DR. VINCENT (VINCE) BRYAN
NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND RESIDENT ENTREPRENEUR

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Vincent Bryan—a board-certified neurosurgeon with numerous publications to his credit—has established a reputation as an innovator, entrepreneur, and visionary developer in many areas, including one of Washington State’s best-known landmarks: the 24,000-seat Gorge Amphitheatre on the Columbia River. In addition, the Bryan family, fruit growers for 27 years, operates the Cave B Inn and award-winning Cave B Estate Winery.

In 1993, Dr. Bryan founded Spinal Dynamics Corporation with the mission of developing the first artificial cervical spinal disc. In 2002, Medtronic, Inc. (NYSE: MDT) purchased both the company and its technology; and in July 2007, the BRYAN® Cervical Disc received final FDA approval in the United States.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Dr. Bryan assembled a team of six, including engineers, a patent lawyer, and a horticulturalist as the founding team to explore the idea of improving productivity within the tree fruit sector, a key part of Washington’s agribusiness industry, and one that still relies heavily on hand labor in production and processing.

This core team spent two years exploring ways to exploit pressure differentials to move various sized and shaped objects without damage. By 2007, it was clear to the team that the system that they developed and subsequently patented offered a significant benefit to tree fruit growers in improving the quality of the harvested fruit and overall per-worker productivity. That same year, Picker Technologies LLC was formed to commercialize this new technology. He is the Chairman of the Board.