



FOUNDED BY BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

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January 30, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: PTO-C-2011-0066
Requests for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Office for the Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Khan:

In response to the USPTO's recent "Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program", I am writing on behalf of Partners HealthCare ("Partners") to support the establishment of a USPTO satellite office in Boston or the greater Boston area.

The affiliated hospitals of Partners, which include Brigham & Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, have long been dedicated to generating an array of biological-, chemical-, mechanical-, electrical-, and software-based inventions that advance healthcare. Such inventions are reflected in the many hundreds of patents and pending patent applications that are owned by the affiliate hospitals. This goal is shared by numerous other top hospitals, prestigious institutes of higher education and leading companies that are committed to making available cutting edge, life-changing technologies that, like Partners and its affiliated hospitals, are located in Boston or the greater Boston area and extensively pursue patent protection on the inventions that form the foundations for the technologies.

One of the benefits of establishing a satellite office in Boston or the greater Boston area would be the USPTO's access to a large, local pool of suitable patent examiner candidates to continually staff the office. In particular, as an employer of many individuals who serve in various and diverse highly-skilled technical capacities, we are in steady need of new talent. Our unwavering need for new talent is substantially met through recruitment that targets the multitude of appropriately trained individuals in the local population. Thus, by establishing an office in the Boston or greater Boston area, the USPTO will, like Partners, have ready access to an abundant supply of individuals who, as a population, are highly trained and experienced in all scientific and engineering disciplines. Moreover, and of equal importance to the USPTO's stated aims of raising patent examiner retainment rates, it is generally acknowledged that many of these individuals, once hired, have a strong desire to remain with their respective employers for reasonable durations.

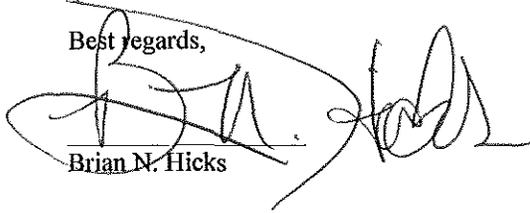
Another benefit of establishing a satellite office in Boston or the greater Boston area would be accelerated USPTO determinations regarding the scope of patent protection afforded to healthcare related inventions thereby increasing the likelihood of transfer of those inventions into improved healthcare products. Partners and its hospital-affiliates enjoy long-standing, productive relationships with the aforementioned various institutes, companies, and other hospitals that reside in our area. Collaborations between our own researchers and the many skilled scientists that work for these other employers catalyze the inventive process and facilitate the ability to timely bring these new inventions to market, which means that we, along with our inventive and commercial collaborators, are able to efficiently advance the common goal of improving healthcare. The physical presence of a USPTO satellite office in the Boston or greater

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Boston area would allow us, and our collaborators, to more frequently conduct personal interviews with patent examiners. We believe that such increased interviews would streamline the prosecution of filed, healthcare-related inventions which in turn would lead to the aforementioned accelerated determinations.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our request that a satellite USPTO office be established in Boston or the greater Boston area.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian N. Hicks", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive. To the right of the signature, there is a large, loopy flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

Brian N. Hicks