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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
   - Kenneth S. Wales
   - Joseph Charles Heuil

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)
   - Name: Ethicon, Inc.
   - Internal Address:
   - Street Address: 4545 Creek Road
   - City: Cincinnati  State: OH  Zip: 45242

3. Nature of conveyance:
   - ✓ Assignment
   - □ Merger
   - □ Security Agreement
   - □ Change of Name
   - □ Other

   Execution Date: 09/18/2003

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):
   - B. Patent No.(s):
   - Additional numbers attached? □ Yes ✓ No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
   - Name: David E. Franklin
   - Internal Address: Frost Brown Todd LLC
   - Street Address: 2200 PNC Center
   - 201 E. Fifth Street
   - City: Cincinnati  State: OH  Zip: 45202

6. Total number of applications and patents involved:

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) $40.00
   - ✓ Enclosed
   - □ Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

9. Signature:
   - Signature
   - Date 9/17/03

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and documents: 4

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:
Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments
Washington, D.C. 20231

PATENT
REEL: 014591 FRAME: 0063
ASSIGNMENT

DOCKET NO. END-910

Serial No. 10/615,971

Filed July 9, 2003

WHEREAS, Kenneth S. Wales, a citizen of the United States, residing at 9675 Swan Place, Mason 45040, County of Warren, and State of Ohio; and Joseph Charles Heuil, a citizen of the United States, residing at 11611 Thistlehill Drive, Loveland 45140, County of Hamilton, and State of Ohio, (hereinafter referred to as “ASSIGNORS”), have made certain new and useful inventions or discoveries relating to a SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING ARTICULATION JOINT SUPPORT PLATES FOR SUPPORTING A FIRING BAR, for which they have this day executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ethicon, Inc., a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Ohio, (hereinafter referred to as “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 Stated 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 Assignees, 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;

AndAssignors 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

PATENT
REEL: 014591 FRAME: 0064
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, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this ___ day of September, ___.

(L.S.)

Kenneth S. Wales

STATE OF OHIO ss:

COUNTY OF HAMILTON

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this ___ day of September, 2003, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Kenneth S. Wales, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

Kimberly Melissa Moses
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 09-23-06
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this 19th day of September, 2003.

(L.S.)

Joseph Charles Heuill

STATE OF OHIO )
COUNTY OF HAMILTON ) ss:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 19th day of September, 2003, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Joseph C. Heuill, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

Kimberly Mellissa Moses
Notary Public
KIMBERLY MELISSA MOSES
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 09-23-06

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