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## WEEKLY SPONSOR COMMUNICATION

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**TEAM NAME AND NUMBER:** AESCULAP 1  
**DATES COVERED IN THIS COMMUNICATION:** FEBRUARY 8, 2016 TO FEBRUARY 14, 2016  
**WEEK NUMBER:** 2 OF 15

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### Overview

On behalf of our team, thank you for hosting Alexis, Christian, Brian and myself on Wednesday afternoon. We greatly appreciate the information you provided and feel as though we have a much better understanding of the project now.

Our team researched a few spinal distractors before the meeting and will be using this information as well as that which you presented to us as we develop quantitative requirements for our product and begin to create a plan of what steps we will take in order to accomplish this project for you.

### Accomplishments

1. Prior to our meeting, our team members conducted preliminary research on several spinal distractors. Through examining some of the spinal distractors that currently exist, we found a couple of ideas which are listed below:
  - Scissor-Jack Distractor- Inserted parallel to the incision made by the surgeon. Once placed between the vertebrae, the platforms on either side of the device separate axially to cause distraction.<sup>1</sup>
  - Paddle Distractor- A thin, oar-like tool, used by inserting the flat face perpendicular to the axis of the spin. The distractor is then rotated 90 degrees to distract the neighboring vertebra from one another.<sup>2</sup>
  - Distractor with integrated retractor- A retractor tool with a spinal distractor incorporated in the design, which work together to displace, restore, or maintain the intervertebral disk space, allowing the surgeon to retract the soft tissue during surgery. The design of the device also allows the created space to be maintained by the retractor after the distractor has been removed.<sup>3</sup>
2. From our meeting, we better comprehend the need for the device we are to design for your new product activL.

### **Next Steps**

1. In the following week(s), we will be using the qualitative requirements we were given and find methods to quantify them as part of the customer needs segment of the concept development process. In doing so, we will also be able to establish our mission statement.
2. In this upcoming week we will also be mapping, in the form of a Gantt chart, the steps we will accomplish prior to the midterm presentation to have a relative timeline of our process.

### **Project Related Questions**

1. Will the device be used for multiple procedures or only one?
2. As part of our product design process we need to establish customer needs; do you have any surgeons we could talk to and what would be the most efficient way to get their input?
3. Would our team be able to visit the site once again prior to the week of March 7th? If so, could we also take pictures of the facility?
4. Do you have any resources that we can reference as to how the surgery is done, such as in the form of a diagram or video?

### **References**

1. NA. (2014). Spine Wave Scissor-Jack. [web].  
Available:<http://innovation.spinewave.com/products/staxx-xd/>
2. Stanley, M. (2014). Staan Bio med Ortho Instruments. [web].  
Available:<http://www.staanbiomed.com/ortho-instruments.html>

3. Stauber, Marshall Ephraim. Spinal Surgery Distractor with an Integrated Retractor. Globus Medical, Inc., assignee. Patent US 8105331 B2. 31 Jan. 2012. Print.