



## **M D.M.Lalani Damayanthi Kumari Yatawara**

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### **Professional**

June 2019 to date	Professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya
November 2010-May 2019	Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya
	Registered Veterinary Surgeon, Sri Lanka Veterinary Council (Reg. No. 913)
	Certificate for Teaching in Higher Education
	WHO-special training on leishmaniasis

### **Education**

March 2009	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Kochi Medical School, Japan
2001- 2003	Postgraduate training in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Gene Technology Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
August 1997	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class (Upper) Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science (BVSc) University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
	Mahamaya College, Kandy, Sri Lanka

## Work Experience

May 2016 to May 2019	Head of the Department	Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
June 2019 to date	Professor	Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
November 2010 to May 2019	Senior Lecturer Gr II	Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
2009-2010	Post- Doctoral Research Fellow Genetic Laboratory	Institute for Research and Development, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
2004-2009	Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant	Kochi Medical School, Japan
1999-2008	Lecturer	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
January 1998 - July 1999	Temporary Assistant Lecturer	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
1998	Qualified and Registered Veterinary Surgeon	
1997 -1998	Internship training	Veterinary Teaching Hospital, University of Peradeniya Government Veterinary Hospital, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

### **Professional and Academic Membership**

Life member	Sri Lanka Veterinary Association since 1998
Member	Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science
Life member	Peradeniya University Alumni Association (AAUP) [AAUP/L/1374]
Member	Peradeniya University Allied Health Science Teachers Association (PUAHSTA)
Member	Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology

### **Awards**

1999	Presidential Scholarship to follow post graduate studies (MSc)
2004	Monbugakusho Japanese government scholarship for post graduate studies
6-11 August 2006	Travel award from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to participate in XI the International Congress on Parasitology, Glasgow, United Kingdom
19-23 August 2007	Travel award from Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary Medicine to participate in the 21 <sup>st</sup> International Conference of the World Association for Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology, Gent, Belgium
October 2011	WHO Fellowship to follow a special training on Leishmaniasis at WHO-IRTC, Lausanne, Switzerland
2012 & 2013	National Research Council (NRC) - Merit Award for Scientific publications

### **Contribution to the University of Peradeniya**

2016 to date	Faculty Representative	Career Guidance and Counseling unit
2015 to date	Faculty Representative	Academic Development and Planning Committee
2015 to date	Faculty Representative	Senate Research Committee
2011 to date	Faculty Representative	IPURSE committees
2017	Faculty Representative	Co-chairperson editorial committee IPURSE
2016	Faculty Representative	Sexual and Gender Based Violence committee
2012 - 2016	Senate Nominee	University of Peradeniya
2012 - 2016	Faculty Representative	Staff Development Centre

2011 - 2016	Faculty Representative	Convocation Committees
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### Contribution to the Profession

2015 - 2018	Reviewer for the scientific sessions at Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Served as a judge to select the best paper in the 60 <sup>th</sup> and 70 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions at Sri Lanka Veterinary Association Have contributed for the continuous professional development programmes and five year Veterinary curriculum revision as a member of Senate ADPC
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### Faculty Positions

2017 to date	Member, Higher Degrees Committee of the faculty
2016 to 2019	Member, Faculty Admission Committee
2015 to date	Chairperson FAHS Quality Assurance Cell
2015 to 2019	Member, Student Welfare and Advisory Committee
2015 to date	Member, Faculty ADPC
2012 to 2020	Member, Ethics Review Committee
2012 to date	Member, Faculty Research Committee
2012 - 2017	Chairperson, Board of Study for Distance Education for Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, CDCE
2012 - 2017	Senior Student Counselor
2012 - 2014	Member, Appeals Board of the faculty
2011 - 2014	Theme Coordinator, "Ethnic cohesion" under the Higher Education for the Twenty first Century (HETC) Project
2010 - 2016	Coordinator, Niigata University student exchange programme

### Teaching Commitments

Undergraduate Teaching	Module co-ordinator of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Applied Biochemistry, Basic Biochemistry, Cytotechnology, Physiology I & II, Biotechnology, Bioethics, Clinical Biochemistry II & III II, Public Health Microbiology, Biotechnology courses of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya. One course contains 30 hours of lectures and 30 hours practical class as per semester. The medium of instruction is English.
Postgraduate Teaching	Member of the teaching panel for MSc in Medical Physics and teaches Physiology and Biochemistry for postgraduate students of PGIS
Final Year Students Projects	Supervision and the evaluation of the final year undergraduates research projects which cover up 8 credit course of MLS, Nursing

degree programmes.

Supervision and evaluation of postgraduate (MSc, Mphil, PhD) students research projects

### **Workshops Conducted**

Workshop on Proposal writing & Research methodology for undergraduates, FAHS  
Workshop on Sexually Transmitted Diseases for undergraduates of FAHS  
Workshop on ethnic cohesion among undergraduates of AHS  
Workshop on “Suicide prevention among undergraduates of FAHS for academic and non-academic staff of FAHS  
Workshops on career guidance for the final year MLS students  
Workshop on “One Health Concept” for undergraduates of FAHS  
Workshop on “Laboratory safety and occupational health for Technical Officers and Laboratory attendants of University system

### **Conference Organization**

18-19 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Third International conference on Sri Lanka-Japan collaborative research, at University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	Annual Conference of Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology, at University of Peradeniya
4-6 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	One Health Conference at University of Peradeniya
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	Annual Conference of Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology at University of Peradeniya.
2012 - 2018	Sri Lanka-Japan collaborative research conference, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

### **Workshops Attended**

20 <sup>th</sup> April, 2016	Training programme for Senior Student Counselors on “Handling student issues” conducted by Staff Development Center, University of Peradeniya
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Workshop on “Medical Laboratory Accreditation” organized by Sri Lanka Association of testing Laboratories in Colombo
20 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Workshop on “Mentoring in Research Communication” conducted by Research & development Division, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya at Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya
7 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Workshop on “Training on Inquiring into Sexual Harassment” organized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Hotel Berjaya, Mount Lavinia.
11 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 7 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	Participated in a workshop on “Train the trainer program –One health teaching scholars” organized jointly with University of California Davis, USA and conducted by Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop conducted by the Staff Development center, University of Peradeniya. on “Developing curricular to match current trends

November 2014	in higher education” at PGIA
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2014	Workshop on “Toxicity testing for Industrial purposes and possible alternatives” Organized by the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science, MRI
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	Workshop on “Research methods and data analysis using SPSS” organized by the Board of study in Statistics and Computer Science of the PGIS, University of Peradeniya
8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2014	Training workshop on “AHS e-learning management system” at Faculty of Engineering, UoP
22 <sup>nd</sup> May.2013	Workshop on “Assessment blue printing and OSCE” Organized by the Education Unit at FAHS
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Workshop on “Student assessment methods” organized by the FAHS Education unit at FAHS
February, 2013.	Workshop on “User awareness seminar for health professionals” organized by Library of the Peradeniya Medical, Dental, Veterinary, AHS faculty libraries and HELLIS network
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2011	Participated for a Short Course on “ Analysis of Experimental Data: Biological & Medical Applications” organized by the Board of study in Statistics and Computer Science of the PGIS, University of Peradeniya
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	Workshop on “Bioethics in Health Research” organized by the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, FAHS-by Prof. A. Fernando, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna & a member of WHO/SEARO Ethics Review Committee at FAHS
August – October,2010)	Staff development programme for teachers in faculties of Health Sciences, Medical Education Unit, Faculty of Medicine, UoP consisted of Educational technology, University system, Ethics & Professionalism and Research methodology 160 credits

### **Skills & Training**

- Experience with animal models which include animal handling, anaesthesia and tissue removal from rodents.
- Laboratory animal care and maintenance, histological analysis, cell biology and molecular biology techniques, sequencing, biochemical assays, fluorescent microscopy and flowcytometry.
- DNA extraction, PCR, RTPCR, RFLP, cDNA synthesis, ELISA, DNA sequencing, DNA cloning, Western blot, Gel electrophoresis, SDS-PAGE, Phylogenetic analysis, Primer design, Mutation studies, Enzyme kinetics, Scanning electron microscopy, Transmission electron microscopy, DNA sequence annotation, In vitro and in vivo cell culturing techniques, Immuno-histochemistry, Animal experiments, Gene expression, Recombinant protein production and purification.
- Demonstrated experience in supervising undergraduate and postgraduate research students.

## Research Interests

- Molecular diagnostics of genetic and biochemical disorders
- Molecular genetics and genomics studies on breast cancer
- Molecular diagnostics of infectious diseases
- Evolution, molecular taxonomy and phylogenetics
- Mitochondrial genomics of helminthes
- Molecular epidemiological studies of leishmaniasis
- Molecular markers of human diseases
- Molecular epidemiological studies of vector borne diseases
- Immunology
- Biochemical Markers and dyslipidemias

## List of Publications in Refereed Journals

L Yatawara, D Jayasooriya, G Hettiarachchi, B Hewavithana, (2020). Use of multi gene-panel testing to detect hereditary breast cancer gene variants in patients attending to a breast cancer clinic, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, *European Journal of Cancer*, 2020,138,80.

LS Galgamuwa, B Sumanasena, D Iddawela, S Wickramasinghe, L Yatawara, (2019). Assessment of intralesional cytokine profile of cutaneous leishmaniasis caused by *Leishmania donovani* in Sri Lanka. *BMC Microbiology* 2019,19:14.

LS Galgamuwa, B Sumanasena, L Yatawara, S Wickramasinghe (2017). Clinico-epidemiological patterns of cutaneous leishmaniasis patients attending the Anuradhapura teaching hospital, Sri Lanka. *The Korean Journal of Parasitology* 2017, 55 (1), 1.

S Wickramasinghe, L Yatawara, M Nagataki, T Agatsuma (2016). Arginine kinase in *Toxocara canis*: Exon–intron organization, functional analysis of site-directed mutants and evaluation of putative enzyme inhibitors. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Medicine* 2016, (10), 995-1001.

Bandara HPS, Sato MO, Yatawara L, Sato M. (2015). Detection of extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamase-producing *Escherichia coli* from chicken meat in Niigata prefecture, Japan. *Journal of Health Sciences* 4 (2), 2-25.

S Wickramasinghe, L Yatawara, T Agatsuma (2014). *Toxocara canis* (Ascaridida: Nematoda): Mitochondrial gene content, arrangement and composition compared with other *Toxocara* species. *Sri Lankan Journal of Infectious Diseases* 4 (2): 90-98.

S Wickramasinghe, L Yatawara, M Nagataki, T Agatsuma (2014). *Toxocara canis* Arginine Kinase: Gene Structure, Functional Analysis of Site-Directed Mutans and Screening of Substrate Analog as Potential Inhibitors, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Sumathipala A, Siribaddana S, Hotopf M, McGuffin P, Glozier N, Ball H, Kovas Y, Rijdsdijk F, Yatawara L, Pariante C, Zavos H, Siriwardhana C, Pannala G, Jayaweera K, Adikari A, Gunewardane D. The Sri Lankan Twin Registry: 2012 update (2013). *Twin Research Human Genetics* 16 (1):307-12.

Kulathunga DG, Rajapakse RP, Yatawara L, Jayaweera WR, Agatsuma T (2012).

Immunolocalization of arginine kinase (AK) in *Toxocara canis*, *Toxocara vitulorum*, and *Ascaris lumbricoides*. Parasitology Research 111 (2):663-71.

Yatawara L, Wickramasinghe S, Rajapakse RP, Agatsuma T (2010). The complete mitochondrial genome of *Setaria digitata* (Nematoda: Filarioidea): Mitochondrial gene content, arrangement and composition compared with other nematodes. Molecular Biochemical Parasitology 173 (1): 32-38.

Devi KR, Narain K, Agatsuma T, Blair D, Nagataki M, Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L, Mahanta J. Morphological and molecular characterization of *Paragonimus westermani* in northeastern India (2010). Acta Tropica 116 (1):31-8.

Lalani Yatawara, Susiji Wickramasinghe, R.P.V. Jayantha Rajapakse, R.R. M. Laxman R. Siyambalagoda, Thanh Hoa Le, Yoshiya Watanabe, Takeshi Agatsuma (2008). Morphological and molecular studies on Sri Lankan *Leishmania*. Tropical Medicine and Health 36 (4):179-187.

Lalani Yatawara, Thanh Hoa Le, Susiji Wickramasinghe, Takeshi Agatsuma (2008). Maxicircle (mitochondrial) genome sequence (partial) of *Leishmania major*: Gene content, arrangement and composition compared with *Leishmania tarentolae*. Gene 424: 80-86.

Moritoshi Iwagami, R.P.V. Jayantha Rajapakse, Lalani Yatawara, Shigeyuki Kano, Takeshi Agatsuma (2009). The first intermediate host of *Paragonimus westermani* in Sri Lanka. Acta Tropica 109: 27-29.

Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L, Rajapakse RP, Agatsuma T (2009). *Toxocara vitulorum* (Ascaridida: Nematoda): mitochondrial gene content, arrangement and composition compared with other *Toxocara* species. Molecular Biochemical Parasitology 166:89-92.

Lalani Yatawara, Susiji Wickramasinghe, Mitsuru Nagataki, Misa Takamoto, Haruka Nomura, Yasunori Ikeue, Yoshiya Watanabe, Takeshi Agatsuma (2009). Aureobasidium derived soluble branched (1, 3-1,6) beta-glucan (Sophy beta-glucan) enhances natural killer activity in *Leishmania amazonensis* infected mice. Korean Journal of Parasitology 47(4): 345-351.

Susiji Wickramasinghe, Lalani Yatawara, Mitsuru Nagataki, Misa Takamoto, Yoshiya Watanabe, R.P.V. J. Rajapakse, Kouji Uda, Tomohiko Suzuki, Takeshi Agatsuma (2008). Development of a highly sensitive IgG-ELISA based on recombinant arginine kinase of *Toxocara canis* for serodiagnosis of visceral larva migrans in the murine model. Parasitology Research 103: 853-858.

Lalani Yatawara, Susiji Wickramasinghe, Mitsuru Nagataki, R.P.V.J. Rajapakse, Takeshi Agatsuma (2007). Molecular characterization and phylogenetic Sri Lanka based on CO1 and 12S rDNA genes. Veterinary Parasitology 148:161-165.

Susiji Wickramasinghe, Kouji Uda, Mitsuru Nagataki, Lalani Yatawara, R.P.V.J. Rajapakse, Yoshiya Watanabe, Tomohiko Suzuki, Takeshi Agatsuma (2007). *Toxocara canis*: Molecular cloning characterization, expression and comparison of the kinetics of cDNA-derived arginine kinase. Experimental Parasitology 117:124-132.



L. Yatawara, S. Wickramasinghe, R.P.V. J. Rajapakse, R.R. M.L.R. Siyambalagoda, H. T. Le, Y. Watanabe, Y. Matsumoto, T. Agatsuma. Morphological and Molecular identification of Sri Lankan Leishmania species based on kinetoplast minicircle DNA and cytochrome b gene from human isolates, 11th International Congress of Parasitology, August 6-11, 2006, Glasgow, United Kingdom; proceedings: 641-645.

Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L, Rajapakse R P, Agatsuma T (2009). *Toxocara vitulorum* (Ascaridida: Nematoda): mitochondrial gene content, arrangement and composition compared with other *Toxocara* species. *Molecular Biochemical Parasitology* 166:89-92.

### List of Presentations and Proceedings

Yatawara M.D.M.L.D.K, Jayaweera T.S.P, Abeysekera A.W. A.S. Preliminary survey on up country dry zone buffaloes, 3rd Asian Buffalo Congress, March 2000, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Yatawara L, Wickramasinghe S, Rajapakse R.P.V.J, Siyambalagoda R.R.M.L.R. Hoa Thanh Le, Watanabe Y, Matsumoto Y, Agatsuma T. Molecular characterization and identification of Sri Lankan Leishmania spp. Based on kinetoplast minicircle DNA and cytochrome b gene from human isolates, 20<sup>th</sup> IUBMB International Congress of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and 11th FAOBMB Congress, June 18-23, 2006, Kyoto, Japan.

Yatawara Lalani, Wickramasinghe Susiji, Rajapakse R.P.V.J, Siyambalagoda, R.R.M.L.R., Hoa Thanh Le, Watanabe Yoshiya, Matsumoto Yoshitsugu, Agatsuma Takeshi. Morphological and Molecular identification of Sri Lankan Leishmania species based on kinetoplast gene from human isolates, XI th International Congress of Parasitology, August 6-11, 2006, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

Yatawara L., Wickramasinghe S., Rajapakse R.P.V.J., Siyambalagoda R.R.M.L.R., H. T. Le, Watanabe Y., Matsumoto Y., Morphological and Molecular identification of Sri Lankan *Leishmania* species based on kinetoplast minicircle DNA and cytochrome b gene from human isolates, XI th International Congress on Parasitology, August 6-11, 2006, Glasgow, United Kingdom; proceedings : p 641-645.

Wickramasinghe Susiji, Uda Koji, Nagataki Mitsuru, Yatawara Lalani, Rajapakse, R.P.V.J., Suzuki Tomohiko, Agatsuma Takeshi. Cloning and expression of *Toxocara canis* arginine kinase, Southern Japan Parasitology Congress, November 12, 2006, Nagoya, Japan.

Yatawara Lalani, Wickramasinghe Susiji, Nagataki Mitsuru, Takamoto Misa, Yano Hiroko, Watanabe Yoshiya, Mizobuchi Shunji, Sasaguri Shiro, Agatsuma Takeshi. Immuno modulatory effect of Sophy  $\beta$  glucan in *Leishmania amazonensis* infection, 1st International Symposium on infectious diseases and health sciences, November 23, 2006, Kochi Medical School, Oko, Nankoku city, Kochi.

Rajapakse R.P.V.J, Yatawara Lalani, Wickramasinghe Susiji, Takamoto Misa, Yano Hiroko, Watanabe Yoshiya, Agatsuma Takeshi. Sophy  $\beta$  glucan's Improved immunity and lower mortality rates for poultry, 1 st International Symposium on infectious diseases and health sciences, November 23, 2006, Kochi Medical School, Oko,

Nankoku city, Kochi.

Wickramasinghe Susiji, Uda Koji, Nagataki Mitsuru, Yatawara Lalani, Rajapakse, R.P.V.J., Suzuki Tomohiko, Agatsuma Takeshi. Identification and evaluation of phosphagen kinases of *Ascaris suum* and *Toxocara canis* as a novel antigen for the diagnosis of VLM syndrome in humans, 1st International Symposium on infectious diseases and health sciences, November 23, 2006, Kochi Medical School, Oko, Nankoku city, Kochi.

Yatawara Lalani, Susiji Wickramasinghe, Nagataki Mitsuru, Takamoto Misa, Yano Hiroko, Watanabe Yoshiya, Mizobuchi Shunji, Sasaguri Shiro, Agatsuma Takeshi. Sophy  $\beta$  glucan enhances natural killer activity and cytokine production in *Leishmania amazonensis* infection, 76 th Japanese Parasitology, Congress, 29-30 March, 2007, Osaka, Japan.

Yatawara L, Wickramasinghe S, Nagataki M, Rajapakse R.P.V.J, Agatsuma T. Phylogenetic analysis of filarial worm *Setaria digitata* of Sri Lanka CO1 and 12srDNA genes. The 21st International conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology, 19-23 August, 2007, Gent, Belgium.

Yatawara Lalani, Le Thanh Hoa, Wickramasinghe Susiji, Nagataki Mitsuru, Agatsuma Takeshi. Gene content and arrangement of *L. major* compared with *L. tarentolae*. 7<sup>th</sup> Kochi Medical School research meeting, 6-7, February 2008, Kochi, Japan.

Jayasingha HPPA, Yatawara L, Wickramasinghe S. Morphological and molecular identification of sandflies in Matale district. 2nd Annual Conference and scientific sessions of Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology, 25th October, 2013, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Sonara S, Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L. Morphological and molecular identification of sandfly vector of leishmaniasis in Kandy district. Proceedings of the One Health International Conference. 5-6th September, 2014, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Sonara S, Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L. Potential leishmaniasis vector in Kandy district. 3rd Annual Conference and scientific sessions of Sri Lankan Society for Microbiology 25th October 2013, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Wickramasinghe S, Yatawara L, Nagataki, M, Agatsuma T (2014). *Toxocara canis* arginine kinase: Gene structure, functional analysis of site-directed mutants and screening of substrate analogs as potential inhibitors. Proceedings of the Peradeniya University International Research sessions, Sri Lanka, vol.18, 4th and 5th July, 2014.

K.M.D. Jayasooriya, P. B. Hewawithana, K. B. Galketiya, S. Wickramasinghe, L. Yatawara. 2016. Identification of mutations in BRCA1 exon 11 of breast cancer confirmed patients and in at risk individuals. Proceedings of the Peradeniya University International Research Sessions, Sri Lanka, Vol. 20, 4th & 5th November 2016.

K.M.D. Jayasooriya, GB Hettiarachchi, PB Hewawithana, L. Yatawara. 2019. Hereditary breast cancer gene variants: multi gene panel testing outcome in patients attending to a breast

cancer clinic, teaching hospital, Peradeniya. Proceedings of the Kandy Society of Medicine. Kandy, 14th& 15th February 2019.

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=zxpjHFoAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

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## Referees

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Date

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Signature