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**A National Workshop on “Alternatives to Animal Experimentation: Current Status and Challenges”** was organized by Geetanjali Institute of Pharmacy, Geetanjali University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> January, 2016 at its campus. The workshop deliberated upon ways to reduce and replace animals in experimentation through the use of alternative methods. This Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) sponsored workshop was a grand success with the presence of delegates including principals, teachers, research scholars and students of various institutes from all over India. On first day, the first part included the inaugural session, three scientific sessions, followed by the session consisted of poster presentations. Second day consisted of five scientific sessions and final part included the valedictory session which marked the end of the academic event.

The inaugural session of the workshop begun at Lt. Smt. Narmada Devi Agarwal Auditorium with the invocation song and lighting of lamp by the dignitaries that included Shri Ashwani Kumar (Ex-Drug Controller General of India),



Prof. B. L. Tekwani (Principal Scientist and Professor of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi, USA), Dr. Ashok Dashora (Dean, GIP), Mr. Naresh Shukla (General Manager, Sun Pharma Ltd., Dewas), Dr. (Mrs.) Papiya Bigoniya (Director, Radharaman College of Pharmacy, Bhopal), Mr. Raghavendra Narayan (Executive, Reed Elsevier India Private Limited),

Dr. R. K. Nahar (Vice Chancellor, Geetanjali University, Udaipur), Dr. Virendra Singh (Organizing Secretary) and dignitaries from academia, government and industry graced the occasion.

Following the lighting of lamp, a series of short speeches were delivered by the dignitaries which included a welcome speech and a brief insight on the theme of the workshop by Dr. Ashok Dashora and the key note address by Prof. B. L. Tekwani, and continued scientific session by Dr. Papiya Bigoniya and Mr. Raghavendra Narayan.

Second day of workshop began with talk of Dr. C. R. Patil, Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacology, R. C. Patel Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Shirpur, Dhule, Maharashtra. Following the first session, four more sessions taken by dignitaries Dr. S. K. Luhadia, Professor & Head, T.B. & Chest, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur; Dr. Gurudas Khilnani, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, Gujarat Adani Institute of Medical Sciences (GAIMS), Bhuj, Kutch, Gujarat; Prof. Mukul Mathur, HOD, Department of Pharmacology, S.M.S Medical College, Jaipur, Rajasthan and Dr. Gaurang B. Shah, Director, K. B. Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. The workshop concluded with the valedictory program wherein the best presenters were awarded followed by valedictory speech and vote of thanks.

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**A Three-days 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on “Pharmaceutics and Novel Drug Delivery Systems”** was organized by the OMICS International on 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 at Melia Avenida America, Madrid, Spain. The theme of the conference was ‘Challenges and Advances in Novel Drug Delivery Systems’. Huge response and participations were observed from the scientists, researchers, pharmacy faculties



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and leaders from various fields of Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery Systems, who made this event a grand success. 'Pharmaceutica 2016' covered sections like Pharmaceuticals, Drug Development, Drug Delivery, Nanotechnology, Pharmacology and Pharmacy in 15 tracks in which discussions were held on pre-formulation considerations, formulation aspects for various routes, recent advances in drug delivery technology, drug targeting, nanotechnology in drug delivery systems, application of nanotechnology, major challenges in drug delivery system, physiological considerations, vaccine drug delivery systems, bio-therapeutics drug discovery and development, medical devices for drug delivery, smart drug delivery systems, delivery methods for peptides and biologics, global drug policy in drug delivery technology, entrepreneurs investment meet etc. About 300 scientists from different parts of the globe participated in this conference with their research works, scientific knowledge and experience.

The conference was initiated with the Honourable presence of the Keynote forum. The list includes Volkmar Weissig, Midwestern University, USA; Csilla Keyges, Solvo Biotechnology, Hungary; Felix Kratz, CytRx Corporation, Germany; Amiram Goldblum, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; Joel Richard, IPSEN, France; Kang Choon Lee, SungKyunKwan University, Republic of South Korea.

Best Poster Awards were provided to David Veale, Reckitt Benckiser Health Care Limited, UK; Nataliya Storozhylova, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Shayan F Lahiji, Yonsei University, Republic of South Korea; Anton Aleksashkin, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia; Abdulaziz Al Mahallawi, Cairo University, Egypt; Mohamed Yehia Abouleish, American University of Sharjah, UAE and Ahlam Zaid Alkilani, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan.

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**A One-day National Conference on "Emerging Trends in Development of Nanotechnology"** was organized by Lakshmi Narain College of Pharmacy, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2016. Conference was witnessed by Dr. Akhliesh K. Pandey (Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Private University



Regulatory Commission) as 'Chief Guest' and Dr. Umesh Gupta (Associate Professor, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer), Dr. Amit Jain (Head, Research & Development, IPCA Lab. Limited, Ratlam), Mr. Jai Narain Chouksey (Chairman, LNCT Group), Mr. Anupam Chouksey (Secretary, LNCT Group) and Dr. Ashok Rai (OSD, LNCT Group) as 'resource persons', graced the inaugural function.

Eminent speakers like Dr. Umesh Gupta, Associate Professor, Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer and Dr. Amit Jain, Head, Research & Development, IPCA Laboratory, Ratlam enlightened the delegates on various aspects of nanotechnology and advancement in novel drug delivery systems.

About 70 delegates participated in conference from different parts of the country. Research scholars, UG and PG students presented their research and review work in the form of poster presentation.

In poster competition, Ms. Divya Thakur (Bhagyaudya Teerth College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sagar) bagged the first position; Mr. Rahul Sharma (LNCP, Bhopal) got second position and Mr. Vivek Shukla; Ms. Yashvi Kesharwani (LNCP, Bhopal) received the third position while Ms. Puja Kumari (Oriental College of Pharmacy, Bhopal), Ms. Sana Khan (Bhagyaudya Teerth College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sagar), Mr. Manu Singhai and Miss Vamakshi Thaker (LNCP, Bhopal) got the consolation prizes.

The guests of valedictory function - Dr. Prateek K. Jain, Professor, AIPS, Sagar; Mrs. Harshita Jain, Associate Professor, AIPS, Sagar and Dr. A. K. Singhai, Principal, LNCP, Bhopal distributed the prizes and certificates to the awardees.

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**A One-day National Seminar on “Nano Particulate System: Establishing a New Paradigm to Drug Delivery, Therapeutics, Diagnostics and Imaging in Medical Sciences”** was organised by S. K. Patel College of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ganpat University, Gujarat, India on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. The seminar was aimed to provide a challenging forum and vibrant opportunity for researchers and academicians to share their original research results and practical development, experiences on specific new challenges and emerging issues in Nanotechnology.

About 70 delegates were registered for the seminar across the India. The program was inaugurated by the chief guest Prof. Dr. A. N. Misra, Faculty of Pharmacy, M. S. University of Baroda, Baroda, Gujarat. The convener of program Dr. R. K. Patel, Principal, S. K. Patel, College of Pharmaceutical Education & Research welcomed the gathering and gave opening remarks whereas Dr. Rajesh M. Patel, Organising Secretary of seminar briefed about motto of the seminar. The seminar book was released by chief guest of seminar.

The first session began with informative and interactive talk on “Role of Nanotechnology in Delivery of Protein and Peptides” by Prof. A.N. Misra. He explained how different classes of proteins and peptides are used as drugs through nano particulate system. In the second session, Dr. Tejal Mehta, Professor, Nirma University, Ahmadabad who gave insights on “Innovations in Nano-carrier based Nose to Brain Targeting Drug Delivery”. In the afternoon session, Dr. Sonal Bakshi, Professor, Institute of Sciences, Nirma University and Dr. Anita Lalwani, Professor, K. B. Institute of Pharmacy delivered

lectures on “Nano Particles: A Study of Effect on Human Genetic Material In Vitro” and “Trends in Nanosizing Technologies” respectively. The event was concluded by valedictory function where Dr. Rajesh M. Patel proposed vote of thanks.

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**A One-day Symposium on “Clinical Drug Development Process”** was organized by School of Pharmacy at Amphitheatre B, Eric Williams Medial Sciences Complex, Faculty of Medical Sciences (Mount Hope), The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2016. Key speaker of this scientific event was Dr. Chad Martin VanDenBerg, Associate Director, The Institute of Healthcare Innovation, Midwestern University, Glendale, Arizona, USA who addressed the gathering on ‘Drug Development Process’ during symposium. At the end, Dr. VanDanBerg was felicitated with a certificate of appreciation by Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, Director of School of Pharmacy, FMS, UWI, St. Augustine. The symposium was witnessed by various staff and students of School of Pharmacy as well as other schools of FMS.

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**A One-day Symposium on “Healthcare Sustainability”** was organized by the School of Pharmacy at Amphitheatre B,



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Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Faculty of Medical Sciences (Mount Hope), The University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016.

Key speakers of the scientific event were Prof. Manfred Jantzen (Advisor and Coordinator of Master's program in Public Administration in the Social Science Faculty of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and interim Director of the Doctor of Business Administration at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business), Prof. Gour Saha (Director of the Centre for Business Analytics and Intelligence at Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business) along with Dr. Sandeep Maharaj, Associate Dean, FMS & Lecturer, School of Pharmacy who addressed the gathering on 'Strategies for sustainability in the Caribbean', 'Sustainability of the healthcare in a developing country context' and 'Sustainability of CDAP - A case study'. The symposium was well operated by Dr. Rian Extavour, Associate Dean, FMS. Event was well attended and appreciated by Director, Dental School, guests from ministry, all staff and students of School of Pharmacy, UWI, St. Augustine.

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**A Two-days National Conference on "Contemporary Technologies in Drug Delivery and Envisaged Future Trends"** was recently organized by Geetanjali Institute of Pharmacy (GIP), Geetanjali University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. This conference was sponsored by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI). Around 500 delegates comprising of Principals, teachers, research scholars, post graduate and graduate students from various institutes across India

participated in the conference. The first day of the event included the inaugural session, four scientific sessions, followed by the session consisted of poster presentations. Second day was full of three scientific sessions and finally the valedictory session which marked the end of the event.

The inaugural session of the conference begun at Lt. Smt. Narmada Devi Agarwal Auditorium with the invocation song and lighting of lamp by the dignitaries. Following the lighting of lamp, a series of short speeches were delivered by the dignitaries. The guests and gathering were formally welcomed by Dr. Ashok Dashora (Dean, GIP). He continued his words and talked about his mission towards vision & values. The souvenir was released by the distinguished guests.

While giving his presidential remarks, Dr. R. K. Nahar (Vice Chancellor, Geetanjali University) congratulated the organizers and thanked Dr. Burande for his comments regarding pharmacy education in Geetanjali University. He enlightened the gathering and talked about how fast things are changing in the area of pharmaceutical sciences and how necessity is mother of inventions. He talked about the new inventions, their limitations and how research and developments are shaping our future. Shri Ajay Phatak (Drug Controller of Rajasthan) graced the occasion as a 'Chief Guest' and emphasized on the importance of innovation for improving the delivery of drugs. Dr. M. D. Burande (President, Central APTI) was the 'Guest of Honour' of this function and he briefed about the future developments of pharmacy profession and informed about enhanced role of pharmacist in health care. Dr. Kishor Pujari (CEO, Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital) talked about the drugs, pharma market and position of India in global market. Vote of thanks for the inaugural function was presented by Dr. Kalpesh Gaur (Organizing Secretary). He expressed his thanks to all the guests for accepting the invitations, sponsors for support and encouragement.

Scientific session was initiated by key note address by Dr. M. D. Burande on "Attitude to Altitude in Pharmacy Profession". He talked about the three active ingredients important for the success in pharmacy i.e. knowledge, skill & attitude. He also discussed about how research and development is important



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in pharmaceutical field journey and enlightened the role and responsibilities of community pharmacist. Another lecture was delivered by Prof. Jayant J. Khandare (MAEER's Maharashtra Institute of Pharmacy, Pune) on "Challenges in Designing the Innovative Nano/Micro Components for Biological Implications". He talked about the

anticancer drug polymers used in targeted drug delivery system and how polymer chemists are working in the discovery of polymer. Session was continued by a talk by Prof. Kamla Pathak (Head, Department of Pharmaceutics, Pharmacy College, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Saifai, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, India) on "Issues in Development of Targeted Nanoparticles Therapeutics". The scientific content



of her presentation clearly demonstrated about the challenges toward finding a drug molecule without side effects. Drawing her long teaching experience, Prof. Pathak made understanding about how targeting solve the problem of overall biodistribution and how to make a complex design simple. She showed how engineering approach in field of nanoparticles will make it simple & acceptable to industries.

The post lunch session started by Dr. Farhan Jalees Ahmad (Associate Professor & Head, Faculty of Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard University, Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi, India) on "Ophthalmic Drug Targeting Using Nanotechnology Approaches". His innovative talk included nanoparticles use to find, fight, and follow for early diagnosis, therapy, and therapy control. He continued that nanoscale provide us high ratio

surface area to volume and enhance solubility, prevent the drug from biodegradation. He explained about the disadvantages of ophthalmic products available in markets as they can wash out and leads to increase in number of dose. He targeted his talk to design a dosage form which delivers the drug through barriers and concluded that long resident, and this can be achieved by designing nano and micro particle drug delivery system. The scientific session was followed by poster presentation session in which delegates presented their views and ideas on the concern topic and evaluated by experts. The day was ended with an open discussion and interaction session on high tea. Second day of conference begun with talk of Dr. Rakesh P. Patel (Associate Dean - Research, Professor and Head, Pharmaceutics & Pharmaceutical Technology Department, Shree S. K. Patel College of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Ganpat University, Mehsana, Gujarat) on "Cyclodextrin Inclusion Complexes: Methods of Preparation, Characterizations and Its Application In Drug Delivery" in which he described about the basic fundamentals of cyclodextrin, hydrophilic and hydrophobic cyclodextrins, modified cyclodextrins available in markets, cyclodextrin complexation, methods of complexation, characterization of inclusion complex and its application in drug delivery.

Following the first session, two more scientific sessions were taken by Prof. Ambikanandan Misra (Faculty of Pharmacy, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat, India) on "Role of Nanotechnology in Delivery of Protein and Peptides with a Case Study on Insulin" and Dr. Rahul Tripathi (Scientist B, Department of Pharmaceutics, B.V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education and Research Development Centre (PERD Centre), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India) on "Lipid Based Colloidal Nano-Carriers as an Upcoming Drug Delivery Platform". The conference concluded with the valedictory program wherein the best poster presenters were felicitated and finally vote of thanks at the end.

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**A One-day National Conference on "Contemporary Approaches for the Development of Natural Products and Envisaged Future Trends"** sponsored by Indian Council of



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Medical Research (ICMR) and Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI), was organized by Geetanjali Institute of Pharmacy, Geetanjali University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. Around 400 delegates from various institutes across India participated in this conference.



The inaugural session of the conference began with the invocation song and lighting of lamp by the dignitaries including Dr. Vimal Kumar (Professor and Head, Pharmacognosy, Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India); Dr. Manan Raval (Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy, Ramanbhai Patel College of Pharmacy, CHARUSAT, Changa, Anand, Gujarat); Dr. S. S. Katewa (Department of Botany, University College of Science, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India); Dr. Ashok Dashora (Dean), Dr. Kalpesh Gaur (Organizing Secretary) and dignitaries from academia, government and industry graced the occasion. Followed this, all the speakers were welcomed by floral bouquet. The scientific session started with lecture on "Drug Discovery from Natural- a Prototype Study on Indian Medicinal Plants" by Dr. Manan Raval. He told the audience how natural products are much more safe and effective and talked about various plant compounds especially alkaloids and their action on male reproductive organs and effect of different fractions of alkaloids on testosterone. Later on, Dr. S. S. Katewa enlightened about the flora and fauna of Rajasthan, different tribes living here and showed how these tribes use medicinal plants. He focused on the Kathodis or Katkaris, a tribe of catechu makers, living in southern region of Rajasthan, their customs, traditions and importance of plants and plant products in their daily life.



The last lecture of scientific session was delivered on "Lead Finding for ACE Inhibitors from Natural Products" by Dr. Vimal Kumar.

He started with advantages of natural products and described that 65-80% of population uses traditional medicines and told that Ayurveda and natural products can cure disease like liver toxicity, diabetes, asthma from root level.

The conference concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Ashok Dashora, the convener of the conference. He expressed his thanks to all speakers and guests for accepting the invitations, sponsors & his staff for support and encouragement.

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**A One-day Symposium on "Pharmacovigilance: A Key to Medication Safety"** was organized by School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2016 at its campus. The purpose of this symposium was to create awareness among students and healthcare professionals on the significance of adverse drug reaction monitoring. This scientific symposium was witnessed by Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, Director, School of Pharmacy, FMS, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, WI as 'Convener'; Prof. Andanappa Gadad, Prof. Sureshwar Pandey and other faculties of medical sciences. Dr. Shyam Shastri Maharaj, Clinical Pharmacist, St Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada was the key speaker of the event who stressed on the needs of monitoring adverse drug reactions for proper medication safety. Dr. Maharaj

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delivered his talk on medication safety in elderly patients where he presented his study results to the young scholars and emphasized on special needs of elderly patients and the role of pharmacists in improving medication safety and patient compliance. Dr. Maharaj also briefly described the variation in pharmacokinetic parameters in elderly patients in comparison to adults. He also shared his views on good communication skills among pharmacy practitioners to improve the pharmacy practices services.

Another speaker Dr. Sameer Dhingra, Lecturer (Pharmacy Practice), School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, delivered his talk on the significance of pharmacovigilance and adverse drug reaction (ADR) monitoring in context to Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Dhingra highlighted the global scenario and compared with the existing practices in Trinidad and Tobago. He also stressed on the needs of ADR reporting in improving patient care in a given healthcare system. Symposium was attended by more than 100 participants with majority of young budding pharmacists. At the end, Dr. Shyam Shastri Maharaj was felicitated with a certificate of appreciation by Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, Director, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies.

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**A Three-days 10<sup>th</sup> Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education** was organized from 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 at Antigua, Guatemala. This scientific event was jointly organized by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Conference was enriched with diverse workshops on 'Adopting Strategies to Develop Students' Professional Abilities', 'Linking

Pharmaceutical Services, Practice and Universities', 'Next Steps, Strategies to Improve the Results and Impact of the PCPE" and lectures including discussions by diverse pharmaceutical experts and witnessed by various representatives from Central Latin American/North and South American/Caribbean countries including Prof. Rosa Eugenia Buitrago Del Rosal, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Panama, Panama; Prof. Wanda T. Maldonado, Dean, School of Pharmacy, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Prof. Fernando Torres Moscoso, Director, School of Pharmacy, Medicine Faculty, Andres Bello National University, Santiago, Chile; Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, President, Association of Pharmacy Professionals (APP), India and Director, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies; Dr. Sarah Scoular, Director, Pharmaceutical Care Learning Centre, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Colorado, United States; Ms. Karishma A. Jeeboo, Head, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Guyana, Guyana; Mrs. Lydia Thurton, Senior Lecturer, Pharmacy Department, University of Belize; Prof. William Peres, Medicine and Pharmacy Faculty, Postgraduate Program in Science in Food Technology, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil etc.

During the valedictory function, Dr. Rajiv Dahiya, President APP felicitated Prof. Wanda T. Maldonado, Dean, School of Pharmacy, University of Puerto Rico; Prof. Gladys Maidana, Pharmacy Department, Faculty of Chemical Sciences, National University of Asuncion, Paraguay; Prof. M. A. Hada Alvarado, Director, School of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy, University of San Carlos of Guatemala; Prof. Beatriz Badilla, Retired Pharmacologist, Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Costa Rica and Prof. Tarcisio Jose Palhano, President Advisor, Federal Council of Pharmacy, Brasilia, Brazil with 'APP Appreciation Awards' for their vital role in promoting pharmaceutical education. Conference ended with announcement of next meeting of XI PCPE 2018 at Ecuador.

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