

DOCKET NO. DEP 0675
Joint Inventors

A S S I G N M E N T

Serial No.
Filed Herewith

WHEREAS, Richard C. Pellegrino and Martin Reynolds, residing at 7A Nipmuc Road in Mendon, MA and 155 Church Street in Mansfield, MA respectively (hereinafter called "Assignors"), have made certain new and useful inventions or discoveries relating to

Novel Early Intervention Spinal Treatment Methods and Devices
for Use Therein

for which they have on the day of March, 2002 executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States; and

WHEREAS, DePuy Acromed, Inc., a corporation of the State of Ohio, (hereinafter called "Assignee"), is desirous of acquiring Assignors' entire right, title, and interest therein:


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other valuable considerations to them moving, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Assignors have sold, assigned, and transferred, and do hereby sell, assign and transfer unto said Assignee their entire right, title and interest in and to all said inventions and discoveries disclosed in said application whose identification above by serial number and filing date, when available is hereby authorized, and in and to said application, all substitutions, divisions, and continuations thereof, and in and to all Letters Patent, United States and foreign, that may be granted for said inventions and discoveries, and in and to all extensions, renewals, and reissues thereof, the same to be held and enjoyed by said Assignee, its successors and assigns, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by Assignors if this Assignment and sale had not been made;

And Assignors hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States to issue said Letters Patent in accordance with this Assignment;

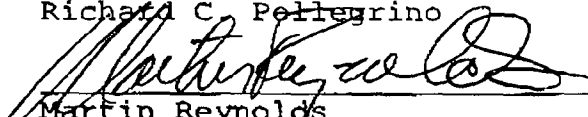
And for the consideration aforesaid, Assignors covenant and agree with said Assignee that he has a full and unencumbered title to the inventions and discoveries above described and hereby assigned, which title they warrant unto said Assignee, its successors and assigns;

And for the consideration aforesaid, Assignors further covenant and agree that they will, whenever requested, but without cost to them promptly communicate to said Assignee or its representatives any facts known to them relating to said inventions and discoveries, testify in any interference or legal proceedings involving said inventions and discoveries, and execute any additional papers that may be necessary to enable said Assignee or its representatives, successors, nominees, or assigns to secure full and complete protection for the said inventions and discoveries or that may be necessary to vest in said Assignee the complete title to the said inventions and discoveries and patents hereby conveyed and to enable it to record said title.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this 20th day of March, 2002



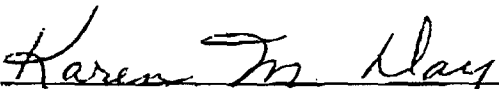
Richard C. Pellegrino (L.S.)



Martin Reynolds (L.S.)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS)) ss.
COUNTY OF BRISTOL)

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 20th day of March, 2002, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Richard C. Pellegrino and Martin Reynolds, who I am satisfied are the persons named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to them the contents thereof, they did acknowledge that they signed, sealed, and delivered the same as their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.



Karen M. Day, Notary Public
My commission expires 10/02/03

DOCKET NO. DEP 0675

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Pellegrino et. al.

For : Novel Early Intervention Spinal Treatment Methods and Devices for Use Therein

Express Mail Certificate

"Express Mail" mailing number: EE500748959US

Date of Deposit: 3/21/02

I hereby certify that this complete application, including specification pages, claims, informal drawings, Declaration and Power of Attorney, and Assignment, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Karen M. Day

(Typed or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

Karen M. Day

(Signature of person mailing paper or fee)