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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER	
60/557,536	03/29/2004	Matthew Curran	104 PRV	

30328 NU VASIVE, INC. 10065 OLD GROVE ROAD SAN DIEGO, CA 92131

OC000000012817729

FORMALITIES LETTER

Date Mailed: 06/01/2004

NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF PROVISIONAL APPLICATION

FILED UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(c)

Filing Date Granted

An application number and filing date have been accorded to this provisional application. The items indicated below, however, are missing. Applicant is given **TWO MONTHS** from the date of this Notice within which to file all required items and pay any fees required below to avoid abandonment. Extensions of time may be obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- The statutory basic filing fee is missing. Applicant must submit \$ 80 to complete the basic filing fee for a small entity.
- To avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.16(I) of \$25 for a small entity in compliance with 37 CFR 1.27, must be submitted with the missing items identified in this letter.

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

DOCKET

Total additional fee(s) required for this application is \$105 for a Small Entity

- \$80 Statutory basic filing fee.
- \$25 Late oath or declaration Surcharge.

Replies should be mailed to: Mail Stop Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

A copy of this notice <u>MUST</u> be returned with the reply.

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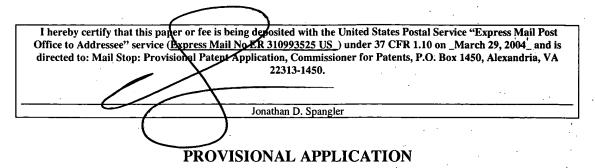
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

Express Mail Label No. ER 310993525 US

	INVENTO	R(S)					
Given Name (first and middle [if any])	Name (first and middle [if any]) Family Name or Surname		(Citv a	Residence (City and either State or Foreign Country)			
MattHEW	Curran			o, California		86 BTd	
Additional inventors are being named on the	,	separately numb	bered sheets	attached he	reto	<u>ವು ಸ</u>	
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)							
SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION							E S
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ENCL	OSED APPLICATION PA	RTS (check all	that apply)				
Specification Number of Pages 27			D(s), Numbe	r			
Drawing(s) Number of Sheets 17			Other (specify)				
Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1						<u> </u>	
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES			PATENT				
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Applicant claims small entity status. S				FILING Amount			
The Director is herby authorized to charge filing					.00		
fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number: Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.							
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government.	e United States Government of	or under a contract	with an agen	cy of the			
No.							
Yes, the name of the U.S. Governmen		contract number a	aro.				
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Respectfully submitted	[Page 1 o	of 2] Da	ate March 29	, 2004			_
SIGNATURE			EGISTRATIO	N NO. <u>40,</u>	182		
TYPED or PRINTED NAME Jonathan D. Sp	angler	(if Do	<i>appropriate)</i> ocket Number	: <u>109PRV</u> .	104	PRV	
TELEPHONE (858) 243 0029							
This collection of information is required by 37 CFI to process) an application. Confidentiality is gove gathering, preparing, and submitting the complete amount of time you require to complete this form Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Provisional	rned by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 (a application form to the USPTC and/or suggestions for reducing P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, V/	ed to obtain or retain a CFR 1.14. This collec D. Time will vary dep this burden, should b A 22313-1450. DO	a benefit by the ction is estimate pending upon to be sent to the (NOT SEND FE	public which ed to take 8 he individual Chief Informa ES OR COM	hours to com case. Any co tion Officer, I MPLETED FC	plete, includin mments on th J.S. Patent an MS TO TH	g e d



FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

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By Inventor:

MATTHEW CURRAN

a citizen of the United States Carlsbad, California

Filed:

March 29, 2004

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to spinal surgery and, more particularly, to a system and method for spinal fusion comprising a spinal fusion implant of non-bone construction releasably coupled to an insertion instrument dimensioned to introduce the spinal fusion implant into any of a variety of spinal target sites.

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II. Discussion of the Prior Art

Currently there are nearly 500,000 spine lumbar and cervical fusion procedures performed each year in the United States. Such procedures are commonly performed to correct problems, such as chronic back or neck pain, which result from degenerated intervertebral discs or trauma. Generally, spinal fusion procedures involve removing some or all of the diseased or damaged disc, and inserting one or more intervertebral implants into the resulting disc space. Introducing the intervertebral implant serves to restore the height between adjacent vertebrae ("disc height"), which reduces if not eliminates neural impingement commonly associated with a damaged or diseased disc.

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