

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



32nd Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology

30 January - 3 February 2008

Levi, Lapland, Finland



www.congrex.fi/scr2008

Welcome to Levi, Lapland, Finland	3
Contact persons in committees	4
General information	5
Programme outline	6
Plenary sessions	8
Parallel sessions	9
Before daylight workshops	11
Call for abstracts	12
Important dates	12
Travel and transportation	13
Congress venue	14
Overview of Levi area	15
Registration	16
Payments	17
Hotel accommodation	18
Hotel bookings	19
Congress sponsors	20

Congress secretariat

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Dear Colleagues,

The organising committee is looking forward to welcoming you to the 32nd Scandinavian Congress of Rheumatology in Levi, Kittilä, Finland.

The programme will focus both on basic and clinical topics, with high-quality plenary lectures, clinical and basic symposia, small group workshops and free paper sessions. We will especially offer the forum on latest developments in diagnostics and treatment of rheumatic diseases. We also encourage junior colleagues to submit their work to the congress and look forward to fruitful discussions between the young and the established scientists.

With this invitation we wish all of you welcome to Levi, north of the Arctic Circle. We have chosen Levi as the venue of the Scandinavian Congress for its unique character, a land of snow, frost and darkness, often illuminated by northern lights in the middle of winter! Sometimes the outdoor temperature might drop to below -20°C. With the warm hospitality of the local people, we promise to make the congress warm, pleasant and enjoyable to all participants.

Traditionally, the Scandinavian congresses have taken place during the summer season, previously in June, and since the EULAR congresses have been annually organized in June, the Scandinavian congresses have been shifted to August. To be able to focus more in rheumatology in Scandinavia, we have changed the time of the Scandinavian Congress on Rheumatology from the crowded summer to the winter. We hope that you will approve this and will come to Levi in January–February 2008!

Though far in the north, Levi is easily approached by plane with direct flights from Helsinki to the Kittilä airport. The venue of the meeting is located at Hotel Hullu Poro (Crazy Reindeer), a modern congress centre with full facilities mixed with local flavour. We welcome you and we ensure that both the scientific content of the congress and the unique features of Lapland will be an unforgettable experience!

Marjatta Leirisalo-Repo

Congress President



Congress President

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Official Language

The official language of the congress is English.

Climate and Time Zone

The weather in Lapland, Finland in January–February is rather cold but usually not too windy. The average daytime temperature in Lapland is between -10°C and -25°C . For instructions on arctic clothing during outdoor activities please refer to the congress website. The time in Finland is 1 hour ahead of Central European Time (CET).

**Currency and Credit Cards**

The official currency in Finland is euro (€). Most major credit cards are accepted in hotels and shops. At the congress registration desk only VISA, EuroCard and MasterCard are accepted. Cheques will not be accepted.

Tipping

All restaurant prices and taxi fares include service, but good service in the restaurant can be rewarded with a tip. Tipping is at guest's discretion in hotels.

Electricity

Electricity supply in Finland is 220 volts (50 Hz) and wall outlets are to the Northern European Standard (CEE 7/4) with two round contacts. The standard two-pin Euro plug (CEE 7/16) can be connected to these outlets. The congress hotels also have 110-volt outlets for shavers.

Exhibition

The congress hosts an exhibition. The exhibition area is located immediately next to the meeting facilities. Smoking is prohibited in the symposium venue and the exhibition area unless otherwise indicated.

Further Information

Further information on Levi can be obtained through the links on the congress website. The registration and information desk will be located next to the meeting facilities and the exhibition area at Hotel Hullu Poro.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

	Wednesday, 30 January 2008	Thursday, 31 January 2008
08:00		Before daylight workshops
08:30		(W1-W3)
09:00		Exhibition
09:30		Plenary session II
10:00	Arrivals in Levi on	
10:30	Tuesday or Wednesday	
11:00		Sponsored lunch session
11:30		by Roche
12:00	Registration (12:00-20:00)	Break
12:30		
13:00	Meeting of Finnish	
13:30	Society for	
14:00	Rheumatology	Coffee / exhibition
14:30		Invited presentations in
15:00		3 parallel sessions (P1-P3)
15:30		
16:00		Coffee / exhibition
16:30		Invited presentations in
17:00	Sponsored session	3 parallel sessions (P4-P6)
17:30	by Wyeth	
18:00	Opening ceremony	
18:30	Plenary session I	
19:00		Transportation (19:00)
19:30	Welcome reception	Optional evening activities
20:00	at Restaurant Taivas	
20:30		
21:00		
22:00		

Friday, 1 February 2008	Saturday, 2 February 2008	
Before daylight workshops	Before daylight workshops	08:00
(W4-W6)	(W7-W8)	08:30
Exhibition	Exhibition	09:00
Plenary session III	Invited presentations in	09:30
	3 parallel sessions (P13-P15)	10:00
		10:30
Sponsored lunch session	Sponsored lunch session	11:00
by Abbott	by BMS	11:30
Break	Plenary session IV	12:00
		12:30
		13:00
	Coffee	13:30
Coffee / exhibition	Bonus session	14:00
Abstract presentations in	Cold and health - cool!	14:30
3 parallel sessions (P7-P9)		15:00
	Closing	15:30
Coffee / exhibition		16:00
Invited presentations in		16:30
2 parallel sessions and 1 late		17:00
breaking session (P10-P12)		17:30
	Departures from Levi on	18:00
	Saturday or Sunday	18:30
		19:00
Congress dinner		19:30
at Restaurant Levitunturi		20:00
		20:30
		21:00
		22:00

PLENARY SESSIONS

Wednesday, 30 January 2008 at 18:00–19:00

Plenary session I: Opening lectures

Moderator: Riitta Luosujärvi

Marjatta Leirisalo-Repo, Finland	Traditional DMARDs and/or Biological Agents in RA – What have we learned?
Markku Heliövaara, Finland	Health in Finland according to national surveys in 1975–2000

Thursday, 31 January 2008 at 09:30–11:00

Plenary session II: Focus in rheumatology

Moderator: Yrjö Konttinen

Kari Puolakka, Finland	Work disability in rheumatoid arthritis
Andy Cope, United Kingdom	T-cells in chronic inflammation

Friday, 1 February 2008 at 9:30–11:00

Plenary session III: RA - Treatments

Moderator: Merete Hetland

Ronald van Vollenhoven, Sweden	When DMARDs and/or biologicals can be discontinued in RA?
Heikki Repo, Finland	Risks of infections in rheumatic diseases

Saturday, 2 February 2008 at 12:00–13:30

Plenary session IV: Inflammation and cardiovascular diseases

Moderator: Pekka Hannonen

Petri Kovanen, Finland	Atherosclerosis in inflammatory diseases
Solbritt Rantapää Dahlqvist, Sweden	RA and cardiovascular morbidity/mortality

Bonus session: Cold and health – cool!

Moderator: To be announced

Details of the programme will be published on the congress website.

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Thursday, 31 January 2008 at 14:30–16:00

P1: Work disability in RA; how to prevent it?

Moderator: Kari Puolakka

Brita Nordmark, Sweden	Prevention of work disability in RA: multidisciplinary team care
Kari Puolakka, Finland	Prevention of work disability in RA: medicines or rehabilitation
Arja Häkkinen, Finland	Active exercise in the prevention of work disability in rheumatic diseases

P2: Pediatric Rheumatology

Moderator: Heini Pohjankoski

Kaisu Kotaniemi, Finland	JIA and eye
Outi Mäkitie, Finland	Osteoporosis: Treatment and follow-up
Boel Andersson Gäre, Sweden	Outcome and prognosis of JIA
Hanna Säilä, Finland	Genetics of JIA

P3: Basic sciences

Moderator: Pia Isomäki

Marko Salmi, Finland	Lymphocyte trafficking in arthritis and other autoimmune diseases
Eeva Moilanen, Finland	Nitric oxide production and signalling in inflammation
Anca Catrina, Sweden	TNF- α antagonists and synovial tissue inflammation

Thursday, 31 January 2008 at 16:30–18:00

P4: National Biologic Agents Databases; Observations and Future Plans

Moderator: Dan Nordström

Merete Hetland, Denmark	DANBIO
Eva Baecklund, Sweden	Swedish biologic agents registers
Dan Nordström, Finland	Finnish biologic agents register

P5: Updates in specific rheumatological "emergencies"

Moderator: Yrjö Konttinen

Tom Pettersson, Finland	Update of adult onset Still's disease
Søren Jacobsen, Denmark	Update of SLE glomerulonephritis
Hans Nossent, Norway	Update of necrotising vasculitis

P6: Psoriasis arthritis

Moderator: Leena Paimela

Jan Tore Gran, Norway	Psoriasis arthritis mutilans – the Nordic study
Ulla Lindqvist, Sweden	Swedish psoriasis arthritis register
Björn Gudbjörnsson, Iceland	Genetics in psoriasis arthritis

Friday, 1 February 2008 at 14:30–16:00**P7–P9: Abstract presentations in 3 parallel sessions****Friday, 1 February 2008 at 16:30–18:00****P10: Joint and bone session**

Moderator: Markku Kauppi

Heikki Helminen, Finland
Stefan Lohmander, Sweden
Timo Möttönen, FinlandPathogenesis of osteoarthritis
Management of knee and hip osteoarthritis
Epidemiology and prevention of osteoporotic fractures**P11: RA - Clinical aspects**

Moderator: Tuulikki Sokka

Tore Kvien, Norway
Tuulikki Sokka, Finland
Glenn Haugeberg, NorwayRA - Quality of life
RA in Europe - Observations from the Quest-RA study
GoTreatIT - clinical monitoring of rheumatic diseases**P12: Late breaking session**

Moderator: Marjatta Leirisalo-Repo

Saturday, 2 February 2008 at 09:30–11:00**P13: Rheumatology - Imaging**

Moderator: Riitta Luosujärvi

Mikkel Østergaard, Denmark
Agneta Scheja, Sweden
Juhani Koski, FinlandMagnetic resonance imaging in early rheumatoid arthritis
Imaging in systemic sclerosis
Ultrasonography in routine rheumatological clinical practice**P14: Rheumatology - Epidemiology**

Moderator: Oili Kaipainen-Seppänen

Oili Kaipainen-Seppänen, Finland
Kim Hørslev-Petersen, DenmarkIs RA disappearing?
Diagnostic and prognostic significance of autoantibodies in early rheumatoid arthritis
Prospectives of epidemiology in rheumatology

Lars Klareskog, Sweden

P15: Basic sciences

Moderator: Marjatta Leirisalo-Repo

Solbritt Rantapää Dahlqvist, Sweden
Marja Pertovaara, Finland
Gunnar Sturfelt, SwedenPTPN22 polymorphism in RA
Cytokine gene polymorphism in Sjögren's syndrome
Complement genetics in SLE with focus on C2 deficiency**Thursday, 31 January 2008 at 8:00–9:00****W1: Videocapillaroscopy**Agneta Scheja, Sweden
Riitta Luosujärvi, Finland**W2: Ankylosing spondylitis**Dan Nordström, Finland
Jan-Tore Gran, Norway**W3: Cervical spine and rheumatology**Markku Kauppi, Finland
Urban Rydholm, Sweden**Friday, 1 February 2008 at 8:00–9:00****W4: Pediatric rheumatology, novel treatments**Kati Markula, Finland
Heini Pohjankoski, Finland**W5: Sjögren Syndrome**Yrjö Konttinen, Finland
Raija Niemelä, Finland
Marja Pertovaara, Finland**W6: Chronic widespread pain**Marja Mikkelsen, Finland
Pekka Hannonen, Finland**Saturday, 2 February 2008 at 8:00–9:00****W7: Basic Sciences**Andy Cope, United Kingdom
Pia Isomäki, Finland**W8: Sports and keeping fit - is it for patients with RA?**Arja Häkkinen, Finland
Kaisa Mannerkorpi, Sweden

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Online abstract form and detailed instructions for abstract submission will be available on the congress website: www.congrex.fi/scr2008

Online abstract submission opens 15 August 2007
Abstract submission deadline 15 October 2007

At least one author per each abstract is required to register for the congress by 15 November 2007.

All accepted abstracts will be published in a supplement of Scandinavian Journal of Rheumatology and selected abstracts will be presented as oral presentations in the parallel sessions.



IMPORTANT DATES

Online abstract submission opens 15 August 2007
Abstract submission deadline 15 October 2007
Online registration opens 15 September 2007
Early registration deadline 15 November 2007

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION

Flights through Helsinki to Kittilä and Rovaniemi

Finnair provides direct service to Helsinki from most European countries, United States and the Far East as well as frequent daily connections from Helsinki to Kittilä International Airport (about 20 minutes from Levi by car) and Rovaniemi International Airport (about 2 hours from Levi by car).

Helsinki-Vantaa Airport and Kittilä Airport

Helsinki-Vantaa Airport has been rated one of the world's best airports. Onward connections from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport to Kittilä Airport (closest airport to Levi) are available through Finnair. The flight from Helsinki to Kittilä takes about 90 minutes. Alternatively it is possible to fly to Rovaniemi Airport and take a bus to Levi from there (about 2 hours bus ride).

Airport Transportation from Kittilä to Levi

Buses, minibuses and taxis will be available at the Kittilä International Airport. Transportation from Kittilä to Levi takes about 20 minutes.

Letter of Invitation

Upon request, the chairman of the congress will be pleased to send a personal letter of invitation to enable participants to obtain supporting funds or visas for attending the Congress. These invitation letters cannot be considered as an offer of financial support by the organisers.

Passport and Visa

To enter Finland, most EU-citizens only need a valid identity card with a photo. Passport is required for non-EU-citizens and also if you plan to travel to Tallinn, Estonia or Russia. A visa is required as well if you travel to Russia. If in doubt, please consult the nearest Finnish embassy or consulate about the required documents.

Insurance

The registration fee for the Congress or the exhibition does not include any insurance for injuries to persons or property during the Congress. Participants and exhibitors are advised to have valid travel insurance covering for health care and material loss.

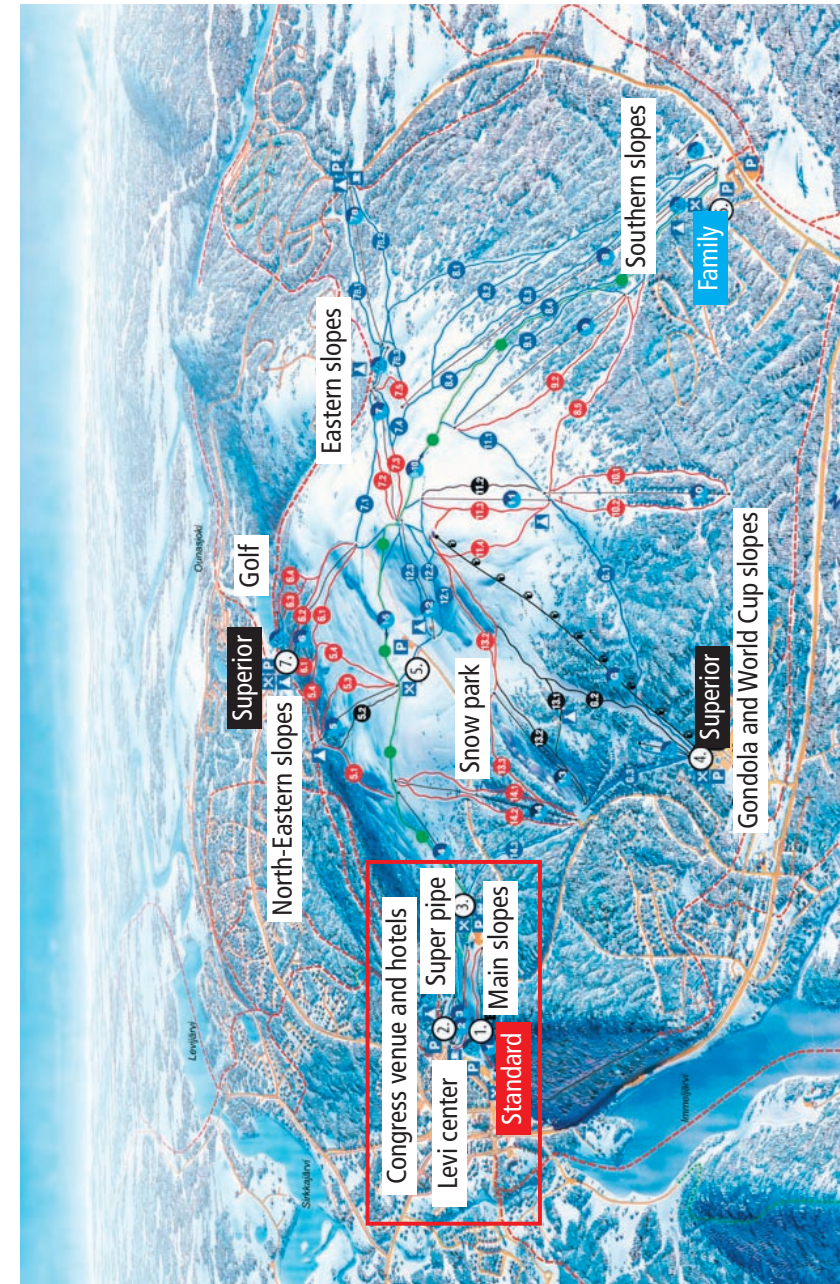
The congress will be held in Levi, Finland, about 170 km north of Arctic Circle and 20 km from the Kittilä International Airport. Levi is a popular all-year-round holiday resort close to wilderness of Lapland. January–February is not yet high season so there should also be possibility to find some peace there.



There are excellent meeting and congress facilities available. The congress and exhibition premises are located at Hotel Hullu Poro. The main lecture hall takes about 400 participants and the exhibition area is located right next to the main hall. The parallel sessions will be held in the same hall, divided into smaller meeting rooms during the parallel sessions.

In addition to the congress and exhibition, you can take extra time to enjoy both cross country and downhill skiing, snowmobiling, reindeer and husky sledge rides and hopefully even shimmering northern lights. You can also work out a sweat in the gym or laze around in the tropical warmth and enjoy a Finnish sauna in the northernmost spa in Europe.

Excellent cross-country skiing trails are available in Levi area and the downhill slopes rise up on the nearby fell side. There are wilderness huts and campfire sites along the skiing and hiking trails which wind over the fells and along the canyons. Some of the cross-country skiing trails are illuminated and there are many slopes to select from for downhill skiing and snowboarding during the leisure time, even in the evenings.



REGISTRATION

Participants should register online through internet. Both online registration and online abstract forms will be available on the congress website.

Online registration opens 15 September 2007
Early registration deadline 15 November 2007

Due to limited space of the main lecture hall, we recommend you to register early. The number of active participants is limited to 400.

Further information and details on registration are available on the congress website: www.congrex.fi/scr2008

Registration date	By 15 Nov. 2007	After 15 Nov. 2007
Congress fee	300 €	400 €

The congress fees include:

- Participation in all sessions and workshops
- Access to the exhibition area
- Programme and abstract book
- Admission to opening ceremony
- Admission to welcome reception
- Admission to closing ceremony
- Coffee at the exhibition area
- Lunches are served in the sponsored lunch sessions organised by the companies



Please note:

- All optional evening events and social programme options require registration in advance and are not included in the registration fees

PAYMENTS

Currency

Payments should be made in euros (€) by credit card or bank transfer.

1. Credit Card

Only VISA, MasterCard or EuroCard are accepted. Please submit your credit card number including the three last digits on the signature panel (on the reverse side of the card) and the expiry date on the secured online registration form to enable the credit card transaction.

2. Bank Transfer

Bank name: Aktia Kauniainen
Bank address: Promenadi 1, Kauniainen, Finland
Account holder: SCR 2008
Account number: 405529-20123520
SWIFT: HELSFIHH
IBAN: FI 19 4055 2920 1235 20

Please note that all banking costs must be paid by the participant. The name and address of the participant as well as the details of the payment should be clearly indicated when completing the bank transfer.

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration and receipt of payment will only be sent when both the registration form and payment in full are received. Confirmation will be sent to the participant by airmail, telefax or e-mail.

Cancellations

Cancellations will be accepted until 15 November 2007. The full amount will be refunded less 50 € to cover cancellation costs. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after this date. Cancellations must be made in writing by e-mail, telefax or airmail to the congress secretariat. Reimbursement will not be given for late arrival, unused services, unattended events or early departure from the congress.

Replacements

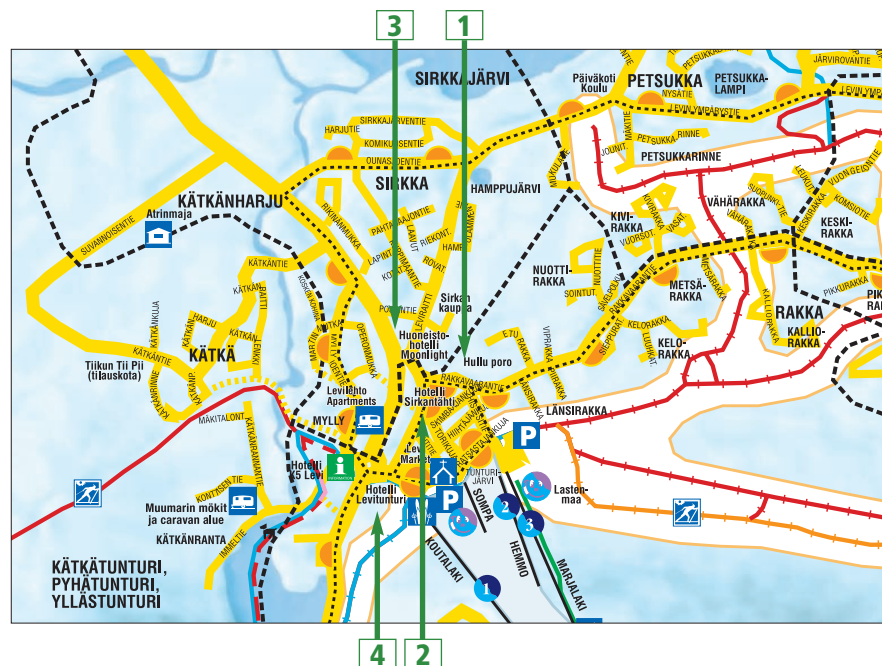
Replacements of participants are accepted at any time at an extra charge of 30 €.

Number in map	Hotel name	Single room (€)	Double room (€)
1	Hotel Hullu Poro	76 €	92 €
2	Lapland Hotels Sirkantähti	75 € / 115 €	90 € / 115 €
3	Apartment Hotel Moonlight	55 €	85 €
4	Hotel Levitunturi	Additional rooms to be booked if needed	

All listed hotel room rates above are per night and include taxes (VAT) and breakfast. Apartment Hotel Moonlight also has rooms with 3 beds (115 €) or 4 beds (145 €).

Hotel Deposit

A hotel deposit of 100 € must be paid in advance together with the congress fees. The hotel deposit will be deducted from the total cost of accommodation. The remaining hotel payment will be charged at the hotel upon check-out. The hotel deposit is non-refundable if the cancellation is made after 15 November 2007. Possible cancellations or changes to reservations should be made in writing by e-mail, telefax or airmail. Hotel bookings should be made through the congress secretariat in order to benefit from the special rates.



Booking Schedule

A number of rooms in different categories have been booked at attractive rates since Levi may be crowded during the congress period. All hotels are located close to each other as this is more convenient for transport, shopping, sightseeing and dining.

To secure accommodation of your choice, you should register as early as possible. Prices quoted are per room per night and include accommodation, buffet breakfast, hotel service charge and VAT (Value Added Tax). All hotel reservations, especially after 15 November 2007, will be subject to availability.

There will be no organised shuttle service, because the congress hotels and all congress premises are located within walking distance (less than 500 meters).

General Conditions

As soon as the registration form is received, all reservations will be completed based on requests which, however, will be subject to availability. Confirmation for hotel accommodation will be included in the confirmation letter confirming the participation for the congress. No hotel vouchers will be needed since the congress secretariat will transfer the hotel deposit amounts to each hotel and the deposit amounts will be deducted from the remaining hotel invoice to be paid at the hotel during the congress.

Participants are requested to pay their personal expenses directly to the hotel at latest when checking out. Please indicate on the Registration Form if arrival at the hotel is scheduled after 18:00 so the congress secretariat can inform the hotel about your late arrival. The regular check-out time is 12:00. Please note that all room reservations will be made on "first come, first served" basis and all reservations will be subject to availability.

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