November Newsletter

ACHE OF GEORGIA
CONNECTING | LEARNING | LEADING

An Independent Chapter of
American College of Healthcare Executives
for leaders who care®

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President's Letter:



Sanford G. Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE

Dear ACHE of Georgia Chapter Members,

As we move into Fall, I continue to be energized by the momentum across ACHE of Georgia. Our chapter is growing, our engagement remains strong, and I have had the privilege of personally welcoming many new members into our professional community. It is encouraging to see healthcare leaders from across the state choosing to connect, learn, and advance their careers through ACHE of Georgia.

This growth reflects the tremendous work of our volunteers, committee leaders, sponsors, and Board members who continue to create meaningful opportunities for professional development and networking. Over the past several months, we have hosted successful educational webinars, networking events, and our Board of Governors Exam preparation series. These programs are delivering value to members at every stage of their careers while helping strengthen healthcare leadership throughout Georgia.

Advancement remains our bold goal for 2026. One of the most meaningful ways we can invest in ourselves and our profession is by pursuing Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) status. If you are eligible to sit for the Board of Governors Exam, I encourage you to commit today. Register for the exam, establish your plan, and take the next step toward Fellowship before year-end. Our chapter is committed to providing resources, mentorship, and encouragement to help you succeed on that journey.

I am also proud to share that ACHE of Georgia was once again invited to participate in the ACHE Chapter Leaders Conference this fall in Chicago. This recognition provided us with an opportunity to showcase the innovative work our chapter is doing to support clinicians as they transition into leadership roles and further

(continued on page2)

ACHE of Georgia's 2027 Board of Directors Slate

Election to Be Held at the November 12 Business Meeting at Our MiniSummit

ACHE of Georgia's Nominating Committee has met and offers the following slate of Officers and Directors for your consideration for the 2027 chapter year. Voting will take place at the ACHE of Georgia Annual Meeting, held as part of our **Mini Summit at Maggino's Buckhead** on November 12. Click the names of candidates listed below to view their LinkedIn profiles.

- **President** – Nicole Denham, MHA, FACHE, RN (automatic succession)
- **Vice President** – Jon-Michael Williams, MHSA, FACHE
- **Secretary** – Felix Soto, MBA, FACHE
- **Treasurer** – Matthew Shields, MBA
- **Immediate Past President** – Sanford G. Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE (automatic succession)
- **At-large Member** — Philip Atoyebi, MD, MBA, MPH, FACHE
- **At-large Member** – Jennifer J. Giusti, MPA, BSN, RN, FACHE
- **At-large Member** – Josef Hobdy, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE
- **At-large Member** – Christopher Kunney, MSMOT, FHIMSS, eFACHDM
- **At-large Member** – Bonnie Matthews, MSN, FACHE, RN
- **At-large Member** – Sumir Patel, MD, MBA
- **At-large Member** – Trevor Strauss, MBA, FACHE
- **At-large Member** – Gina Tipton, MBA, FACHE, RN
- **ACHE Regent Director** – Lindsey H Petrini, FACHE

With the exception of the Regent Director, President, and Immediate Past President, officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting membership present at the annual meeting of the membership. The Vice President automatically succeeds to the office of President, and the President automatically succeeds to the office of Immediate Past President. The President and Vice President must be ACHE Fellows or Fellow Designates at the time of election, and nominees for other positions must be active ACHE of Georgia members.

President's Letter (continued from p. 1)

demonstrates the impact ACHE of Georgia is making both within our state and across the national ACHE community.

The future is bright for our chapter. With growing membership, strong programming, and a shared commitment to professional excellence, we are building a stronger healthcare leadership community for Georgia. Thank you for your continued engagement, participation, and support. Together, we are creating opportunities for today's leaders while developing the healthcare executives of tomorrow.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming programs and celebrating the accomplishments that still lie ahead.

With gratitude,

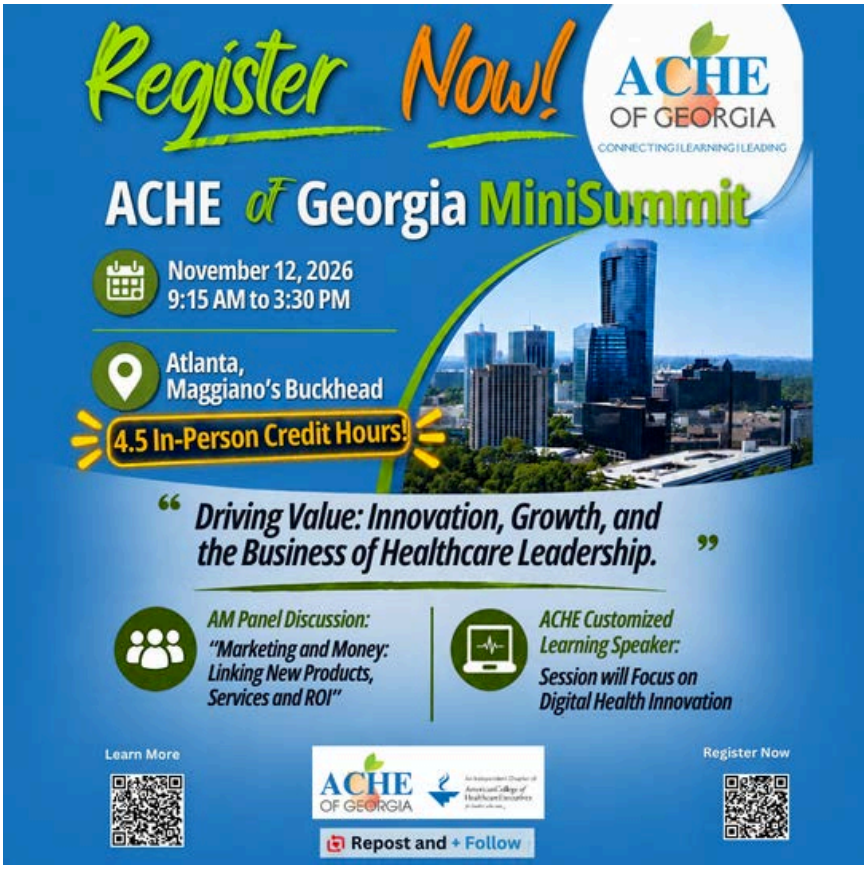
Sandy
Sanford G. Duke, MD, MBA, FACHE
President, ACHE of Georgia
Physician Executive Lead, Atrium Health Georgia

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events:

- **November 5, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** -- Lunch with a Healthcare Executive at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens, with Stonish Pierce, FACHE, President/Chief Executive Officer, Trinity Health Georgia. No fee to attend, but registration is required (limited to 20). Learn More or Register Now
- **November 12, 9:15 AM to 3:30 PM** — MiniSummit at Maggiano's in Buckhead, "Driving Value: Innovation, Growth, and the Business of Healthcare Leadership." Approved for 4.5 hours of ACHE In-Person Education Credit! Learn More or Register Now
- **November 19, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM** -- Virtual Interactive session, "Understanding Implicit Bias and Its Impact on Healthcare Leadership," 1.5 hours of ACHE Virtual Interactive credit. Learn More or Register Now
- **December 3, 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM** -- ACHE of Georgia Senior Executives Keynote Session at Lake Lanier Islands, with Roger Tutterow, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at Kennesaw State University. Registration includes the joint holiday event after the session. Learn More or Register Now
- **December 3, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM** -- Holiday Networking Event and Awards Night at Lake Lanier Islands, hosted jointly by ACHE of Georgia and Georgia HIMSS. Learn More or Register Now
- **December 10, 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM** -- Virtual Interactive session, "Employing Social Media to Build Customer Satisfaction and Community Outreach." Mark your calendar.

Register for Events at
www.acheofgeorgia.org/events





Upcoming Events and Activities



Join Our Toastmasters Club

Do you want to practice public speaking, improve your communication, and build leadership skills? ACHE of Georgia has established a virtual Toastmasters club and members and non-members are invited to be a part of our virtual club.

The club meets every other Friday from noon to 1:00 PM ET. Learn More

Available Now!

ACHE OF GEORGIA Healthcare Leadership Podcast

New Podcast:

"Leading Across Worlds: Technology, Trust, and Healthcare Transformation"

Featuring

Christopher Kunney, FHIMSS, eFACHDM, MSMOT, Managing Partner, IOTECH Consulting



Christopher Kunney, FHIMSS, eFACHDM, MSMOT



Dr. Yanick Hicks

In this episode, Christopher Kunney shares his journey from computer science to healthcare leadership and explains how empathy, trust, and understanding human needs should guide technology decisions. He discusses the growing importance of interoperability, artificial intelligence, and equitable access to digital healthcare, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Hosted by Dr. Yanick Hicks, the podcast is available at no cost on ACHE of Georgia's website at **acheofgeorgia.org**, or scan the QR code below.

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Podcast Series

Registration Now Open for ACHE's 2027 Congress March 22-24 in Nashville!



ACHE of Georgia News

ACHE of Georgia Fellow Spotlight in Action: Ainsley Coley, MHSA, BSc, RN, FACHE, CCN, CSSYB

We are proud to highlight **Ainsley Coley, MHSA, BSc, RN, FACHE, CCN, CSSYB**, Nurse Manager of Gastroenterology and Interventional Pulmonology at Emory Healthcare, whose 19-year healthcare career has been defined by continuous growth, operational excellence, and a commitment to making a meaningful impact.

From providing care in high-acuity clinical settings to leading complex operational initiatives, Ainsley has built a career focused on improving performance, expanding patient access, and supporting high-performing teams.

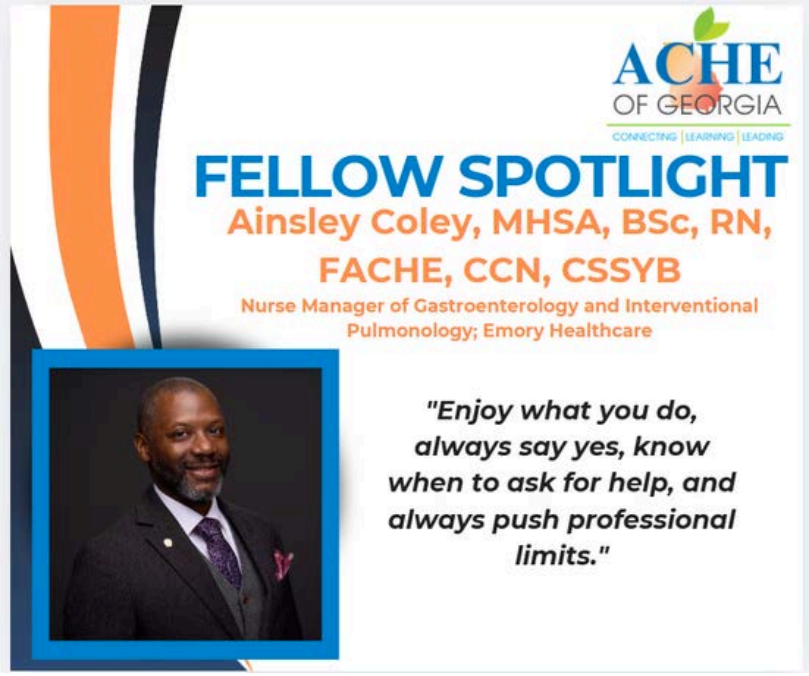
As a healthcare leader, he is passionate about driving improvement through collaboration, accountability, and a commitment to excellence. His work has helped optimize operations, enhance efficiency, and strengthen multidisciplinary partnerships across the care continuum.

A proud ACHE member, Ainsley describes the organization as "a gateway for greatness" and values the opportunities it provides for professional growth and leadership development.

His advice to early-career professionals:

"Enjoy what you do, always say yes, know when to ask for help, and always push professional limits."

Thank you, Ainsley, for your leadership, dedication, and contributions to healthcare excellence.



FACHE
Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives
The Distinction of Board Certification

Prepare for the Board of Governors' Exam with ACHE of Georgia's Prep Class Archive

ACHE of Georgia's 2025 Board of Governors Exam Tutorial and Review course was presented over 5 weeks in June and July. The class covered all 10 BOG exam topic areas. To help ACHE members prepare for the BOG Exam, we're offering an archive of all the study materials presented in these sessions for $50.

Archived materials include links to videos of speakers' topic presentations and slide decks, class videos, quizzes, and quiz answer keys.

Scan the QR Code Below for More Information

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More Info

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ACHE of Georgia Student Corner

A section tailored for ACHE of Georgia student associates, written by students.

Interview Prep: Advice from Healthcare Management Professionals

by Simran Patel, MBA and MHA Candidate at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business

Whether you are preparing for a fellowship interview, internship, or your first healthcare management position, a little preparation can go a long way. Here are a few pieces of advice that working healthcare management professionals highlighted:

1. Know Your Story

Be prepared to explain who you are, what you bring to the organization, and why you are interested in this specific opportunity. Think beyond your resume and connect your experiences, interests, and career goals to the role.

2. Research Beyond the Job Description

Professors and career counselors advise learning about the organization before your interview. It is important to understand and articulate the organization's mission, services, current priorities, and the role you would play within the organization.

3. Prepare Thoughtful Questions

Remember that an interview is also an opportunity for you to learn more about the organization and see if the role and organization are a good fit for you. Some questions to consider:

- “What would success look like in this role during the first 90 days?”
- “What qualities have you seen in people who thrive on this team?”
- “What opportunities are there for professional development?”

4. Be Yourself

An interview is not only about demonstrating that you can perform the job. It is also an opportunity for both you and the organization to determine whether the team, culture, and opportunity align with your goals, expectations, and you.

5. Don't Forget the Follow-Up

A short, personalized thank-you message after an interview can leave a positive impression. Rather than sending a generic message, reference something that you discussed during the interview to make your follow-up message more memorable



Simran Patel

Quick Tip:

Be confident! This is a hard ask because nerves get all of us. However, practicing and preparing common questions, researching the organization, reviewing your resume, and staying current on healthcare events can build up your confidence for interviews. This will allow you to have a flowing and engaged conversation rather than memorizing every answer.

Resources to Help You Prepare:

- ACHE of Georgia Job Search Resources
- ACHE Career Resources and Job Center
- HFMA Career Resources

Current Healthcare Events:

- CNN Health
- KFF
- National Institutes of Health

Have an interview coming up?

Send us your favorite interview preparation resource or tip for a chance to be featured in a future Student Corner!

ACHE of Georgia Event Highlights



Group picture of our July 30 joint D&I community meetup at Atlantucky Brewing in Atlanta.



ACHE of Georgia Vice President Niclole Denham and President Sandy Duke presented a session on our chapter's activities at ACHE's Chapter Leadership Conference in October.



We had lots of fun at our Senior Execs on Deck on August 25 atTruist Park. Thanks to Brasfield & Gorrie for hosting us!



Enjoying networking time at our Clinician Executives and Physician Executives October 8 event at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital.



We had a nice turnout for our Augusta Local Programs Council's event on October 22 at Wellstar Columbia County Medical Center

ACHE of Georgia Event Highlights



We had a great turnout for our August 27 networking event at Pontoon Brewing in Atlanta. We also had events at the same time in Augusta and Athens as part of our ACHE of Georgia Networking Around the State night.



Panelists for our October 8 Clinician/Physician Executives event. (l to r) Lily J. Henson, MD, FACHE; *Bobby Ryan, MBA, FACHE*; *Nabile Safdar, MD*; *Michelle Tillis, MBA, BSN, RN*; *Jack Cheng, MD*; and *Jennifer Giusti, MPA, BSN, RN, FACHE.*



Our joint lunch and learn with AMFP Atlanta focused on Green Hospitals. Our panelists were (from l) Bob Biggio, Mehul Tejani, MD, MPH, Steve Ziffer, and *Dustin Smith.*



Congratulations to our Athens Local Programs Council on a succcessful Fireside Chat at UGA's Health Sciences Complex on October 12.



Group picture from our October 2026-27 Mentorship Launch event in Atlanta.

Fellows Recognition *(Since August 2026)*

New ACHE Fellows:
Congratulations to these ACHE of Georgia members who have achieved the Fellow of ACHE (FACHE) credential since our last newsletter. Please take a moment to congratulate your colleagues on their commitment to advancing their healthcare careers:

- Darra Edwards PharmD, FACHE
- Anthony Chukwudum Esumei MBBS, FACHE
- Samantha E. Glennon FACHE
- Chidi O. Kanu DHA, FACHE
- Gina Lee MBA, CPA, FACHE
- Charles Taylor Marshburn FACHE
- Jonathan D. Metcalf FACHE
- Paul Needham FACHE
- Reshunda Ollie Redmond MBA, FACHE

New Chapter Members

ACHE of Georgia welcomes the following new ACHE members and members who have transferred to the chapter since our July newsletter. We hope to meet you soon.

- Pam Akins MBA, RN
- Nancy Allendorf
- Maleka Anderson
- Lola Babatola MD
- Tiffany Barnes
- Jennifer Barrett MSN, RN
- Jonathan Micheal Bell MHA
- Edward C. Bennett Jr. RN
- Laura Benson
- Alex Binkley
- Rebecca Bonds
- Cameron Broadnax MS
- Ariel Brooks
- Meisha Brown
- Addison Bunch
- Ralph Cadet
- Candice R Carroll MBA, RN
- Nohely Carstens
- Michelle Damron
- James Keith Daniel MD, FACHE
- Lasaiah Davidson
- Jared Davis
- Joe Davis
- Tabitha Dumas DNP, RN
- Billie Durden
- Jeffrey Durthaler
- Danielle Epps
- Dean Farr
- Dare Fashola
- Salman Fidahussein
- Jessica Fitzsimmons
- Tawuana Ford
- Ashraya Ganesh
- Christopher George DHA, RN, FACHE
- Tamika Goins
- Benjamin D. Goldberg MHA
- Melinda Goodroe
- Samantha Goodwin
- Yolanda Grant
- Tonika Lashania Guilford-Greenwood MHA, BSHA
- Christine Guillory JD
- Alexis Hanley
- Brittani L. Harmon DrPH
- Rhonda Cowan Hatfield DBA
- Taylor Hooten
- Mercedes A Hopkins
- Andrew D. Howard FACHE
- Jennifer Hrabowski MBA, RN
- Tyrece Huff
- Thomas Hutton
- Esther Isang
- Mark Jackson
- Delilah Jefferson
- Shaquanta Johnbaptistee
- Love Jones-Manora
- Usama Khalid MD
- Eun Sung Kim
- Caitlin Kimpe
- Cody Allon King
- Joseph King
- Alyssa Kirkpatrick
- Ryan Kocher MA
- Allan Kyburz
- Cade Larkins
- Serge Lecomte
- Cassie Longhart DHA
- Frank Lopez Jr.
- Kaitlin Loudermilk
- Kirk Luczynski MBA
- Keeshoan Mahes
- Bobbi Martin
- Latresha McKinnor
- Renee McLeod-Sordjan ARNP
- Gilbert Means
- Amber Merkel
- Doral Moore
- Charise Morris
- Mark Morris
- Bria Morton
- Nkechi Mosley MPH
- Michael Mudge MSN
- Rashida Muhammed
- Savitha Nagaraj
- Lauren Nelson
- Lisa Norton
- Ijeoma Ofoha
- Michelle Okai-Amankwah

Continued on Next Page

Membership Report *(Since August 2026)*

New Members (continued)

- Toyosi Okurounmu
- Tara Lynn Osseck
- Dara Paul
- Cindy Phan
- Dhara Prajapati
- Alexandra Preston DHSc
- Kelly Proctor
- Benjamin Rinn
- Kelar Rivera
- Leopoldo Vicente Rodriguez MD
- Isabel Scheib
- Samantha Seaman RN
- Ihab Seoudi
- Annabelle Sheley
- Jagdeep Singh MD, FACHE
- Pierlus N Stewart
- Sharifa Sulaiman PharmD, RPh
- Parker Surfield
- April Taylor
- Avery Taylor
- Courtney Tesvich
- Sara Elizabeth Thomas MBA-HM
- Christina Angelina Thornton
- Kariba Tucker DHA
- Jessica Valyou
- Reena Varkey
- Andrea Varner
- Woody Victor
- Nicole Marie Ward RN
- Cole Wilhelm
- Kaitlyn Williams
- jacqueline wilneff
- Kristiina Ylinen

Congratulations to ACHE of Georgia's 2026 Fellows

- Darra Edwards, PharmD, FACHE
- Anthony Chukwudum Esumei, MBBS, FACHE
- Samantha E. Glennon, FACHE
- Chidi O. Kanu DHA, FACHE
- Kendra L. Lee JD, FACHE
- Gina Lee MBA, CPA, FACHE
- Charles Taylor Marshburn, FACHE
- Bonnie Matthews, MSN, RN, FACHE
- Jonathan D. Metcalf, FACHE
- Paul Needham, FACHE
- Vincent Edward Pair, DNP, FACHE
- Reshunda Ollie Redmond, MBA, FACHE

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The Distinction of Board Certification

Thank You to ACHE of Georgia's 2026 Sponsors

Dear ACHE of Georgia Annual Sponsors,

On behalf of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Georgia Chapter, we want to express our sincere thanks for your generous support. Your contributions are essential in helping us advance healthcare leadership in Georgia through professional development programs, networking, and educational initiatives.

Thanks to your sponsorship, we've made significant progress, and we're excited to continue collaborating in 2026 and beyond. Your commitment plays a key role in shaping the future of healthcare leadership, and we are grateful for your partnership. Thank you once again for your support.

Warm regards,
ACHE of Georgia Board of Directors

Find Out More About ACHE of Georgia Sponsorship

If your organization is interested in becoming an ACHE of Georgia sponsor, **click here** to visit our sponsorship page.

Platinum Sponsors

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KAISER PERMANENTE
Grady
PREMIER ANESTHESIA
Wellstar

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avacend
Encompass Health
LeanTaaS
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GNA GEORGIA NURSES ASSOCIATION
HWL
Metro Atlanta Ambulance Service
Premier Federal

Connect with ACHE of Georgia



ACHE of Georgia Social Media:
Connect with the Georgia Healthcare Community!

ACHE of Georgia offers several ways to connect with your healthcare colleagues through social media. Options include LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X/Twitter. To join any of our social media groups, scan the QR code or visit **www.acheofgeorgia.org/social.**

Call for Content

Content submissions to the ACHE of Georgia newsletter are for reviewed for appropriateness by the Communications Committee. Please send your contributions, including articles, news, member accomplishments and photos to bruce.lloyd@gmail.com, no later than close of business by the 20th day of the last month of each quarter (March, June, September, December). Approved submissions made after this date will be placed into the next newsletter.

Please note that ACHE of Georgia reserves the right to reject submissions that are not consistent with the goals and purposes of the organization. Articles that endorse or appear to endorse specific products, businesses, services, and are self-promotional or advertorial will not be accepted. Subjects that are appropriate deal with healthcare industry news (national and local), career management, leadership, mentoring, diversity and other professional topics. If you are not sure, please ask.

Articles submitted for the newsletter must be relevant to professional development or healthcare administration. Please format content in a Microsoft Word document, left justified, and be 1-2 pages in length. The content of the article must include: title; name of the author; the source the article was obtained from; full URL that links to the article (if applicable). Please submit photographs as email attachments in JPG file format. Please do not embed photographs in your article text. Provide name and affiliation of any person shown in photographs along with a brief caption. When using a reprint article, please provide credit to the author and/or obtain permission to use the article before submission.

ACHE of Georgia reserves the right to edit, change or omit certain content (including photographs) because of length, style, relevance, or simply due to lack of space as deemed appropriate.