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(Rev. 6-93)
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PATENTS ONLY

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Peter Metz-Stavenhagen
Bernd Robioneck

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)
Name: HOWMEDICA GmbH
Internal Address:

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other
Execution Date: March 12, 1997 and March 10, 1997,
respectively

Street Address: Prof. Kuntscher-Strasse 1-5
2314 Schoenkirchen
City: State: Zip:
Country: Germany
Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s)
08/783,940

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: RAYMOND W. AUGUSTIN
Internal Address: LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
Street Address: 600 South Avenue West
City: Westfield State: NJ ZIP: 07090

6. Total Number of applications and patents involved: **1**

7. Total Fee (37 CFR 3.41).....\$ 40.00
 Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:
12-1095

(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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9. Statement and signature.
To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

RAYMOND W. AUGUSTIN
(Name of Person Signing)

(Signature) # 28,588

APRIL 21, 1999
(Date)

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: **3**

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Office of Public Records, Crystal Gateway 4, Room 335, Washington, DC 20231
Attention: Assignments

PATENT
REEL: 9932 FRAME: 0883

ASSIGNMENT

For valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, we, **Peter Metz-Stavenhagen and Bernd Robioneck**; of **Schloßstr. 24, D-3590 Bad Wildungen, Germany, and Rastorfer Str. 13, D-24111 Preetz, Germany** respectively, hereby sell, assign, and transfer unto **HOWMEDICA GmbH**, a corporation organized under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and having a place of business at Prof. Kuntscher-Strasse 1-5, 2314 Schoenkirchen, Germany, the entire right, title, and interest in and to our application for Letters Patent of the United States, filed the **17th** day of **January, 1997**, entitled **CONNECTING ELEMENT FOR SPINAL STABILIZING SYSTEM** and our entire right, title, and interest in the United States in and to all our inventions, whether joint or sole, disclosed in said application for Letters Patent, and in and to all United States patents granted on the foregoing inventions, and we hereby agree, whenever requested, to communicate to said assignee, its successors and assigns, any facts known to us respecting said inventions, to testify in any legal proceeding, and to execute all applications or papers necessary to obtain and maintain proper patent protection on said inventions in the United States.

Signed and witnessed this 12 day of March 1997

at Rad Wildungen, Germany
(City, State)

Peter Metz-Stavenhagen
Peter Metz-Stavenhagen

In the presence of:

[Signature]
(Witness as to Peter Metz-Stavenhagen)

Manuela Mehner
(Typed or Printed Name of Witness)

Signed and witnessed this 10th day of March 1997

at Kiel, Germany
(City, State)

[Signature]
Bernd Robioneck

In the presence of:

[Signature]
(Witness as to Bernd Robioneck)

[Signature]
(Typed or Printed Name of Witness)