

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

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INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES  
AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, PROTEST FEE

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rules 40.1 and 40.2(e))

	Date of mailing (day/month/year)	<b>13 MAY 2013</b>
Applicant's or agent's file reference 11813-708.600	<b>PAYMENT DUE</b>	within <b>ONE MONTH</b> from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/US 13/30249	International filing date (day/month/year)	11 March 2013 (11.03.2013)
Applicant <b>SI-BONE INC.</b>		

## 1. This International Searching Authority

(i) considers that there are 5 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated below/on an extra sheet:  
--- see continuation sheet ---

(ii) therefore considers that **the international application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention** (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below/on an extra sheet:  
--- see continuation sheet ---

(iii)  has carried out a partial international search (see Annex)  will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:  
1-9, 29, 30

(iv) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid.

## 2. Consequently, the applicant is hereby invited to pay, within the time limit indicated above, additional fees in the amount indicated below:

\$2080	x	4	=	\$8320
Fee per additional invention		number of additional inventions		total amount of additional fees/currency

## 3. The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fees may be made under protest, that is, a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fees is excessive, where applicable, subject to the payment of a protest fee.

Where the applicant pays additional fees under protest, the applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay a protest fee (Rule 40.2(e)) in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (amount/currency)

Where the applicant has not, within the time limit indicated above, paid the required protest fee, the protest will be considered not to have been made and the International Searching Authority will so declare.

4.  Claim(s) Nos. \_\_\_\_\_ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer:  Lee W. Young  PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774
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INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES  
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International application No.

PCT/US 13/30249

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I: claims 1-9, 29, 30 directed to a soft tissue protector system

Group II: claims 10-14 directed to an expandable dilator

Group III: claims 15-20 directed to a delivery sleeve

Group IV: claims 21-25, 31-35 directed to a dilator system and corresponding method of use

Group V: claims 26-28 directed to a quick connect system

The groups of inventions above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

**Special Technical Features**

The special technical feature of the Group I claims is the supply of a biologic aid through a fluid channel or port, which is not present in the claims of Groups II-V.

The special technical feature of the Group II claims is slidable wall segments allowing the body to have a compressed and uncompressed cross section, which is not present in the claims of Groups I, III-V.

The special technical feature of the Group III claims is a tapered distal portion having expandable blade portions that rotate outwards, which is not present in the claims of Groups I-II, IV-V.

The special technical feature of the Group IV claims is a guide pin with outwardly biased prongs, sequential dilators and an outer cannula with stabilizing pins, which is not present in the claims of Groups I-III, V.

The special technical feature of the Group V claims is a handle quick connect feature, which is not present in the claims of Groups I-IV.

**Common Technical Features**

Groups I-V share the technical feature of a cannula, dilator or longitudinal body having a distal end, a proximal end and a wall with an inner surface that defines a passage extending through the cannula, dilator or longitudinal body. This generic feature does not avoid the prior art, as evinced by US 2003/0083688 A1 to Simonson which teaches a typical example of a dilator comprising a series of cannulated dilators formed of longitudinal bodies that define a passage therethrough (para [0033], fig 2, dilators 12).

Groups II and IV further share the technical feature of an expandable dilator which expands from a compressed/contracted configuration to an expanded configuration. This generic feature does not avoid the prior art, as evinced by US 4,350,151 A to Scott which teaches a typical example of an expandable dilator which expands from a compressed configuration to an expanded configuration (col 2, ln 39-51, col 3, ln 1-20, fig 1, 6-9, dilator 10 having portions 11, 12 which start in a radially closed/compressed configuration and expand when urged apart by inner member 16).

Therefore, the listed inventions lack unity of invention under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature.