

# Justin R. Taber

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Hands-on innovation leader with proven record of rapid new technology commercialization. Initiated and led new product development teams responsible for \$500M+ cumulative revenue growth and four startup acquisitions. 14+ years medical device experience spanning orthopedic trauma, spine, and sports medicine.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **MechAspire, Founder (7/2015 – Present)**

- MechAspire provides engineering services for medical device companies focused on translating unmet clinical needs into successful product launches.
- Spine Discectomy Project for Benvenue Medical. (9/2017 – Present) Worked with surgeons to coinvent, develop, and launch [Orbit](#), an articulating discectomy system for MIS fusion from a unilateral approach.
- Ankle Repair Project for Surgical Frontiers (7/2015 – 7/2017): Worked with surgeon team to coinvent and develop [SyndesMetrics and LigaMetrics](#), the most precise, and the most anatomic ligament reinforcement and repair systems available for ankle sprains and ankle fractures. 510(k) cleared then acquired by CrossRoads Extremity Systems 11/2019

### **Emerge Medical, Director of Product Development (7/2013 – 7/2015). Acquired by Cardinal Health 9/2014**

- Managed all aspects of rapid product development endeavor to bring a complete portfolio of orthopedic trauma products to market, including upper and lower extremity plates, screws, instruments, sterilization cases, external fixation, and four IM Nail systems.
- Responsible for the engineering department, building it from 2 to 7 direct reports with high output and no voluntary turnover. Drove 8 510(k) submissions and clearances to release 25 systems and 5000 SKUs.
- Wrote and maintained design control procedures, DHF documentation, and design change records, managing FDA audit with no findings or observations.

### **Lanx, Principal Engineer (12/2007 – 7/2013). Acquired by Biomet 11/2013.**

- Lead engineer of the [Aspen MIS Fusion System](#). With over 30,000 devices implanted, Aspen pioneered a new spinous process fixation market segment and fueled the company's rapid growth as its flagship product. Initially designed the system's instruments and refined the implant based on surgeon feedback. Subsequently initiated and launched several differentiating systems within the Aspen family comprising half of the franchise revenue.
- Led cross-functional teams through all aspects of the development process for several projects, including market research, ideation through user requirement synthesis, rapid prototyping and field evaluation, design verification and validation, 510(k) submissions, design transfer and post-market evaluation.
- Extensive surgeon interaction to understand and respond to VOC, moderating surgeon focus groups, surgeon design teams, and attending surgeries. Fostered innovation by initiating dozens of brainstorming sessions to find breakthrough solutions. Utilized market research and proof-of-concept prototype feedback to initiate and receive funding for several projects to satisfy unmet clinical needs.
- Managed a project team that developed and launched [Alpine XC](#), an adjustable spinous process implant that can uniquely adjust loading and lordosis in situ. Worked closely with an 8-member global surgeon team and kept the project's aggressive timeline on track, on budget, and launched with clinical success.

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**iBalance Medical**, Product Development Engineer (9/2005 – 5/2007). Acquired by Arthrex 3/2010.

- Supported team endeavor to develop the [iBalance High Tibial Osteotomy System](#) for knee surgery. As one of the first hires at a VC-financed startup, exposed to all aspects of the product realization process.
- Built and managed the mechanical test lab staff and facilities. Responsibilities included test fixture design, prototype evaluation, and verification testing for 510(k) clearance.
- Promoted to Product Development Lead to initiate valgus deformity system development. Patents granted for design innovation.

## SKILLS

- 2 years engineering department management experience
- 10 years project management and team leadership experience
- 14 years SolidWorks and FEA experience. Maintains current license of SolidWorks Premium with Simulation Premium (non-linear FEA) on laptop for consulting.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 2014 Cardinal Health C-Speed Award Winner. Built and managed team internationally recognized for rapid orthopedic trauma product development
- 2015 Becker's Healthcare Spine Device Award for the Aspen MIS Fusion System
- 2005 UW Business Plan Competition Winner
- Pi Tau Sigma National Engineering Honor Society, 3.7 GPA

## EDUCATION

- BS Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, 2004
- BA Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, University of Washington, 2005

## PATENTS GRANTED

- [US10426459](#) Extra joint stabilization construct
- [US10426460](#) Compression and tension instruments and methods of use to reinforce ligaments
- [US9962188](#) External fixation system and methods of use
- [US9066760](#) Telescoping interspinous fixation device and methods of use
- [US9750544](#) Interspinous implants with deployable wing
- [US9561060](#) Interspinous implants with adjustable height spacer
- [US9775718](#) Interspinous implants
- [US8685065](#) Tools for implantation of interspinous implants and methods thereof
- [US9247968](#) Spinous process implants and associated methods
- [US9265532](#) Interspinous implants and methods
- [US8906026](#) Method and apparatus for performing an open wedge, high tibial osteotomy
- [US8540777](#) Method and apparatus for performing an open wedge, high tibial osteotomy
- [US8083749](#) Method and apparatus for an open wedge, low femoral osteotomy
- [US8062301](#) Method and apparatus for performing a high tibial, dome osteotomy
- [EP2068784](#) Osteotomy plate

## PATENT APPLICATIONS

- [WO2019178575A1](#) Articulated instrumentation and methods of using the same
- [US20180008255A1](#) Intra Joint Stabilization Construct
- [US20180008258A1](#) Multiple Suture Threader and Methods of Use