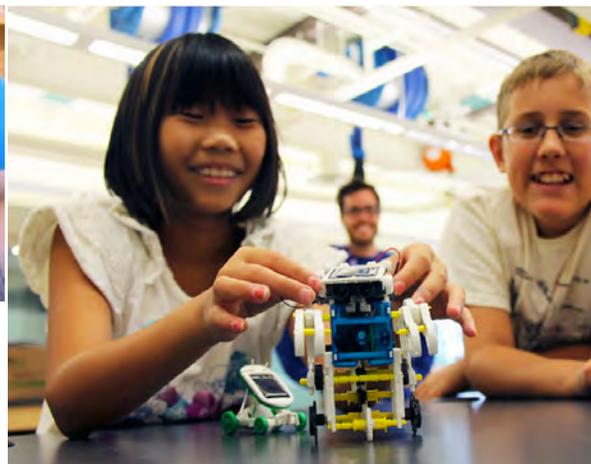


2013 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

The highlights of our development from our fiscal 2013 calendar year include the expansion of Partners In Research programming in conjunction with several new partnerships. In February 2013, we launched VROC Alberta in partnership with the Alberta Distance Learning Centre.

This year we also partnered with CISCO Systems Canada Inc. to launch the Connected North initiative with Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit, Nunavut and Sanofi and Sanofi Pasteur Canada to become the managing partner of the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada (SBCC).

Additionally, Summer STEM Camp was a new addition to PIR programming; two STEM Camp pilots were launched in London and Woodstock in July and August 2013, with great success.

Along with the expansion of PIR's program offerings in 2013, the Partners In Research National Awards were also expanded to include five new award categories: Science Ambassador Award, Technology Ambassador Award, Engineering Ambassador Award, Mathematics Ambassador Award, and the VROC Participation Award.

Even with all these expansions and new partnerships, PIR continued to grow its Virtual Researcher On Call program, a staple PIR program since 2006. In 2013, there were 360 new teacher sign-ups and 192 new VROC Expert sign-ups.

2014 is set to be another great year for Partners In Research.

Message from the Executive Director

I am extremely pleased that Partners In Research (PIR) took steps to bolster its educational program offerings in 2013. Most commonly known for our flagship program, Virtual Researcher On Call (VROC), PIR added three new programs to our suite of services to help support Canadian youth in their quest for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and careers.

The first step was our engagement as the Managing Partner for Cisco Systems Canada's Connected North program. This is a program that connects remote communities in Canada's north with communities in the south for mutual learning opportunities. Students connect with VROC Experts for educational sessions, or with other classrooms for cultural exchange opportunities.

Our program offering was also expanded with Summer STEM Camp, piloted in July and August 2013 in Woodstock and London, Ontario. A typical STEM Camp day sees campers connecting with STEM experts via videoconference for question and answer sessions about the daily topic, or for live-demonstrations to enhance their other daily camp activities and experiments.

The third program to be added was the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada (SBCC) sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur Limited and Sanofi Canada. As the Managing Partner for the SBCC, PIR executed the challenge in every province across Canada, which led to increased participation rates of students who submitted research projects for the SBCC. The Canada-wide finals were planned for Ottawa to correspond with the Partners In Research Annual Awards.

Partners In Research has taken steps to become a Canadian leader in STEM educational programs across Canada. I am extremely pleased with our efforts to do so and look forward to continuing to introduce new programs and improve upon existing programs that will help to serve Canadian youth in their pursuit of STEM-related careers.

As a national charity, PIR could not deliver on its mandate without exceptional people doing exceptional things on our behalf. I would like to thank my friends and mentors, Dr. Doug Jones and Dr. Ron Calhoun for their unwavering support, and my staff for their dedication to our vision and the personal sacrifices they make to help that vision become a reality. Lastly, I am fortunate to have an incredible Advisory Board and National Board who assist and support me tirelessly. And, of course a huge thank you to all our supporting partners, institutions and friends who help support our operations across Canada. We couldn't do it without you!



Kevin Cougler, Executive Director



Message from the National President

Over a quarter century ago, a small group of academic leaders in London and Toronto, created an organization dedicated to enhancing public understanding of the importance of health research in conquering disease and improving the quality of life in Canada and by extension world-wide. Joined by some of Canada's leading philanthropists, literary figures, and social activists of the day, including Bluma Appel, Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Ben Wicks, June Callwood, and others, this organization became Partners In Research. Enhancing public understanding remains central to Partner's mission, which has broadened to also include the natural sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



Progressively, the methods by which Partners delivers on its educational mandate have evolved from literature and videotapes delivered to classrooms across Canada and essay contests, to include diverse active tutorial web videos and Virtual Researcher On Call (VROC), which uses state-of-the-art videoconferencing technology to “deliver” leading scientists directly into the classroom, plus web broadcasting, researchers available “on the fly,” as well as this year partnering to deliver the *Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada* which promotes bioscience to youth Canada-wide.

To reflect the enhanced aspects of our programs, Partners has also extended its Annual Awards program beyond biomedical scientist and lay categories to include awards in the STEM disciplines as well as VROC participation. These awards recognize scientists for their excellence in research and commitment to public education about the importance of scientific research and persons in the public who play such a significant role in partnering for this important outreach. In this 2013 Report, you will hear more about these developments.

Much credit for these exciting developments go to the Executive Director, Kevin Cougler and a dedicated staff of PIR. In addition, from its inauguration, and into the future, we are supported through the critical role of our volunteers, patrons, and sponsors. Without this grass-roots support and the generous financial contributions of numerous universities, colleges, research foundations, and private sector partners, we could not accomplish what is needed to fulfill our mandate.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Partners In Research, thank you all. We hope that you also take pride in the success of the partnership that your support our important mission has made possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Douglas L. Jones, B. Sc., M. Sc., Ph. D., F. A. C. C.
National President

Program Expansion and Partnerships

In 2013, Partners In Research announced several new partnerships and initiatives that led to program expansion and even more students reached by programming across Canada.

Connected North

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The **Connected North** pilot began in October 2013, and involved the collaboration of PIR, CISCO Systems Canada, internet service provider SSI Micro and Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Connected North provides opportunities for the students of Aqsarniit Middle School to learn from experts in STEM fields related to their curriculum through the use of the VROC platform.

The Connected North pilot involved three teachers from Aqsarniit Middle School and their grade 6, 7, and 8 students.

Connected North also includes educational classroom-to-classroom cultural exchanges between Aqsarniit Middle School and other schools across Canada, known as **Classroom Connect**.

Classroom Connect facilitates mutual learning for Aqsarniit students and their peers from southern Canadian classrooms to learn about each other's ways of life through cultural exchange.

In 2013, the Connected North program consisted of **59** VROC sessions and Classroom Connect sessions with schools from Toronto, Burford and Grafton, Ontario, as well as Busby, Alberta.

Connected North was tremendously successful. Teachers and students reported that students were excited to come to school each day to find out who they would be learning with that day. With VROC as a new resource in the classroom, students at Aqsarniit Middle School now connect with experts from across Canada, representing a range of STEM topics and experiences that have seen attendance rates increase as a result.

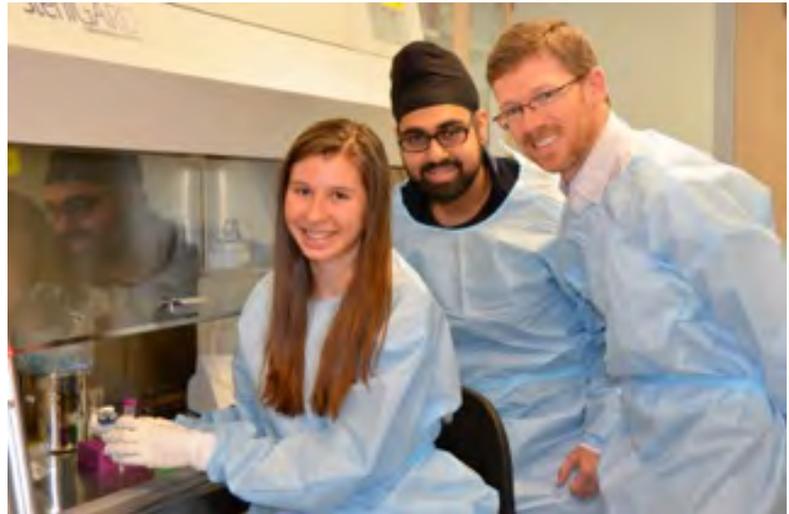


“Being in a remote location makes it difficult to have speakers and experts come into the classroom, especially with a biology background. With David, we got to see cells under a microscope. His presentations clarified ideas for many students. The presentations also helped the students to make an inter-personal connection. It also got the students excited about science time and most importantly encouraged their curiosity.”

- **Grade 6 Teacher, Caryn Conley, Aqsarniit Middle School, Iqaluit, on her students' experience with VROC Expert, David Lesbarrères**

Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada

Défi BioGENEius Sanofi Canada



In September 2013, Partners In Research took on the role of key managing partner of the **Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada (SBCC)**.

In 2013, 237 high school and CEGEP students from Victoria to Saskatoon to St. John's submitted a total of 169 project proposals for the SBCC, focused on biotechnology fields of discovery and study.

When the previous managing partner of the SBCC announced in June 2013 that they would cease operations, PIR approached Sanofi Pasteur Limited and Sanofi Canada to inquire about taking on leadership of the program. PIR negotiated a three year management contract with the title sponsors, and in September 2013, began working with previous funders to repair and re-build relationships for ongoing sponsorship.

York University, the National Research Council Canada (NRC-CNRC), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR-IRSC) and Genome Canada agreed to remain as national sponsors of the SBCC. The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) and VWR International have since joined the fold as new national sponsors of the competition.

The SBCC is competed in 9 regions -- British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Southwestern Ontario, GTA, Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic Region. Each regional winner attends the national competition, the winner of which attends the international competition.

As a national, biotechnology research competition that encourages high school and CEGEP students to pursue future studies and careers in the exciting field of biotechnology, the SBCC is an excellent fit with the PIR mandate to support research, encourage skills development, education and jobs selection in STEM fields. The majority of students who have competed in the past have gone on to pursue careers in science and biotechnology.

[continued next page]

This year, **237** high school and CEGEP students from Victoria to Saskatoon to St. John's submitted a total of **169** project proposals focused on biotechnology fields of discovery and study. Working closely with academic mentors and teacher advisors, these students have conducted research in diverse areas such as telomeres, diabetes, stress management, Alzheimer's Disease, autism and pulp production.

2013 SBCC Student Profiles

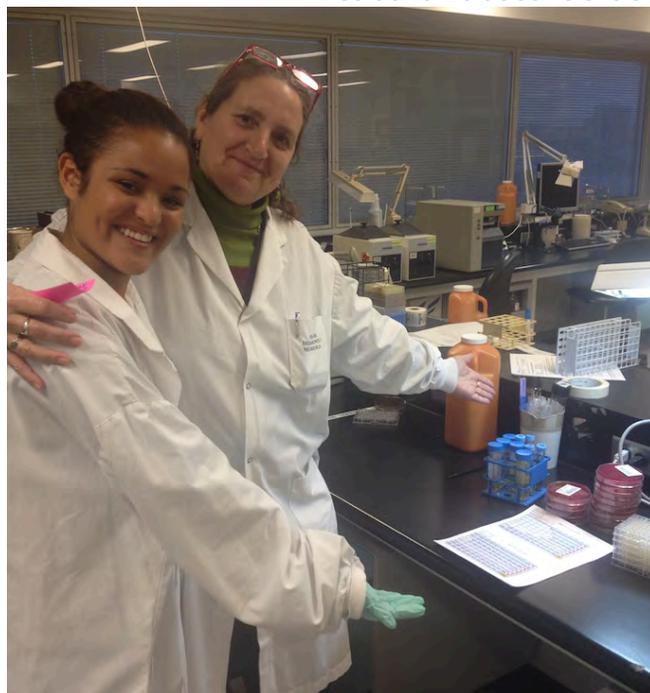


"Thanks to the SBCC, I was able to explore research that could potentially save lives down the road. The notion that a kid's idea can make such an impact inspires me to keep going and persevere, which is why I'm returning to the competition this year."

**- 2013 SBCC National Winner
Arjun Nair, 16.**

"Ultimately, the competition has given me the confidence and the drive to make a difference. I now know I have the capability to be a good researcher and this carries through all my activities in university whether it be research, club participation or academics."

**- 2013 SBCC Participant
Isabelle Labeca-Gordon**



Summer STEM Camp



In Summer 2013, Partners In Research introduced **Summer STEM Camp** as a pilot program in London at Western University and in Woodstock at the South Gate Centre.

STEM Camp operated for two weeks with capacity for twenty campers each week.

From 8:30am to 4:30pm each day, campers participated in hands-on STEM activities, daily videoconferences with STEM experts and Olympians, as well as various site tours of university labs.

Using the VROC platform to connect with Canadian experts, Summer STEM Camp provided youth access to VROC STEM education in the summer months.

On Alternative Energy Day, campers were immersed in STEM activities and challenges such as building wind and solar cars and connected with Dr. Craig Merrett from Carleton University. On CSI Day, Rob Rigole, Instructor of Forensic Identification Training at the Ontario Police College, demonstrated fingerprint dusting to the campers and showed them a police cruiser and radar gun.

Thirty-two campers in total attended the London Summer STEM Camp, and thirty-five campers in total attended the Woodstock Summer STEM Camp.

With such success in its inaugural year, Partners In Research expanded Summer STEM Camp to 40 campers/week and 4 weeks at 8 locations across Ontario for Summer 2014, including London, Woodstock, Ingersoll, St. Thomas, Tillsonburg, Brantford, Ancaster, and Sudbury.



"This was an excellent camp! The topics were varied to expose the kids to areas of chemistry, biology, physics and computer science! The leaders were friendly, and very supportive, helping to guide the kids with their projects in a constructive manner. The camp was well organized and a good balance of learning and outside fun! We will definitely be back next year!"

Jacqui Baskey
Parent of STEM Camp'er
Woodstock, ON

Virtual Researcher On Call programming continues to grow



VROC is the core program offered by PIR. VROC is a set of educational programs that connect knowledge partners – college and university professors and professionals in STEM fields – with Canadian students in elementary and secondary schools for real-time, interactive learning opportunities. VROC has continued to grow each year since it began in 2006. In 2013, more teachers signed-up for VROC, and more VROC Experts were recruited from Ontario and Alberta.

In February 2013, PIR, in concert with Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC), officially launched **VROC Alberta**, an expansion of the Ontario-focused VROC program that provides high quality virtual learning experiences to students and teachers through direct access to Canadian STEM researchers, professionals, and industry experts.

A partnership with Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (AITF) provided a catalyst for expert recruitment from Alberta Institutions such as the University of Calgary, MacEwan University, the University of Alberta, and in particular, iCORE Research Chairs in geoscience, oil sands, and other fields of recent interest and relevance to students in the K-12 classroom.

2013 VROC Achievements:

360 New Teacher Sign-ups

192 New VROC Expert Sign-ups

- 51 VROC Experts from Alberta Institutions
- 2 VROC Experts from British Columbia Institutions
- 66 VROC Experts from Southwestern Ontario
- 73 VROC Experts from Eastern & Northern Ontario

Over **250** VROC connections took place throughout the year. By the end of 2013, there were **425** Teachers and **334** searchable VROC Experts in ExpertBook.



55 VROC Videos featuring Experts and research from institutions were created and posted to VROC Video.



The addition of **Summer STEM Camp** was another source of VROC connections, expanding VROC programming year round:

35 of the 250 VROC connections took place at camp during Summer 2013.

VROC Student Profile

Helena Kita, Grade 12

“My experience with VROC has been great. Often times in Science classes we learn about “real life applications,” but usually they are so distant from us (such as industrial processes) that it is hard to really understand how important what we’re learning about really is. It was really enjoyable to talk to Dr. Uehling over video calls because we were able to ask him questions about chemistry in the cancer research field while also applying what we learned in the classroom that day, and he was great at answering them in a way that we understood. We also got to ask questions around the politics of cancer research such as the competition for grants, the interest of drug companies etc. This was really interesting because it put it all in a very real context, and allowed me to understand what a job in this field would be.”



VROC Teacher Feedback

“The program is quite beneficial for the students. The experience to connect with a post-secondary professor and to see the application of concepts at that level, and in the community, is priceless. It provides the students with a real-life link to concepts covered in class.” (Fall 2013) Craig Orioux, Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board

“Dr. Thomas Merritt connected with my students in so many ways - from talking to them as equals and challenging them to think and discover, to sending them resources between talks and even encouraging them to give back to the communities they are in. He got up at 6 in the morning to connect with us and never wavered in his commitment. The relationship was key to the success. I learned a lot too - current things going on in science research. We were also able to share resources.” (Spring 2013) Ingrid Ermanovics, International School of Dakar

“My students felt that they were taking part in something really powerful. My grade eights thought it very impressive that they got to interact with a university level teacher.” (Spring 2013) Owen Duncliffe, Durham District School Board

“This is a fantastic program! I was able to arrange two different experts in two different scientific disciplines for two different classes in one week. It’s very convenient to cover several curriculum expectations in one lesson.” (Fall 2013) Azniv Marie Harmandayan, Toronto Catholic District School Board

The Launch of ExpertBook

On September 6, 2013, in time for the new school year, Partners In Research officially launched ExpertBook, a curriculum-tied searchable online database of VROC Experts. ExpertBook makes the VROC program more accessible to teachers, by providing a customizable search for VROC Experts by area of expertise and institution and matches their expertise with course codes. Teachers can independently place spontaneous calls to VROC Experts through ExpertBook, as it fits with their teaching throughout the day, without the need of a PIR staff member to schedule the call.



From left to right: Kevin Cougler, Feridun Hamdullahpur (President, UW), Dr Brian Dixon (Professor, UW), Minister Gary Goodyear, Zoe Letwin (PIR), and George Dixon (Vice President, Research, UW) at the ExpertBook launch at the University of Waterloo.

ExpertBook was launched at the University of Waterloo; Gary Goodyear, Canada's Minister of State, Federal Economic Development Agency for Ontario, was in attendance to make the exciting announcement. Local media also attended to report on the launch of ExpertBook and its positive implications for education.

Dr. Brian Dixon, professor at University of Waterloo and VROC Expert, was also in attendance and spoke to his experience as a VROC Expert and helped announce the launch of ExpertBook – a platform that, according to Dr. Dixon, not only benefits teachers, but also provides VROC Experts another means of outreach and communication.



Partners In Research National Awards

The Partners In Research National Awards 2013 and celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Partners In Research was held at the Lamplighter Inn in London, Ontario on Sunday, June 2nd, 2013.

This event was very different from events from years past. Some of the changes for the event included the addition of Science Ambassador, Technology Ambassador, Engineering Ambassador, and Mathematics Ambassador Awards, along with the VROC Participation Award.

The 2013 Partners In Research National Awardees:

Biomedical Science Ambassador Award – Dr. Chris Brandl

The Ronald G. Calhoun Science Ambassador Award – Dr. James Low

Science Ambassador Award – Dr. John Smol

Technology Ambassador Award – Dr. Ron Deibert

Engineering Ambassador Award – Not Awarded

Mathematics Ambassador Award – Dr. Peter Taylor

VROC Participation Award – Dr. Thomas Merritt

The evening began with a networking cocktail reception and was followed by the awards ceremony hosted by Co-Masters of Ceremony, Mr. John Davidson (Founder, Jesse's Journey) and Dr. Rémi Quirion (Chief Scientist at Fonds de recherche du Québec). The Honourary Co-Chairs of the evening were Dr. Amit Chakma (President & Vice Chancellor, Western University) and Dr. Howard Rundle (Former President, Fanshawe College).

There were approximately 250 attendees including volunteers, awardees, awardee guests, board members, staff and guests. Some notable attendees included Deb Matthews, Ed Holder and Susan Truppe.



Volunteers

Volunteers were crucial to the success of PIRNA 2013. There were many volunteers who helped with the planning and running of the event, including many VROC experts who were willing to carry PIR balloons around and invited the attendees to ask them about their expertise. Twenty-nine additional volunteers helped with event planning, administrative duties, and helped at the registration table on the day of the event.

An additional thirteen volunteers gave their time to helping around the PIR office throughout the year with copy editing, data entry, French translation, grant writing, video editing, and other communications support. Three of these volunteers were co-op students -- one from Fanshawe College and two students from local high schools -- who came into the office on a weekly basis to assist with video editing for VROC Video and other projects.

How to get involved

There are many ways to get involved and support the programming and initiatives of Partners In Research:

- 1) Volunteer your time: Partners In Research needs volunteers to help with administrative duties, event planning, and STEM Camp. Visit our Volunteer webpage for more information.
<http://www.pirweb.org/pir/en/volunteers/>
- 2) Donate: If you cannot give your time, Partners In Research is registered on CanadaHelps.org and accepts any donation, no matter how big or small, to assist with continuing our unique educational programming. Visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/11241> to donate.

Thank you to our supporters:**Supporters of VROC:**

Algonquin College	Northern College
Carleton University	Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
Centennial College	Queen's University
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario	Ryerson University
CISCO Canada	Rx&D
Confederation College	Sheridan College
Fanshawe College	SickKids
Fleming College	University of Ottawa
Heart and Stroke College	Western University
Kingston General Hospital	University of Toronto
La Cite Collegiale	University of Windsor
Lambton College	University of Waterloo
Lawson Health Research Institute	University Health Network
Loyalist College	Health Research Foundation
McMaster University	

Supporters of the Sanofi BioGENEius Challenge Canada:

Sanofi Canada	Genome Canada
Sanofi Pasteur Limited	The Centre for Drug Research and Development
Canadian Institutes of Health Research	York University
National Research Canada	

Supporter of STEM Camp: Toyota Canada**Supporters of Connected North:** CISCO Canada, SSi Micro**Supporters of the Partners In Research National Awards:**

Alberta Distance Learning Centre	Queen's University
Children's Health Research Institute	St. Joseph's Health Care London
CISCO Canada	Trudell Medical
Engineers Canada	University of Toronto
Lawson Health Research Institute	Western Health Sciences
London Health Science Centre	Western University

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Honorary Director**Dr. Ronald Calhoun**

Former Executive Director, Partners in Research

Honorary Director

Dr. Bessie Borwein, Former Member PIR Board of Directors

Statement of Financial Position

London Citizens for Medical Research (O/A Partners In Research)

December 31, 2013

The financial information presented in this annual report is an excerpt from the complete financial statements of the organization, which were audited by NPT LLP Chartered Accountants dated May 23, 2014 and as such do not contain all disclosures required under Canadian accounting standards for non profit organizations. A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available upon request.

ASSETS

CURRENT

Cash and Short Term Investments	
\$369,383	
Grants Receivable	40,945
HST Recoverable	17,023
Prepaid Expenses	<u>4,785</u>

Capital Assets	\$452,434
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	
\$16,147	
Taxes Other Income Taxes Payable	
11,756	
Deferred Contributions	<u>161,020</u>

	188,923
Deferred Contributions Related to Capital Assets	<u>10,070</u>

	198,993
	<u>253,441</u>
NET ASSETS	\$452,434

NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$217,214
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Excess of revenue over expenses	
<u>36,227</u>	

NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$253,441
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