Grants & Contracts

Congratulations to our very productive faculty on their recent grants and contracts!

- Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was awarded a one-year, $67,000 grant from Northwestern University for “Retrospective NCI Phantom-Monte Carlo Dosimetry in Wilms Tumor.”
- Jayam Booth, MS, PhD, Research Associate, Department of Pediatrics, has been awarded a one-year $50,000 IDCRC Pilot Grant for “Human Intestinal TRM: Distinct Cross-Reactive Responses against Pathogens” by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH/NIAID).
- Niel Constantine, PhD, Professor of Pathology, Institute of Human Virology, has been awarded $203,760 for nine months from Family Health International 360 for the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Quality Assurance Program. This award, an extension from a previous three-year award, supports the continuation of Dr. Constantine’s work to evaluate HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, cryptococ- cus, and other rapid test kits sent from international locations and manufacturers to determine if their performance characteristics meet manufacturers’ claims. Technical assistance activities are provided also.
- Meagan Fitzpatrick, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, has been awarded a one-year $199,976 grant by the National Science Foundation for RAPID: Identifying the Drivers of Optimal COVID-19 Allocation.
- Bruce Wasserman, MD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the recipient of a $1.581,587 R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging (NIH/NIA) for “The Role of Intracranial Atherosclerosis in the Development of Alzheimer’s Disease.” The award was recently transferred from Johns Hopkins University.

In the News

A job well done to all who have kept us in the media spotlight!

- Omer Awan, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, has been placed in the top 0.1% of scholars writing about teaching over the past ten years, a level Expertscape’s PubMed-based algorithms labels as “World Expert.” As part of their “Daily Experts” announcements to recognize world experts, on January 24, 2022, Expertscape tweeted the following on Twitter: “Jan 24 is International Day of Education. So, congratulations to Dr. Omer A Awan of the University of Maryland Baltimore—recognized as an Expertscapes World Expert in Teaching.”
- James Campbell, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WBAL to discuss the importance of boosters for teens.
- Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Medicine, was interviewed by Fox5DC regarding the Omicron surge.
- Karen Kotloff, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by WJZ-TV and The Weather Channel on the Novavax COVID vaccine clinical trial results in the study she co-led.
- Matthew Laurens, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, was interviewed by BBC World News TV in a segment entitled “Omicron Variant Threatens to Overcome Vaccine Protection.” He also was interviewed and quoted in PolitiFact online in a segment “Claim that Pfizer Data Shows Vaccine Does More Harm than Good is Pants on Fire; he was interviewed by the U.S. Agency for Global Media in a segment titled “Additional Measures to Combat Omicron in the United States;” and he discussed with WTOP News the possibility of getting both influenza and COVID infections at the same time.
- Kristen Lyke, MD, Professor, Department of Medicine, discussed pandemic predictions for 2022 with Politico.
- Kathy Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH Professor of Vaccinology and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was interviewed by WTOP News to discuss why boosters are helpful particularly for immunocompromised people. She also was quoted in a live blog in The Philadelphia Inquirer on “Do I Need to Wait 6 Months to Get a Booster?” and in U.S. News & World Report explains who should get a COVID-19 booster.
Katharine Bisordi, MS, Ronna Hertzano, MD, Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD was held November 12-14, 2021, in Boston, MA. Trainee’s Performance in Post-Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation” at the Program in Trauma, presented “Simulation Based Assessment of Nicholas Morris, MD, Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma; and Melissa Motta, MD, Associate Parikh, MD, Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, was on the committee that organized the first virtual educational conference for prospective genetic counseling students. She also was among the co-authors of “Evaluating Coping Mechanisms Used by Parents of Children Diagnosed with Li-Fraumeni Syndrome,” which was presented as a poster at the 2021 National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) Annual Education Conference, which was held on September 22-26, 2021 (virtual).

Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, was an invited speaker in a seminar series of the Institute de Recherches Cliniques de Montreal. Her talk was named “82. From Ear to gEAR: A Multi-Omic Path Toward Therapeutics.” She also was the lead organizer of the Center for Comparative Evolutionary Biology of Hearing 7th Auditory and Vestibular Translational Research Day—which focused on the vestibular system and took place in December 2021. The day had more than 189 participants and was conducted virtually. Zubair Ahmed, PhD, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, was a guest co-organizer and presented a talk entitled “Gene Therapy for Vestibular Pathology.”

Kathy Neuzil, MD, MPH, FIDSA, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH Professor of Vaccinology and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, was the plenary speaker at the plenary session—Typhoid Conjugate Vaccines in High-Burden Countries: Where are We and Where Do We Need to Go? at the 12th International Conference on Typhoid & Other Invasive Salmonelloses. At the same conference, she was a moderator for the Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine Safety and Efficacy: Results from Clinical Studies in Africa and Asia Symposium and the Typhoid Intestinal Perforations in Africa: What Do We Know? What Can We Learn? Symposium.

Faculty from the Department of Radiation Oncology were among the presenters on March 3, 2021, at a symposium on “Advancements in GRID, Lattice, and FLASH Radiotherapy,” which was held in conjunction with the 2022 Radiosurgery Society Scientific Meeting in Carlsbad, CA.

• Byong Yong Yi, PhD, Professor, presented “GRID to Lattice: More Tools in the Toolbox”
• Jason Molitoris, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, presented “Clinical Utilization of Proton GRID (Beamlets)”
• Sina Mossahebi, PhD, Assistant Professor, presented “Physics Considerations in Proton GRID/Lattice” and “Practical Aspects for Proton GRID Therapy”
• William Regine, MD, FACR, FACRO, the Isadore & Fannie Schneider Foxman Chair of Radiation Oncology, presented “Practical Aspects for GRID Therapy.”

Honors & Awards

Congratulations to the following who have received honors!

Shannon Takala Harrison, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, has been selected for the UMB Faculty Leadership Program.

Kudos to our colleagues who are experts in their fields and give their all to represent the School of Medicine!
Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Professor, and Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, were among the co-authors of “The Role of CDH3 in Susceptibility to Otitis Media,” which was published in the November 2021 issue of the Journal of Molecular Medicine. Dr. Ahmed also was among the co-authors of “Putting the Pieces Together: The Hair Cells Transduction Complex,” which was published in the Journal of Association for Research in Otorhinolaryngology on December 22, 2021; was the senior author of “Identification and Computational Analysis of Rare Variants of Known Hearing Loss Genes Present in Five Deaf Members of a Pakistani Kindred,” which was published in Genes on November 30, 2021; and was the lead author of “Proposed Therapy, Developed in a Pch15-Deficient Mouse, for Progressive Loss of Vision in Human Usher Syndrome,” which was published in Life on November 9, 2021. Saima Riazuddin, PhD, MPH, MBA, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery, was among the co-authors of “Hippocampal-Subregion Neuron Reveals the Formation of Prelimbic Neural Ensembles across Operant Learning,” which was epublished in the December 2021 issue of PLoS One on December 10, 2021.

Jennifer Albrecht, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Moving Beyond “Leaning In”—It Is Time to Reach Out and Partner to Solve the Military Sleep Problem,” which was published in Military Medicine on December 28, 2021. Dr. Albrecht, along with Denise Orwig, PhD, Professor; Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg; Professor; and Ann Gruber-Baldini, PhD, Professor, all from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, were among the co-authors of “Differential Misclassification of Cognitive Impairment by Xex among Hip Fracture Patients,” which was published in the Journal of American Geriatrics Society on December 10, 2021.

Omer Awan, MD, MPH, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the author of “Preserving the Spirit of Lifelong Learning,” which was published in the January 2022 issue of Academic Radiology. Separately, Dr. Awan was the last author of “Strategies to Optimize Workflow Communication: A Technologist’s Perspective,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Academic Radiology.

Jonathan Baghdadi, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, and Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, Professor, both from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, co-authored “Bacterial Coinfections in COVID-19 Patients without a Positive Microbiologic Result: A Word of Caution,” which was published in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy on January 3, 2022.

Soren Bentzen, PhD, DMSc, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Total Body Irradiation in Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation for Paediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia: Review of the Literature and Future Directions,” which was published in Frontiers in Pediatrics on December 3, 2021.

Maureen Black, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pediatrics, was a co-author of “Nurturing Care and Early Child Development in the Integrated Child Development Services,” a book chapter in

Miriam Blitzer, PhD, Professor, Departments of Pediatrics, was the last author of “The Relationship Between Performance on the Medical Genetics and Genomics In-Training and Certifying Examinations,” which was published in Genetics in Medicine on November 30, 2021. Dr. Blitzer also was co-author of “Become an Ambassador to Recruit the Next Generation in Genomic Medicine,” and was the last author of “The Training of Future Clinical Geneticists: Evaluation and Reflections on the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics Foundation Summer Genetics Scholars Program,” all which were published in the same issue of Genetics in Medicine.

Robert Bloch, PhD, Professor, Department of Physiology, co-authored “The C2 Domains of Dysferlin: Roles in Membrane Localization, Stabilization of Ca2+ Signaling, and Membrane Repair,” which was published in The Journal of Physiology.

Uttam Bodanapally, MBBS, Associate Professor, and Clint Sliker, MD, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury-Like Injury Observed in Patients with Craniofacial Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wounds,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the Journal of Craniofacial Surgery. Separately, Dr. Bodanapally was among the co-authors of “Traumatic Brain Injury and Intraparenchymal Hemorrhage Progression: Blood Pressure Variability Matters,” which was also published in the same issue.

Rebecca Brotman, PhD, MPH, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Vaginal Microbiota of American Indian Women and Associations with Measures of Psychosocial Stress,” which was published in PLoS One on December 10, 2021.

Clayton Brown, PhD, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Lipophilic vs. Hydrophilic Statins and Psychiatric Hospitalizations and Emergency Room Visits in US Veterans with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder,” which was published in the September 2021 issue of Perinatines.

William Carter, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Sentinel Bowel Loop as a Marker for Primary Segmental Intestinal Volvulus in Extreme Low Birth Weight Neonates,” which was published in the November 2021 issue of the Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

Rong Chen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Detailed Mapping of Behavior Reveals the Formation of Prelimbic Neural Ensembles across Operant Learning,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Neuron. Separately, Dr. Chen was among the co-authors of “Hippocampal-Subregion Mechanisms of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic
Stimulation Causally Associated with Amelioration of Episodic Memory in Amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Shuo Chen, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Separating Clinical and Subclinical Depressive Symptoms by Big Data Informed Structural Vulnerability Index and Its impact on Cognition: ENIGMA Dot Product,” and “A New Mendelian Randomization Method to Estimate Causal Effects of Multivariable Brain Imaging Exposures,” which were published earlier this year in Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing.

Chengyan Chu, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Anna Jablonska, PhD, Research Associate; Yue Gao, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Xiaoian Lan, MD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Yajie Liang, MB, PhD, Assistant Professor; Monica Pearl, MD, Adjunct Associate Professor; Miroslaw Janowski, MD, PhD, Associate Professor; and Piotr Walczak, MD, PhD, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Hypersomolar Blood-brain Barrier Opening Using Intra-arterial Injection of Hyperosmotic Mannitol in Mice under Real-Time MRI Guidance,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Nature Protocol. Dr. Chu was the first author and Dr. Walczak was the last author.

Thomas Ernst, Dr rer nat, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was among the co-authors of “Associations of the Dietary Inflammatory Index with Total Adiposity and Ecotopic Fat through the Gut Microbiota, Lipopolysaccharides, and C-Reactive Protein in the Multifactorial Cohort-Adiposity Phenotype Study,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Jason Falvey, PT, DPT, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, was a co-author of “Rehabilitation Care at the Time of Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) Pandemic: A Scoping Review of Health System Recommendations,” which was published in the journal Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience on January 4, 2022.

Jack Gladstein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, edited a comprehensive text entitled Pediatric Headache, which is now in print. This text was designed to target primary care practitioners, families, and headache specialists. It provides latest treatments, offers practical advice for families in their interactions with school and coaches as well as provides best practices for practitioners to share with school and other practitioners. Pediatric headache experts from all over North America participated in the volume, and an effort was made to incorporate behavioral approaches, acupuncture, and complementary medicine along with traditional approaches.

Olga Goloubeva, PhD, MSc, Professor, is among the co-authors of “Comparison of Efficacy and Toxicity of Chemoradiation Regimens for Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma Primary Treatment,” which was published in Head and Neck on December 20, 2021.

Ann Gruber-Baldini, PhD, Professor, and Kristen Stafford, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor, both from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, were among the co-authors of “People Ageing with HIV—Protecting a Population Vulnerable to the Effects of COVID-19 and its Control Measures,” which was published in AIDS Care on December 24, 2021.

Kim Hankey, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Deepest Dissection of the Antiviral Immune Profile of Patients with COVID-19,” which was published in Communications Biology on December 24, 2021. Dr. Hankey was also among the authors of “Impaired Immune Response to COVID-19 Vaccination in Patients with B-cell Malignancies after CD19 CART Cell Therapy,” which was published in Blood Advances on December 23, 2021.

Anthony Harris, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, co-authored “In-Hospital Mortality in a Cohort of Hospitalized Pregnant and Nonpregnant Patients with COVID-19,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Ronna Hertzano, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, and Jessica Meng, PhD, Professor, Department of Pharmacology, were the senior authors on a publication led by Benjamin Shuster, BS, Research Fellow, Otorhinolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, of “Estradiol Protects against Noise-Induced Hearing Loss and Modulates Auditory Physiology in Female Mice,” which was published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences on November 11, 2021. Dr. Hertzano also was among the co-authors of “Lineage-Tracking and Translatomic Analysis of Damage-Inducible Mitotic Cochlear Progenitors Identifies Candidate Genes Regulating Regeneration,” which was published in PLoS Biology on November 10, 2021.

Rydhwana Hussain, MD, Assistant Professor; Jean Jedy, MD, Professor; and Charles Whorton, MD, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were the authors of “Chest Radiograph and CT Findings in Patients Hospitalized with Breakthrough COVID-19,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Radiology: Cardiothoracic Imaging.

Miroslaw Janowski, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, and Piotr Walczak, MD, PhD, Professor, both from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “A Primeval Mechanism of Tolerance to Desiccation Based on Glycolic Acid Saves Neurons in Mammals from Ischemia by Reducing Intracellular Calcium-Mediated Excitotoxicity,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Advanced Science (Weinh).

Pratap Karki, DSci, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, and Konstantin Birukov, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, were among the co-authors of “Oxidized Phospholipids in Control of Endothelial Barrier Function: Mechanisms and Implication in Lung Injury,” which was published in Frontiers in Endocrinology on November 23, 2021. This article was part of the special research topic “Epilipidome as a New Level of Cellular Regulation.”

Alyssa Kowalski, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Ann Pullin Kuhn, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Helena Selam, BA, Graduate Student; Erin Hager, PhD, Associate Professor; and Maureen Black, PhD, Professor, all
from the Department of Pediatrics, were co-authors of “Pre-Pandemic to Early-Pandemic Changes in Risk of Household Food Insecurity among Maryland Families with Children,” which was published in Public Health Nutrition on December 10, 2021.

- Young Kwok, MD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Quality of Life Implications of Dose-Escalated External Beam Radiation for Localized Prostate Cancer: Results of a Prospective Randomized Phase 3 Clinical Trial, NRG/ RTOG 0126,” which was published in the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics on January 1, 2022.

- Marcel Lanza, PhD, Research Associate; Jin Kang, SPT ’22; Hayley Karl, SPT ’22; Jacob Myers, SPT ’22; Erin Ryan, SPT ’22; and Vicki Gray, MPT, PhD, Assistant Professor, all from the Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science, were co-authors of the “Hip Abductor Power and Velocity: Reliability and Association with Physical Function,” which was published in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research on December 23, 2021. Dr. Lanza was also a co-author of “Effect of Long-Term Maximum Strength Training on Explosive Strength, Neural and Contractile Properties,” which was published in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports on January 3, 2022.

- Hua Jun Liang, MBBS, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow; Thomas Ernst, Dr rer nat, Professor; and Linda Chang, MD, MS, Professor, all from the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, were among the co-authors of “Contributions of Chronic Tobacco Smoking to HIV-Associated Brain Atrophy and Cognitive Deficits,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of AIDS. Dr. Liang was the first author and Dr. Chang was the last author.

- Richard Lichenstein, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Carol Greene, MD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics; Katharine Bisordi, MS, MGC, CGC, Instructor, Department of Pediatrics; and Lynn Schriml, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Institute for Genome Sciences; were among the co-authors of “The Human Disease Ontology 2022 Update,” which was published in Nucleic Acids Research on November 10, 2021.

- Iris Lindberg, PhD, Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology, co-authored “Obesity, POMC, and POMC-Processing Enzymes: Surprising Results from Animal Models,” which was published in Endocrinology on December 1, 2021.

- Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, Professor, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, was among the co-authors of “Advancing Clinical Trials in Nursing Homes: A Proposed Roadmap to Success,” which was published in the Journal of American Medical Association on December 22, 2021.

- Pranshu Mohindra, MD, MBBS, Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “Demographics of ASTRO Student Members and Potential Implications for Future U.S. Radiation Oncology Workforce Diversity,” which was published in the March/April 2022 issue of Advances in Radiation Oncology.

- Nicholas Morris, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma; Patrick Mc Ardle, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine; and Neeraj Badjatia, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Neurology, Program in Trauma, and the CARES Surveillance Group, co-authored “Women Receive Less Targeted Temperature Management than Men Following Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Due to Early Care Limitations,” which was published in the October 2021 issue of Reanimation. They also co-authored “Hispanic/Latino Patients Lack Access to Hospitals with Targeted Temperature Management Programs Following Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest,” which was accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Heart Association on October 25, 2021.

- Mutiat Tolu Onigbanjo, MD, and Rebecca Carter, MD, both Assistant Professors, Department of Pediatrics, were among the co-authors of “Social Needs Screening during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which was published in Child: Care, Health and Development on December 6, 2021.

- Dipanjan Pan, MSc, PhD, Professor, Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the last author of “Rational Design of Surface-State Controlled Multicolor Cross-Linked Carbon Dots with Distinct Photoluminescence and Cellular Uptake Properties,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces. Separately, Dr. Pan also was the last author of “A Rapid RNA Extraction-Free Lateral Flow Assay for Molecular Point-of-care Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Augmented by Chemical Probes,” which was published in the December 2021 issue of Biosensors and Bioelectronics.

- Jeremy Poff, PhD, Associate Professor; Narotam Lami chchane, PhD, Assistant Professor; and Hem Shukla, PhD, Assistant Professor, all from the Department of Radiation Oncology, were among the authors of “Therapeutic Efficacy of Variable Biological Effectiveness of ProtonTherapy in U-CH2 and MUG-Chor1 Human Chordoma Cell Death,” which was published in Cancers (Basel) on December 4, 2021.

- Lei Ren, PhD, Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, was among the authors of “The Markerless Lung Target Tracking AAPM Grand Challenge (MATCH) Results,” which was published in Medical Physics on December 16, 2021. He was also among the authors of “Prior Image-Guided Cone-Beam Computed Tomography Augmentation from
**Publications Continued**

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**How to Submit Information to the Buzz**

If you would like to acknowledge an award, presentation, publication, or other noteworthy accomplishments, please send the information to the liaison within your department, program, center, or office.

**OR**

You may submit your Buzz items online:
https://umbforms.wfufo.com/forms/210Dub510x0B367/