

THE IOTAN

Iota Sigma Pi National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry Fall 2020 No. 119

Welcome to a New Triennium from our Presidents!

Hello lotans! It was such a disappointment not to have our National Convention last July, but it was definitely the right decision to postpone, and we are hoping that we will be able to gather for the Convention in Irvine, CA from 15–18 July 2021. The location, speakers (Nobel Laureate Frances H. Arnold, Prof. Vickie Grassian, Prof. Debbie Crans, and Prof. Jillian Dempsey), and agenda remain the same. The Ca chapter is hard at work securing sponsors for the Convention and planning social activities so that we may form solid relationships with each other and enjoy the beauty of the CA coast.

Megan Sassin:

I enjoyed serving as your President the last triennium and am proud of all that we accomplished- a new website and database management system, with development led by our previous webmaster, Teresa Bixby, and the startup of a new chapter, Meitnerium, in Colorado, installed by Vice President Patty Wiley. The new website will be more interactive to facilitate networking and information will be automatically input into the database. The automation of the database entry and communication with our members will drastically change the daily operations of the Records Chair and Treasurer, giving them more time to share their other talents with the organization. It will also streamline the membership application and in the future the application process for our National Awards Program. I hope that you will take some time to interact with the new website and setup your profile, which will be key for sharing information and forming useful networks between our members. As always, we welcome suggestions and feedback, and if you are interested in generating content for the website or the lota Sigma Pi social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), please don't hesitate to contact me or others on the National Council.

I will be serving as Immediate Past President this triennium and have a lot of plans as I serve in this capacity, but my main focus will be on our membership. I want to increase our membership and ensure that it is diverse [e.g., career level, professional position (e.g., professor, industrial chemist, policy, etc.), geographic location, ethnicity, and gender identity]. I have always strived to be a leader who leads by listening to all sides and finding common ground; I feel that yields the best outcome and makes for a strong organization. If you have a colleague that meets the requirements of membership in lota Sigma Pi, please let me know, so that I may invite them to become a

What's Inside?				
Presidents Welcome1-2				
Racial Justice Statement4				
#BlackInChem Travel Award5				
Greetings from New President6				
Chapter Events and Covid-197				
Meet the National Council8-11				

member. Together we can grow the organization, which yields benefits for all of our members in terms of networking to support each other personally and professionally. In addition, I will also be helping our new President, Anne Taylor, with the 2021 Convention and in any other capacity that she requests

Anne Taylor:

I would like to thank Megan Sassin for her excellent service as President, despite the demands of working *and* raising a young child *and* moving. I am pleased that we will be working together this year. During the next year, Megan and I will be like co-presidents. She will handle the arrangements for the 2021 Convention and preside over the sessions. I will handle other activities and assist with the plans for the 2023 Convention.

When I attended my first convention, I thought, "Wow! They are really structured!" They followed Robert's Rules of Order more strictly than other organizations I belonged to. Now, structure can be a good thing that makes it easier to do your job. I learned that we had a Constitution and By-laws that were fairly simple, and they led to the Rules and Regulations, which in turn, led to the National Council Operations Manual and the Chapter Operations Manual. However, structure can also make us rigid and unwilling to try new things.

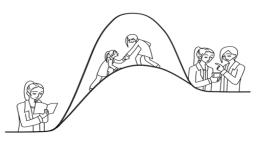
For example, we have a procedure for starting a new chapter that includes a requirement for involving some women chemists from the community, as well as students and professors from a college. This should make it less likely that a chapter will go out of business. Awhile back a professor from a small college in a rural area contacted us about forming a chapter. Since they are in a very small town with no industries employing chemists nearby, they could not find other women chemists to join and were turned down. I am wondering if we could accommodate them in some way by loosening the requirements to fit their situation.

I am pleased that we are already modernizing our organization. We were using a very old-fashioned database program for our membership records. All the contact information had to be entered by hand for each member. Now our Webmaster and Records Chair have installed a system for new members to enter their own information online. We have a brand new website, www.iotasigmapi.org_(still under construction). Many thinks to Outgoing Webmaster Teresa Bixby, Incoming Webmaster Julia Wiester, and Records Chair Danielle Vellucci.

SHOP AND SUPPORT lota Sigma Pi!

Iota Sigma Pi is a participant in the Amazon Smile program. You can shop and support women in chemistry at the same time. To join Amazon Smile, go to: <u>https://smile.amazon.com/</u> and login using your regular Amazon password. Choose your charity as "Iota Sigma Pi National Council". For current subscribers to Amazon Smile, use the direct link: <u>https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-6093887</u> to change charity to Iota Sigma Pi. Then keep shopping, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us at NO cost to you. *Try it out today!*

2020 Convention Cancelled Due to COVID-19



Breaking Barriers

Our Triennial Convention "Breaking Barriers" was scheduled to be held in Orange County, CA in July 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and safety concerns, the National Council decided to postpone the Convention until July 2021. This was approved by the membership with a 2/3 majority of voting members in a virtual vote. We were very disappointed to postpone the Convention, but feel confident that it was the correct decision. Plans are being made to hold the convention in the Summer of 2021 ... pending CDC recommendations.

National Officers Elected Virtually

Due to the postponement of the Convention, National Council elections were held by a virtual vote – one vote per chapter. We are pleased to announce the 2020 - 2023 National Council.

2020–2023 National Council							
National President	Anne K. Taylor (H)	Coordinator of Members-at-Large	Rose Kennedy (MAL)				
National Vice President	Patty Wiley (MAL)	National Director for Professional Awards	Julia Vaynberg (F)				
National Secretary	Kelsey Bohn (F)	National Director for Student Awards	Reiko Simmons (F)				
National Treasurer	Anna Ratliff (MAL)	National Webmaster	Julia Wiester (Aul)				
National Editor	Margaret Workman (Aul)	Coordinator of Initiates & Supplies	Tanya Hunter (Aul)				
Records Chair	Danielle Vellucci (MAL)	National Historian	Lily Ng (Hg)				

Iota Sigma Pi Releases Racial Justice Statement

Recent violence against Black Americans has awakened an examination of racism and discrimination in all aspects of life. As "double minorities" in science, Black female chemists face significant hurdles in achieving their career goals.

lota Sigma Pi was founded to support women who were not always accepted as equals in science. The members of our founding organization were "women chemistry students who were quite isolated because of their choice of courses."* Since 1901, lota Sigma Pi has helped women chemists overcome gender discrimination in the chemical sciences with mentoring and networking. We recognize that some women face additional burdens as members of a minority group, and we commit to strengthen our resolve to uplift and support our minority sisters. We pledge to fight all forms of racism, and we welcome everyone in the chemical sciences to join with us in our mission to remove obstacles for all minorities. We will amplify the voices of minorities and promote their careers via the following:

- Ensure minorities are being nominated for ISP and other national awards.
- Promote their research via lota Sigma Pi social media platforms.
- Financially sponsor undergraduate attendance at national conferences.
- Partner with minority-focused organizations and continue collaborations with other scientific societies working to eradicate discrimination and inequality in the chemical sciences.

We will continue in our commitment to support women chemists regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

IOTA SIGMA PI is the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry. Its major objectives are *to* promote interest in chemistry among women students, to foster mutual advancement in academic, business, and social life; and to stimulate personal accomplishment in chemical fields. IOTA SIGMA PI serves to promote the advancement of women in chemistry by granting recognition to women who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and high professional competence by election into IOTA SIGMA PI, <u>www.iotasigmapi.info.</u>



Iota Sigma Pi Sponsors a #BlackInChem Travel Award

Arielle Dallas

This past summer the National Council adopted a Statement on Racism [in Science] and looked for ways to implement it. When ACS announced the #BlackInChem week, we decided to participate by offering a travel grant to a Black woman chemistry student. The recipient was Arielle Dallas, a second-year graduate student working on a PhD in biochemistry at Auburn University. Arielle does not know which conference she will attend, but she said, "I am very excited to learn from my peers and present my research."

Arielle is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and is conducting research in Dr. Eduardus Duin's group. She says, "My research is based on an enzyme in the methanogenesis process called heterodisulfide reductase (Hdr). Hdr is a part of the final steps in the methanogenesis process and is known for constructing the products coenzyme M (HS-CoM) and coenzyme B (HS-CoB). Hdr catalyzes CoB-S-S-CoM (HDS) by using electrons to reduce ferredoxin and regenerate HS-CoM and HS-CoB from their previous state in the process. Hdr is capable of bifurcation, producing a low potential electron to reduce ferrodoxin, and using the high potential electron to regenerate. In order to better understand Hdr I am investigating its subunit B, which is usually studied in *E. coli*, but from previous studies we have learned that *E. coli* may not be a good host to produce properly folded protein, so to test this I will be growing this protein in a more similar organism which is *M. maripaludis*. My goal is to better understand HdrB characteristics and compare cluster content when HdrB is grown from both *E. coli* and *M. maripaludis*.

Arielle is from Conley, GA, and has a younger sister who is 15. She received a B.S. in Forensic Science with a concentration in Chemistry in spring of 2019 at Savannah State University. She formed a bond with a professor, Dr. Karla-Sue Marriott, and was involved in research all four years. She started with natural products research and synthesized new selective ligands for sigma-I receptors.

Arielle has a few words of wisdom she always tells her undergraduate students: "Be Confident, You're not sitting where you are because of luck, YOU have earned this, and YOU belong here!"





Anne K. Taylor

I am pleased and honored to be the new National President of Iota Sigma Pi. When Past President QuynGiao Nguyen asked me to be President, I said I was too old, but she convinced me that I could bridge the gap in our ages of our members. I hope that is true! One advantage to being older is that I may be able to suggest changes to things we "always did" if they are no longer practical.

I first joined lota Sigma Pi after moving to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where I met past National President Janet Clark when I volunteered for American Chemical Society. I served as Chlorine Chapter President for four years and then became Historian. With encouragement from Sharon Vercellotti, I became National Secretary for two terms from 2011 to 2017. After a one-year break, I returned to National Council (NC) as Director of Professional Awards. Twice during my service on NC, Past President Lily Ng and I became Interim Editors after the elected person quit.

My career and my volunteer life have followed parallel tracks. I am now fully retired and living in Petaluma, CA, where I volunteer with the women's group AAUW, the Petaluma Wetlands Alliance, and my church, as well as lota Sigma Pi. I like to say that I had 4 careers before retirement:

- 1. While living in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I was a *consultant* specializing in writing and editing documentation for pharmaceutical companies. I was working less than full time, so I had more time to spend on my organizations.
- 2. While living in Morris Plains, NJ, I spent 14 years working in *pharmaceutical analytical chemistry*. I also became involved in AAUW and served as Branch President and Secretary.
- 3. While living in Norwich in Upstate New York, I *taught* part-time at several colleges (adjunct teaching).
- 4. Just before I completed my PhD, I had a baby. A second child followed, and I was a *full-time Mom* for several years. I also started my volunteer life at that time.

Those are my four careers! Each was fulfilling in a different way. I have a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Cornell University (NY) and a BA degree in chemistry from Gettysburg College (PA).

How is Your Chapter Handling COVID-19 Restrictions?

Restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted every aspect of our lives. We are now ordering groceries for pickup (will you ever go back??), shopping more online, and working from home. Events for lota Sigma Pi have also been affected. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we had to cancel our 2020 Convention. It was a hard decision, but the right one. Most scientific conferences were also cancelled, rescheduled, or moved to a virtual format. This has brought many challenges but also opportunities.

The Aurum Iodide chapter cancelled our Spring Initiation ceremony. The students were still inducted, but we did not have a ceremony. Things were too up in the air during the time we normally have initiation (early April). The University where the initiation was to be held closed and went totally virtual for the Spring Quarter. It was difficult to move locations because other Universities were going virtual one by one.

However, there have been some silver linings to this whole thing. Aurum lodide still has monthly meetings, but we have gone virtual. It has allowed us to have speakers from all over the country – something that would not have been possible before. We heard from Dr. Gregory Ebel, Professor in the Department of Microbiology Immunology and Pathology and Director of the Arthropod-Borne and Infectious Diseases Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University. He discussed the "Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in apparently healthy workers: Responses to the rise of a new global pathogen." We also hosted Jacob Carter from the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists who gave a talk on "Political Interference in Public Health Policies Under Past and Present Administrations." We even managed to have a social event of a virtual star gazing watch party with the Naperville Astronomical Association.

How is YOUR chapter handling the situation? Let me know what your chapter is doing! Send photos or descriptions about your chapter activities to the National Editor: mworkman@depaul.edu.

	2021 Annual Dues Process
I	It is now easier than ever to pay your Iota Sigma Pi dues!
/	Annual dues can be paid anytime between January 1st and June 30th.
ł	Please go to our website:
ł	https://www.iotasigmapi.org/update-information
۱	where you will be directed to pay via Paypal
(OR
}	you can mail a check payable to Iota Sigma Pi to:
/	Anna Ratliff
ł	P.O. Box 75
ł	Brentwood, MD 20722
I	Please let me know if you have any questions!

Anna Ratliff National Treasurer ISPNCTreasurer@gmail.com

Meet the National Council

National Vice President Patty Wiley (MAL)

I joined the Plutonium chapter to meet more senior female graduate students at Purdue University. I soon realized the organization was going to be much more than a networking opportunity and I would gain valuable skills. I served as Co-Outreach Chair, which taught me about organizing large events, particularly responding to the unexpected and working as a team-skills that I use daily. I completed an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship in Office of Science Policy and Communications at the National Institute of **Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)** at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In the Spring of 2020, I took a job as a Health Science Policy Analyst at NIBIB. I can honestly say I do not think I would be where I am now without lota Sigma Pi. It served as a network of support from talented and thoughtful women throughout my graduate school experience and into my current career. When I have a tough issue-at home or in the workplace-these are the women I call first. I want all of our members to feel supported at every career stage; whether you are an undergraduate student or a tenured faculty member, I want to make sure our organization is benefiting you. I am energized and excited to serve as the National Vice President, in which I act as the liaison between Chapters and the NC. One of my goals is to increase our membership with Black female scientists in order to help support minority women in STEM fields. As our network grows and becomes more diverse, so will our opportunities. If you have colleagues that are interested in establishing a Chapter or want to develop outreach activities on the National level, please send me an email at ispncvicepresident@gmail.com.

National Secretary Kelsey Bohn (F)

I joined the Plutonium Chapter of Iota Sigma Pi at Purdue University in the spring of 2010. I was elected as the Plutonium Chapter Secretary in 2013 and served as a chapter delegate in the 2014 Triennial Meeting. I received my Ph.D. in Chemistry from Purdue University in the summer of 2015 with my thesis focusing on the development and characterization of inhibitors membrane proteins associated of with schizophrenia and pancreatic cancer. I then completed a postdoc at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute (LRI) studying androgen metabolism in castration-resistant prostate cancer. I now work as the Manager of Postdoctoral Training and Programs at the Cleveland Clinic LRI's Research Education and Training Center. I currently serve as an active member of the lota Sigma Pi Fluorine Chapter's council, the LRI Diversity Council, and the Board of Directors for the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair.

This is my second term as National Secretary. In this role, my duties include:

- 1. Recording the minutes of all National Council meetings
- 2. Keeping all official primary documents of the society
- 3. Sending initiation information or other correspondences to chapter officers and National Council

lota Sigma Pi has served as a support system for me personally and professionally and I'm excited to see how I can continue that for our members in my role on National Council. I encourage you to reach out with any questions (lota Sigma Pi or otherwise) at ISPNCsecretary@gmail.com.

National Treasurer Anna Ratliff (MAL)

I am honored and excited to serve on the National Council as the National Treasurer for the next triennium. In 2015, I first joined the Plutonium Chapter of lota Sigma Pi at Purdue University where I participated in many outreach events. Since January I have been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestion and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) in Bethesda, MD. As the National

Treasurer, it is my job to collect dues from all members, file annual financial reports and tax forms, and manage funds for all ISP awards and accounts. During my time as the Treasurer, I plan to streamline paying dues with the help of our new website! The easier we can make this process for our members, the better! However, most importantly, I want to promote a supportive environment for women in sciences. Now more than ever I think lota Sigma Pi is an outstanding honor society that can help women achieve their academic and professional goals regardless of their race, sexual orientation, or scientific background. I look forward to working with each Chapter Treasurer over the next three years! If you have any questions about dues or chapter Financial Reports, please email me at ispnctreasurer@gmail.com. Do not forget about your Chapter Financial Reports, this will ensure a timely return on your chapter's rebate!

Coordinator of Members-at-Large Rose Kennedy (MAL)

I graduated from the University of Rochester in 2011 with a B.S. in Chemistry, where I earned the Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship from Iota Sigma Pi. I completed my doctoral studies as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at Harvard University. After defending in December 2016, I undertook postdoctoral research at Princeton University. I returned to the University of Rochester in January 2020 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry where we combine mechanistic elucidation and the development of synthetic methodology to modulate and control reactivity utilizing the complementary strengths of organocatalysis and organometallic chemistry.

As MAL Coordinator, I look forward to building communitv and networking opportunities amongst members at large. Toward this goal, I will be revitalizing a quarterly newsletter and use of social media to celebrate and amplify the achievements of our members. If you are on Twitter please follow us @lotaSigmaPi MaL and let us know when vou have

accomplishments you'd like to share. I will also be administering the Re-entry Fellowships for women pursuing advanced study or careers in chemistry after a hiatus. Stay tuned for award announcements and the opportunity to nominate the amazing women in your network.

National Director for Professional Awards Julia Vaynberg (F)

I am currently a research associate at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. As Director of Professional Awards, I am in charge of the administration of 4 different awards for professional female chemists. Two of the awards are triennial awards - given only once every 3 years. These are the National Honorary Member award and the Violet Diller Professional Excellence Award. Two of the professional awards are given yearly These include the Agnes Fay Morgan Research Award and the Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. I hope that you will consider nominating eligible women. Please refer to our website for award criteria. Application deadlines are February 15. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ispncprofessionalawards@gmail.com.

National Director for Student Awards Reiko Simmons (F)

As Director of Student Awards, I am in charge of the administration of 4 different awards for undergraduate and graduate students. The graduate student award is the Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate 3 Research. There are undergraduate including the awards. Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry, the Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First-Generation Student, and the Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship. I hope that you will consider nominating eligible students. Please refer to our website for award criteria. The application deadline for all awards is February 15. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at rsimmons@jcu.edu.

National Editor Margaret Workman (Aul)

I am an instructor in the Department of Environmental Science and Studies at DePaul University. I have been teaching Environmental Science and Chemistry for over 20 years. I am currently a member of the Aurum lodide Chapter, Greater Chicagoland. I have been a member of lota Sigma Pi since I was a graduate student at Purdue University. I have served on National Council in various roles, including National President, National Treasurer, and Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies. As Editor, I have a lot of great ideas, including starting a podcast for Women in the Sciences. If you have any cute names for the podcast, let me know! I invite you to share article or podcast ideas. Please send them to mworkman@depaul.edu.

Records Chair Danielle Vellucci (MAL)

I am currently an Instructor of Science Laboratories at Wellesley College. My recent responsibilities have included developing protocols for social distancing in the organic teaching laboratory, and designing curriculum for our remote learners.

I joined lota Sigma Pi as a founding member of the Calcium Chapter while in graduate school at the University of California, Irvine. Following my time in the Calcium Chapter, I actively participated in the re-activation of the Vanadium chapter in NYC, and am currently part of the Members at Large.

I look forward to continuing my service to the national organization as the Records Chair. My primary responsibility as Records Chair is to maintain an up to date and accurate database of our membership. I will be focused on combining our existing records with the new information and updates we are now receiving from our members through our web site. Please feel free to contact me directly at

ispncrecords@gmail.com to validate that we have your correct information on file, and

request information about the current membership of your local chapter.

National Webmaster Julia Wiester (Aul)

I have been teaching at Saint Xavier University in Chicago since 2011 and am currently an Professor chemistry Associate in the department and Director of the Honors Program. Many of my colleagues at St. Xavier are lota Sigma Pi members and encouraged me to join in 2013. The Aurum lodide chapter welcomed me into their community and I have served as the chapter secretary from 2013-2020. lota Sigma Pi has provided invaluable support and networking, especially to young I appreciate the sense of professionals. camaraderie and fellowship as I navigate career and personal paths. As National Webmaster, I plan to continue the work of the previous webmasters in making information accessible and enhancing the visibility of lota Sigma Pi.

Coordinator of Initiates & Supplies Tanya Hunter (Aul)

Thank you to my fellow lotans for electing me into my first position within the National Council. I am looking forward to the new experiences I will have and the new people I will meet. I graduated with a BS in Chemistry from Saint Xavier University in Chicago, IL in 2004 and was inducted into the Aurum Iodide chapter while still a student. I have been an active member of this chapter over the years and currently serve as chapter treasurer. I am currently a Project Chemist for ICL's Phosphate Specialty division. I provide technical support to an array of global companies to support their anticorrosion or other coating performance goals. I also act as R&D chemist searching an out and characterizing potential new value-added additives to satisfy the unmet needs of the paints and coating market. Prior to my current role, I spent over a decade acting as a R&D chemist developing and maintaining a variety of architectural, professional, and light industrial coating formulations. My primary responsibility as the Coordinator and Initiates and Supplies will be mailing merchandise and suppliers to all lotans. I will be your point of contact for purchasing lota Sigma Pi merchandise, such as cords and pins, found on our website. I am also responsible for sending out initiation packets. Please email me at trose225@aol.com for any of your needs.

National Historian Lily Ng (Hg)

I am very honored to continue to be the National Historian for the next triennium. I have been a member of lota Sigma Pi for over 27 years and have served in various National Council positions: as National President, Directors of Students and Professional Awards, Immediate Past President, Acting Editor and now as National Historian. My Ph.D. in physical chemistry was from the University of Pittsburgh (Advisor: Ken Jordan) and postdoctoral training from the Pittsburgh Surface Science Center (Advisor: John Yates). In 2009, I retired after 20 years as a professor and Department Chair at Cleveland State University and Adjunct Staff at Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Center.

My responsibilities as National Historian include

(1) overseeing the preservation of all property of the Society not in current use. This property includes records and documents, publications, and material of historical interest to the society, such as programs of National Conventions, installation of chapters and anniversaries.

(2) keeping the history of the Society and chapters up to date.

(3) communicating with the chapter officers, especially the Chapter Historians annually as to the receipt of documents and records generated by their office.

(4) searching for historical records as requested by other officers and members.

The successful fulfilment of my duties depends very much on the help and cooperation of all the members of National Council and all chapter During the triennium, I will be officers. requesting different documents and records for preservation. Many recent documents and records have been sent and received electronically via emails. I urge everyone to continue to send me your records and documents in electronic form. It will be fast and efficient and almost painless. I will produce the hard copies whenever paper copies are needed for the archives. For certain exceptions, e.g. the lotan, original printed archival copies from the publishers will be required.

One of my plans for the next 3 years is to continue to create a collection of as many as possible electronic or scanned copies of the historical documents in the archives. This collection will enable easier and faster searches of the historical records.

A special appeal to chapter officers: Please add me to the distribution list of your chapter newsletters and send me any notable activities/photos of your chapter. We love to hear from you and I would love to include your chapter's news in the archives to save them for posterity.

Please	send	me	information	at
lilymsng@gmail.com			or	at
ispnchisto				

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