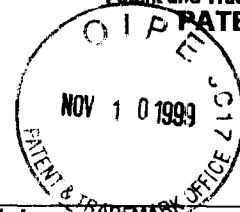


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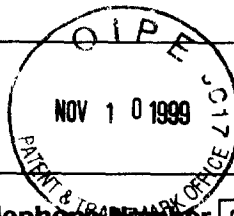
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Robert H. Epstein
Name of Person Signing

Signature

11/8/99
Date

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I David C. Hacker, residing at 818 Old Grove Manor, Jacksonville, Florida 32207-6204, have invented certain new and useful improvements in Intraoperative Neuroelectrophysiological Monitor for which a patent application for United States Letters Patent was filed on September 14, 1999 and assigned Serial No. 09/395,512.

WHEREAS, Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., a corporation of Delaware, having a place of business at 6743 Southpoint Drive, N., Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0980, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and in and to any Letters Patent that may be granted therefor in the United States and in any and all foreign countries.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and other valuable considerations, I have sold, assigned and transferred, and by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto Xomed Surgical Products, Inc. the full and exclusive right to said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in all foreign countries and the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all Letters Patent which may be granted thereon in the United States and its territorial possessions and in any and all foreign countries, and in and to any and all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions thereof.

I hereby authorize and request the Patent and Trademark Office officials in the United States and in any and all foreign countries to issue any and all of said Letters Patent, when granted, to said Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., as the assignee of the entire interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behalf of Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., its successors and assigns.


FURTHER, I agree that I will communicate to Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., or its representatives, any facts known to me respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceedings, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitution, renewal and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all of said Letters Patent to be issued to Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid Xomed Surgical Products, Inc., its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention in the United States and in any and all foreign countries.

PATENT

REEL: 010376 FRAME: 0782

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand.


Date



David C. Hacker

On this 1 day of Nov, 1999, personally appeared before me the above named _____ to me known and known to me to be the person described in, and who executed, the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed in and for the purposes set forth in said instrument.

(SEAL)



NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires:



ROSE HESTER
Comm. No. CC 665703
My Comm. Exp. Aug. 23, 2001
Bonded thru Pichard Ins. Agcy.