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THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

13  
14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
15 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
16 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

17  
18 THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA, a California  
19 Corporation,  
20 Plaintiff,  
21 v.  
22 BOSTON SCIENTIFIC CORPORATION,  
a Delaware Corporation,  
23 Defendant.  
24

Case No. 3:16-cv-06266  
**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT  
INFRINGEMENT**  
**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

25 Plaintiff The Regents of the University of California (“The Regents” or “Plaintiff”), by  
26 and through its undersigned counsel, complains and alleges against Boston Scientific  
27 Corporation, a Delaware corporation (“BSC” or “Defendant”) as follows:  
28

**BACKGROUND AND NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1  
2 1. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the  
3 United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*, and specifically § 271, for Defendant’s infringement of The  
4 Regents’ patents covering the now-standard and universally utilized method of treating atrial  
5 fibrillation.

6 2. Atrial fibrillation (also referred to as “AFib” or “AF”) is the most common type of  
7 abnormal heart rhythm. AFib can be an extremely serious condition that severely limits physical  
8 activities and significantly increases the risk of other serious heart diseases, stroke, and death. It  
9 is estimated that five million people in the United States suffer from AFib currently, and that this  
10 number will reach up to 12 million people by 2050. Approximately 450,000 new cases of AFib  
11 are diagnosed in the U.S. alone each year. These figures are expected to increase as the  
12 population ages.

13 3. Atrial fibrillation is caused by irregular electrical activity that is triggered typically  
14 from locations in the pulmonary veins, or near the entrance of the pulmonary veins in the left  
15 atrium of the heart. Absent appropriate treatment, the erratic electrical pulses travel from the  
16 pulmonary vein into the left atrium, wherein they trigger the onset of AFib, which causes erratic  
17 heart muscle contractions and decreases the effectiveness of the heart’s ability to pump blood  
18 through the patient’s body.

19 4. Medical researchers spent decades attempting to develop safe and effective non-  
20 pharmacologic treatment methods. Michael D. Lesh MD, a professor of medicine and a cardiac  
21 electrophysiologist at the University of California, San Francisco (or “UCSF”), finally solved the  
22 problem by inventing the first safe and reliable minimally invasive method of treating AFib.

23 5. The treatment method invented by Dr. Lesh (the “Patented Method”) involves the  
24 formation of a circumferential conduction block at a location where a pulmonary vein extends  
25 from the heart’s left atrium. The resulting conduction block is intended to block electrical pulses  
26 originating within or near the pulmonary vein(s) and to prevent them from entering the left atrium  
27 and triggering atrial fibrillation. Dr. Lesh filed several related patent applications directed to the  
28 Patented Method, prosecuted by and on behalf of The Regents, including the two patents asserted

1 in this action. All of these patents are duly assigned to The Regents (collectively, “The Regents’  
2 Patents”).

3 6. BSC and the relevant medical community have, at all relevant times, consistently  
4 referred to the Patented Method as “pulmonary vein isolation,” “PVI,” “circumferential PVI,”  
5 “circumferential conduction block,” and/or “electrical isolation of the pulmonary veins,” and  
6 other similar terms.

7 7. The Patented Method has proven highly successful in treating atrial fibrillation.  
8 During the early 2000s, relevant medical professionals, such as doctors, cardiologists, cardiac  
9 electrophysiologists, and thoracic and cardiac surgeons (“Doctors”), universally adopted the  
10 Patented Method as the accepted non-pharmacologic method of treating AFib, either alone, or in  
11 combination with other therapy.

12 8. Defendant BSC has, at all relevant times, been one of the major manufacturers of  
13 medical devices and related equipment used to treat AFib. BSC manufactures, markets, and sells  
14 a wide range of medical devices and related equipment (collectively, “BSC Devices”) that are  
15 used to perform the Patented Method to treat AFib.

16 9. BSC has, at all relevant times, been aware of The Regents’ Patents, including the  
17 two patents asserted in this action, and is well aware of the widespread use of BSC Devices to  
18 perform the Patented Method. Moreover, BSC has actively induced, and continues to induce,  
19 medical professionals to use BSC Devices specifically to practice the Patented Method.

### 20 **THE PARTIES**

21 10. Plaintiff The Regents is a California corporation, with a principal place of business  
22 in Oakland, California. The Regents makes up the governing board of the University of  
23 California. The Regents maintains a principal, and world-renowned, medical research facility,  
24 the University of California, San Francisco, in the City and County of San Francisco. All actions  
25 are done in The Regents’ name, including owning property such as patents and other intellectual  
26 property, and entering into contracts.

27 11. Defendant BSC is a Delaware Corporation, with corporate headquarters in  
28 Marlborough, Massachusetts, and with numerous manufacturing facilities and management

1 offices located in California, including in this District.

2 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3 12. This Court has original and exclusive subject matter jurisdiction over this  
4 controversy pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

5 13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over BSC because BSC's contacts with the  
6 State of California are significant and pervasive, and because BSC's contacts with California, as  
7 described in this Complaint, directly give rise to this dispute. BSC has multiple manufacturing  
8 facilities and offices in California, including at least one within this District, located in San Jose,  
9 San Jose County.

10 14. BSC has conducted substantial business with individuals, hospitals, and other  
11 medical institutions and facilities throughout the State of California, including in this District, and  
12 it actively promotes and sells its medical devices and equipment, including the BSC Devices that  
13 are the subject of this action, throughout California. In doing so, BSC regularly transacts  
14 business throughout the state and in this District in violation of the Asserted Patents, as alleged in  
15 this Complaint. Accordingly, this Court may properly exercise personal jurisdiction over BSC.

16 15. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and/or  
17 1400(b) at least because BSC resides in this District, has a regular and established place of  
18 business in this District, and has committed acts of infringement in this District.

19 **INTRA-DISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

20 16. This is an intellectual property action to be assigned on a district-wide basis  
21 pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c).

22 **THE ASSERTED PATENTS**

23 17. On December 26, 2000, the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
24 ("USPTO") duly issued United States Patent No. 6,164,283 ("the '283 Patent"), entitled  
25 "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FORMING A CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCK IN A  
26 PULMONARY VEIN." The Regents owns by assignment all rights, title, and interest in the '283  
27 Patent. A true and correct copy of the '283 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

28 18. On January 7, 2003, the USPTO duly issued United States Patent No. 6,502,576

1 (“the ’576 Patent”), entitled “DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FORMING A  
2 CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCK IN A PULMONARY VEIN.” The Regents owns by assignment  
3 all rights, title, and interest in the ’576 Patent. A true and correct copy of the ’576 Patent is  
4 attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

5 19. The ’283 and ’576 Patents are referred to collectively as the “Asserted Patents.”

#### 6 **BACKGROUND OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**

7 20. Atrial fibrillation is a type of cardiac arrhythmia that causes an abnormally fast and  
8 irregular heart rate. In patients with normal sinus rhythm, the heart is electrically excited to beat  
9 in a synchronous, patterned fashion. In patients with a cardiac arrhythmia, however, abnormal  
10 regions of cardiac tissue emit erratic electrical signals, disrupting the synchronous beating cycle  
11 associated with normally conductive tissue in healthy patients.

12 21. Atrial fibrillation occurs in the upper chambers of the heart (i.e., atria). In healthy  
13 individuals, the heart’s atrial and ventricular chambers (i.e., the lower chambers of the heart)  
14 contract in a coordinated fashion with a normal sinus heart rate between 60 and 100 beats per  
15 minute.

16 22. In patients with AFib, however, the atrial chambers receive such fast and erratic  
17 electrical stimulation that they can only quiver and are unable to actively pump blood from the  
18 atria to the ventricles. During AFib, the two atria of the heart “beat” between 350 and 600 times  
19 per minute. When this occurs, the atrioventricular node, a part of the electrical pathway between  
20 the atria and the ventricles, becomes overloaded with electrical impulses trying to get to the  
21 ventricles. As a result, the normal coordination between the atria and ventricles is lost, ventricles  
22 develop an irregular heart rhythm, and pumping efficacy is decreased.

23 23. As a result of blood not being pumped effectively to the ventricles, blood can pool  
24 in the atria, posing a serious health risk. The pooling of blood can lead to coagulation and  
25 clotting. Strokes occur when a blood clot travels from the atrium, through the arterial system, to  
26 the brain. People with AFib are five times more likely to suffer a stroke than patients without  
27 AFib, and more than 15% of all strokes occur in patients with AFib. Once AFib is diagnosed,  
28 however, treatment can reduce the risk of stroke.

1           24.     In some patients, the risk of stroke may be reduced with blood thinners to prevent  
2 the blood from clotting, and with anti-arrhythmic drugs to restore normal sinus rhythm. These  
3 drugs often have serious side effects, such as severe bleeding, dizziness, nausea, bruising, fatigue,  
4 lung disease, and ventricular arrhythmias. Further, these drugs often do not prevent further  
5 episodes of AFib. If drugs are not effective or well tolerated by a patient, the treatment options  
6 include highly invasive open heart surgery or a cardiac ablation procedure, the evolution of which  
7 is described more fully below.

8  
9                                 **DR. MICHAEL LESH INVENTS THE PATENTED METHOD**  
  **TO TREAT ATRIAL FIBRILLATION**

10           25.     Early non-pharmacologic approaches to treat atrial fibrillation were surgical, and  
11 involved a complex pattern of surgical incisions in both the left and right atria. The resulting  
12 scarred tissue was non-conductive and hence had the potential to block the erratic electrical  
13 pulses thought to cause AFib.

14           26.     The early surgical efforts were reported as having some success in treating  
15 patients, but these open heart surgeries were highly invasive with the heart stopped, the chest  
16 opened, and the patient placed on a heart-lung machine. They also required a long recovery  
17 period, tended to render the left atrium non-functional, and had a high risk of death.

18           27.     In parallel with the development of the surgical procedures described above,  
19 doctors began to use catheters to ablate cardiac tissue to treat a variety of cardiac arrhythmias.  
20 Catheter ablation is a much less invasive procedure than surgery and is performed by cardiac  
21 electrophysiologists (“EPs”) in a catheterization lab. EPs are board-certified cardiologists with  
22 additional training in treating cardiac arrhythmias. In a catheter ablation procedure, the EP inserts  
23 multiple specialized catheters into the patient’s veins and arteries. The EP generally guides the  
24 catheters into the right atrium of the patient’s heart. For procedures involving the left atrium, the  
25 EP uses a special catheter to puncture the intra-atrial septum (i.e., the wall separating the left and  
26 the right atria) to access the patient’s left atrium, where the desired tissue can be ablated.

27           28.     In the early 1990s, EPs began using catheter ablation in an attempt to treat AFib by  
28 mimicking the surgical procedures described above. These catheter procedures typically involved

1 the creation of linear patterns of non-conductive tissue from the inside wall of the heart with a  
2 goal to create lesions that were transmural (i.e., through the wall from inside to out). In addition,  
3 the lesions needed to be continuous (or nearly so) with no gaps. Because they took many hours to  
4 complete, these procedures were very stressful for patients and resulted in safety complications  
5 such as perforations of the atrium and excessive radiation exposure.

6 29. In the mid-1990s, research established that approximately 90% of the erratic  
7 electrical pulses triggering AFib originated somewhere in the pulmonary veins. Thereafter,  
8 treating EPs attempted to cure AFib by locating and ablating the point or points (focus or foci) of  
9 origination of the erratic electrical signals within the pulmonary veins.

10 30. These procedures were of limited success because the exact locations of the  
11 originating foci are difficult to identify. In addition, there are often multiple originating foci  
12 within each pulmonary vein, causing this methodology to be extremely time-consuming. The  
13 procedure also posed safety concerns, the most serious of which was stenosis of the pulmonary  
14 veins due to excessive scarring. This stenosis blocked oxygen transmission in the blood, and  
15 could lead to serious lung problems and even death.

16 31. Dr. Lesh invented the solution to this life threatening problem. The Patented  
17 Method is directed to forming a circumferential conduction block at a location where a  
18 pulmonary vein extends from a patient's left atrium. The resulting circumferential conduction  
19 block prevents electrical pulses originating from within or near the pulmonary vein from entering  
20 the left atrium and causing AFib. This allows treatment of AFib without having to identify,  
21 locate, or ablate the triggering foci within each pulmonary vein. At the same time, it reduces the  
22 risk of complication posed by previously-employed methods of treatment.

23 32. Beginning in July 1997, Dr. Lesh filed several related patent applications  
24 disclosing and covering the Patented Method. The first of these patents was filed on July 3, 1997,  
25 and issued on January 11, 2000, as U.S. Patent No. 6,012,457 ("the '457 Patent") entitled  
26 "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FORMING A CIRCUMFERENTIAL BLOCK IN A  
27 PULMONARY VEIN." The Regents owns by assignment all rights, title, and interest in the '457  
28 Patent. A true and correct copy of the '457 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

1           33.     The Asserted Patents claim direct priority from the '457 Patent. More  
2 specifically, the '576 Patent is a continuation and the '283 Patent is a continuation-in-part of the  
3 '457 Patent.

4           34.     The Asserted Patents disclose and claim the Patented Method, as demonstrated in  
5 representative claim 1 of the '283 Patent:

6                   A method for treating atrial arrhythmia in a patient, comprising:  
7                   forming a circumferential conduction block in a circumferential  
8                   region of tissue at a location where a pulmonary vein extends from  
9                   an atrium in the patient,  
10                   wherein the circumferential conduction block formed is continuous  
11                   along the circumferential region of tissue, and  
12                   wherein the circumferential conduction block is formed without  
13                   contacting the tissue with an ablative fluid medium.

14           35.     The Patented Method can be performed using a variety of devices and in either a  
15 surgical or a less-invasive catheterization procedure. The Patented Method has been adopted by  
16 surgeons and surgical device companies, as well as by EPs and electrophysiology device  
17 companies.

18           **BSC'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE PATENTED METHOD AND ASSERTED PATENTS**

19           36.     By the early 2000s, the Patented Method claimed in the Asserted Patents had  
20 become recognized as the most effective means of treating AFib and had become the essential  
21 element of all ablation procedures to treat AFib. In fact, all doctors in the United States that  
22 perform catheter ablation procedures to treat AFib perform the Patented Method and infringe the  
23 Asserted Patents, including representative claim 1 of the '283 Patent.

24           37.     BSC was at all relevant times one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of  
25 cardiology-related devices, including devices used to treat AFib according to the Patented  
26 Method, and had performed extensive market research on the procedures and equipment used to  
27 treat AFib. BSC was aware of the Asserted Patents and knew that the Patented Method was the  
28 universally-adopted procedure for treating AFib. Indeed, by no later than 2006, BSC was  
sponsoring medical symposia at which leading cardiologists taught the use of BSC Devices to  
perform the Patented Method.



1           38.     The Regents' Patents, and in particular the Asserted Patents, are widely cited in  
2 patent applications filed by BSC and numerous other medical device companies. According to  
3 the USPTO's database, the '457 Patent has been cited as relevant prior art in more than 460  
4 patents and patent applications published before 2013. The asserted '283 Patent is cited in more  
5 than 350 published U.S. patents, and the asserted '576 Patent is cited in more than 100 published  
6 U.S. patents.

7           39.     According to the USPTO's database, BSC directly and through its wholly-owned  
8 subsidiary Boston Scientific Scimed, Inc., cited the '457 Patent in at least 49 patent applications.  
9 BSC directly and through its wholly-owned subsidiaries applied for and prosecuted at least 68  
10 patent applications that cite one or both of the Asserted Patents as prior art. Thus, BSC maintains  
11 a thorough knowledge of all relevant facts, technologies, inventions, published research, and  
12 other developments relating to the Patented Method.

13           40.     BSC also specifically discussed the Patented Method in its patent applications.  
14 For example, as set forth in the below reproduced excerpt from BSC's own U.S. Patent No.  
15 7,435,248, BSC discussed the proposed utility of one of its claimed catheter inventions and  
16 confirmed that the Patented Method successfully isolated the pulmonary vein:

17                   One lesion that has proven to be difficult to form with  
18 conventional devices is the **circumferential lesion that is**  
19 **used to isolate the pulmonary vein and cure ectopic**  
20 **atrial fibrillation.** Lesions that isolate the pulmonary vein  
21 may be formed within the pulmonary vein itself or in the  
22 tissue surrounding the pulmonary vein. **Ablation of**  
23 **pulmonary veins is currently performed by placing a**  
24 **diagnostic catheter (such as . . . Boston Scientific**  
25 **Corporation's Constellation™ ECG catheter)** into the  
26 pulmonary vein to be treated, and then ablating the  
27 pulmonary tissue adjacent to the distal end of the selected  
28 diagnostic catheter with a standard, commercially available  
ablation catheter. The diagnostic catheter is used to  
determine if the lesion created by the ablation catheter has  
been successful in electrically isolating the pulmonary vein.  
(1:64-2:12 (emphasis added)).

41.     The Regents also provided BSC additional notice of the Asserted Patents. On  
February 1, 2016, The Regents advised BSC in writing that BSC Devices were being marketed  
and sold to doctors for use in practicing the Patented Method as claimed in the Asserted Patents.

1 The Regents' letter, attached hereto as Exhibit 4, specifically identified the Asserted Patents and  
 2 informed BSC that they cover the Patented Method which "involve[s] the use of various energy  
 3 sources . . . to ablate heart tissue in a circumferential pattern around the pulmonary vein,  
 4 disrupting the erratic electric[al] pulses that cause atrial fibrillation."

5 42. Accordingly, BSC had actual knowledge at all relevant times of the Asserted  
 6 Patents and that the Asserted Patents cover the Patented Method.

7 **BSC MAKES, PROMOTES AND SELLS A WIDE RANGE OF CATHETERS AND**  
 8 **OTHER MEDICAL DEVICES THAT DOCTORS USE**  
 9 **TO PERFORM THE PATENTED METHOD**

10 43. During the relevant time period, BSC has marketed and sold multiple BSC  
 11 Devices used by at least interventional cardiologists, EPs, and cardiothoracic surgeons, to perform  
 12 the Patented Method in violation of the Asserted Patents. At all relevant times, BSC was aware  
 13 that Doctors used BSC Devices to treat AFib and to perform the Patented Method.

14 44. BSC operates primarily in the United States, Europe and Asia Pacific. Upon  
 15 information and belief, BSC employed approximately 25,000 people as of October 2016. BSC  
 16 divides its business into several categories, including Cardiovascular, and Rhythm Management  
 17 (which includes the sale of BSC Devices for treatment of AFib).

18 45. BSC's Electrophysiology Division, which is part of BSC's Rhythm Management  
 19 division, encompasses a wide range of products that BSC designs, promotes, and sells to treat  
 20 AFib. BSC's total worldwide sales of AFib treatment devices and equipment have ranged from  
 21 \$147 million to \$248 million in each of the years 2010 through 2016.

22 46. When promoting BSC Devices for treatment of AFib, BSC understands, and the  
 23 relevant medical community understands, that it is promoting the BSC Devices to be used  
 24 specifically to perform the Patented Method. During the relevant time period, Defendant has  
 25 marketed, advertised, and sold a number of ablation catheters specifically for use by Doctors in  
 26 performing the Patented Method. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 27 • **Ablation Catheters**, including but not limited to: Blazer Temperature Ablation  
 28 Catheter, Blazer Prime Temperature Ablation Catheter, Blazer II Temperature  
 Ablation Catheter, Chilli II Cooled Ablation Catheter, and IntellaTip MiFi XP

1 Temperature Ablation Catheter.

- 2 • **Diagnostic Catheters**, including but not limited to: Blazer Dx-20 Bidirectional  
 3 Duodecapolar Diagnostic Catheter, Polaris X Steerable Diagnostic Catheter,  
 4 SteeroCath-Dx Bi-Directional Steerable Diagnostic Catheter, Woven Diagnostic  
 5 Catheter Fixed Curve, WovenFlexie Diagnostic Catheter Fixed Curve, Viking /  
 6 Viking Soft Tip Diagnostic Catheter Fixed Curve, Tango Stabilene Diagnostic  
 7 Catheter Fixed Curve, Dynamic XT Diagnostic Catheter Steerable, Dynamic Tip  
 8 Diagnostic Catheter Steerable, EP XT Diagnostic Catheter Steerable, Orbiter ST  
 9 Diagnostic Catheter Steerable, and Radia Diagnostic Catheter Bidirectional  
 10 Steerable.
- 11 • **Access Catheters**, including but not limited to: Zurpaz 8.5f Steerable Sheath,  
 12 Direx Steerable Sheath, Channel Steerable Sheath, and TSX Transseptal Delivery  
 13 System.
- 14 • **Mapping Catheters**, including but not limited to: Constellation Full Contact  
 15 Mapping Catheter, and Orbiter PV Variable Loop Mapping Catheter.
- 16 • **Mapping Software**, including but not limited to: Rhythmia Mapping System.
- 17 • **Ablation Generators**, including but not limited to: Metriq Pump Cardiac Ablation  
 18 System, and Maestro 4000 Cardiac Ablation System.

19 47. Numerous BSC Devices, including many listed above, are specifically designed  
 20 for and used by Doctors only as a material part of performing the Patented Method. With  
 21 knowledge of the Asserted Patents, BSC has knowingly promoted such BSC Devices as  
 22 specifically designed for the purpose of being used by Doctors to perform the Patented Method.  
 23 These particular BSC Devices, which have no substantial non-infringing uses, include but are not  
 24 limited to:

- 25 • **Access Catheters**, including but not limited to: Zurpaz 8.5f Steerable Sheath,  
 26 Direx Steerable Sheath, and TSX Transseptal Delivery System.
- 27 • **Mapping Catheters**, including but not limited to: Orbiter PV Variable Loop  
 28 Mapping Catheter.

1           48.     At all relevant times, Doctors have used BSC Devices to perform the Patented  
2 Method in the United States in violation of the Asserted Patents. BSC has at all relevant times  
3 promoted, marketed, and advertised the BSC Devices to be used by Doctors to perform the  
4 Patented Method. BSC was aware of and intended Doctors to use the BSC Devices to  
5 specifically perform the Patented Method in violation of the Asserted Patents.

6                           **BSC’S INFRINGEMENT OF THE ASSERTED PATENTS**

7           49.     At all relevant times, BSC has induced and contributed to the infringement of the  
8 Asserted Patents. With actual knowledge of the Asserted Patents, BSC actively encouraged  
9 Doctors to use BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method with specific intent to infringe the  
10 Asserted Patents. With actual knowledge of the Asserted Patents, BSC sold BSC Devices that  
11 have no substantial non-infringing uses, contributing to the infringement of the Asserted Patents  
12 by Doctors.

13                           *Seminars and Tradeshows Using BSC Devices to Perform the Patented Method*

14           50.     Since as early as 2005, BSC has sponsored courses that teach the Patented Method.  
15 For example, BSC sponsors a course taught by Dr. Carlo Pappone, the Founder and Director of  
16 the Arrhythmology Academy at the San Raffaele University-Hospital in Milan, Italy (the  
17 “Academy”). The Academy is recognized for promoting and teaching advances in cardiac  
18 electrophysiology techniques through interactive discussions with the attending physicians,  
19 during meetings, lectures, and live procedure demonstrations performed by Dr. Pappone. The  
20 Academy’s training programs are attended annually by medical professionals from around the  
21 world, including U.S.-based Doctors.

22           51.     BSC sponsored its conferences at the Academy with the knowledge and intent that  
23 Dr. Pappone would teach Doctors, during live procedure demonstrations, how to use BSC  
24 Devices to perform the Patented Method to treat patients with AFib. BSC intends its promotion  
25 of BSC Devices at these conferences to induce U.S.-based Doctors to use BSC Devices to  
26 practice the Patented Method in the United States.

27           52.     BSC has frequently invited and sponsored U.S.-based Doctors to attend these  
28 seminars. In addition to maintaining its website, the Academy publishes a series of YouTube

1 videos demonstrating how to perform the Patented Method. Upon information and belief, the  
2 production of these YouTube videos was paid for by BSC. A downloaded version of one such  
3 video on a DVD is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

4 53. BSC has additionally sponsored a wide variety of medical professional trade  
5 shows, such as cardiology and electrophysiology conferences, to promote the use of the BSC  
6 Devices to perform the Patented Method to Doctors.

7 54. BSC's sponsorship includes: paying lecture fees to encourage prominent speakers  
8 to teach Doctors how BSC Devices can be used to perform the Patented Method; renting booths  
9 and convention hall demonstration areas where BSC sales representatives network with Doctors  
10 and provide marketing materials that teach and promote the use of BSC Devices to perform the  
11 Patented Method; and hosting invitation-only events or lectures extolling the use and benefits of  
12 BSC Devices for performing the Patented Method.

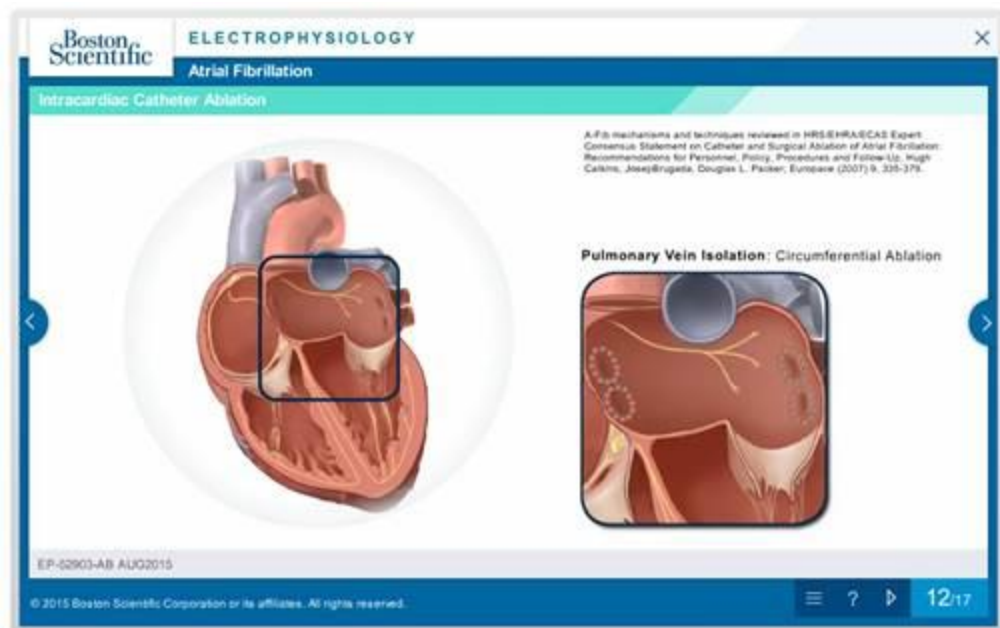
13 55. BSC promotes and exhibits its BSC Devices at major U.S.-based conferences  
14 including the annual meetings of the American Heart Association, the Heart Rhythm Society, the  
15 American College of Cardiology, and the Annual International Atrial Fibrillation Symposium.  
16 Several thousand Doctors attend these conferences, where they are introduced to BSC Devices  
17 and receive demonstrations, instructions, and promotional materials regarding the use of BSC  
18 Devices to perform the Patented Method.

19 56. For example, one brochure BSC distributed at the Heart Rhythm Society's annual  
20 meeting in San Francisco, attached hereto as Exhibit 6, teaches Doctors to use the BSC Rhythmia  
21 mapping system, BSC's Intellatip MiFi (MicroFidelity) ablation catheter, and BSC's Orion  
22 diagnostic catheter to perform the Patented Method to treat AFib. The brochure concludes that  
23 "[u]sing the Rhythmia™ mapping system to perform AFib ablation is an effective, rapid way *to*  
24 *aid in PVI* . . . Because the Orion™ catheter basket can be collapsed and expanded, it can  
25 navigate into [Pulmonary Vein] branches as easily as a standard ablation catheter." *Id.* at 10  
26 (emphasis added).

27 57. BSC engages in the same promotion and teaching of the use of BSC Devices for  
28 performing the Patented Method at major cardiology conferences overseas, including annual

1 meetings of the European Society of Cardiology and the CardioStim Conference held once every  
 2 two years in Nice, France, or other cities. BSC is well aware that many U.S.-based Doctors  
 3 attend these overseas conferences, and BSC intends its promotion of BSC Devices at these events  
 4 to induce U.S. Doctors to use BSC Devices to practice the Patented Method in the United States.

5 58. BSC further offers live and web-based training programs that teach Doctors to use  
 6 the BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method. For example, the following illustration is from  
 7 a video course directed at “allied health professionals” that depicts the circumferential lesions  
 8 formed after an EP performs the Patented Method. The course begins by teaching the health  
 9 professionals why AFib is harmful, what causes AFib, and concludes by teaching how to treat  
 10 AFib using the Patented Method, which is the primary treatment for AFib.



23 59. BSC operates at least one U.S. teaching facility in St. Paul, Minnesota, at which it  
 24 instructs Doctors how to use BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method. According to BSC’s  
 25 promotional material, attached hereto as Exhibit 7, BSC provides a “unique and customized  
 26 learning experience” at this facility, one that is “customized to the learning needs of the  
 27 physician,” “focus[es] on the safe and effective use of Boston Scientific products” in “a fully  
 28 functional cath[eter] lab,” and teaches Doctors how to perform “transseptal procedures” and “safe

1 septal crossing.” *Id.* BSC knows that the Patented Method is the primary known and commonly  
2 utilized “transseptal procedure.” BSC actively encourages Doctors to contact BSC sales  
3 representatives to set up trainings at this and its other educational facilities.

4 60. BSC trains its extensive network of sales representatives to market BSC Devices  
5 to Doctors. Upon information and belief, BSC’s sales representatives are taught about the  
6 Patented Method and are trained to demonstrate and otherwise promote BSC Devices as effective  
7 tools for performing the Patented Method through, for example, distribution of printed  
8 publications or other marketing materials, and by providing invitations to BSC sponsored training  
9 programs. In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing, BSC stated that it develops highly  
10 knowledgeable and dedicated sales representatives to foster “collaborative relationships” with  
11 physicians. In addition to sales representatives who work directly with doctors, BSC also has a  
12 dedicated corporate sales organization in the U.S., focused principally on selling BSC Devices to  
13 major buying groups and integrated healthcare networks. These sales teams teach and promote  
14 the use of BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method.

15 ***BSC’s Use of Medicare Reimbursement Guides to Promote the Use of***  
16 ***BSC Devices to Perform the Patented Method***

17 61. While BSC’s customers such as Doctors, hospitals, major buying groups, or  
18 integrated healthcare networks purchase BSC Devices, they generally seek reimbursement from  
19 the patients’ insurers or Medicare for both the BSC Devices and for performing the Patented  
20 Method to treat AFib. The reimbursed medical service fee includes charges for the BSC Devices  
21 used in the procedure, many of which are one-time use catheters costing in excess of one  
22 thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).

23 62. In addition to its other promotional activities, BSC has provided its customers with  
24 reimbursement support for BSC Devices used in performing the Patented Method, beginning as  
25 early as 2010. In particular, BSC has provided its customers a Medicare reimbursement guide for  
26 cardiac electrophysiology services, including for treatment of AFib. BSC’s reimbursement  
27 billing guide, pertinent pages of which are attached hereto as Exhibit 8, provides Doctors with  
28 information on how to get reimbursed for performing the Patented Method under the Medicare



1 billing code for “[c]omprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation including transeptal  
2 catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters with induction or  
3 attempted induction of an arrhythmia . . . with *intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation*  
4 *by pulmonary vein isolation*.” *Id.* at 4 (emphasis added).

5 63. In providing this reimbursement support, BSC specifically intends to and actively  
6 induces Doctors to use BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method in violation of the Asserted  
7 Patents.

8 ***BSC’s Use of Literature and Brochures to Promote  
BSC Devices to Perform the Patented Method***

9 64. Promotion and marketing of medical devices for performing the Patented Method  
10 also is accomplished through literature and brochures provided to Doctors for their own education  
11 or for distribution to their patients. BSC routinely provides such materials to Doctors to promote  
12 the use of BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method. These materials serve the dual purpose  
13 of reinforcing to Doctors that BSC Devices can be used to perform the Patented Method, and to  
14 encourage patients to ask Doctors about the use of BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method.

15 65. For example, beginning no later than 2009, BSC published and widely distributed,  
16 through Doctors, a patient-focused handbook called “Understanding Atrial Fibrillation, a guide  
17 for patients,” attached hereto as Exhibit 9, which teaches patients that the Patented Method is a  
18 treatment for AFib and tells the patient to ask their doctor for more information. *Id.*

19 ***BSC’s Use of Press Kits to Promote BSC Devices to  
20 Perform the Patented Method***

21 66. BSC has created and disseminated press kits which advertise the use of BSC  
22 Devices to perform the Patented Method. For example, in 2014, BSC published a media press  
23 kit, attached hereto as Exhibit 10, stating that “Catheter ablation is the first-line treatment for  
24 tachycardias,” that the “European Society of Cardiology Guidelines recommend catheter ablation  
25 therapy as an alternative to medication for first-line treatment of rhythm control in certain patients  
26 with AF,” and that “atrial fibrillation is the most common cardiac arrhythmia.” *Id.* This press kit  
27 further extols BSC Devices, including BSC’s mapping systems and ablation catheters, for treating  
28 atrial fibrillation, i.e., for performing the Patented Method. In addition to distributing this press



1 kit to media sources, BSC published the press kit on its corporate website.

2 67. BSC's marketing activities alleged herein were performed for the commercial  
3 purpose of selling BSC Devices, and were not reasonably related to the development and  
4 submission of information necessary to obtain regulatory approval from the FDA; nor were they  
5 directed to the collection of information or data necessary for filing an application with the FDA  
6 for approval to market any BSC Device. The BSC Devices were FDA approved and on sale in  
7 the United States before BSC engaged in its infringing activities, alleged herein, by marketing  
8 and promoting the BSC Devices with knowledge and intent that Doctors would use the BSC  
9 Devices to perform the Patented Method.

10 68. On February 1, 2016, The Regents wrote to BSC and advised it of The Regents'  
11 concern that BSC Devices were being marketed and sold to Doctors for use in practicing the  
12 Patented Method. BSC did not change its marketing or promotional practices, but instead falsely  
13 asserted that BSC does not market, instruct, or encourage Doctors to use BSC Devices for  
14 performing pulmonary vein isolation.

15 **COUNT I: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '283 PATENT**

16 69. Plaintiff re-alleges here all of the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-68 above.

17 70. At all relevant times, BSC had knowledge of the '283 Patent and the Patented  
18 Method.

19 71. BSC induces others to infringe and/or contributorily infringes one or more claims  
20 of the '283 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

21 72. Claim 1 of the '283 Patent recites:

22 A method for treating atrial arrhythmia in a patient,  
23 comprising:

24 forming a circumferential conduction block in a  
25 circumferential region of tissue at a location where a  
26 pulmonary vein extends from an atrium in the patient,

27 wherein the circumferential conduction block formed is  
28 continuous along the circumferential region of tissue, and

wherein the circumferential conduction block is formed  
without contacting the tissue with an ablative fluid  
medium.

1           73.     The use of the BSC Devices by Doctors to perform the Patented Method on  
2 patients with AFib satisfies each and every limitation of claim 1 of the '283 Patent.

3           74.     At all relevant times, BSC knowingly encouraged and intended Doctors to use  
4 BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method on patients who have been diagnosed with AFib, in  
5 violation of claim 1.

6           75.     Upon information and belief, both by manufacturing BSC Devices to be used in a  
7 manner that BSC knows infringes the '283 Patent, and by encouraging Doctors and/or customers  
8 to use the BSC Devices in a manner that BSC knows infringes the '283 Patent, BSC is inducing  
9 infringement of the '283 Patent by Doctors and/or customers in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).  
10 For example, BSC's marketing and promotional materials tout the use of BSC Devices to perform  
11 the Patented Method that falls within the scope of claim 1 of the '283 Patent.

12           76.     A subset of BSC Devices sold by BSC, as set forth in paragraph 47, are material to  
13 performing the Patented Method, according to claim 1 of the '283 Patent.

14           77.     This subset of BSC Devices is not a staple article or commodity of commerce,  
15 suitable for substantial non-infringing uses. Moreover, by its actual knowledge and having been  
16 put on notice of the '283 Patent, BSC knew that a subset of the BSC Devices are especially made  
17 or especially adapted for use in a manner that infringes the '283 Patent. Accordingly, BSC's sale  
18 of the subset of BSC Devices set forth in paragraph 47 contributes to infringement of the '283  
19 Patent by Doctors and/or their customers in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

20           78.     BSC has profited and will continue to profit from its infringement of the '283  
21 Patent.

22           79.     BSC's infringement of the '283 patent has caused and will continue to cause The  
23 Regents substantial monetary harm, for which The Regents is entitled to receive compensatory  
24 damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty.

25           80.     Further, BSC's infringement of the '283 Patent has been willful, deliberate, and  
26 with full knowledge that the use of BSC Devices infringes the '283 Patent, justifying an increase  
27 in the damages to be awarded to The Regents up to three times the amount found or assessed, in  
28 accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284.

1 81. BSC's willful infringement of the '283 Patent, among other actions, renders this an  
2 exceptional case, justifying the award to The Regents of its reasonable attorney fees, in  
3 accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 285.

4 **COUNT II: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '576 PATENT**

5 82. Plaintiff re-alleges here all of the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-81 above.

6 83. At all relevant times, BSC had knowledge of the '576 Patent and the Patented  
7 Method.

8 84. BSC induces others to infringe and/or contributorily infringes one or more claims  
9 of the '576 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

10 85. Claim 12 of the '576 Patent recites:

11 A method for treating atrial arrhythmia in a heart of a  
12 patient, wherein the patient includes a plurality of  
13 pulmonary veins and each pulmonary vein extends from a  
14 unique location in an atrium of the heart, the method  
15 comprising:

16 ablating a first ablation lesion that substantially  
17 circumscribes only one of the locations; and

18 ablating a second ablation lesion that substantially  
19 circumscribes only a different one of said locations.

20 86. The use of BSC Devices by Doctors to perform the Patented Method on patients  
21 with AFib satisfies each and every limitation of claim 12 of the '576 Patent.

22 87. At all relevant times, BSC knowingly encouraged and intended Doctors to use  
23 BSC Devices to perform the Patented Method on patients who have been diagnosed with AFib, in  
24 violation of claim 12.

25 88. Upon information and belief, both by manufacturing BSC Devices to be used in a  
26 manner that BSC knows infringes the '576 Patent, and by encouraging Doctors and/or customers  
27 to use the BSC Devices in a manner that BSC knows infringes the '576 Patent, BSC is inducing  
28 infringement of the '576 Patent by Doctors and/or customers in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).  
For example, BSC's marketing and promotion materials tout the use of BSC Devices to perform  
the Patented Method that falls within the scope of claim 12 of the '576 Patent.

89. At all relevant times, the BSC Devices were material to performing

1 circumferential PVI ablation according to the Patented Method. A subset of BSC Devices sold by  
2 BSC, as set forth in paragraph 47, are material to performing the Patented Method, according to  
3 claim 12 of the '576 Patent.

4 90. This subset of BSC Devices is not a staple article or commodity of commerce,  
5 suitable for substantial non-infringing uses. Moreover, by its actual knowledge and having been  
6 put on notice of the '576 Patent, BSC knew that a subset of the BSC Devices are especially made  
7 or especially adapted for use in a manner than infringes the '576 Patent. Accordingly, BSC's sale  
8 of the subset of BSC Devices set forth in paragraph 47 contributes to the infringement of the '576  
9 Patent by Doctors and/or their customers in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

10 91. BSC has profited and will continue to profit from its infringement of the '576  
11 Patent.

12 92. BSC's infringement of the '576 Patent has caused and will continue to cause The  
13 Regents substantial monetary harm, for which The Regents is entitled to receive compensatory  
14 damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty.

15 93. Further, BSC's infringement of the '576 Patent has been willful, deliberate, and  
16 with full knowledge that the use of BSC Devices infringes the '576 Patent, justifying an increase  
17 in the damages to be awarded to The Regents up to three times the amount found or assessed, in  
18 accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 284.

19 94. BSC's willful infringement of the '576 Patent, among other actions, renders this an  
20 exceptional case, justifying the award to The Regents of its reasonable attorney fees, in  
21 accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 285.

22 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23 Wherefore, The Regents of the University of California respectfully requests that the  
24 Court enter a judgment as follows:

- 25 A. That BSC has infringed the Asserted Patents;
- 26 B. Awarding The Regents damages, including enhanced damages, pursuant to 35  
27 U.S.C. § 284, for BSC's infringement of the Asserted Patents, in an amount to be  
28 determined at trial, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty;

- 1 C. Awarding The Regents pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to compensate
- 2 The Regents for the damages it has sustained;
- 3 D. Awarding The Regents all of its costs and disbursements incurred in bringing this
- 4 action;
- 5 E. Declaring that this is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding The
- 6 Regents' its reasonable attorney fees, costs, and expenses; and
- 7 F. Awarding The Regents any further relief the Court deems just and proper.

8 Respectfully submitted,

9 DATED: October 28, 2016

CROWELL & MORING LLP

11 By:                                   /s/ Mark T. Jansen                                  

12 Mark T. Jansen  
13 Kathryn L. Clune  
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**THE REGENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

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**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

The Regents of the University of California hereby requests a trial by a jury on all issues  
so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: October 28, 2016

CROWELL & MORING LLP

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Mark T. Jansen

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