

**J O H N S H O P K I N S
U N I V E R S I T Y**

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Collegiate Inventors Competition

Re: AccuSpine – CIC Entry

To Whom It May Concern:

As the director of the undergraduate design team program in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, I confirm that the AccuSpine was designed, prototyped and tested by the undergraduate team of students identified below as part of my Design Team set of courses during the 2013-2014 academic year. Although the team's sponsor, Dr. Chetan Bettgowda, mentored the team, as well as external judges, my colleagues, and myself, the undergraduate students themselves originated the novel ideas associated with the now patent-pending design. Each team member contributed to the project in his or her unique way, but I believe each contributed equally. Each team member, namely Anvesh Annadanam, Ravi Gaddipati, Luis Herrera, and Eric Xie, were all enrolled full-time at Johns Hopkins University during the 2013-2014 academic year.

The AccuSpine technology has the ability to reduce complications associated with spinal fusion surgeries, and has the potential to improve the lives of scoliosis patients or those with other spinal pathological conditions. The technology is novel (a provisional patent has been filed), and has the potential to have clinical impact by improving outcomes associated with thousands of spinal fusion surgeries annually in the US. The special characteristics of this that team distinguishes itself from the other 10 teams in the class are as follows: 1) it was one of two teams lead by a junior (Anvesh Annadanam), thereby allowing students to work on the next academic year, 2) it produced the best PowerPoint presentation in the class, and 3) the team worked most closely with its clinical sponsors.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Allen, PhD, PE
Associate Research Professor
Biomedical Engineering
Associate Research Professor
Gynecology and Obstetrics
Undergraduate Director
Center for Bioengineering Innovation and Design



**CENTER FOR
BIOENGINEERING
INNOVATION
& DESIGN**

