suppl.e20017](https://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2021.39.15_suppl.e20017)
  2. ISOQOL - <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-021-02976-1>
  3. ISPOR - [https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/article/S1098-3015\(21\)00518-0/fulltext](https://www.valueinhealthjournal.com/article/S1098-3015(21)00518-0/fulltext)
  4. ICPE - [https://www.pharmacoepi.org/ISPE/assets/File/37ICPE/ICPE\\_21Program\\_Finalv1.pdf](https://www.pharmacoepi.org/ISPE/assets/File/37ICPE/ICPE_21Program_Finalv1.pdf)



**Arun Kumar, MS, PhD** received the student best paper award at ISPOR.

His presentation, *Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Pharmacogenetic Testing in Opioid Analgesia in Pediatric Population Undergoing Surgery*, has been named a **Top Student Research Presentation - Poster** for Virtual ISPOR 2021.



## Traineeships

**Yiyu (Gloria) Chen** (pictured L) was awarded a traineeship with **AbbVie** (2020-2021)

**Trang Dang** (pictured R) was awarded traineeship with **Hillrom** (2020-2021)



### Exposure to Non-Chemotherapy Medications With Pharmacogenomic Risk in Medicare Patients Newly Diagnosed With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

Zachary Rivers, PharmD, PhD (zrivers@fredhutch.org and @riverspharmd), University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Helen Parsons, MPH, PhD, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Karen Kuntz, ScD, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Pamela Jacobson, PharmD, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Joel Farley, PhD, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, David Stenehjem, PharmD, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

**Objective**

- Evaluate patterns of exposure to non-chemotherapy medications with known genetic risk of toxicities or treatment failure among patients treated with chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer

**Background**

- The American Society of Clinical Oncology and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recommend the use of multiple medications impacted by genetic variants to support patients with metastatic colorectal cancer, including antiemetics, antidepressants, and analgesics.
- The NCCN pain guideline is the only guideline to address genetic testing, suggesting it as an option for patients who are not responsive to opioids.
- Identifying frequency of exposure among genes and therapeutic classes, in combination with findings from chemotherapy analysis, highlights genes to be screened at diagnosis.

**Methods**

- The Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results cancer registry linked to Medicare claims data, SEER-Medicare, was the data source for this study.
- We identified cancer cases using registry data, while treatment was identified from inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy claims data.
- We applied inclusion and exclusion criteria based on data availability, coverage enrollment, and cancer type. We used a follow-up window of three months following the month of diagnosis.
- We identified medications with known genetic risk from the Clinical Pharmacogenetics Implementation Consortium guidelines, and characterized incident, prevalent, and total post-diagnosis exposure to these medications in the three months follow diagnosis. (Outcome Exposures)
- We examined characteristics associated with treatment with these medications using logistic regression models, using pre-treatment medication use and comorbidities as predictor variables.

**Disclosures and Funding**

- The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose
- This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, grants TL1R002493 and UL1TR002494. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

**Results**

- Outcome Exposure
- 2,223 patients met eligibility criteria
- 1,873 were treated with at least one medication with a known genetic risk after diagnosis
- 1,631 were treated with at least one new medication with a known genetic risk
- Predictors of Medication Exposure
- Prescription medication use increased the odds of incident exposure to antidepressant medications. (11+ prescriptions: OR 2.70, 95% CI 1.41-5.17, 7-10 prescriptions: OR 3.08, 95% CI 1.61-5.87, compared to 0-3 prescriptions)
- Comorbidities increased the odds of incident exposure to antidepressants, (Charlson score of one: 1.64, 1.05-2.59, compared to score of zero) and decreased the odds of incident pain medication exposure. (Charlson score of two or more: 0.77, 0.59-0.98, compared to zero)

**Conclusions**

- Most patients over the age of 65 with mCRC treated with chemotherapy receive multiple non-chemotherapy medications with a known genetic risk for toxicities or treatment failure
- Genetic testing at or around the time of diagnosis has a significant opportunity to identify patients at risk of these events, and provide them with appropriate alternatives

**Cohort**

Characteristic	n	%
Age at diagnosis		
< 65	1,112	50.0
65-74	1,111	50.0
≥ 75	0	0.0
Sex		
Male	1,112	50.0
Female	1,111	50.0
Race		
White	1,112	50.0
Black	1,111	50.0
Hispanic	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0
Insurance		
Medicare	1,112	50.0
Medicaid	1,111	50.0
Private	0	0.0
Other	0	0.0
Stage at diagnosis		
I	1,112	50.0
II	1,111	50.0
III	0	0.0
IV	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0
Site of diagnosis		
Colon	1,112	50.0
Rectum	1,111	50.0
Unknown	0	0.0
Site of treatment		
Colon	1,112	50.0
Rectum	1,111	50.0
Unknown	0	0.0
Time to diagnosis		
< 3 months	1,112	50.0
3-6 months	1,111	50.0
> 6 months	0	0.0
Unknown	0	0.0

**Outcome Exposures**

Medication Class	Incident	Prevalent	Total
Antidepressants	1,112	1,111	0
Pain Medication	1,112	1,111	0
Antiemetics	1,112	1,111	0
Analgesics	1,112	1,111	0

**Zachary Rivers, PharmD, PhD** Presented at the Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM) annual meeting in 2021: *Exposure to Non-Chemotherapy Medications with Pharmacogenomics Risk in Medicare Patients Newly Diagnosed with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer*



# Student News

## UofM ISPOR Student Chapter

### SAPh Alumni Talk Series

UMN ISPOR Student Chapter developed the SAPH Alumni Talk Series to facilitate networking among current students and alumni to engage with Alumni, learn about potential job opportunities and the skills required for a job academia/industry/consulting/advocacy.

First Session in the Series; November 5, 2021

### UMN Alumni Talk Series



Margaret Artz



Angie Carlson



Joel Farley

**Margaret Artz**, PhD, Clinical Informaticist at ArdentCare Solutions  
Blackstone Artz Solutions, LLC

**Angie Carlson**, PhD, Adjunct Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Care & Health Systems, University of Minnesota | Data Intelligence Consultants

**Joel Farley**, PhD, Professor and Associate Head, Department of Pharmaceutical Care & Health Systems, University of Minnesota

Second Session with three actively working in industry, consulting, or academia; December 3, 2021

### UMN Alumni Talk Series



Holly Budlong



Sirikan Rojanasarot



Dongmu Zhang

**Holly Budlong**, PharmD, PhD, National Medical Outcomes Science Liaison, AbbVie | Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy

**Sirikan Rojanasarot**, PhD, Principal Health Economist (Mangere, Health Economics, Boston Scientific)

**Dongmu Zhang**, PhD, Director, Epidemiology Data Analytics Head, AbbVie



### University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Council of Graduate Students (COGS)

2nd year graduate student **Federico Facciolo, MS** is serving on the Executive Committee 2021-2022 as Vice-President and 2nd year graduate student **Anusha Bompelli, PharmD, MS** is the SAPH student representative.



## SAPh Fellowships

### SAPh Fellowships

Created to encourage and recognize leadership qualities and aspirations among PhD students in the SAPh graduate program.

- ◆ **SAPh Alumni Fellowship**
- ◆ **St Peter & Leiner Family Fellowship**
- ◆ **Wertheimer Leadership Fellowship**



Donations to these Fellowship Funds are welcome.

Please visit the [SAPh website](#); click on [MAKE A GIFT](#).

You can also send a check payable to the University of Minnesota and mail to:

Joel Farley

SAPh Graduate Program

College of Pharmacy

7-155 Weaver-Densford Hall, 308 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

### New SAPh Fellowships

We are very pleased to announce two new funds that were created this past year for the SAPh program.

The first fund we are pleased to announce is the ***Marcellus and Laura Grace Fellowship in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*** created by Dr. Marcellus (SAPh MS '75, PhD '76) and Laura Grace. Marcellus and Laura have endowed a new fellowship for graduate students in the SAPh program. This fellowship focuses on students who have an interest in and commitment to teaching and pharmacy education. Additional consideration will be given for Black and African American students if they are underrepresented at the University or in the major or program at the time of the award. We are proud to announce the Grace fellowship is the fourth endowed fellowship for graduate students in the SAPh program. Thank you Marcellus and Laura!

The second fund is the ***Henri and Arlynn Manasse Social & Administrative Pharmacy Research Award Fund***. Dr. Henri (PhD, Pharmacy Administration '74) and Arlynn Manasse created this fund to provide research support to a graduate student working toward their PhD in the SAPh program who is conducting research in the areas of pharmacy and health policy and social and behavioral applications to a better understanding of the profession of pharmacy. Thank you Henri and Arlynn!

If you are interested in learning more about giving opportunities or endowing a fund for the SAPh program, please contact Amy Polski Larson, Chief Development Officer, at [polsk042@umn.edu](mailto:polsk042@umn.edu) or 612-626-8975.

## Graduate Faculty News



**Olihe Okoro, PhD, MPH, MPharm**, was named a **McKnight Presidential Fellow**. This program is a three-year award given to exceptional faculty who have recently been considered for tenure and promotion to associate professor, to recognize their excellence in research and scholarship, leadership, potential to build top-tier programs, and ability to advance University priorities.

Dr. Okoro has built strong connections with her African American and African-born immigrant community partners. She works closely with these communities to understand what their most important needs are, co-develop strategies to address these needs, and develop communication paths with the community to share what they have discovered. Specifically, she has developed a community-engaged, public health research program focused on addressing health disparities that affect health and health outcomes in Black communities. Her research focuses on investigating causes and implementing interventions to address HIV morbidity and mortality in the African immigrant population in the U.S.; chronic health conditions, health care access and quality of care in the African-American community; and cultural competency and diversity in health care professional education.



**Joel Farley, PhD**, will be recognized at the 2022 American Pharmacists Association meeting as a recipient of the **APhA-APRS Clinical Research Paper Award** along with his colleagues Benjamin Urick and Troy Trygstad, for their manuscript published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association entitled "Patient outcomes from implementing an enhanced services pharmacy network"

Dr. Farley received a 3 year \$1.5 million **AHRQ R18 grant** (R18HS027754-01A1) entitled "Integrating Pharmacists into an Automated Discharge Process to Promote Comprehensive Medication Management" to investigate the implementation and effectiveness of embedding pharmacists into transition of care processes in several Twin Cities Federally Qualified Health Centers.



**Wendy St. Peter, PharmD**, The Office of Discovery and Translation (ODAT) funded eight projects this fall to improve health equity and accessibility in Minneapolis and across Minnesota. Dr. St Peter, PharmD, is leading a project to reduce medical-related disparities in African Americans with chronic kidney disease through her national initiative "[Advancing Kidney Health Through Optimal Medication Management](#)."



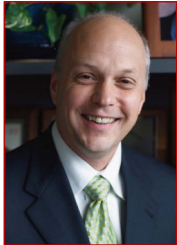
**Brian Isetts, PhD**, joins partners in MidAtlantic, Midwest and Hawaii regions.

The [Research Collaborative received Patient Centered Outcomes Research \(PCORI\)](#) Engagement Award for Age-Friendly Medication Management project.

These regions have been picked as they have experience in comparative effectiveness research (CER) in medication management of older adults. The goal is to transition from CER to PCOR in medication optimization; the latter represents a gap in current evidence. The selected regions also encompass unique partnerships – Hawaii Region has a rural health focus, Midwest has urban and suburban expertise, and Mid-Atlantic has continuum of care focus centered around older adults and those that care.



# Graduate Faculty News



**Jon Schommer**, MS, PhD, RPh, was named Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacy*. In 2018, he joined *Pharmacy* as an associate editor. In the past 3 years, Dr. Schommer has been active in editorial work and has done an excellent job. Taking on the new role, Dr. Schommer has a message for you and all Pharmacy readers, expressing his enthusiasm and expectation of the journal. Please see: <https://www.mdpi.com/2226-4787/9/2/73>.

In July 2021, Dr. Schommer received the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy - Graduate Education Achievement Award.



**Stephen Schondelmeyer**, PharmD, PhD, was invited to testify at a Senate Hearing of the Homeland Security & Govt. Affairs Committee:

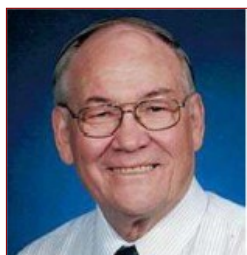
[COVID-19 Part II: Evaluating the Medical Supply Chain and Pandemic Response Gaps.](#)

**Dr. Schondelmeyer** is also a key contributor to the [COVID19--CIDRAP Viewpoint: Part 6 Ensuring a Resilient US Prescription Drug Supply.](#)



**Paul Ranelli**, PhD, MS, retired in 2021. There is a celebration planned for March with colleagues, family and friends in Duluth at the Lake Superior Railroad Museum. The SAPH program appreciates Dr. Ranelli's contributions to advising, mentoring, and support for the graduate students.

## In Memoriam



Sharing news of the passing of Professor Emeritus **Vernon Weckwerth**, PhD. on 2/25/2021. Dr. Weckwerth was a friend of the College of Pharmacy and taught statistical courses in the Social & Administrative Pharmacy Graduate Program.

Dr. Weckwerth had great passion for the University of Minnesota and the students he taught across pharmacy, nursing, medicine, public health, public affairs and dentistry.

Our college community was made better by his commitment and many contributions.



## Alumni



**Debbie Pestka, PharmD, PhD, '18** [Research Spotlight](#):

Embedding researchers into practice can help health systems ensure that they are providing evidence-based care delivery, and the highest quality and most cost-effective care.

### Recent SAPH Graduates Job Placement

**Alina Cernasev, PharmD, PhD '19:** Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee, College of Pharmacy, Nashville Campus

**Khashayar Memari, PhD '19:** Pharmacy Network Sr. Manager, Anthem, Inc., Minneapolis

**Rebecca St. Germaine, PhD '19:** Executive Director of Health and Human Services, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, WI

**Basma Gomaa, DVM, PhD '19:** Postdoctoral Fellow, Indiana University Bloomington

**Tony Olson, PharmD, PhD '20:** Associate Research Scientist, Essentia Institute of Rural Health Research Division, Duluth

**Kamla Ibrahim, MS, PhD '20:** Pharmacy Section Head, Diwan Royal Court Medical Services, Muscat, Masqat, Oman

**Tien Vo, MS, PhD '21:** Biostatistician II at Parexel, Minneapolis

**Zachary Rivers, PharmD, PhD '21:** Postdoctoral Fellow with a joint position between the Hutchinson Institute for Cancer Outcomes Research at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and Bayer Pharmaceuticals

**Arun Kumar, PharmD, MS, PhD '21:** Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice and Administrative Sciences at James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy at the University of Cincinnati

**Mahsa Salsabili, PhD '21:** Pharmacoeconomics Specialist, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

**Robert Bechtol, PhD (Jan '22):** Assistant Professor, Pharmacy Practice, Cedarville University, OH



**SAPH Alumni Connections**



## Social & Administrative Pharmacy



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## SAPH MISSION

The mission of the **Social & Administrative Pharmacy** graduate program is to educate and mentor graduate students in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge to foster appropriate use of drugs in order to improve patient outcomes at the individual and societal level.

