

## NEWSLETTERS

### Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette Newspaper: Patently Speaking - "System Betters Knee Surgery"

November 23, 2015 | [Fort Wayne](#)

Greg Cooper, a patent attorney in Barnes & Thornburg LLP's Fort Wayne, Indiana office and a member of the firm's Intellectual Property Law Department, authored the column, "System betters knee surgery," for the May 9, 2011 edition of the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*. Greg's column, "Patently Speaking," highlights various patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Greg is an attorney in Fort Wayne practicing in the areas of patent, trademark, copyright, procurement, and litigation in the U.S. and internationally. He can be reached at [gcooper@btlaw.com](mailto:gcooper@btlaw.com) or (260)425-4660.

A copy of Greg's article for the week of May 9, 2011 appears below.

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## PATENTLY SPEAKING

May 9, 2011

Patently Speaking highlights the technological achievements of Fort Wayne area residents.

### APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANIPULATING A FLEXIBLE STRAND AND SOFT TISSUE REPLACEMENT DURING SURGERY

U.S. Patent No. 7,931,657

Invented by: Jason Meridew, Columbia City, IN, and Troy Walters, Plymouth, IN

Assigned to: Biomet Sports Medicine, LLC, Warsaw, IN

Anterior-cruciate-ligaments (ACLs) attach the tibia (lower leg bone) to the femur (upper leg bone) at the knee. The ACL is very important to keep the leg bones in place and prevents the knee from hyper-extending.

Injury to this ligament may require arthroscopic surgery. Replacing the ACL is common, but has its limitations. Lack of strength in the replacement tissue can be a problem.

This patent describes a new procedure for securely attaching the replacement ACL. The procedure includes drilling an angled hole up through the tibia and into the femur. A rod, preloaded with the replacement tissue, is then inserted into that hole. A second hole is drilled through the femur. The hole crosses the angled hole first drilled through both bones. Special guides position the rod and replacement tissue in the

## RELATED PEOPLE



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## RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

Intellectual Property

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correct position so the tissue attaches to the bones and securely holds the knee in place.

## **WIRING SYSTEM AND CONNECTOR THEREFOR**

U.S. Patent No. 7,931,506

Invented by Robert H. Owen, Sr., Columbia City, IN; John A. Forish, Huntington, IN; Mark Molinaro, Leo, IN; and Antonio Nuevo, Brussels, BE  
Assigned to: Federal-Mogul World Wide, Inc., Southfield, MI

We have seen several patents recently focusing on electrical wiring or wiring harnesses for vehicles.

This patent focuses on assembling a wiring harness more simply while manufacturing the vehicle.

In the past, because lamps or other electrical devices were often in difficult-to-reach locations, each electrical terminal on those devices needed to be spliced into the wire. Those connections were then taped or epoxied together. This made running wire more difficult and, thus, more expensive. Moreover, it had to be manually installed, rather than employing an automated process. This too meant more cost.

This patent describes a new wiring system that is easier to install. The system includes a harness assembly with special connectors. These connectors were developed to reduce the number of splices required in the wire, thereby reducing the need for tape or epoxy. Furthermore, the harness and connectors were made so they could also be installed using automated methods.

The preceding are lay descriptions of patents obtained from the United States Patent and Trademark Office's public records and are provided for general information purposes only. Nothing contained herein is a legal description of any claimed invention, identification of novelty, or offer of legal advice. Because issued patents are based on applications often filed years earlier, the subject matter of some patents may have been available on the market for some time prior to the issuance of the patent. Additional information on these patents is available at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).