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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): WAR-SAW ORTHOPEDIC, INC. [US/US]; 2500 Silveus Crossing, Warsaw, Indiana 46581 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DICKSON, Andrew M. [US/US]; 75 Mary Ann, Memphis, Tennessee 38117 (US). BRADDOCK, Danny H. Jr. [US/US]; 3015 Circle Gate Drive, Germantown, Tennessee 38138 (US). HARROP, James S. [US/US]; 909 Walnut Street,

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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (US). **KARAHALIOS, Dean G.** [US/US]; 1105 Emmons Court, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 (US). **POTTS, Eric A.** [US/US]; 6160 Sunset Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana 46228 (US). **SHAFFREY, Christopher I.** [US/US]; 3325 Rosedale Lane, Charlottsville, Virginia 22902 (US).

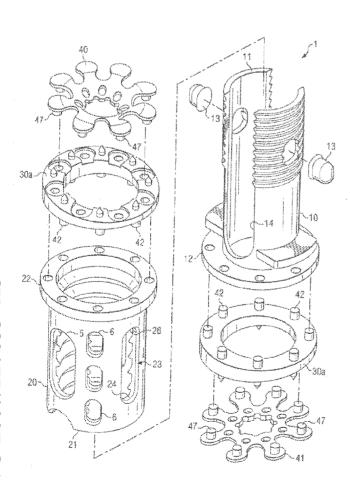
(74) Agents: JARO, Michael J. et al.; 710 Medtronic Parkway MS LC340, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55432 (US).

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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE IMPLANT, INSTRUMENT, AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: Embodiments of the invention include expandable, implantable devices and methods. Devices expand linearly along a ratchet mechanism to provide secure fixation between or among anatomical structures. some embodiments, an implant replaces one or more vertebral bodies of the spine. An implant is disclosed comprising two tubular members (10, 20) and a key pin (13) fixed to one member and guided in a slot (23) of the second member. Pressure applied to the key pin releases the ratcheting mechanism and allows compression of the implant. Also disclosed is an end cap (30, 40) for a medical implant, providing an interface with the skeletal structure.

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GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSII INV.	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61F2/30 A61F2/44 A61F2/46	A61F2/28				
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B. FIELDS	SEARCHED cumentation searched (classification system followed by classification	· ·				
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EPO-In	ternal					
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele	evant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
Х	WO 98/46173 A (SYNTHES AG [CH]; SCHAER MANUEL [CH]; HATEBUR ALEX [CH]; SCHLAEPFER FRI) 22 October 1998 (1998-10-22)		1-7			
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х	DE 196 22 827 A1 (ULRICH HEINRICH [DE])		1,2,4, 6-8			
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X	FR 2 850 563 A1 (SCIENT X [FR]) 6 August 2004 (2004-08-06) page 5, line 1 - page 9, line 24	1,2,4,6, 8				
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Furt	her documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.				
* Special categories of cited documents:  1T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention						
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date  "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel o			considered to nent is taken alone			
citatio	which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  O' document is combined with one or more other such document such combination being obvious to a person skilled					
"P" docum tater t	in the art.  *&* document member of the same patent fam					
Date of the	actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search	report			
1	1 October 2007	29/02/2008				
Name and	mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2	Authorized officer				
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Buchmann, Gerhard				

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## **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
Claims Nos.:     because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.:     because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
see additional sheet
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportcovers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  see additional sheet(s)
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the
payment of a protest fee.
The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-10

An expandable implant comprising two tubular members and a key pin fixed to the first member and positioned in a slot of the second member.

2. claims: 11-17

An expandable implant comprising two tubular members which intermittently lock relative to each other and an insertion instrument comprising first and second tips and a spreader mechanism.

3. claims: 18-33

An end member for a medical implant.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2007/066877

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