



US 2002006557A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Goble et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/006557 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: May 30, 2002**

(54) **FACET JOINT REPLACEMENT**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 623/17.11**

(76) Inventors: **E. Marlowe Goble**, Alta, WY (US); **T. Wade Fallin**, Hyde Park, UT (US); **Robert W. Hoy**, Logan, UT (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Correspondence Address:
Pandiscio & Pandiscio
470 Totten Pond Road
Waltham, MA 02451-1914 (US)

A prosthesis for the replacement of a diseased or traumatized facet of a mammalian vertebra includes a surface that articulates with another prosthetic facet or a natural facet, a portion that replaces at least a bony portion of the diseased or traumatized spine facet which is to be replaced, and an element to attach the prosthesis to the vertebra in a manner that does not require attachment to or abutment against the posterior arch. A method of installing the prosthesis includes the steps of resecting at least a portion of a facet and attaching the prosthesis in a manner that does not require attachment or abutment against the posterior arch.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/726,169**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 29, 2000**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ A61F 2/44**

