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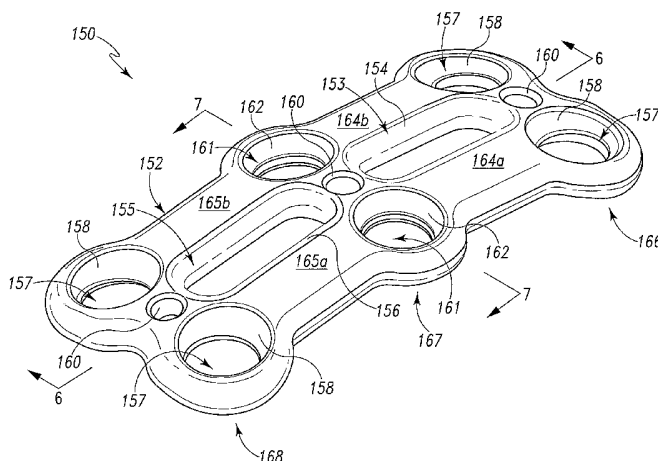
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **STATIC & DYNAMIC CERVICAL PLATES AND CERVICAL PLATE CONSTRUCTS**



(57) Abstract: A cervical bone plate includes a graft window that allows access to and/or visualization of a bone graft area of the cervical spine after attachment of the present cervical plate to the vertebrae. The window is preferably, but not necessarily, sized for maximum exposure of the graft area and/or the vertebral body without compromising plate strength, particularly with respect to federal standards for such devices. The window is centrally positioned on the plate and is sized to provide alignment of the plate onto the vertebrae at the base of the vertebra fastener or screw holes of the plate. In a dynamic form of this cervical bone plate, the graft window expands and contracts with respective expansion and contraction of the dynamic plate after attachment to the vertebrae (i.e. "dynamizes"). In another form, a threecomponent dynamic bone plate is configured such that a middle component accepts an identical end component at both ends of the middle component. The end component is a 180° interchangeable part. The middle component and the end component have cooperating configurations and complementarily configured grooves that allow sliding movement between the middle component and the end components. A two-pillar construction provides a central window.

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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/43172

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 606/69

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 606/69,70,71

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
x	US 6,413,259 B1 (LYONS et al) 2 July 2002 (02.07.2002), see whole document	1-19
x	US 2002/0143336 A1 (HEARN) 3 October 2002 (03.10.2002), see whole document	20-29,63-76
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y		30-52
y	US 6,306,136 B1 (BACCELLI) 23 October 2001 (23.10.2001), see whole document	53-62

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
East