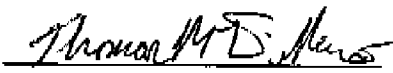


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<div>1. Name of conveying party(ies):  Michael Andrew Slivka Hassan Serhan  Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? <div><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div></div>		<div>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):  Name: DePuy AcroMed  Street Address: 325 Paramount Drive  City: Raynham State: MA    Zip: 02767  Additional name(s) &amp; address(es) attached? <div><input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div></div>	
<div>3. Nature of conveyance: <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment    <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement    <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other</div> Execution Date: March 19, 2002</div>			
<div>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)    B. Patent No.(s) 10/102,075  Additional numbers attached?    <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</div>			
<div>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:  Philip S. Johnson, Esq. Chief Patent Counsel Johnson &amp; Johnson One Johnson &amp; Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003</div>		<div>6. Total number of applications &amp; patents involved: <u>1</u>  7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) ..... <u>\$40.00</u> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to Deposit Account</div> 8. Deposit Account Number: 10-0750/DEP0693/TMD</div>	
<div>9. Statement and signature  <i>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.</i>  <div><div>Thomas M. DiMauro.</div><div></div><div>9-17-04</div></div><div><div>Name of Person Signing</div><div>Signature</div><div>Date</div></div><div>Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 3</div></div>			

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DOCKET NO. DEP 0693  
Joint Inventors

A S S I G N M E N T

Serial No.  
Filed        Herewith

WHEREAS, Michael Andrew Slivka and Hassan Serhan, residing at 200 Plain Street in Taunton, MA and 27 Forest Edge Road in South Easton, MA respectively (hereinafter called "Assignors"), have made certain new and useful inventions or discoveries relating to

Method for Nonsurgical Treatment of the Intervertebral Disc and  
Kit Therefor

for which they have on the 19th 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;

