IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

RSB SPINE, LLC,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	C.A. No. _____
	)	
LIFE SPINE, INC.,	)	**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**
	)	
Defendant.	)	

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff RSB Spine, LLC ("RSB" or "Plaintiff") hereby asserts claims against Life Spine, Inc. ("Life Spine" or "Defendant") for infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,235,034 ("the '034 Patent"), 6,984,234 ("the '234 Patent"), and 9,713,537 ("the '537 Patent") and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*

THE PARTIES

2. RSB is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business at 2530 Superior Avenue # 703, Cleveland, OH 44114.

3. Upon information and belief, Life Spine is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware with its place of business at 13951 South Quality Drive, Huntley, IL 60169.

4. Upon information and belief, Life Spine manufactures and distributes spinal pathology solutions, including anterior lumbar and cervical interbody fusion devices.

5. Upon information and belief, Life Spine sells and offers to sell products and services throughout the United States, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services into the stream of commerce and that incorporate infringing technology knowing that they will be sold in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

8. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b).

9. Life Spine is subject to this Court's general and specific personal jurisdiction because it is incorporated in Delaware and has purposely availed itself of the privileges and benefits of the laws of the State of Delaware. Further, upon information and belief, Life Spine has sufficient minimum contacts within the State of Delaware because Life Spine purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Delaware, Life Spine regularly conducts and solicits business within the State of Delaware, and RSB's causes of action arise directly from Life Spine's business contacts and other activities in the State of Delaware.

BACKGROUND

RSB and Its Spinal Stabilization Devices

10. RSB Spine, LLC, was formed in 2001 as R&B Surgical Solutions ("R&B") by John A. Redmond and Robert S. Bray, Jr., M.D. to develop and market spinal implant concepts from Dr. Bray and other innovative spine surgeons.

11. Dr. Bray, the sole inventor or co-inventor on all asserted patents, is currently the Director of St. Johns Spine Institute in Santa Monica, California, was the Founding Director of

The Institute for Spinal Disorders for Cedars Sinai, and founded a Multidisciplinary Outpatient Center, D.I.S.C. (Diagnostic and Interventional Spinal Care).

12. Dr. Bray was a Major in the United States Air Force and served as the Chief of Neurosurgery at Travis Air Force Base. Dr. Bray has been awarded eight U.S. patents for spinal implants and neurosurgical instruments, with several more applications pending, and has performed more than 7,500 spinal surgeries, including using devices covered by the asserted patents.

13. R&B's strategy was to use its instrument line to generate revenue and build distribution while the novel implants were being developed. In 2003, R&B sold its instrument line. The company then changed its name to RSB Spine, LLC.

14. Proceeds of the sale provided the requisite capital to launch the company's first implant system.

15. In August 2006, the FDA approved RSB's InterPlate™ product, as a vertebral body replacement. The InterPlate™ product is a platform technology for performing fusion procedures in the lumbar and cervical spine. The InterPlate™ implants, made from both titanium and polyetheretherketone (PEEK), offer surgeons a unique and different option as compared with existing plates and interbody devices.

16. In July 2007, the FDA reclassified interbody fusion devices and as of September 18, 2007, the InterPlate™ became the first device cleared for interbody fusion under the new guidelines.

17. The current InterPlate™, sold for use in the cervical and lumbar spine, is made of titanium and is used in conjunction with graft material for fusion of the two vertebral bodies.

18. RSB's products are exclusively distributed by Paradigm BioDevices in the United States.

19. RSB and Paradigm BioDevices provide public notice in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 287 that the Interplate™ products incorporate the inventions of, among others, U.S. Patents 6,235,034, 6,984,234, and 9,713,537 (the "Asserted Patents"). The product packaging, product inserts, and RBS's website identify RSB's patents, including the Asserted Patents.

RSB Patents

20. The spinal column of vertebrates provides support to bear weight and protection to the delicate spinal cord and spinal nerves. The spinal column comprises a series of vertebrae stacked on top of each other. There are typically seven cervical (neck), twelve thoracic (chest), and five lumbar (low back) segments. Each vertebra has a cylindrical shaped vertebral body in the anterior portion of the spine with an arch of bone to the posterior which covers the neural structures. Between each vertebral body is an intervertebral disk, a cartilaginous cushion to help absorb impact and dampen compressive forces on the spine. To the posterior, the laminar arch covers the neural structures of the spinal cord and nerves for protection. At the junction of the arch and anterior vertebral body are articulations to allow movement of the spine.

21. Various types of problems can affect the structure and function of the spinal column. These can be based on degenerative conditions of the intervertebral disk or the articulating joints, traumatic disruption of the disk, bone or ligaments supporting the spine, tumor, or infection. In addition, congenital or acquired deformities can cause abnormal angulation or slippage of the spine. Slippage (spondylolisthesis) anterior of one vertebral body on another can cause compression of the spinal cord or nerves. Patients who suffer from one of

more of these conditions often experience extreme and debilitating pain, and can sustain permanent neurologic damage if the conditions are not treated appropriately.

22. One technique for treating these disorders is known as surgical arthrodesis of the spine. This can be accomplished by removing the intervertebral disk, replacing it with bone, and immobilizing the spine to allow the eventual fusion or growth of the bone across the disk space to connect the adjoining vertebral bodies together. The stabilization of the vertebra to allow fusion is often assisted by a surgically implanted device to hold the vertebral bodies in proper alignment and allow the bone to heal, much like placing a cast on a fractured bone. Such techniques have been effectively used to treat the above described conditions and, in most cases, are effective at reducing the patient's pain and preventing neurologic loss of function. However, there are disadvantages to these stabilization devices.

23. The inventions of the Asserted Patents relate to medical stabilization devices, used to repair or alleviate these types of injuries to the spine.

24. Dr. Bray's inventions overcame disadvantages of prior stabilization devices, systems, and methods as well as the tools then available to implant them. The disadvantages of prior art stabilization devices included the inability to properly affix the device to the spine and the inability for the device to properly bear the weight of adjacent vertebral bodies.

The '034 Patent

25. RSB is the assignee and owner of the right of title and interest in and to the '034 Patent, having acquired those rights on September 8, 2008, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under the '034 Patent and the right to any remedies for infringement, including remedies for past infringement.

26. The ’034 Patent, entitled “Bone Plate and Bone Screw Guide Mechanism,” was issued by the United States and Patent Trademark Office on May 22, 2001. The ’034 Patent issued on United States Patent Application No. 09/177,885, filed on October 23, 1998, and claims priority to the provisional United States Patent Provisional Application No. 60/063,035, on October 24, 1997. A copy of the ’034 Patent is attached as **Exhibit A**.

27. The inventions of the ’034 Patent are generally directed to a bone plate for assisting with the surgical arthrodesis (fusion) of two or more bones together, and a bone screw guide mechanism to assist in the proper drilling, tapping and placement of the bone screws to secure the plate.

28. The ’034 Patent is valid, enforceable, and duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

The ’234 Patent

29. RSB is the assignee and owner of the right title and interest in and to the `234 Patent having acquired those rights on October 10, 2005, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under the ’234 Patent and the right to any remedies for infringement, including remedies for past infringements.

30. The ’234 Patent, entitled “Bone Plate Stabilization System and Method for its Use,” was issued by the United States and Patent Trademark Office on January 10, 2006. The ’234 Patent issued from United States Patent Application No. 10/419,652, filed on April 21, 2003. A copy of the ’234 Patent is attached as **Exhibit B**.

31. The inventions of the ’234 Patent are generally directed to a bone plate system that is particularly useful for assisting with the surgical arthrodesis (fusion) of two bones

together, and more particularly, to a bone plate that provides and controls limited movement between the bones during fusion.

32. The ’234 Patent is valid, enforceable and duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

The ’537 Patent

33. RSB is the assignee and owner of the right of title and interest in and to the ’537 Patent, having acquired those rights on January 23, 2017, including the right to assert all causes of action arising under the ’537 Patent and the right to any remedies for infringement, including remedies for past infringement.

34. The ’537 Patent, entitled “Bone Plate Stabilization System and Method For Its Use,” was issued by the United States and Patent Trademark Office on July 25, 2017. The ’537 Patent issued on United States Patent Application No. 15/413,945, filed on January 24, 2017. A copy of the ’537 Patent is attached as **Exhibit C**.

35. The ’537 Patent is valid, enforceable, and duly issued in full compliance with Title 35 of the United States Code.

Life Spine’s Knowledge of Patent Infringement

36. On July 5, 2018, RSB sent a notice letter to Life Spine including examples of Life Spine’s patent infringement. RSB further indicated its willingness to engage in meaningful licensing discussions.

37. RSB identified at least the Presidio® Anterior Lumbar Fixation System as infringing the ’034 Patent and at least the Dyna-Link® Stand-Alone Anterior Lumbar System, PRO-LINK®, and PRO-LINK® Ti Titanium Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System as infringing the ’537 Patent.

38. RSB requested a response to its notice to Life Spine within a reasonable period, but Life Spine has yet to provide any response.

The Accused Products

39. Life Spine's Presidio® Anterior Lumbar Fixation System is illustrated below.

40. The Presidio® Anterior Lumbar Fixation System is a plate system designed to eliminate the need for posterior stabilization with anterior lumbar interbody fusions. The low-profile plate design provides a rigidly stable construct without disturbing the surrounding vasculature. The Presidio® plate incorporates a graft window to visualize the placement of the anterior lumbar interbody.

41. Life Spine's Gruve Anterior Cervical Plate System is illustrated below.

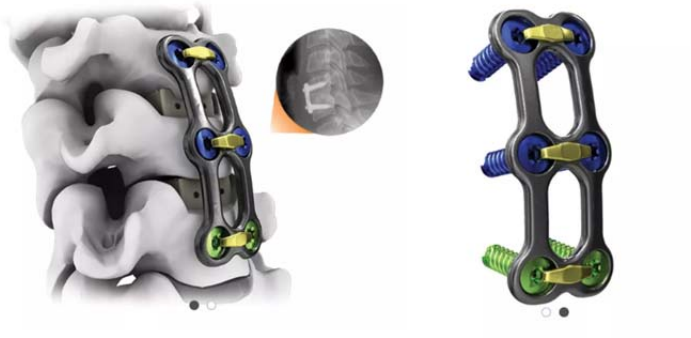
42. The Gruve Anterior Cervical Plate System is a plate system featuring a cam-locking mechanism to ensure locking of screws for optimal angles. The audible, tactile, and visual confirmations of the locking mechanism provide surgeons confidence in preventing screw backout. The Gruve system incorporates self-drilling/self-tapping fixed and variable angle bone

screw configurations to provide intra-operative flexibility for surgeon preferences and anatomical differences.

43. Life Spine's Kinetic Dynamic Anterior Cervical Plate System is illustrated below.

44. The Kinetic Dynamic Anterior Cervical Plate System is a plate system offering up to 2mm of internal dynamization per level. The Kinetic system is designed to allow for a large graft window and generous screw angulation. The Kinetic plate is internally dynamized and virtually eliminates the possibility of adjacent level adjustment.

45. Life Spine's Neo Anterior Cervical Plate System is illustrated below.



46. The Neo Anterior Cervical Plate System is a low-profile plate system designed to allow for a large graft window and generous screw angulation.

47. Life Spine's Sentry™ Anterior Lumbar Fixation System is illustrated below.

48. The Sentry™ Anterior Lumbar Fixation System is a plate system designed to eliminate the need for posterior stabilization with anterior lumbar interbody fusions. The low-profile plate design provides a rigidly stable construct without disturbing the surrounding vasculature. The Sentry system incorporates optimal screw angulation to accommodate varying patient anatomy and pathology.

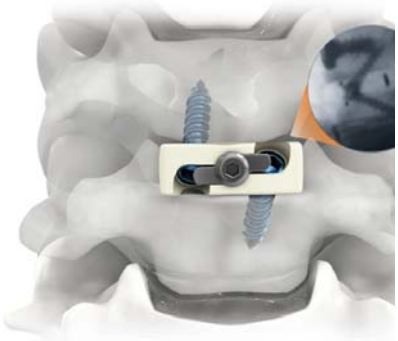
49. Life Spine's Sentry™ 4 Lateral Plate System is illustrated below.

50. The Sentry™ 4 Lateral Plate System is a lateral fusion device incorporating an integrated cam-locking mechanism and designed for anterior column stabilization of the thoracic and lumbar spine.

51. Life Spine's Dyna-Link® Stand-Alone Anterior Lumbar System is illustrated below.

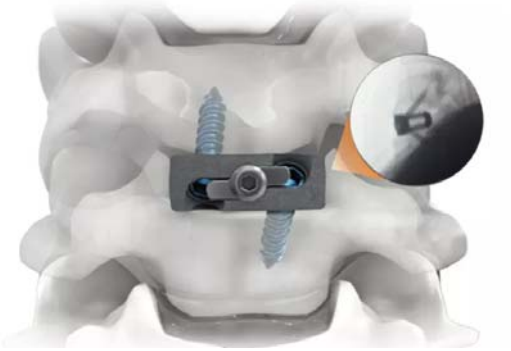
52. The Dyna-Link® Stand-Alone Anterior Lumbar System is a zero-profile, stand-alone device that offers surgeons a safe and reliable alternative to 360^{o} fusion procedures. In addition to providing immediate fixation without the need for intraoperative patient repositioning, multiple footprints and heights are available to accommodate various patient anatomies and pathologies to promote fusion.

53. Life Spine's Pro-Link® Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System is illustrated below.



54. The Pro-Link® Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System is designed with a large, open graft area for maximum bone graft capacity. The spacers allow fusion at adjacent segments without the removal of an existing anterior cervical plate. The low-profile locking plate provides security against screw backout without disturbing surrounding soft tissue.

55. Life Spine's Pro-Link® Ti Titanium Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System is illustrated below.



56. The Pro-Link® Ti Titanium Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System is designed with a large, open graft area for maximum bone graft capacity. The spacers allow fusion at adjacent segments without the removal of an existing anterior cervical plate. The low-profile locking plate provides security against screw backout without disturbing surrounding soft tissue.

57. The Presidio® Anterior Lumbar Fixation System, Gruve Anterior Cervical Plate System, Kinetic Dynamic Anterior Cervical Plate System, Neo Anterior Cervical Plate System, Sentry™ Anterior Lumbar Fixation System, and Sentry™ 4 Lateral Plate System are referred to herein as "the Accused Plate Products". The Dyna-Link® Stand-Alone Anterior Lumbar System, Pro-Link® Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System, and Pro-Link® Ti Titanium Stand-Alone Cervical Spacer System are referred to herein as "the Accused Link Products".

COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT 6,235,034

58. RSB realleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 57 of the Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

59. Upon information and belief, Life Spine has directly and indirectly infringed, literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 1 and 14 of the ’034 Patent by making, using, selling and/or offering for sale the Accused Plate Products.

60. Claim 1 of the ’034 Patent claims a novel bone plate with the following limitations:

> a base plate having at least two screw holes;
>
> at least two bone screws capable of securing the bone plate to a bone by insertion through the screw holes into the bone, wherein the bone screws have heads shaped to toggle within the screw holes; and
>
> a bone screw locking means capable of securedly covering the bone screws so that the bone screws cannot back out from the bone once screwed in through the base plate;
>
> wherein the bone screws and bone screw locking means are designed such that when the bone screw locking means covers the bone screws and is fixedly attached to said base plate, the top of each bone screw mates with the bone screw locking means and each bone screw can toggle within its corresponding screw hole.

61. The Accused Plate Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit D**.

62. The Accused Plate Products have a base plate, at least two screw holes, and at least two bone screws.

63. The bone screws are used to secure the bone plate to a bone by insertion through the screw holes into the bone. The bone screws also have heads shaped to toggle within the screw holes.

64. The base plates of the Accused Plate Products have a bone screw locking means that securedly covers the bone screws so that the bone screws cannot back out from the bone once screwed in through the base plate.

65. When the bone screw locking means of the Accused Plate Products cover the associated bone screws and fixedly attach to the base plate of the Accused Plate Products, the top of each bone screw mates with the bone screw locking means, and each bone screw can toggle within its corresponding screw hole.

66. Claim 14 of the '034 Patent claims a novel bone plate with the following limitations:

> a base plate having two screw holes and a set screw hole between the screw holes;
>
> two bone screws capable of securing the bone plate to a bone by insertion through the screw holes into the bone;
>
> a retaining plate fixedly attachable to the base plate, wherein the retaining plate has a size sufficient to cover the bone screws and a set screw aperture extending therethrough so that the set screw aperture is aligned with the set screw hole in the base plate when the retaining plate is placed on the base plate; and
>
> a set screw for fixedly attaching the retaining plate to the base plate by extending through the set screw aperture in the retaining plate and into the set screw hole in the base plate;
>
> wherein the bone screws and retaining plate are designed such that, when the retaining plate covers the bone screws the top of each bone screw mates with the retaining plate and the covered bone screws can toggle within the screw holes.

67. The Accused Plate Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.*, **Exhibit D**.

68. The Accused Plate Products have a base plate, two screw holes, and a set screw hole between the screw holes.

69. The Accused Plate Products have two bone screws capable of securing the bone plate to a bone by insertion through the screw holes into the bone.

70. The Accused Plate Products have a retaining plate fixedly attachable to the base plate.

71. The retaining plate is a size sufficient to cover the bones screws and a set screw aperture extending therethrough so that the set screw aperture is aligned with the set screw hole in the base plate when the retaining plate is placed on the base plate.

72. The Accused Plate Products have a set screw for fixedly attaching the retaining plate to the base plate by extending through the set screw aperture in the retaining plate and into the set screw hole in the base plate.

73. The bone screws and retaining plate in the Accused Plate Products are designed such that, when the retaining plate covers the bone screws, the top of each bone screw mates with the retaining plate, and the covered bone screws can toggle within the screw holes.

74. Upon information and belief, Life Spine marketed and sold the Accused Plate Products in the United States to its partners, clients, customers, and end users who use the Accused Plate Products across the country and in this District.

75. Upon information and belief, since at least July 5, 2018, Life Spine has induced others to infringe at least one claim of the ’034 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) by, among other things, actively aiding and abetting others to infringe with specific intent or willful blindness, including but not limited to Life Spine’s partners, clients, customers, and end users, whose use of the Accused Plate Products constitutes direct infringement of at least one claim of the ’034 Patent.

76. In particular, Life Spine’s actions that aid and abet others such as its partners, customers, clients, and end users to infringe include advertising and distributing the Accused

Plate Products and providing instruction materials, training, and services regarding the Accused Plate Products.

77. Upon information and belief, Life Spine has engaged in such actions with specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the resulting infringement because Life Spine has had actual knowledge of the ’034 Patent and knowledge that its acts were inducing infringement of the ’034 Patent since at least July 5, 2018.

78. Upon information and belief, Life Spine is liable for contributory infringement of the ’034 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) for offering to sell and selling in the United States Accused Plate Products to be especially made or adapted for use to infringe the ’034 Patent. The Accused Plate Products are a material component for use in practicing the ’034 Patent, are specifically made, and are not a staple article of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

79. As a consequence of each of Life Spine’s direct and indirect infringement, both literal and under the doctrine of equivalents, of the ’034 Patent, RSB has been damaged in an amount not yet determined and is entitled to recover damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284.

80. Upon information and belief, Life Spine’s infringement of the ’034 Patent has been willful. Life Spine knew of the ’034 Patent and knew that it was infringing the ’034 Patent at least as early as July 5, 2018. Despite RSB’s indication to Life Spine that RSB was willing to engage in meaningful licensing discussions, Life Spine did not respond, choosing instead to continue infringing in willful disregard of RSB’s patent rights.

COUNT II – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT 6,984,234

81. RSB realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 80 of the Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

82. Upon information and belief, Life Spine has infringed and continues to infringe directly and indirectly, literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 1, 22, and 35 of the ’234 Patent by making, using, selling, and/or offering for sale the Accused Link Products.

83. Claim 1 of the ’234 Patent claims a novel method for joining first and second bones with the following limitations:

> inserting between the side surfaces of the bones a base plate having a first end nearer the first bone and a second end nearer the second bone, wherein the base plate has a first screw hole extending through the first end and a second screw hole extending through the second end;
>
> introducing a first bone screw through the first screw hole and into the first bone, wherein the first bone screw is introduced at an angle relative to the top surface of the bone ranging from about 20° to about 60°,
>
> introducing a second bone screw through the second screw hole and into the second bone, wherein the second bone screw is introduced at an angle relative to the top surface of the bone ranging from about 20° to about 70°, and
>
> covering at least a part of the first bone screw and at least a part of the second bone screw to prevent the first and second bone screws from backing out of the first and second bones, respectively.

84. The use of the Accused Link Products meets each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit E**.

85. The Accused Link Products are used to join adjacent bones having top surfaces and side surfaces generally facing each other.

86. The Accused Link Products include a base plate that is inserted between the side surfaces of the adjacent bones. The base plate has a first end nearer the first bone and a second

end nearer the second bone. The base plate has a first screw hole extending through the first end and a second screw hole extending through the second end.

87. To secure the Accused Link Products, a first bone screw is inserted through the first screw hole and into the first bone and a second bone screw is inserted through the second screw hole and into the second bone, at an angle relative to the top surface of the bone between 20 and 60 degrees and between 20 and 70 degrees, respectively.

88. Part of the first bone screw and part of the second bone screw are covered to prevent the bone screws from backing out of the bones.

89. Claim 22 of the '234 Patent claims a novel bone stabilization plate system with the following limitations:

> a base plate having bottom surface and first and second ends, the first end comprising a first bone screw region having a first bone screw hole extending therethrough at an angle relative to the bottom surface of the base plate ranging from about 20° to about 60°, and the second end comprising a second bone screw region having a second bone screw hole extending therethrough at an angle relative to the bottom surface of the base plate ranging from about 20° to about 70°;
>
> a first bone screw capable of securing the base plate to a first bone by insertion through the first bone screw hole;
>
> a second bone screw capable of securing the base plate to a second bone by insertion through the second bone screw hole; and
>
> a bone screw retaining means for securedly covering at least a part of the first and second bone screws to prevent the bone screws from backing out from the first and second bones.

90. The Accused Link Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit E**.

91. The Accused Link Products include a base plate having first and second ends and respective bone screw regions including bone screw holes extending therethrough. A first bone

screw hole extends at an angle of 20 to 60 degrees relative to the bottom surface of the base plate and a second bone screw hole extends at an angle from 20 to 70 degrees relative to the bottom surface of the base plate.

92. The Accused Link Products include first and second bone screws capable of securing the base plate to the first and second bones, respectively.

93. The Accused Link Products include bone screw retaining means for securedly covering at least part of the first and second bone screws to prevent the bone screws from backing out of the first and second bones.

94. Claim 35 of the ’234 Patent claims a novel bone stabilization plate system with the following limitations:

> a base plate for retaining bone graft material between first and second longitudinally-aligned, adjacent bone bodies and for permitting force transmission between the first and second bone bodies through the bone graft material,
>
> the base plate being sized to have an inter-fit between the first and second adjacent bone bodies and adjacent to lateral extents of the bone graft material such that the first and second bone bodies engage the bone graft material, and
>
> at least first and second bone screws for extending into the first and second bone bodies, respectively, to retain the base plate between the first and second bone bodies,
>
> the base plate having means for interacting with the first and second bone screws, the means for interacting including means for permitting movement of at least one of the first and second bone bodies relative to the base plate.

95. The Accused Link Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit E**.

96. The Accused Link Products include a base plate for retaining bone graft material between first and second longitudinally-aligned, adjacent bone bodies and for permitting force transmission between the first and second bone bodies through the bone graft material.

97. The base plate is sized to have an inter-fit between the first and second adjacent bone bodies and adjacent to lateral extents of the bone graft material such that the first and second bone bodies engage the bone graft material.

98. The Accused Link Products have first and second bone screws for extending into the first and second bone bodies.

99. The base plate has a means for permitting movement of at least one of the first and second bone bodies relative to the base plate.

100. Upon information and belief, Life Spine markets and sells the Accused Link Products in the United States to its partners, clients, customers, and end users who use the Accused Link Products across the country and in this District.

101. Upon information and belief, at least since receiving notice of infringement of the ’034 Patent and the ’537 Patent, Life Spine has induced and continues to induce others to infringe at least one claim of the ’234 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) by, among other things, actively aiding and abetting others to infringe with specific intent or willful blindness, such others including, but not limited to, Life Spine’s partners, clients, customers, and end users, whose use of the Accused Link Products constitutes direct infringement of at least one claim of the ’234 Patent.

102. In particular, Life Spine’s actions that aid and abet others such as its partners, clients, customers and end users to infringe include advertising and distributing the Accused

Link Products and providing instruction materials, training, and services regarding the Accused Link Products.

103. Upon information and belief, Life Spine is liable for contributory infringement of the ’234 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) for offering to sell and selling in the United States Accused Link Products to be especially made or adapted for use to infringe the ’234 Patent. The Accused Link Products are a material component for use in practicing the ’234 Patent, are specifically made, and are not a staple article of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

104. As a consequence of each of Life Spine’s direct and indirect infringement, both literal and under the doctrine of equivalents, of the ’234 Patent, RSB has been, and continues to be, damaged in an amount not yet determined and is entitled to recover damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284.

105. Upon information and belief, Life Spine’s infringement of the ’234 Patent will continue in the future, and RSB will continue to suffer damages, as a consequence, unless Life Spine’s infringing acts are enjoined by this Court.

106. Upon information and belief, Life Spine’s infringement of the ’234 Patent has been, and continues to be, willful. Life Spine knew of the ’234 Patent and knew that it was infringing the ’234 Patent. Despite RSB’s indication to Life Spine that RSB was willing to engage in meaningful licensing discussions, Life Spine has not responded; choosing instead to continue infringing in willful disregard of RSB’s patent rights.

COUNT III – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT 9,713,537

107. RSB realleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs 1 through 106 of the Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

108. Upon information and belief, Life Spine has infringed and continues to infringe directly and indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, at least claims 1, 15, and 21 of the ’537 Patent by making, using, selling, and/or offering for sale the Accused Link Products.

109. Claim 1 of the ’537 Patent claims a novel bone stabilization system with the following limitations:

> a base plate having a top surface, first and second ends, a bottom surface, and a plurality of bone screw holes, wherein the base plate is configured to fit primarily between anterior portions of adjacent vertebral bones' lip osteophytes to bear weight to hold the vertebral bones while sharing weight with bone graft material for fusion; and
>
> a plurality of bone screws configured to fit in the plurality of bone screw holes, respectively;
>
> wherein the vertebral bones have top surfaces and have side surfaces generally facing each other;
>
> wherein a first of the bone screw holes, being configured to receive a first of the bone screws, extends at least partially from the top surface of the base plate and opens at least partially toward the side surface of a first of the vertebral bones;
>
> wherein a second of the bone screw holes, being configured to receive a second of the bone screws, extends at least partially from the top surface of the base plate and opens at least partially toward the lip osteophyte of a second of the vertebral bones; and
>
> wherein each and every one of the plurality of bone screw holes is configured to receive one of the bone screws angled relative to the base plate and oriented generally in an anterior-posterior direction through at least partially the top surface of the base plate.

110. The Accused Link Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit F**.

111. The Accused Link Products are each bone stabilization systems with base plates having a top surface, a bottom surface, and more than one bone screw hole.

112. The Accused Link Products further include base plates configured to fit primarily between anterior portions of adjacent vertebral bones' lip osteophytes to bear weight to hold the vertebral bones while sharing weight with bone graft material for fusion.

113. The Accused Link Products have multiple bone screws configured to fit in multiple bone screw holes. The vertebral bones have top surfaces and have side surfaces generally facing each other.

114. The Accused Link Products have a first of the bone screw holes, configured to receive a first of the bone screws that extends at least partially from the top surface of a base plate and opens at least partially toward the side surface of a first of the vertebral bones.

115. The Accused Link Products also have a second of the bone screw holes, configured to receive a second of the bone screws that extends at least partially from the top surface of a base plate and opens at least partially toward the lip osteophyte of a second of the vertebral bones.

116. The Accused Link Products have bone screw holes configured to receive one of the bone screws angled relative to a base plate and oriented generally in an anterior-posterior direction through at least partially the top surface of the base plate.

117. Claim 15 of the ’537 Patent claims a novel bone stabilization plate system with the following limitations:

> a base plate having a plurality of bone screw holes, a top surface, a generally flat bottom surface and first and second ends for retaining bone graft material between adjacent vertebral bone bodies having top surfaces and having side surfaces generally facing each other,
>
> wherein the base plate is configured to fit primarily between anterior portions of the bone bodies’ lip osteophytes, without covering significant portions of the top surfaces of the bone bodies, to primarily bear weight, and to permit force transmission between

> the bone bodies through the bone graft material while holding the bone bodies for fusion; and
>
> a plurality of bone screws configured for insertion through the plurality of corresponding bone screw holes to anchor primarily into the lip osteophytes, with each of the bone screws being configured to extend from at least partially the top surface of the base plate to at least partially the side surface of one of the bone bodies, such that the base plate is secured.

118. The Accused Link Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit F**.

119. The Accused Link Products include a base plate having a plurality of bone screw holes and retain bone graft material between adjacent vertebral bone bodies. The base plate fits between anterior portions of the bone bodies' lip osteophytes without covering significant portions of the top surfaces of the bone bodies.

120. The base plate bears weight and permits force transmission between the bone bodies through the bone graft material while holding the bone bodies for fusion.

121. The Accused Link Products include a plurality of bone screws configured for insertion through the plurality of corresponding bone screw holes to anchor primarily into the lip osteophytes, with each of the bone screws being configured to extend from at least partially the top surface of the base plate to at least partially the side surface of one of the bone bodies, such that the base plate is secured.

122. Claim 21 of the '537 Patent claims a novel bone stabilization plate system for anchoring between side surfaces of first and second adjacent vertebral bones with the following limitations:

> a base plate having a top surface, a first end nearer the first bone comprising a first bone screw hole extending at least partially therethrough and a first bone engaging region fully extending uninterrupted between lateral extents of the first end, a second end

> nearer the second bone comprising a second bone screw hole extending at least partially therethrough, and a bottom surface, and configured to fit primarily between an anterior portion of the first bone's lip osteophyte and an anterior portion of the second bone's lip osteophyte while bearing weight to hold the bones for fusion; and
>
> a first bone screw configured to secure the base plate to the first bone by insertion through the first bone screw hole and to extend from at least partially the top surface of the base plate to at least partially the side surface of the first bone, and a second bone screw configured to secure the base plate to the second bone by insertion through the second bone screw hole and to extend from at least partially the top surface of the base plate to at least partially the side surface of the second bone.

123. The Accused Link Products contain each of the above limitations. *See, e.g.,* **Exhibit F**.

124. The Accused Link Products anchor between side surfaces of a first and second adjacent vertebral bone.

125. The Accused Link Products are designed to include a base plate having a top surface, a first end nearer to the first bone with a first bone screw hole extending at least partially therethrough and a first bone engaging region fully extending uninterrupted between lateral extents of the first end and, a second end nearer the second bone with a second bone screw hole extending at least partially therethrough, and a bottom surface.

126. The base plate of the Accused Link Products is also configured to fit primarily between an anterior portion of a first bone's lip osteophyte and an anterior portion of a second bone's lip osteophyte while bearing weight to hold bones for fusion.

127. The first bone screw is configured to secure the base plate to the first bone by insertion through the first bone screw hole and to extend from the top surface of the base plate to the side surface of the first bone.

128. The second bone screw is configured to secure the base plate to the second bone by insertion through the second bone screw hole and to extend from the top surface of the base plate to the side surface of the second bone.

129. Upon information and belief, Life Spine markets and sells the Accused Link Products in the United States to its partners, clients, customers, and end users who use the Accused Link Products across the country and in this District.

130. Upon information and belief, since at least July 5, 2018, Life Spine has induced and continues to induce others to infringe at least one claim of the '537 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) by, among other things, actively aiding and abetting others to infringe with specific intent or willful blindness, including but not limited to Life Spine's partners, clients, customers, and end users, whose use of the Accused Link Products constitutes direct infringement of at least one claim of the '537 Patent.

131. In particular, Life Spine's actions that aid and abet others such as its partners, customers, clients, and end users to infringe include advertising and distributing the Accused Link Products and providing instruction materials, training, and services regarding the Accused Link Products.

132. Upon information and belief, Life Spine has engaged in such actions with specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the resulting infringement because Life Spine has had actual knowledge of the '537 Patent and knowledge that its acts were inducing infringement of the '537 Patent since at least July 5, 2018.

133. Upon information and belief, Life Spine is liable for contributory infringement of the '537 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) for offering to sell and selling in the United States Accused Link Products to be especially made or adapted for use to infringe the '537 Patent. The

Accused Link Products are a material component for use in practicing the ’537 Patent, are specifically made, and are not a staple article of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use.

134. As a consequence of each of Life Spine’s direct and indirect infringement, both literal and under the doctrine of equivalents, of the ’537 Patent, RSB has been, and continues to be, damaged in an amount not yet determined and is entitled to recover damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284.

135. Upon information and belief, Life Spine’s infringement of the ’537 Patent will continue in the future, and RSB will continue to suffer damages, as a consequence, unless Life Spine’s infringing acts are enjoined by this Court.

136. Upon information and belief, Life Spine’s infringement of the ’537 Patent has been, and continues to be, willful. Life Spine knew of the ’537 Patent and knew that it was infringing the ’537 Patent at least as early as July 5, 2018. Despite RSB’s indication to Life Spine that RSB was willing to engage in meaningful licensing discussions, Life Spine has not responded, choosing instead to continue infringing in willful disregard of RSB’s patent rights.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, RSB demands a trial by jury on all triable issues.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, if RSB is unsuccessful securing a reasonable royalty prior to service of this Complaint, RSB demands judgment for itself and against Life Spine as follows:

A. An adjudication that Life Spine has infringed the Asserted Patents;

B. A permanent injunction against Life Spine, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, parent and subsidiary corporations, assigns and successors in interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, enjoining them from continued acts of infringement of the '234 Patent and the '537 Patent;

C. An award of damages to be paid by Life Spine adequate to compensate RSB for Life Spine's past infringement of the Asserted Patents, and any continuing or future infringement of the '234 Patent and the '537 Patent through the date such judgment is entered, including interest, costs, expenses and an accounting of all infringing acts including, but not limited to, those acts not presented at trial;

D. An adjudication that Life Spine's infringement has been willful and an award of treble damages;

E. A declaration that this case is exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285, and an award of RSB's reasonable attorneys' fees; and

F. An award to RSB of such further relief at law or in equity as the Court deems just and proper.

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