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MISSOURI OFFICE
1220 WASHINGTON, SUITE 300
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64105

September 7, 2001

Dr. Troy R. Norred 4511 Royal Lythem Columbia, Missouri 65203

Re:

Application for U. S. Letters Patent

PERCUTANEOUS AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT

Docket 2745

Dear Dr. Norred:

We have received and are enclosing a copy of the first office action from the examiner relating to the above-identified application, together with the prior art cited initially rejecting claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-14 and 16-18, and objecting to claims 3, 4, 8 and 15. We would suggest that you review the enclosed materials so that we may have the benefit of your input as to the applicability of the prior art teachings.

The primary references used by the examiner to reject these claims are the Quijano, Baykut, Leonhardt and Andersen patents. To overcome these rejections and objections, we may be able to amend the claims to avoid these references.

A response to this office action is due November 9, 2001. Please provide us with your comments at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

CHASE & YAKIMO, L. C.

James J. Kernell

JJK/ljk

Enclosures

