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September 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Fall semester has officially started and I'm so grateful to our students, faculty and staff and how they have pulled together in many firsts for us. How we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic will define the pharmacy profession going forward and I'm so proud to see the way our student pharmacists and faculty have answered the call to action. As COVID-19 cases climbed to new peaks over the summer in various parts of the country, numerous faculty and student pharmacists volunteered their personal time to assist at drive-thru test sites in Yakima and Spokane. Nearly two dozen of our student pharmacists have sprung into action to assist with a drive-thru test site setup by Walgreens in Spokane at the end of August.



I am extremely grateful to our faculty members Nicole Perea and Kim McKeirnan ('08) in Spokane, and Christina Buchman in Yakima, who put their creative minds together to ensure that our students can be certified to administer vaccines this fall. This will guarantee that student pharmacists can continue to work on the frontlines. With careful planning down to the minute detail, student pharmacists will be able to demonstrate their competency in administering a vaccine. Thank you also to Shandra Calmes ('05) our immunization trainer, and Albertsons and Safeway for their continued sponsorship of this program. During this challenging year, your contribution will make an exponential difference—not only for our students—but for the many communities where our student pharmacists will work this flu season.

We recently held our first virtual white coat celebration and it was a tremendous success. Due to restrictions on social gatherings, our incoming student pharmacists had to commemorate this milestone from the safety of their own homes. Though it was a virtual event, the gravity of the moment was not lost. On behalf of the college, we are so proud to present to the world our class of 2024. Over 600 viewers took part in the event. If you missed it, you can catch the [recording here](#), and meet some of our first-year student pharmacists [via Instagram](#). Again, these cherished moments would not have been possible without the support Walgreens and their District Manager Nick Bruck ('04), and QFC and their Health and Wellness Merchandiser Chuck Paulsen ('84).

Normally, I'm not a person who enjoys being the center of attention, but I would like to invite you all to my [homecoming Zoom social hour on October 1](#). We will be auctioning off a case or two of my homemade wine, made with grapes from the Lonesome Spring Ranch Vineyard in the Yakima Valley and aged in French oak barrels. While I can't take full credit for the wine, as several of my engineering friends also contributed to the creation of our wine (including a Cougar and dear friend, Craig Massie, Mechanical Engineering, class of 1986), I guarantee that my skills developed from years of working in a lab were put to good use.

Thank you all for another great month and your ongoing support of our students and mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leid".

Mark Leid, Professor and Dean
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Top Stories

Lauzier grant to serve rural and homeless populations in Yakima Valley

The [Paul Lauzier Foundation](#) has awarded the Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPPS) a \$47,500 grant. The grant will fund patient care services for those experiencing homelessness and rural communities in the Yakima Valley in central Washington state.

“The work being done by the students, faculty and volunteers who participate in this program is extremely important. We are pleased to have this opportunity to join in the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences’ efforts to provide health care services to rural communities,” said Paul Lauzier Foundation trustee, Michael Rex Tabler.

Assistant Professor Nicholas Giruzzi will be expanding diabetes care and services to underserved and rural communities in Yakima Valley with funds from Lauzier Foundation grant.

Working with the Yakima Union Gospel Mission Medical Center, WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and student pharmacists will improve services under the supervision of WSU CPPS Assistant Professor Nicholas Giruzzi.

“Our student pharmacists are passionate and eager to help others and these funds will enable them to use their expertise to help those who are in need of testing and medication but don’t have access,” said Giruzzi, who teaches at the WSU CPPS extension in Yakima.

The clinic assists area farmers and migrant workers who serve in the region’s agricultural industry. Patients who visit the clinic generally do not have health insurance and have limited incomes. Expanded services at the clinic will go towards diabetes treatment, optimizing medication therapy, and testing for Hepatitis C and HIV.

“We opened our Yakima extension five years ago with the intention of helping rural populations and underserved communities. This grant brings us one step closer in fulfilling our mission as a college,” said Mark Leid, Dean of the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Over 60 health care professionals volunteer at the Union Gospel Mission Medical Center, including faculty from the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The funds from the Lauzier Foundation will help to expand the role of student pharmacists in a health care team.



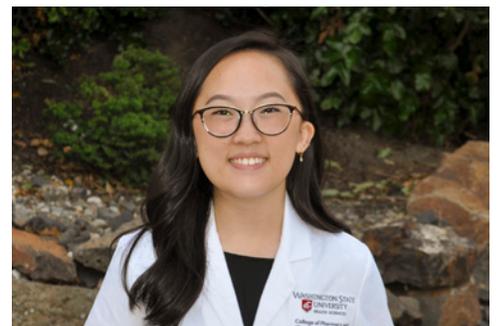
Assistant Professor Nicholas Giruzzi will be expanding diabetes care and services to underserved and rural communities in Yakima Valley with funds from Lauzier Foundation grant.

Behind the scenes: Doctor of Pharmacy interviews

By Karen Vo, class of 2023

For Doctor of Pharmacy applicants, the interview is often seen as an intimidating experience, but it doesn’t have to be. We caught up with second-year pharmacy student and student ambassador Karen Vo to share a behind the scenes look at the interview process, while reflecting on her time as an interviewee.

Over two years ago, I was sitting in a conference room as a prospective student practicing my elevator pitch. I was terrified of what my interviewers would ask me later that afternoon; my mind ran through a series of questions- what are my stances on various ethical issues in healthcare? How extensive are my experiences in customer service? How much do publications weigh in? What was my most recent research project about? Despite the comfort the current students provided us, my mind shuffled through an unrealistically long list of disastrous scenarios.



Karen Vo, class of 2023

Today, I find myself on the flip side of this experience. I have the opportunity to interview prospective students and to learn all about their diverse experiences that led them to a career in pharmacy.

In the interview, student ambassadors are paired with a faculty member. Once we are assigned students to interview, we work through how best to conduct the interview, making sure the interviewee feels as comfortable as possible. Our job is not to grill them or stump them with difficult questions. Since the college conducts blind interviews, interviewers do not see any background details or records ahead of time and applicants get to come in with a blank slate. Potential students are not asked about the discipline nor are they asked to do calculations. Instead, they are asked about themselves; questions about things such as their motivations, their goals, their accomplishments, and their setbacks. As interviewers, we do our best to create a warm and open environment, so applicants feel comfortable telling us their stories.

As part of the Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences' holistic approach to admissions, the college is interested in more than just the stats. The college is compelled to learn about who potential students are as people. The interview process is designed to get to know the student and to give applicants an opportunity to learn more about the program and decide if it is the right fit for them.

Over the course of the approximately 3-hour process, potential students get the chance to meet and ask questions of a faculty member and a student ambassador, receive a virtual campus tour, and talk to current students and alumni about what it's like to be part of the WSU pharmacy community.

At the end of each interview, we open the floor for questions. This is the student's chance to get to know us a little better. As much as it is an interview of them, it is an interview of us and the college. This is one of the most important things to remember: we want them to consider if the WSU Doctor of Pharmacy program is the best fit for them. We want them to reflect on what their needs are and whether or not this program can help meet those needs. This means asking us questions they have about who we are and what we value as faculty, staff, and students.

Collectively, the faculty, staff, and student ambassadors work hard to make interviewees feel comfortable, to hear their stories, and to ensure that their needs are met. These are things I wished I had known going into my interview two years ago. My advice to all prospective students is this: this is your chance for you to tell us who you really are so be honest and unafraid. We want to know you for you. Also, ask thoughtful questions. This shows us that you did your research and that you are taking the time to reflect on your needs, something that is critical to your personal and professional growth. Last but not least, if you're panicking, that's normal and completely okay. You'll do great!

CPPS virtually welcomes class of 2024

Each Doctor of Pharmacy student at the Washington State University begins their journey with the donning of their white coats. This simple coat is symbolic. It represents professionalism, caring and trust that each future pharmacist must earn from their patients.

While this year's celebration looked a little different, the symbolism is all the more significant in these world-changing times. For the first time, the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences took to the web to welcome over 100 incoming pharmacy students with a [virtual white coat celebration](#) on Friday, August 21. Over 600 people attended the event online. This year's incoming students received their white coats ahead of the virtual celebration in an orientation box as part of Pharmacy Prep Week.

The white coats for the class of 2024 were donated by Walgreens and Pharmacy Prep Week orientation boxes were made possible with support from QFC. Nick Bruck, class of 2004, represented Walgreens and virtually "coated" the students and led them in their Pledge of Professionalism during the celebration streamed via YouTube.

A message of adaptation and the importance of embracing the challenges of the times we live in were threaded throughout the ceremony as faculty and staff welcomed the students to the college and celebrated their entry into the pharmacy profession. Students were met with virtual applause from their families and loved ones.

“Be relentlessly proactive, curious, and observant as you are truly in a unique position to change the course of this pandemic and chart a new course for our profession,” said college Dean Mark Leid. “We can’t wait to see the personal and professional growth that you will experience in our program and I hope you take great pride in joining our cougar family as we are honored to have you.”

Class of 2022 pharmacy students and campus orientation directors Trevor Schultz and Crystal Lewis shared some tips with incoming pharmacy students as they begin on their four-year WSU pharmacy journey:

- **Adapt a growth mindset:** Always be willing to improve or learn in any given situation. This is especially relevant during a pandemic when we all continue to be presented with new challenges on a regular basis.
- **Be kind to yourself:** It is important to find time to do the little things that instill happiness. The things you do for yourself not only help you stay motivated throughout pharmacy school but become the memories you will hold onto after graduation.
- **Take this opportunity to connect:** The transition to distance delivery provides a special opportunity for the two campuses to connect in a way that hasn’t previously been possible. Take advantage of this and continue to make as many genuine connections as you can.

A NOTE FROM LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Fall semester is usually the season that we reconnect and celebrate with our alumni and friends, marked by our Crimson Gala and homecoming tailgate at the beginning of October. With restrictions on social gatherings we have postponed our usual festivities until next year but would like to invite you to join us for a [Zoom social hour](#) in celebration of Dean Leid’s return to Washington State University. As many of you may know, Mark graduated from the WSU College of Pharmacy in 1983. After 37 years of working in community pharmacy, research, and as a faculty member at Oregon State University, we are so pleased to welcome him back to his alma mater. As mentioned in his note, Mark will be auctioning off some of his private reserve. Guests will also have a chance to win some Cougar Crest wine. We hope you can join us for this fun, albeit abridged, catch-up.



Also, I want to thank alumni who have submitted student names through our [Refer A Future Cougar PharmD](#) program. Over the years, many of our student pharmacists have said they were inspired to join the profession thanks to the encouragement of WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences alumni. In order to share our sincere gratitude, we have formalized this process so that we can thank you for motivating future generations of pharmacists. If you know someone who would make a great future Cougar PharmD, don’t hesitate to let us know!

As usual, thank you all for your continued guidance and support. We look forward to hearing your latest news and sharing all the wonderful things our students, faculty and staff are doing inside and outside the college.

With best regards and much respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Garrelts MacLean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linda Garrelts MacLean, Vice Dean of External Relations
WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Spotlight on Success

WSU pharmacy student selected as next student regent

By RJ Wolcott, [WSU News](#)

PULLMAN, Wash. – Arliegh Cayan, a fourth-year College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences student at WSU Health Sciences Spokane, will serve as the next student regent on the WSU Board of Regents.

“Arliegh continues a long line of distinguished student regents to serve on the board,” Board Chair Brett Blankenship said. “I look forward to serving with regent Cayan, hearing his perspectives and working with him and the rest of the board on the issues affecting all members of the WSU community.”

Cayan enrolled in the college’s Doctor of Pharmacy program after completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. During his second year in the program, Cayan was elected vice president of the Associated Students of Washington State University Health Sciences alongside Johanna Pantig, who served as president.

“I’m a very social person,” Cayan said. “I like interacting with people and I felt that student government was a good way to get involved.”

It was Pantig, Cayan’s former ASWSU Health Sciences colleague and student regent predecessor, who encouraged him to apply for the position on the WSU Board of Regents.

“Initially when Johanna asked me if I thought about being student regent, I told her I was concerned about my schedule, being a fourth-year pharmacy student preparing for my career ahead of me,” Cayan said. “Later on after she told me more about what was involved, I felt like it was manageable and that it would be a great opportunity to further my student advocacy.”

Cayan has felt the power of Cougar Pride since arriving at WSU. When his condominium burned down during his second year in pharmacy school, Cayan was overwhelmed by the number of people who reached out to offer their support and assistance.

“I’ve seen Cougs helping Cougs directly and observed how helpful people are with finding places for their fellow student to live during rotations,” he said.

That sense of comradery is in keeping with the aloha spirit, something he was raised with growing up in Hawaii. It’s a commitment to one’s community and a dedication to helping others.

“My goal is to help make the student experience better,” Cayan said. “With the hope that their enthusiasm will give the faculty a better environment and that they’ll pass along that energy to the staff and administration, ending up benefiting all members of the WSU community.”



Fourth-year Doctor of Pharmacy student Arliegh Cayan will serve as the next student regent on the WSU Board of Regents. He is preceded by Johanna Pantig, also from the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Mobile health unit offers COVID-19 testing for students

The William A. Crosetto Mobile Health Care Unit will be heading to Pullman this week with pharmacy, nursing and medical student and faculty volunteers to begin testing WSU students who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or are [experiencing any symptoms](#) associated with the disease.

[Read more from the Insider](#)

Meet pharmacy's new dean

Mark Leid's love for Washington State University began 42 years ago. As the new dean for the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Leid joins the University following 28 years at Oregon State University, serving in a myriad of roles from Associate Dean of Research to Interim Dean of the OSU College of Pharmacy. However, his roots originate from a small farming community of Waitsburg, Washington; population: 1,217, just a half-hour drive from Walla Walla. Leid's vision and mission for the college are integrally tied to his upbringing in rural Washington. Pharmacy and research were never part of the life plan, but dreams of becoming a Division 1 football player and following his then girlfriend to the WSU College of Pharmacy, led him on an unlikely path to a lifelong career as a pharmacist and researcher. It was in his third year in the college that he met WSU professor Tom Murray, a nationally recognized researcher in pharmacology, who ignited his passion in pharmacy. "That's when I fell in love with pharmacology. I was totally consumed by it and loved it," said Leid.



Fast forward 38 years later, and Leid finds himself at the helm of the same college that launched his career, navigating through the twists and turns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic even before his tenure began. Despite uncertain times, Leid remains steadfast on the long-term vision and mission for the college: to help underserved populations with access to health care, teach students to be independent thinkers, and ensure that a quality education in pharmacy can still be affordable.

Leid sees himself as a collaborative leader. In making tough decisions, he absorbs as much information as possible to lead him to the optimal outcome. "I like to build consensus, which is not the same as making a unanimous decision. There's always dissent on any chosen path," said Leid. "I'm a data driven person and a scientist and I try to make the best decision based on the information that I have."

Leid's personable approach is not only evident in his leadership style, but also manifested in his teaching career and the conversations he has had with students, faculty and staff over the last two months.

"My philosophy as an educator is similar to the philosophy I have as a parent: to create independent thinking students," said Leid over a Zoom interview, "I don't want students to parrot back what we say. We need to give students the tools to not only understand information that they need to know today, but also to be able to integrate new information 10 to 20 years into their careers, as pharmacy, science and medicine evolve."

We need to give students the tools to not only understand information that they need to know today, but also to be able to integrate new information 10 to 20 years into their careers, as pharmacy, science and medicine evolve.

Though the pandemic has impacted students, faculty, and staff in all facets of their personal and professional lives, Leid remains optimistic. "Adversity creates opportunity...I'm not minimizing the public health crisis that we are facing. This is an epic crisis that affects families, governments, industries, and businesses. It's a terrible crisis on so many levels. But if you look at what we can do to save the planet, there are a lot of options for us. Our response during this time is going to define the profession of pharmacy going forward."

When asked why he aspired to be dean of the college, Leid replied, "I'm here to make a difference for students, faculty, staff, alumni and the state of Washington...The level of competence at WSU is impressive. My job is to figure out how I can best help people to continue on this upward trajectory. I am exactly where I need to be."

REFER A FUTURE COUGAR PHARMD!



PHILANTHROPY FOCUS

We'd like to express our gratitude to Walgreens and Nick Bruck (class of 2004) for their generous support of the Class of 2024 Virtual White Coat Celebration. Walgreens' investment in the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences makes a tremendous difference to our student pharmacists and our program. Thank you!

Alumni News

- **Carl Manhardt**, class of 2017, recently accepted a position as a Clinical Pharmacist for the Community Health Center of Snohomish County. He spent the past four years at Fred Meyer, where he served first as an intern, then spent three years as a Pharmacy Manager, and even served a brief stint as a COVID-19 tester. Carl expressed his gratitude to his co-workers and patients at Fred Meyer for inspiring him to make the transition from community pharmacy to community health. Congratulations, Carl!
- **Andrea Dickens**, class of 2011, is now working for McKesson as a Senior Manager of Oncology Clinical Content in Houston, where she specializes in breast cancer. She was previously with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston
- **Eric Kim**, class of 2017, has been working at Seattle Genetics for the past few months as Senior Clinical Scientist. He was hired by the company after completing a two-year residency with Merck and serving as adjunct faculty at Rutgers University.

Want to be listed in our alumni updates? Send us your career information or let us know what you've been up to at gocougs@pharmacy.wsu.edu!

Other News

White Coat ceremonies go virtual: Families celebrate at home

First-year students in WSU's colleges of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are already adapting to the changes of a new school year under the shadow of COVID-19.

[Read more from the WSU Insider](#)

Upbringing influences student regent's leadership

Fourth-year pharmacy student and WSU student regent Arliegh Cayanan attributes his community-centered leadership style to his Hawaiian upbringing. He hopes to bring this "spirit of Aloha" to his new role as regent.

[Read more from the Daily Evergreen](#)

ACIP updates vaccine recommendations for 2020: What pharmacists need to know

Every year the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) updates their vaccination recommendations. Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor Kimberly McKeirnan takes a look at this year's ACIP recommendations for influenza, meningococcal disease, and COVID-19 vaccines.

[Read more from Pharmacy Times](#)

WSU pharmacy school receives grant to help UGM free clinic

Yakima Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor Nick Giruzzi spoke with KIMA Action News about the college's recent \$47,500 Lauzier grant to work with the Yakima Union Gospel Mission's free clinic to provide services for homeless and uninsured people in the Yakima Valley.

[Read more from KIMA Action News](#)

Increasing COVID-19 testing capacity on Pullman campus

As the University works to increase testing capacity, the WSU Health Sciences is preparing the William A. Crosetto Mobile Health Care Unit to head to Pullman with pharmacy, nursing, and medical student and faculty volunteers ready to help take on COVID-19 testing.

[Read more from the WSU Insider](#)

Faculty Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Travis T. Denton**, with pharmaceutical sciences and molecular medicine graduate students **Dunxin Shen** and Laken Kruger and Doctor of Pharmacy student **Tyler Deatherage** published, "[Synthesis of a-Ketoglutaramic acid](#)," in Analytical Biochemistry in August 2020.

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor **Kimberly C. McKeirnan** published, "[ACIP updates vaccine recommendations for 2020: what pharmacists need to know](#)," in Pharmacy Times in August 2020.

Kimberly McKeirnan, Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Anne P. Kim**, Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor (Yakima) **Angela S. Stewart**, Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **Connie M. Remsberg** and co-authors published, "[Study behaviors associated with student pharmacists' academic success in an active classroom pharmacy curriculum](#)," in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education in July 2020.

Allen I. White Distinguished Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy **Joshua Neumiller** and co-authors published, "[2020 expert consensus decision pathway on novel therapies for cardiovascular risk reduction in patients with type 2 diabetes](#)," in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology in August 2020.

Josh Neumiller, Pharmacotherapy Professor **Brian Gates** and co-authors published, "[Medication use, renin-angiotensin system inhibitors, and acute care utilization after hospitalization in patients with chronic kidney disease](#)," in the Journal of the Renin-Angiotensin Aldosterone System in August 2020.

Megan Undeberg and co-authors published, "[Rural-urban disparities in access to medicaid-contracted pharmacies in Washington state, 2017](#)," in volume 17 of Preventing Chronic Disease, a peer-reviewed electronic journal published by the CDC.

SERVICE

J. Roberts and Marcia Fosberg Distinguished Professor of Pharmacotherapy **Danial Baker** has been granted adjunct faculty status at Gulf Medical University for the 2020 – 21 academic year.

Danial Baker and Drug Information Center Resident Brittany Craft served as external reviewers for the thesis defense of three students in the Master in Clinical Pharmacy program at Gulf Medical University in the United Arab Emirates.

Josh Neumiller served as faculty advisor for the development of two educational pieces on use of diabetes technology produced by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) titled, "A pharmacist's guide to insulin pump technology," and "Using continuous glucose monitoring to improve outcomes for your patients." [Learn more](#)

Pharmacotherapy Assistant Professor (Yakima) **Nick Giruzzi** was featured on [KIMA Action News](#) for his work on a new Lauzier grant which will fund patient care services for those experiencing homelessness and rural communities in the Yakima Valley.

GRANTS

Travis Denton was awarded a Phase 2 Technology Commercialization Grant for \$61,746 from the Washington Research Foundation to expand the development of lanthionine ketenamine (ester) phosphonate (esters) for the treatment of ALS, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Assistant Professor **John Clarke** was awarded a R21 grant from NIH/NCCIH of \$420,750 over two years for the project, "Enteric and hepatic transporter mechanisms for pharmacokinetic natural product-drug interactions."

AWARDS

Pharmacotherapy Associate Professor **Julie Akers** was selected to receive a Grand Council Deputy Certificate of Excellence from Kappa Psi International Fraternity for her work as the Grand Council Deputy of the Beta Pi chapter. This is her second year in a row receiving this honor.

Danial Baker was awarded the [2020 Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the Marquis Who's Who Publications Board.

Student Achievement

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) IN PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND MOLECULAR MEDICINE STUDENTS

Yadira Pérez Páramo (Lazarus lab) successfully passed her final defense on August 19, 2020.

Baron Bechtold (Clarke lab) successfully passed his preliminary exam on August 11, 2020.

Dunxin Shen (Denton lab) and **Laken Kruger** (Prasad lab) with faculty co-author **Travis Denton** and one other published, "[Synthesis of a-Ketoglutaramic acid](#)," in *Analytical Biochemistry* in August 2020.

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY (PHARMD) STUDENTS

Tyler Deatherage with faculty co-author **Travis Denton** and two others published, "[Synthesis of a-Ketoglutaramic acid](#)," in *Analytical Biochemistry* in August 2020.



College of

Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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