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STRYKER CORP
Form DEF 14A
March 17, 2005

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the registrant [X]

Filed by a party other than the registrant []

Check the appropriate box:

[] Preliminary proxy statement [] Confidential, for use of the
Commission only (as permitted by
Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

[X] Definitive proxy statement

[] Definitive additional materials

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STRYKER CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of filing fee (check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required.

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

STRYKER CORPORATION
2725 FAIRFIELD ROAD
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49002

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD APRIL 26, 2005

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Stryker Corporation will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 2:00 p.m., at the Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites at The Kalamazoo Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the following purposes:

1. To elect seven directors; and
2. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Only holders of record of Common Stock at the close of business on February 28, 2005 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. If you attend the meeting, you may vote in person if you wish, even though you previously have returned your proxy.

A copy of the Company's 2004 Annual Report is enclosed.

STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO COMPLETE,
DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND
RETURN IT IN THE ACCOMPANYING ENVELOPE

Thomas R. Winkel
Secretary

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March 17, 2005

STRYKER CORPORATION
2725 FAIRFIELD ROAD
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN 49002

PROXY STATEMENT

This proxy statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Stryker Corporation of proxies to be used at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, and at all adjournments thereof. The solicitation will begin on or about March 17, 2005.

All shares represented by a properly executed proxy will be voted unless it is revoked and, if a choice is specified, will be voted in accordance with such specification. If no choice is specified, a proxy will be voted FOR the election of the seven nominees named under "Election of Directors," unless authority to do so is withheld with respect to one or more of such nominees. In addition, a proxy may be voted in the discretion of the proxyholders with respect to such other business as may properly come before the meeting. A stockholder may revoke a proxy at any time prior to the voting thereof.

Brokers holding shares of Common Stock for beneficial owners must vote those shares according to specific instructions they receive from the owners. If instructions are not received, brokers may vote those shares in their discretion. Directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting. Votes that are withheld with respect to the election of directors are not counted as votes cast.

There were 402,903,237 shares of Common Stock of the Company outstanding as of the close of business on February 28, 2005, the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Each share is entitled to one vote on each matter brought before the meeting.

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BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN 5%
OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMON STOCK

As used in this proxy statement, "beneficial ownership" means the sole or shared power to direct the voting and/or disposition of shares of Common Stock. In addition, a person is deemed to have beneficial ownership of any shares of Common Stock that such person has the right to acquire within 60 days.

The following table sets forth certain information, as of December 31, 2004, with respect to the beneficial ownership of Common Stock by the only person known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER -----	NUMBER OF SHARES -----	PERCENT OF CLASS -----
Advisory Committee for the Stryker Trusts(1)..... 490 West South Street	111,380,736	27.7%

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Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

(1) Based solely upon information as of December 31, 2004 contained in a Schedule 13G amendment filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 11, 2005. Under the terms of the trust agreement establishing certain trusts for the benefit of members of the Stryker family (the "Stryker Trusts"), an Advisory Committee, consisting of Jon L. Stryker, Pat Stryker, Ronda E. Stryker, Gerard Thomas and Elizabeth S. Upjohn-Mason, has full voting and disposition power with respect to 83,284,934 shares of Common Stock owned by the Stryker Trusts. Ronda E. Stryker is currently a director of the Company. A majority vote of the Advisory Committee is necessary with respect to matters regarding the shares of Common Stock held in the Stryker Trusts, including voting and disposition. Members of the Advisory Committee beneficially own in the aggregate an additional 28,095,802 shares of Common Stock in their individual or other capacities, including 48,000 shares that may be acquired by Ronda E. Stryker upon exercise of options. The members of the Advisory Committee have sole voting and disposition power with respect to such additional shares except for 1,804,880 shares as to which Mrs. Upjohn-Mason has shared voting and disposition power.

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BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock as of January 31, 2005 by the current directors of the Company, all of whom except Mr. Lillard are standing for reelection, the Named Executives referred to under the caption "Executive Compensation" and all executive officers and directors of the Company as a group.

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES OWNED (1)	RIGHT TO ACQUIRE (2)	TOTAL (3)	PE O
----	-----	-----	-----	---
John W. Brown.....	18,505,512	1,460,000	19,965,512	
Howard E. Cox, Jr.	534,732	105,600	640,332	
Donald M. Engelman, Ph.D.	41,284	105,600	146,884	
Jerome H. Grossman, M.D.	219,000	105,600	324,600	
Stephen Si Johnson.....	506,000	570,000	1,076,000	
James E. Kemler.....	75,810	194,000	269,810	
James R. Lawson.....	7,538	389,300	396,838	
John S. Lillard.....	353,642	49,600	403,242	
Stephen P. MacMillan.....	107,700	60,000	167,700	
William U. Parfet.....	80,000	105,600	185,600	
Ronda E. Stryker.....	90,211,584	49,600	90,261,184 (4)	
Executive officers and directors as a group (13 persons).....	111,068,596	3,656,100	114,724,696 (4)	

* Less than one percent.

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- (1) Excludes shares that may be acquired through stock option exercises, but includes, in the case of Mr. MacMillan, 80,000 shares of restricted stock that vest in equal annual installments of 20,000 shares on May 31 of each of the years 2005 through 2008. Until vested, the shares of restricted stock are subject to forfeiture under certain conditions and may not be sold or otherwise transferred by Mr. MacMillan. Mr. MacMillan has the right to receive dividends on and to vote the restricted shares.

- (2) Pursuant to Rule 13d-3(c) (1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), includes shares that may be acquired within 60 days after January 31, 2005 upon exercise of options.

- (3) Except for the shared beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock attributed to Ms. Stryker as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Stryker Trusts, all as more fully set forth above under "Beneficial Ownership of More Than 5% of the Outstanding Common Stock," such persons hold sole voting and disposition power with respect to the shares shown in this column. Does not include 1,615,391 shares of Common Stock owned by the Company's Savings and Retirement Plans that are voted as directed by the Company, except in the case of certain non-routine matters, which do not include the election of directors, as to which the individual participants, including executive officers, may give voting instructions. Such number of shares does not exceed 10,000 in the case of any executive officer.

- (4) Includes the shared beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock held in the Stryker Trusts and attributed to Ms. Stryker as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Stryker Trusts, all as more fully set forth above under "Beneficial Ownership of More Than 5% of the Outstanding Common Stock." 30,466,800 of the shares in the Stryker Trusts are held for the benefit of Ms. Stryker.

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ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Seven directors are to be elected to serve until the next Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified. John S. Lillard, who is presently a director, is not standing for reelection. All of the nominees listed below are currently members of the Board of Directors. The nominees for directors have consented to serve if elected and the Company has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unable to serve. Should any nominee become unavailable for any reason, proxies will be voted for the alternate candidate, if any, chosen by the Board of Directors. Should additional persons be nominated for election as directors, the seven persons receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected.

The following information respecting the nominees has been furnished by them.

NAME, AGE, PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AND OTHER INFORMATION	DIRECTOR SINCE
JOHN W. BROWN, age 70..... Chairman of the Board of the Company, since January 1981, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, from February 1977 to June 2003, and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, from June 2003 through December	1977

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2004. Also a director of National City Corporation, a bank, the American Business Conference, an association of mid-size growth companies, and the Advanced Medical Technology Association.

<p>HOWARD E. COX, JR., age 61.....</p> <p>Partner of Greylock and its affiliated venture capital partnerships, since August 1971.</p>	<p>1974</p>
<p>DONALD M. ENGELMAN, PH.D., age 64.....</p> <p>Eugene Higgins Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, Yale University, since 1979, with assignment to Yale College, the Graduate School and the Medical School. Chair of the Science and Technology Steering Committee of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, since 2000. Member, National Academy of Science, since April 1997.</p>	<p>1989</p>
<p>JEROME H. GROSSMAN, M.D., age 65.....</p> <p>Senior Fellow and Director of the Harvard/Kennedy School Health Care Delivery Policy Program at John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, since 2001. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lion Gate Management Corporation, the holding company for a group of endeavors to advance the health care delivery system, from 1999 to 2002, and Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston from 1994 to 1998. Also, Chairman Emeritus of New England Medical Center, Inc., where he served as Chairman and CEO from 1979 to 1995, honorary physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. Also a trustee of PennMedicine (University of Pennsylvania Medical School Health System) and the Mayo Clinic.</p>	<p>1982</p>
<p>STEPHEN P. MACMILLAN, age 41.....</p> <p>President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, since January 2005, and President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, from June 2003 through December 2004. Prior to joining the Company in June 2003, he was Sector Vice President, Global Specialty Operations of Pharmacia Corporation from mid-December 1999 and was President of Johnson & Johnson - Merck Consumer Pharmaceuticals from January to mid-December 1999 and had held other positions at Johnson & Johnson since 1989.</p>	<p>2005</p>
<p>WILLIAM U. PARFET, age 58.....</p> <p>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of MPI Research, Inc., a drug safety and pharmaceutical development company, since May 1999. Also a director of CMS Energy Corporation, a global utility and energy company, Monsanto Company, a provider of agricultural products that improve farm productivity, and PAREXEL International Corporation, a provider of contract research, medical marketing and consulting services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries.</p>	<p>1993</p>

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NAME, AGE, PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION AND OTHER INFORMATION	DIRECTOR SINCE
-----	-----

RONDA E. STRYKER, age 50.....	1984
Granddaughter of the founder of the Company and daughter of the former President of the Company. Also Vice Chairman and a director of Greenleaf Trust, a bank, Vice Chairman and a trustee of Kalamazoo College and Spelman College and a trustee of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.	

The Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines that are available on the "Corporate Governance" page of the Company's website at www.stryker.com. A copy will be mailed to any stockholder upon request. Pursuant to the Guidelines, William U. Parfet has been designated the lead independent director, with responsibility for coordinating the activities of the other independent directors (which, for this purpose, includes all of the directors except Mr. Brown and Mr. MacMillan) and chairing the executive session held in connection with each meeting of the Board of Directors in order to provide the opportunity for the independent directors to discuss topics of concern without any member of management being present.

The Board of Directors held seven meetings during 2004 and acted by written consent once. All of the directors attended more than 75% of the total meetings of the Board and all committees of which they were members in 2004. A meeting of the Board of Directors is typically scheduled in conjunction with the annual meeting of stockholders and it is expected that directors will attend absent a schedule conflict or other valid reason. All of the persons who were then directors attended the 2004 Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has designated from among its members an Audit Committee that currently consists of Mr. Parfet (Chairman), Mr. Cox, Dr. Grossman and Mr. Lillard. The Audit Committee met five times during 2004. See "Audit Committee." The Board of Directors has also designated a Compensation Committee, which currently consists of Ms. Stryker (Chairman), Mr. Cox and Mr. Parfet, and a Stock Option Committee, which currently consists of Ms. Stryker (Chairman) and Mr. Lillard. The duties of these committees are described below under "Executive Compensation -- Report of Compensation and Stock Option Committees on Executive Compensation."

The Board of Directors has designated a Governance and Nominating Committee, which in 2004 consisted of Ms. Stryker (Chairman), Mr. Cox, Dr. Engelman, Dr. Grossman, Mr. Lillard and Mr. Parfet. The Governance and Nominating Committee, which met three times during 2004, makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding individuals for nomination as director and, in addition, may consider other matters relating to corporate governance. When seeking to identify an individual to become a director to fill a new position or vacancy, the Governance and Nominating Committee will consult with incumbent directors, management and others. The Governance and Nominating Committee will consider, among other factors, the background and reputation of potential candidates in terms of character, personal and professional integrity, business and financial experience and acumen, how a person would complement the other directors in providing a diversity of expertise and experience and a person's availability to devote sufficient time to Board duties. Stockholders may recommend director candidates for consideration by the Governance and Nominating Committee by writing to the Secretary of the Company at 2725 Fairfield Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002, giving the candidate's name, relationship, if any, to the stockholder making the recommendation, biographical data and qualifications. The submission should also include a statement from the candidate consenting to being considered and, if nominated and elected, to serving as a director.

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The charter of each of the Audit Committee, the Compensation Committee, the Stock Option Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee is available on the "Corporate Governance" page of the Company's website at www.stryker.com and will be mailed to any stockholder upon request. None of the members of any of the committees is or ever has been an employee of the Company and the Board of Directors determined at its meeting in April 2004 that each of them was "independent" within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance listing standards and of the provisions of the Exchange Act applicable to the committees on which he or she serves. The Board of Directors based its determination with respect to independence for purposes of Board and committee membership on a review of the responses

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of the directors to questions regarding employment history, affiliations and family and other relationships and on discussions with the directors.

The Code of Conduct applicable generally to employees, officers and directors in the performance of their duties and responsibilities and the Code of Ethics applicable to the principal executive officer, principal financial officer and principal accounting officer and controller are also available on the "Corporate Governance" page of the Company's website at www.stryker.com and will be mailed to any stockholder upon request.

DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Directors who are not employees received directors fees of \$6,000 for each Board meeting attended, \$3,000 for each meeting attended via conference call and a fixed annual fee of \$50,000 in 2004. Directors who are also members of committees of the Board received a fee of \$3,000 per day for committee meetings attended. During 2004, each outside director was granted an option under the Company's 1998 Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") to purchase 8,000 shares of the Company's Common Stock. The Company also makes \$50,000 of group life insurance available to its outside directors. Also, \$149,100 was paid to Dr. Engelman for services rendered in 2004 as a consultant to the Company. Dr. Engelman continues to serve as a consultant. As a result, Dr. Engelman is no longer deemed "independent" within the meaning of the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance listing standards and no longer serves as a member of the Governance and Nominating Committee.

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

GENERAL

Set forth below is certain summary information with respect to the compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and the four most highly compensated executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer (based on amounts reported as salary and bonus for 2004) who were serving as executive officers at December 31, 2004 (the "Named Executives").

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

LONG TERM
COMPENSATION AWARDS

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NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	ANNUAL COMPENSATION		RESTRICTED STOCK AWARDS (\$)	SHARES OF COMMON STOCK UNDERLYING OPTIONS (#)
		SALARY (\$)	BONUS (\$)		
John W. Brown.....	2004	975,000	2,000,000 (2)		70,000
Chairman of the Board and	2003	925,000	1,000,000		80,000
Chief Executive Officer	2002	875,000	925,000		100,000
Stephen Si Johnson.....	2004	441,250	416,000		70,000
Vice President;	2003	416,250	325,000		80,000
Group President, MedSurg	2002	383,750	315,000		100,000
James E. Kemler.....	2004	378,334	275,000		60,000
Vice President;	2003	350,000	185,000		70,000
Group President, Biotech, Spine, Trauma	2002	333,333	200,000		80,000
James R. Lawson.....	2004	500,000	485,000		70,000
Vice President;	2003	475,000	385,000		80,000
Group President, Orthopaedics and International	2002	450,000	300,000		100,000
Stephen P. MacMillan(1).....	2004	608,333	635,000		100,000
President and Chief Operating Officer	2003	320,833	650,000 (3)	3,367,000 (4)	200,000

(1) Mr. MacMillan joined the Company as President and Chief Operating Officer on June 1, 2003. See "Employment Agreement with Stephen P. MacMillan."

(2) Includes a special bonus of \$1,000,000, payable on April 1, 2005, to John W. Brown in recognition of the outstanding performance of the Company under his leadership during his 28 years of service as Chief Executive Officer. In accordance with Mr. Brown's wishes, the net amount of the bonus, after giving effect to appropriate federal and state withholding taxes, will be paid directly to the John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation, which was created by Mr. and Mrs. Brown to benefit those who are interested in furthering their education.

(3) Mr. MacMillan's bonus for 2003 consisted of an inducement bonus of \$300,000 pursuant to his employment agreement and a bonus of \$350,000 pursuant to a bonus arrangement similar to the arrangements with other executive officers.

(4) Pursuant to his Employment Agreement, Mr. MacMillan received a restricted stock award of 100,000 shares of common stock of the Company as an inducement to accepting employment with the Company. 20,000 shares of the restricted stock vested on May 31, 2004. The balance will vest in equal annual installments of 20,000 shares on May 31 of each of the years 2005 through 2008. Until vested, the shares of restricted stock are subject to forfeiture under certain conditions and may not be sold or otherwise transferred by Mr. MacMillan. Mr. MacMillan has the right to receive dividends on and to vote the restricted shares.

(5) Represents the Company's contributions, including matching of voluntary contributions by such person, under its 401(k) plan and its supplemental deferred compensation plan and, in the case of Mr. MacMillan, dividends declared on the unvested portion of his restricted stock award.

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EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH STEPHEN P. MACMILLAN

The Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. MacMillan in connection with his employment by the Company as President and Chief Operating Officer. The term of the agreement commenced on June 1, 2003 and continues until May 31, 2008. As an inducement to Mr. MacMillan accepting employment with the Company, the Company paid Mr. MacMillan \$300,000 and granted him the restricted stock award of 100,000 shares of common stock of the Company discussed in footnote (4) to the Summary Compensation Table. Pursuant to the agreement, Mr. MacMillan is entitled to receive a base salary of not less than \$550,000 per year and a bonus based on a potential of \$500,000 per year, with the amount of the bonus for any period being based on the Company's performance against established goals and objectives. If Mr. MacMillan's employment is terminated by the Company without cause or voluntarily by him with good reason, he shall be entitled to receive, in addition to accrued amounts and a pro-rated bonus for the year of termination, a lump sum payment of \$3,150,000 if such termination occurs prior to May 31, 2006, \$2,100,000 if such termination occurs between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2007 and \$1,050,000 if such termination occurs between June 1, 2007 and May 31, 2008. In addition, Mr. MacMillan and his family will be entitled to continue to receive benefits under any benefit plan, program, practice or policy of the Company for 36 months if such termination occurs prior to May 31, 2006, 24 months if such termination occurs during the 12 months ending May 31, 2007 and 12 months if such termination occurs during the 12 months ending May 31, 2008 or for such longer period as the plan, program, practice or policy may provide.

STOCK OPTIONS

The following table contains information covering options to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock granted to the Named Executives in 2004 pursuant to the Company's 1998 Stock Option Plan.

OPTION GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES OF COMMON STOCK UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED (#) (1)	PERCENT OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN 2004	EXERCISE PRICE (\$/SH)	EXPIRATION DATE	GRAN PRESE (\$)
John W. Brown.....	70,000	2.1	45.21	March 4, 2014	1, 1
Stephen Si Johnson.....	70,000	2.1	45.21	March 4, 2014	1, 1
James E. Kemler.....	60,000	1.8	45.21	March 4, 2014	1, 0
James R. Lawson.....	70,000	2.1	45.21	March 4, 2014	1, 1
Stephen P. MacMillan.....	100,000	3.0	45.21	March 4, 2014	1, 6

(1) Such options were granted at 100% of fair market value on the date of grant and become exercisable as to 20% of the shares covered thereby on each of the first five anniversary dates of the date of grant.

(2) The Grant Date Present Value has been calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model and assumes a risk-free rate of return of 1.94%, an expected option life of 6.5 years, an expected dividend yield of

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approximately 0.19% and an expected stock price volatility of 34.3%. No adjustment was made for nontransferability or forfeitures. Such assumptions are based upon historical experience and are not a forecast of future stock price performance or volatility or of future dividend policy. Such information, which is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, is not necessarily indicative of the actual value that such options will have to the Named Executives, which will be dependent upon future market prices for the Common Stock.

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The following table sets forth information with respect to option exercises during 2004 by the Named Executives and as to the unexercised options held by them at December 31, 2004.

AGGREGATED OPTION EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR-END OPTION VALUES

NAME	SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE (#)	VALUE REALIZED (\$) ⁽¹⁾	NUMBER OF SHARES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT FISCAL YEAR-END (#) ----- EXERCISABLE/ UNEXERCISABLE	VALUE OF UNEXERCISED IN-THE-MONEY OPTIONS AT FISCAL YEAR-END (\$) ----- EXERCISABLE/ UNEXERCISABLE
John W. Brown.....	150,000	5,686,000	1,446,000/274,000	53,974,420/4,406
Stephen Si Johnson.....	0	0	556,000/274,000	18,433,320/4,406
James E. Kemler.....	0	0	182,000/208,000	5,014,680/2,998
James R. Lawson.....	20,700	671,021	375,300/274,000	11,233,843/4,406
Stephen P. MacMillan.....	0	0	40,000/260,000	376,800/1,811

(1) Calculated by determining the difference between the exercise price and the closing price of the Company's Common Stock as reported by The New York Stock Exchange-Composite Transactions for the exercise date or December 31, 2004, as the case may be.

REPORT OF COMPENSATION AND STOCK OPTION COMMITTEES ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

COMPENSATION AND STOCK OPTION COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The Compensation and Stock Option Committees are comprised entirely of non-employee, independent members of the Board of Directors. Their respective responsibilities include reviewing and approving the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and other executive officers of the Company and administering and reviewing the Company's stock option program and the granting of options thereunder.

COMPENSATION PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

The Company's executive compensation programs are designed to enable the Company to attract, retain and motivate highly talented executives required for the success of the business. Overall, it is the intent of the Company to provide executives with compensation opportunities that are comparable with other large

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companies in the medical device industry, as well as other competitors for talent generally. This objective is achieved through a combination of current and long-term compensation programs, combined with a comprehensive package of health, welfare and retirement benefit programs. The stock option program is designed to reward executives for sustained high rate of Company growth and profitability for the benefit of the Company's stockholders. Non-mandatory Stock Ownership Guidelines are in place and designed to encourage all officers of the Company to have a significant personal stake in the continued success of the Company.

COMPENSATION COMPONENTS

There are three basic elements in the Company's executive compensation program -- base salary, bonus and stock options. The Compensation Committee, which reviews executive compensation on an annual basis and is responsible for determinations regarding base salary and bonuses, formally met in November 2003 and in November and December 2004.

The salaries of the Company's executive officers for 2004 were determined at the meeting of the Compensation Committee held in November 2003. Prior to such meeting, the members of the Committee were provided with broad-based survey reports on executive compensation for U.S. corporations generally, prepared by The Conference Board and by Buck Consultants, and publicly available compensation information for other large companies in the medical device industry. The Chief Executive Officer reviewed the

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overall performance of each of the other executive officers during the year with the Committee at its November 2003 meeting. Based on a subjective evaluation of such performance and the Company's overall performance during the prior year and, in the case of division officers, that of the respective divisions, as well as general consideration of the information contained in the survey reports reviewed, the base salaries for 2004 of the Company's executive officers, including Mr. Brown, were established by the Committee.

A substantial portion of the annual compensation of each of the Named Executives consists of the bonus element. In determining the amount of the bonus to be paid to each Named Executive, the results of mathematical computations in which the performance of the Company, in the case of Mr. Brown (the Chief Executive Officer) and Mr. MacMillan (the Chief Operating Officer), whose responsibilities are at the corporate level, and of the operations for which such person had direct management responsibility, in the case of the other Named Executives, is compared to goals and objectives established at the beginning of the year (upon his employment in the case of Mr. MacMillan for 2003) and a percentage so determined is applied to the dollar bonus potential established for each person at the beginning of the year. The bonus potential is established in the same general manner as salaries, with the view that, if the full potential is attained, the Named Executive's total cash compensation should be in the mid to upper end of the range for companies of a comparable size, taking into account the individual's overall scope of responsibility, time in the position and overall level of performance in the role. The primary elements in such calculation for the Named Executives in 2004 were actual performance relative to budgeted earnings and sales growth, asset management and cash flow improvements, and organizational development. The final determination of the actual bonuses paid included a subjective evaluation of individual performance in light of the competitive environment in the operations for which they have responsibility and other challenges faced by such persons, and other significant achievements by them during the year. In addition to Mr. Brown's 2004 regular bonus award, the Compensation Committee awarded Mr. Brown a special bonus of \$1,000,000 payable on April 1, 2005 in recognition of the outstanding

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performance of the Company under his leadership during his 28 years of service as Chief Executive Officer.

The Company has had stock option plans in effect since it became a publicly-held company in 1979. The purpose of these plans has been to provide executive officers and other employees with a personal and financial interest in the success of the Company through stock ownership, thereby aligning the long-range interests of such persons with those of stockholders by providing them with the opportunity to build a meaningful stake in the Company. Historically, stock options have had significant value to optionees, reflecting the appreciation in the market value of the Common Stock. The determination with respect to the number of options to be granted to any particular executive officer is subjective in nature. While no specific performance measures are applied, factors considered in determining the number of options awarded include the individual's level of responsibility, demonstrated performance over time and value to the future success of the Company. The number and status of options previously granted to an individual are not accorded significant weight in the determination. Current option grants are intended to encourage performance that will result in continued appreciation. Outstanding option grants, all of which have a ten-year term, become exercisable as to 20% on the first anniversary of the date of grant and as to an additional 20% on each successive anniversary. Accordingly, to realize the full value thereof, an executive officer must remain in the Company's employ for five years from the date of grant. Management of the Company believes that the stock option plans have been helpful in attracting and retaining talented executive personnel.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the deductibility by a publicly-held corporation of compensation paid in a taxable year to the Chief Executive Officer and any other Named Executive to \$1 million. Qualified performance-based compensation will not be subject to the deduction limit if certain conditions are met. The 1998 Stock Option Plan limits the number of options that may be granted to any employee or director in any calendar year to 2,000,000, thereby ensuring that gain recognized on the exercise of options will be treated as performance-based compensation. It is the Committee's intent that executive compensation generally be deductible. However, the Committee will authorize compensation that is not

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entirely deductible when doing so is consistent with its other compensation objectives and overall compensation philosophy.

Compensation Committee
Ronda E. Stryker, Chairman
Howard E. Cox, Jr.
William U. Parfet

Stock Option Committee
Ronda E. Stryker, Chairman
John S. Lillard

TRANSACTIONS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Company leases a facility from a limited liability company owned by James R. Lawson, a Vice President of the Company, pursuant to a lease that expires on March 13, 2006. The annual rent paid was approximately \$100,000 in 2004. The Company also paid approximately \$1,900 for certain leasehold improvements in 2004. Under the terms of the lease, the Company is responsible for all taxes, insurance and maintenance expenses that arise from its use of the facility. The Board of Directors has reviewed the transaction and concluded that the lease terms are comparable to those that could have been obtained in an

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arms-length transaction with an unaffiliated third party based on a report from a national real estate services firm that compared the rent to similar properties in the area and an analysis by management that found the other lease terms to be reasonable.

Mr. Lawson's brother, T. Gary Lawson, who had been employed by various agencies selling the Company's products for several years prior to the time Mr. Lawson joined the Company in December 1998, serves as a sales consultant to the Company and received compensation of \$245,920 in 2004. Mr. Lawson's son, James R. Lawson, Jr., is employed by the Company as a General Manager for the Tennessee/Kentucky branch of its Orthopaedics business and received compensation of \$414,536 in 2004.

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PERFORMANCE GRAPH

Set forth below is a graph comparing the total returns (assuming reinvestment of dividends) of the Company, the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index and the Standard & Poor's Health Care (Medical Products and Supplies) 500 Index. The graph assumes \$100 invested on December 31, 1999 in the Company's Common Stock and each of the indices.

(PERFORMANCE GRAPH)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Stryker Corporation	\$100.00	\$145.55	\$168.22	\$193.79	\$245.84
S&P 500 Index	\$100.00	\$ 90.90	\$ 80.09	\$ 62.39	\$ 80.29
S&P Health Care 500 Index	\$100.00	\$137.05	\$120.68	\$ 97.96	\$112.71

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee acts under a written charter adopted and approved by the Board of Directors, a copy of which is available on the "Corporate Governance" page of the Company's website at www.stryker.com. The Audit Committee reviews and reassesses the adequacy of the charter at least annually. The Board of Directors has determined that William U. Parfet, the Chairman of the Audit Committee, is an "audit committee financial expert" as that term is defined in the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr. Parfet serves on the audit committees of three other publicly-held companies. The Board of Directors reviewed Mr. Parfet's other time commitments and has determined that such service does not impair his ability to serve on the Company's Audit Committee.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors oversees the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board of Directors. It meets with management and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm

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throughout the year and reports the results of its activities to the Board of Directors. In this connection, the Audit Committee has done the following:

- Reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 with the Company's management;
- Discussed with Ernst & Young LLP, the Company's independent registered public accounting firm ("E&Y"), the matters required to be discussed by SAS 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards), as amended; and
- Received written disclosure regarding independence from E&Y as required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and discussed with E&Y its independence.

Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Audit Committee
William U. Parfet, Chairman
Howard E. Cox, Jr.
Jerome H. Grossman
John S. Lillard

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MISCELLANEOUS

RELATIONSHIP WITH INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Audit Committee has appointed E&Y to audit the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year 2005, subject to approval of the scope of the audit engagement and the estimated audit fees, which are to be presented to the Committee at its July meeting. E&Y has acted in this capacity for many years. E&Y has advised the Company that neither the firm nor any of its members or associates has any direct financial interest or any material indirect financial interest in the Company or any of its affiliates other than as accountants. Representatives of E&Y are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting with the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

The fees billed to the Company by E&Y with respect to the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 were as follows:

	2004	2003
	-----	-----
Audit Fees.....	\$4,240,000	\$2,567,000
Audit-Related Fees.....	114,000	84,000
Tax Fees.....	768,000	1,028,000

Audit Fees include amounts billed for the audit of the Company's annual consolidated financial statements and, in 2004, the attestation of internal controls over financial reporting, the review of the financial statements included in the Forms 10-Q filed by the Company during each year and the

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completion of statutory audits required in certain foreign jurisdictions. Audit-Related Fees include amounts billed for audits of the Company's employee benefit plans and general accounting consultations associated with the annual audit. Tax Fees include fees for tax compliance services and consultation on other tax matters. It is expected that E&Y will provide similar non-audit services during the year 2005. In connection with its review and evaluation of non-audit services, the Audit Committee is required to and does consider and conclude that the provision of the non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the independence of E&Y.

Under its charter, the Audit Committee must pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm retained to audit the Company's financial statements other than non-audit services that satisfy a de minimus exception provided by applicable law. Each year, the retention of the independent registered public accounting firm is approved at the Audit Committee's meeting in February, subject to approval of the scope of the audit and associated fees at the July meeting. At the February meeting, certain recurring non-audit services and the proposed fees therefor are reviewed and evaluated by the Audit Committee. At subsequent meetings, the Audit Committee receives updates regarding the services actually provided and management may present additional services for approval. The Audit Committee has delegated to the Chairman or, in his absence, any other member the authority to evaluate and approve projects and related fees if circumstances require approval between meetings of the Committee. Any such approval is reported to the full Committee at its next meeting.

E&Y advised the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB") and the Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors that certain non-audit services performed by an E&Y affiliate in China for the Company raised questions regarding E&Y's independence. During the period September 2002 through April 2004, E&Y's affiliate in China performed certain employment-related tax calculation and return preparation services with respect to employees of the representative offices of a subsidiary of the Company in China. Funds withheld by the subsidiary were transferred to the client account of the E&Y affiliate, which then made payment to the relevant tax authorities. The amount of the funds transferred to E&Y was less than \$50,000 in any year. For these services, the fees paid to Ernst & Young were under \$10,000 in any year. The practice of paying withholding taxes through the E&Y affiliate was discontinued in May of 2004 and E&Y's affiliate returned approximately \$5,300 of excess funds then held by it. Under the SEC's rules regarding auditor independence, a company's independent auditor is not permitted to have custody of an audit client's assets. Both the Audit

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Committee and E&Y have considered the effect the practice of paying taxes through the E&Y affiliate in China may have had on E&Y's independence and have concluded that such practice has not impaired E&Y's independence. In making its determination, the Audit Committee considered the administrative nature of the services, the insignificance of the amount of funds involved and the fact that E&Y has advised the Company that none of the personnel involved in handling the funds were involved in the audit of the Company's subsidiary. The Audit Committee and E&Y will continue to evaluate and review issues relevant to the maintenance of E&Y's independence.

CONTACTING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stockholders may communicate directly with the Board of Directors on a confidential basis by mail at: Stryker Board of Directors, 2725 Fairfield Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002. All such communications will be received directly by

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the Chairman of the Governance and Nominating Committee and will not be screened or reviewed by any Company personnel.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Any proposal that a stockholder may desire to present to the 2006 Annual Meeting must be received by the Company on or prior to November 17, 2005 in order for such proposal to be considered for inclusion in the proxy statement and form of proxy for such meeting.

SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires the Company's directors, among others, to file reports with respect to changes in their ownership of Common Stock. Due to a transmission error, a Statement of Changes of Beneficial Ownership of Securities on Form 4 with respect to one transaction in October 2004 by John W. Brown, who was then Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, was filed one day late. In addition, Ronda E. Stryker, a director of the Company and the beneficial owner of more than 10% of the Common Stock, was late in filing a Form 4 with respect to one transaction in November 2004.

OTHER ACTION

Management has at this time no knowledge of any matters to be brought before the meeting other than those referred to above. If any additional matter should properly come before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote said proxy in accordance with their judgment on such matter.

EXPENSES OF SOLICITATION

The cost of this solicitation will be borne by the Company. In addition to solicitation by mail, proxies may be solicited by officers, directors and regular employees of the Company personally or by telephone or other means of communication. The Company will, upon request, reimburse brokers and other nominees for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy material to the beneficial owners of the stock held of record by such persons.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Thomas R. Winkel
Secretary

March 17, 2005

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STRYKER CORPORATION
C/o National City Bank
Corporate Trust Operations
Locator 5352
P. O. Box 92301
Cleveland, OH 44101-4301

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Annual Meeting of

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Stockholders, you can be sure your shares are represented at the meeting by promptly returning your proxy in the enclosed envelope.

o PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING. o

STRYKER CORPORATION

PROXY

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26, 2005.

The undersigned, having received the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and Proxy Statement, each dated March 17, 2005, hereby appoints JOHN S. LILLARD and RONDA E. STRYKER, and each of them, as Proxies with full power of substitution, and hereby authorize(s) them to represent and to vote all shares of Common Stock of Stryker Corporation that the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on April 26, 2005, or at any adjournment thereof, as set forth on the reverse side hereof.

Dated: _____, 2005

Signature

Signature if held jointly

Please sign exactly as name appears above. When shares are held by joint tenants, both should sign. When signed as attorney, as executor, administrator, trustee or guardian, please give full title as such. If a corporation, please sign in full corporate name by President or other authorized officer. If a partnership, please sign in partnership name by authorized person.

o PLEASE FOLD AND DETACH CARD AT PERFORATION BEFORE MAILING. o

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STRYKER CORPORATION

PROXY

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED IN THE MANNER DIRECTED HEREIN.
IF NO DIRECTION IS MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL NOMINEES NAMED IN ITEM
(1).

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES.

1. Election of Directors

Nominees:	John W. Brown	Howard E. Cox, Jr.	Donald M. Engelman, Ph.D.
	Stephen P. MacMillan	William U. Parfet	Ronda E. Stryker

FOR all nominees listed above
(except as otherwise marked below)

WITHHOLD AUTHORITY
to vote for all nominees

Instructions: To withhold authority to vote for any individual nominee,
write that nominee's name on the line below.

2. In their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other
matters as may properly come before the meeting.

(THIS PROXY IS CONTINUED AND TO BE SIGNED ON THE REVERSE SIDE.)