THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

November 28, 2006

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am a professor in the Bioengineering Department at the University of Utah, and I am writing to support the Alfred Mann Foundation's ("AMF") request that the Commission adopt service rules and allocate up to 20 MHz of spectrum to accommodate new wireless wideband microstimulator devices on a secondary basis. Over the past fifteen years, my colleagues and myself have been developing wireless systems for bidirectional communication with neurons in the central and peripheral nervous systems.

Establishing a service allocation is vital to the development of a such new generations of wireless wideband medical devices that are designed to restore sensation and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. These devices offer a safer, less invasive, and more effective treatment option than is available with existing equipment.

The Commission's rules currently do not provide any spectrum to permit operation of new wireless wideband microstimulator devices. Although the Commission has allocated some spectrum for medical telemetry operations and for medical implant communications services, this spectrum is not suitable for wideband medical implant devices that require larger bandwidths to perform more complex functions. Without adequate spectrum and service rules to support the operation of these innovative devices, millions of Americans will be deprived of a safe and effective medical treatment for their debilitating health conditions.

The Commission's notice of inquiry issued in the above-referenced proceeding is an important first step toward adopting the necessary rules to encourage deployment of the next generation of wireless wideband microstimulator devices. Thus, I urge the Commission to continue its efforts in this area by expeditiously granting AMF's request for commencement of a separate rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Normann, Ph.D.

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