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(54) **SYSTEMS CONFIGURED TO TRANSMIT OPTICAL POWER SIGNALS TRANSDERMALLY OUT OF A LIVING SUBJECT, AND DEVICES AND METHODS**

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H02J 4/00	(2006.01)
A61N 1/372	(2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A61N 1/37211; A61N 1/37217; A61N 1/3785; A61N 1/3787
See application file for complete search history.

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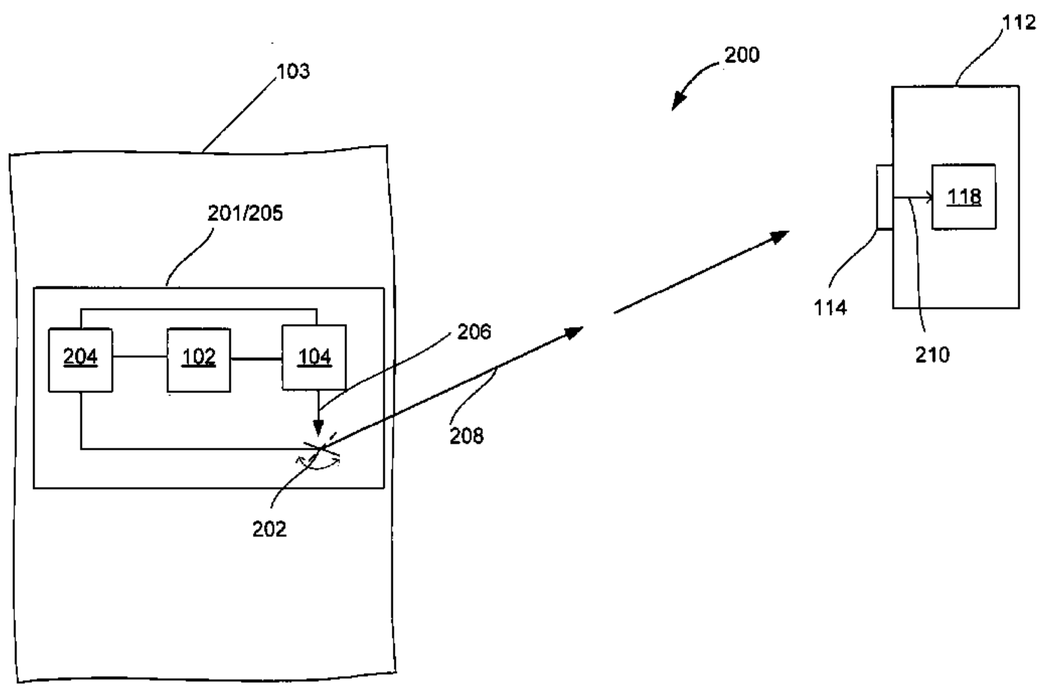
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Primary Examiner — Eric D. Bertram

(57) **ABSTRACT**

In an embodiment, a system includes an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject. The internal optical power transmitter includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject. The system further includes an external optical-electrical converter configured to convert the one or more optical power signals into one or more electrical power signals and at least one external device configured to be operably coupled to the external optical-electrical converter and powered by the one or more electrical power signals. Embodiments of methods, biocompatible electrical-optical converters, and internal optical power transmitters are also disclosed.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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H02J 17/00	(2006.01)
H04B 10/114	(2013.01)
H04B 13/00	(2006.01)

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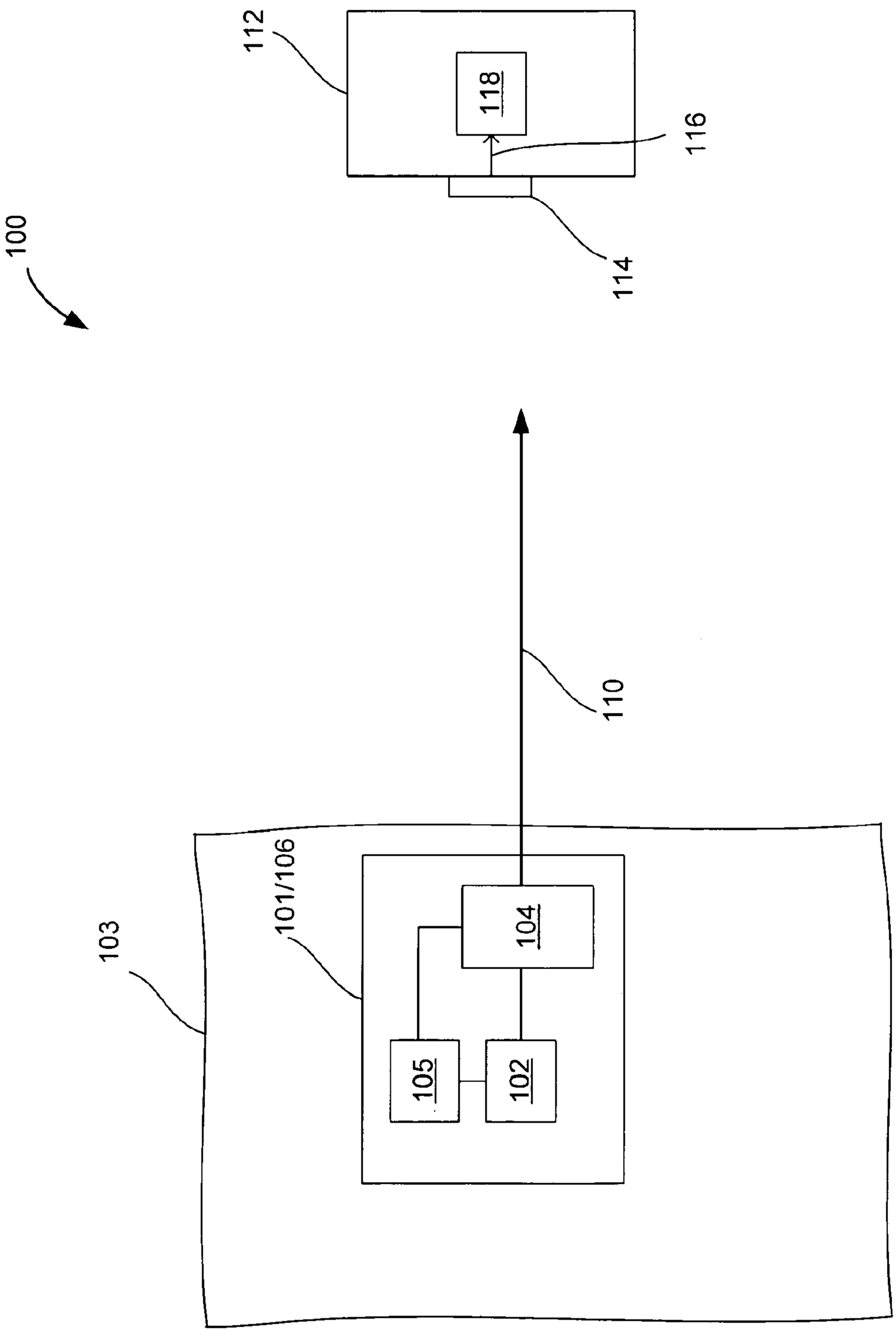
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FIG. 1



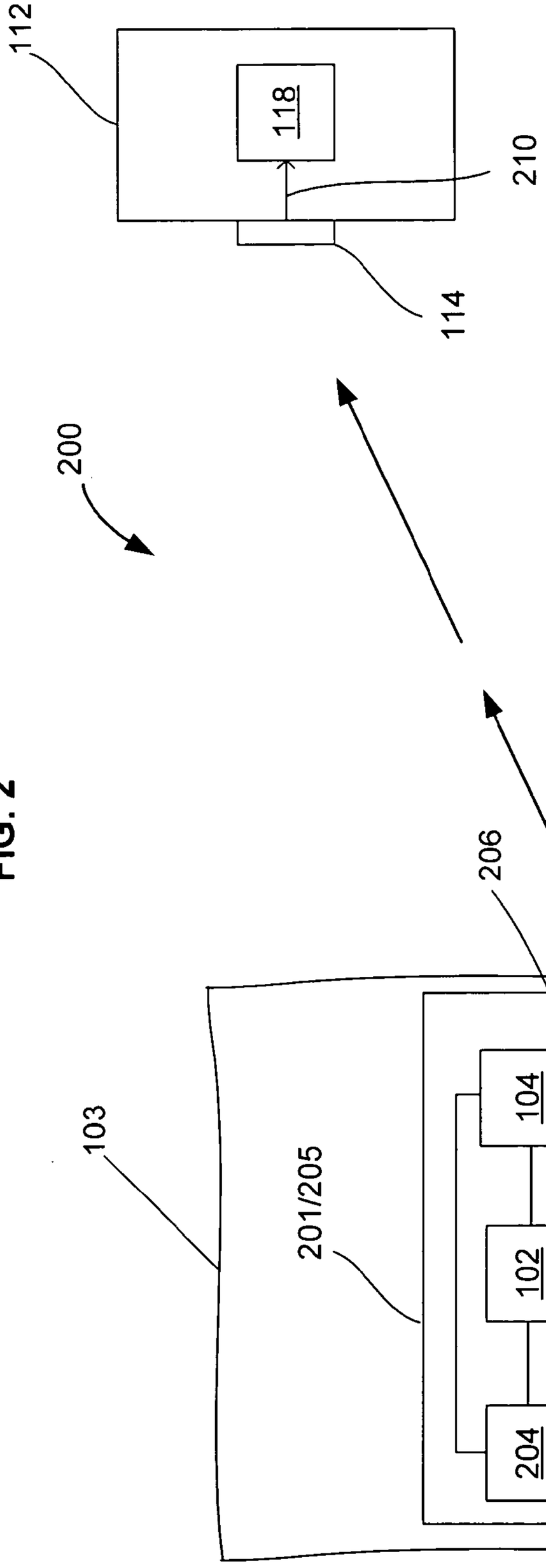
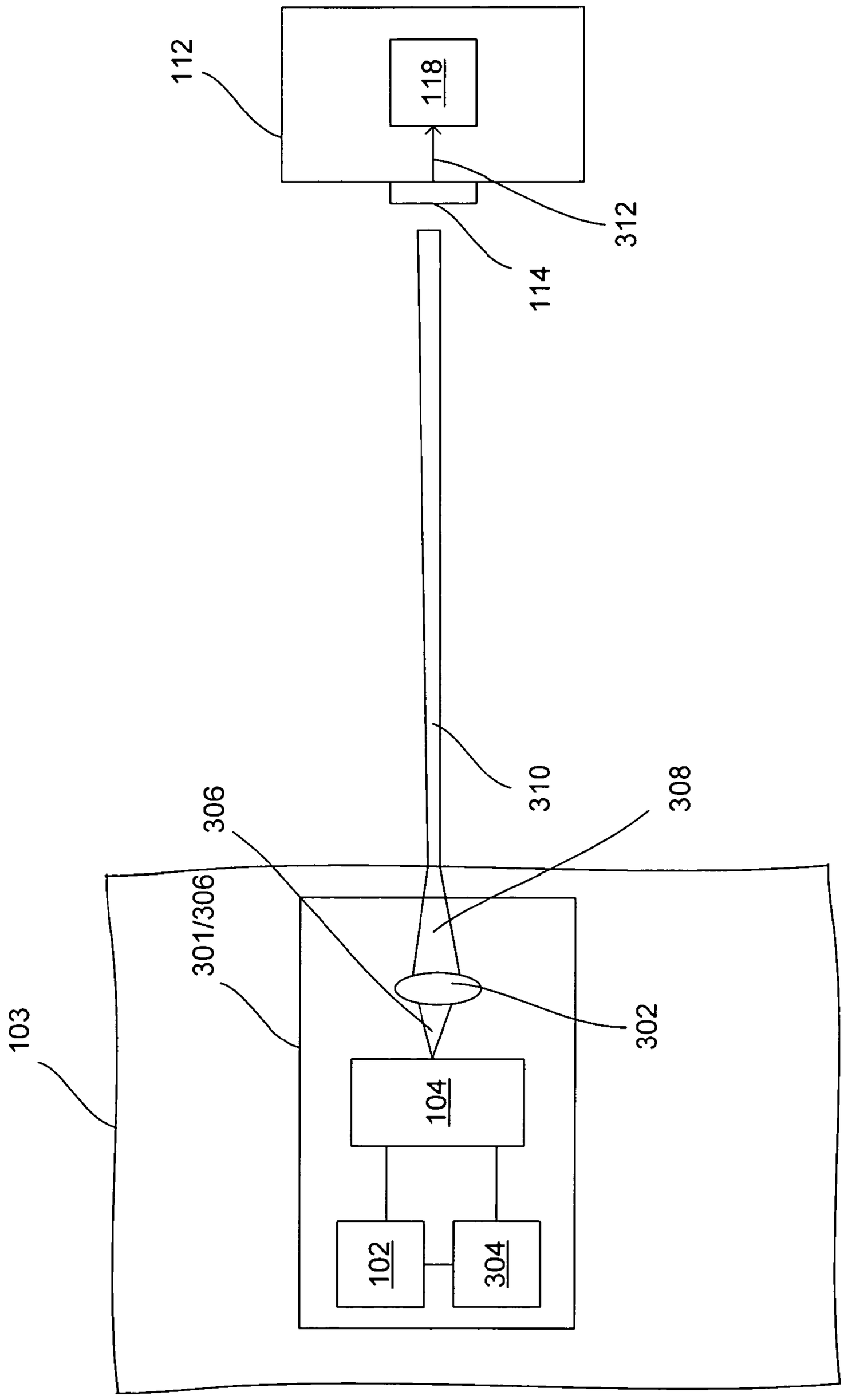


FIG. 2

FIG. 3



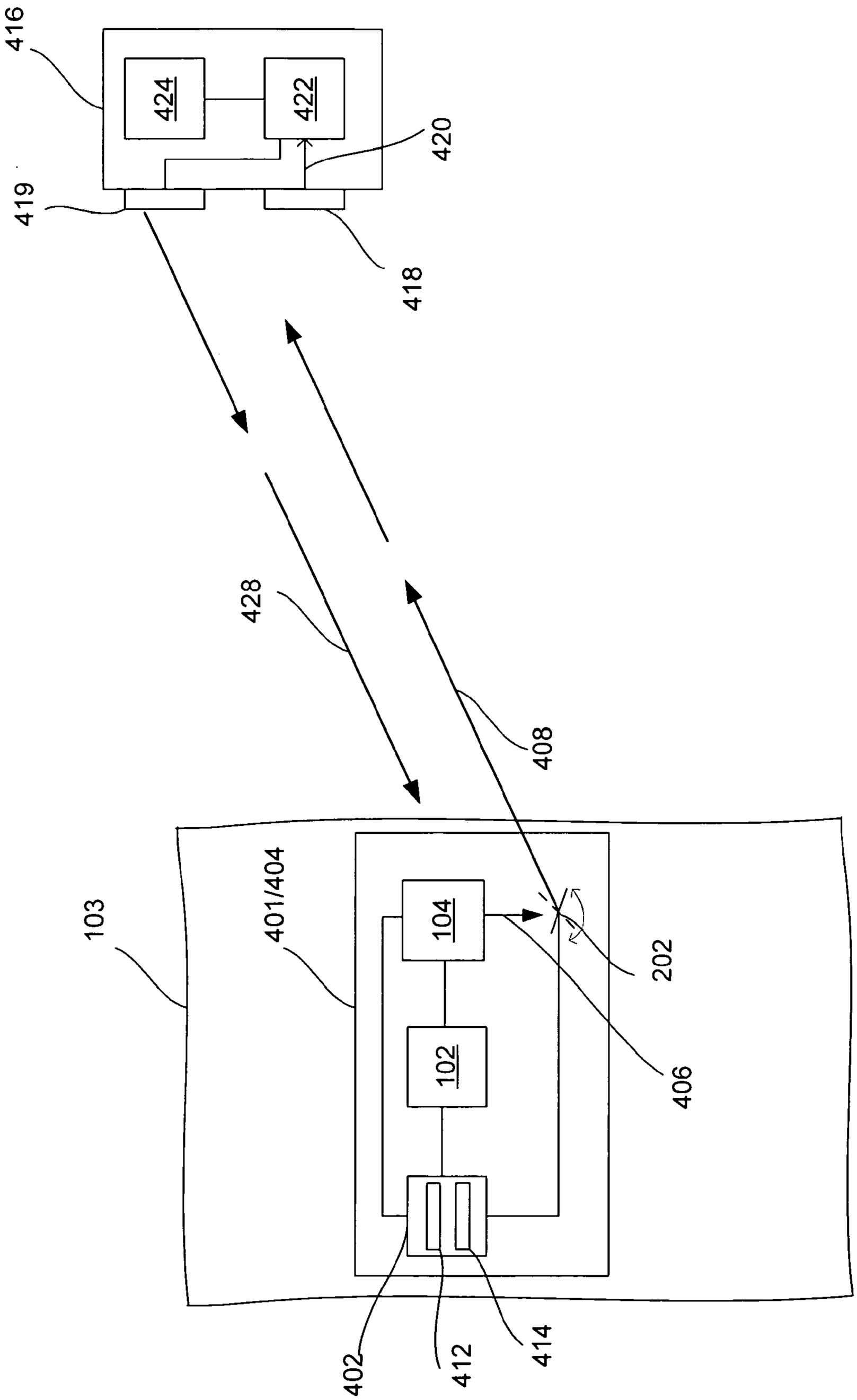

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FIG. 4

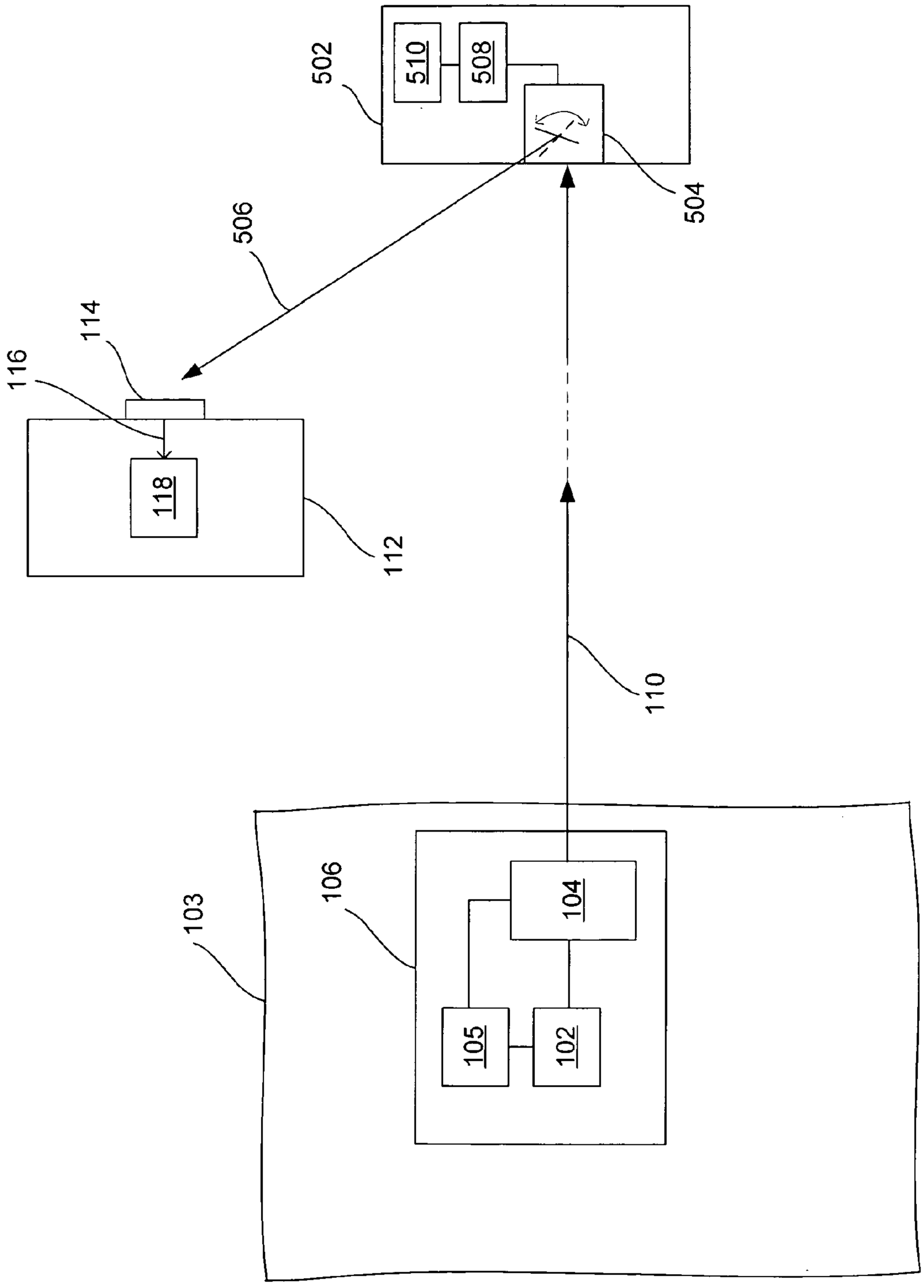
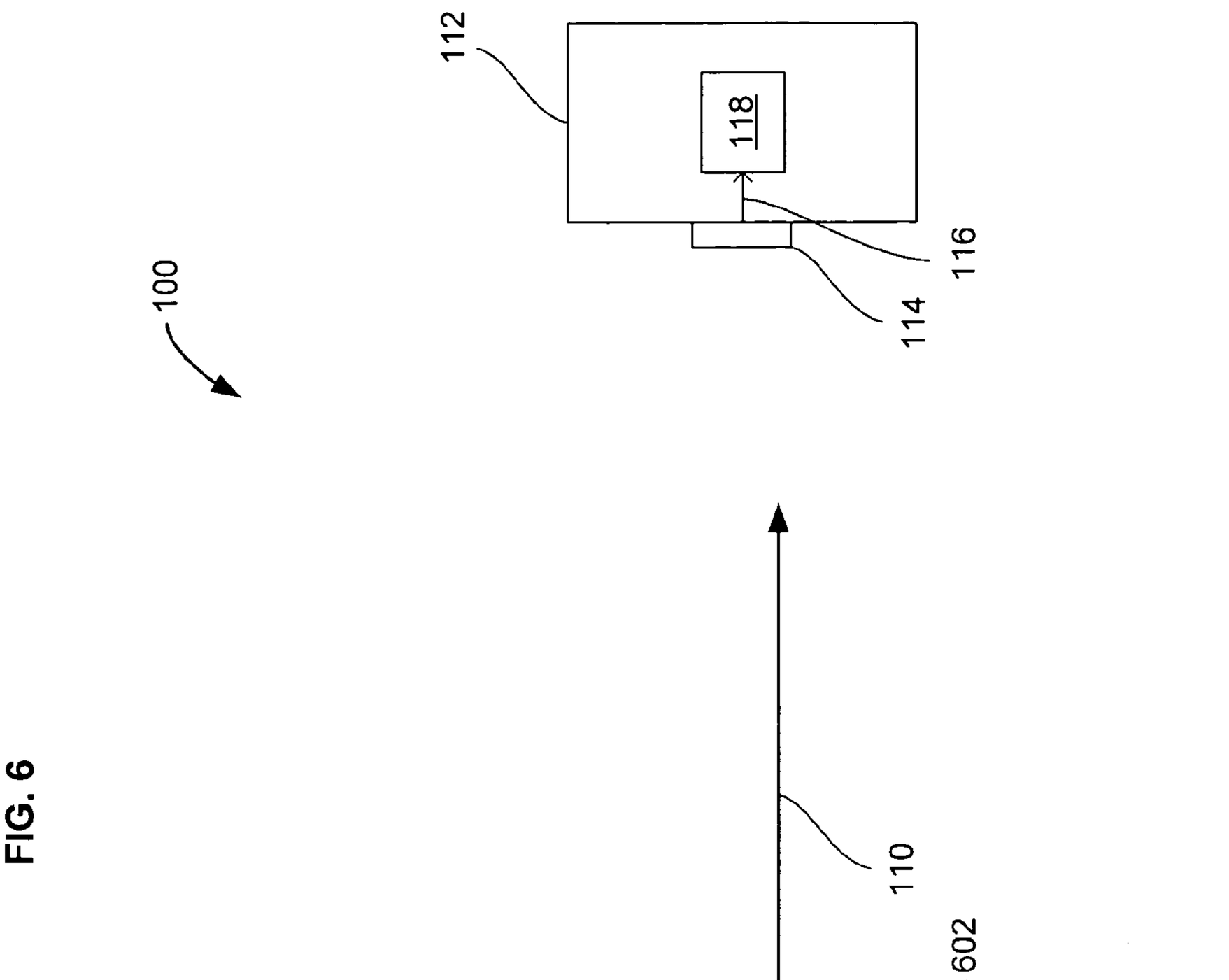


FIG. 5

FIG. 6



SYSTEMS CONFIGURED TO TRANSMIT OPTICAL POWER SIGNALS TRANSDERMALLY OUT OF A LIVING SUBJECT, AND DEVICES AND METHODS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

For purposes of the USPTO extra-statutory requirements, the present application constitutes a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/283,911 filed on 15 Sep. 2008 (now U.S. Pat. No. 8,340,777 issued on 25 Dec. 2012) entitled SYSTEMS CONFIGURED TO TRANSMIT OPTICAL POWER SIGNALS TRANSDERMALLY OUT OF A LIVING SUBJECT, AND DEVICES AND METHODS, naming Roderick A. Hyde, Muriel Y. Ishikawa, Dennis J. Rivet, Elizabeth A. Sweeney, Lowell L. Wood, Jr., and Victoria Y. H. Wood, as inventors.

The United States Patent Office (USPTO) has published a notice to the effect that the USPTO's computer programs require that patent applicants reference both a serial number and indicate whether an application is a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional of a parent application. Stephen G. Kunin, Benefit of Prior-Filed Application, USPTO Official Gazette Mar. 18, 2003. The USPTO further has provided forms for the Application Data Sheet which allow automatic loading of bibliographic data but which require identification of each application as a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional of a parent application. The present Applicant Entity (hereinafter "Applicant") has provided above a specific reference to the application(s) from which priority is being claimed as recited by statute. Applicant understands that the statute is unambiguous in its specific reference language and does not require either a serial number or any characterization, such as "continuation" or "continuation-in-part," for claiming priority to U.S. patent applications. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Applicant understands that the USPTO's computer programs have certain data entry requirements, and hence Applicant has provided designation(s) of a relationship between the present application and its parent application(s) as set forth above and in any ADS filed in this application, but expressly points out that such designation(s) are not to be construed in any way as any type of commentary and/or admission as to whether or not the present application contains any new matter in addition to the matter of its parent application(s).

If the listings of applications provided above are inconsistent with the listings provided via an ADS, it is the intent of the Applicant to claim priority to each application that appears in the Priority Applications section of the ADS and to each application that appears in the Priority Applications section of this application.

All subject matter of the Priority Applications and the Related Applications and of any and all parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc. applications of the Priority Applications and the Related Applications, including any priority claims, is incorporated herein by reference to the extent such subject matter is not inconsistent herewith.

SUMMARY

In an embodiment, a system includes an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject. The internal optical power transmitter includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject and having a power of at least about 10 μW.

In an embodiment, a system includes an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject. The internal optical power transmitter includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject. The system further includes an external optical-electrical converter configured to convert the one or more optical power signals into one or more electrical power signals, and at least one external device configured to be operably coupled to the external optical-electrical converter and powered by the one or more electrical power signals.

In an embodiment, a method includes converting electrical energy within a living subject into one or more optical power signals. The method further includes transmitting the one or more optical power signals transdermally out of the living subject with a power of at least about 10 μW.

In an embodiment, a method includes converting electrical energy within a living subject into one or more optical power signals, and modifying one or more optical parameters of the one or more optical power signals. The method further includes transmitting the one or more optical power signals transdermally out of the living subject after the modifying.

In an embodiment, a method includes receiving one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of a living subject and converting the one or more optical signals to one or more electrical power signals. The method further includes powering at least one device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals.

In an embodiment, an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject and having a power of at least about 10 μW. The internal optical power transmitter includes a biocompatible protective packaging enclosing the power source and the electrical-optical converter.

In an embodiment, an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject. The internal optical power transmitter further includes one or more optical elements configured to interact with the one or more optical power signals prior to transmission out of the living subject. A biocompatible protective packaging encloses the power source, electrical-optical converter, and beam steering device.

In an embodiment, an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy. The internal optical power transmitter further includes an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the power source. The electrical-optical converter may be configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject. The internal optical power transmitter also

includes one or more optical components configured to interact with the one or more optical power signals prior to transmission out of the living subject. A biocompatible protective packaging encloses the power source, electrical-optical converter, and one or more optical elements.

In an embodiment, an internal optical power transmitter configured to be disposed within a living subject includes a power source configured to provide electrical energy, an energy storage device coupled to the power source and configured to store the electrical energy, and an electrical-optical converter operably coupled to the energy storage device. The electrical-optical converter is configured to convert at least a portion of the electrical energy into one or more optical power signals transdermally transmittable out of the living subject. A biocompatible protective packaging encloses the power source, the energy storage device, and the electrical-optical converter.

In an embodiment, a biocompatible electrical-optical converter includes at least one light-emitting device. The at least one light-emitting device may be configured to convert at least a portion of electricity to one or more optical power signals that are transdermally transmittable through tissue of a living subject, and output the one or more optical power signals with a power of at least about 10 μW. The biocompatible electrical-optical converter further includes a biocompatible protective packaging that encloses the at least one light-emitting device and is transmissive to the one or more optical power signals.

The foregoing is a summary and thus may contain simplifications, generalizations, inclusions, and/or omissions of detail; consequently, the reader will appreciate that the summary is illustrative only and is NOT intended to be in any way limiting. Other aspects, features, and advantages of the devices and/or processes and/or other subject matter described herein will become apparent after reading the teachings set forth herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. **1** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device.

FIG. **2** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system configured to transmit and selectively steer one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device.

FIG. **3** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system configured to focus one or more optical power signals prior to transmission transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device.

FIG. **4** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device responsive to receiving instructions from at least one external device.

FIG. **5** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to a beam steering apparatus that directs the one or more optical power signals to at least one external device.

FIG. **6** is functional block diagram of an embodiment of the system shown in FIG. **1** that includes a power converter operably coupled to the electrical-optical converter or at least one power input integrated with the electrical-optical converter configured for receiving power from one or more additional power sources.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments disclosed herein are directed to systems configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device, internal optical power transmitters for use in such systems, biocompatible electrical-optical converters for use in such systems or internal optical power transmitters, and methods of use. In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. The illustrative embodiments described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other embodiments may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented herein.

FIG. **1** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system **100** configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device. The system **100** includes an internal optical power transmitter **101** configured to be disposed within a living subject **103**, such as being embedded in tissue, muscle, or bone of a human being. The internal optical power transmitter **101** includes a power source **102**, an electrical-optical converter **104** operably coupled to the power source **102** to receive electricity (e.g., one or more electrical signals) therefrom, and control circuitry **105** configured to control distribution of electricity from the power source **102** to the electrical-optical converter **104** and the operation of the electrical-optical converter **104**. The power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, and control circuitry **105** may be configured to be disposed in a living subject **103**, such as by being sized for being disposed in the living subject **103** or being biocompatible with the living subject **103**. For example, the power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, and control circuitry **105** may be compactly enclosed in a biocompatible protective packaging **106** that is disposed within the living subject **103** to form the internal optical power transmitter **101**. In an embodiment, the power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, and control circuitry **105** may each be individually enclosed in separate biocompatible protective packaging sections. The electrical-optical converter **104** is configured to convert at least a portion of the electricity received from the power source **102** into one or more optical power signals **110** that are transmittable through and out of tissue of the living subject **103** and have a power of at least about 10 μW.

The system **100** further includes at least one external device **112** positioned or positionable externally to the living subject **103** to receive the one or more optical power signals **110** transmitted out of the living subject **103**. The at least one external device **112** includes an optical-electrical converter **114** (e.g., one or more photodiodes) configured to convert the received one or more optical power signals **110** into one or more electrical power signals **116**. For example, the optical-electrical converter **114** may be integrated with or separate from the at least one external device **112**. In some embodiments, the optical-electrical converter **114** may be associated with a receiving aperture (e.g., one or more collimation lenses, one or more reflectors, or other focusing optics) that direct the one or more optical power signals **110** to the underlying optical-electrical converter **114** or focus the one or more

optical power signals **110** so that substantially all of the optical power is received by the optical-electrical converter **114**. The at least one external device **112** further includes control circuitry **118** operably coupled to the optical-electrical converter **114** and configured to control the operation of the at least one external device **112** responsive to receiving the converted one or more electrical power signals **116**.

In operation, electrical energy within the living subject **103** is converted into the one or more optical power signals **110**, which are transmitted out of the living subject **103** with, for example, a power of at least about 10 μW. More specifically, the electrical-optical converter **104** transmits the one or more optical power signals **110** transdermally through and out of the living subject **103** responsive to instructions from the control circuitry **105**, which are received by the optical-electrical converter **114** of the at least one external device **112**. For example, the control circuitry **105** may be pre-programmed to direct the electrical-optical converter **104** to output the one or more optical power signals **110** at specific times throughout the day. The one or more optical power signals **110** are received by the optical-electrical converter **114**, which converts the one or more optical power signals **110** to one or more electrical power signals **116**. The one or more electrical power signals **116** may be used to power the at least one external device. For example, the control circuitry **118** receives the one or more electrical power signals **116** and uses the one or more electrical power signals **116** to power and control the operation of the at least one external device **112**.

In an embodiment, the optical-electrical converter **114** of the at least one external device **112** may be placed in proximity to the electrical-optical converter **104** and abut tissue of the living subject **103**. In an embodiment, the power of the one or more optical power signals **110** may be sufficient so that the at least one external device **112** may be positioned remote from the living subject **103** and the optical-electrical converter **104** therein.

The electrical-optical converter **104** may receive power from a variety of different types of power sources. According to various embodiments, the power source **102** may include an energy storage device, such as a battery or a capacitive device. In an embodiment, the power source **102** may include an electricity generator configured to convert internal body energy of the living subject **103** to electrical energy. For example, the electricity generator may include at least one of a fluid-flow generator configured to convert internal body fluid motion into electricity, a fluid-pressure generator configured to convert internal fluid pressure into electricity, a muscle-motion generator configured to convert internal muscle motion into electricity, an acceleration-motion generator configured to convert acceleration of the living subject **103** into electricity, or a thermal-electric generator configured to convert internal body heat into electricity. The power source **102** may include an energy storage device (e.g., a battery or capacitive device) coupled to a separate power source (e.g, any of the aforementioned electricity generator) and configured to store electrical energy generated by the separate power source. In such an embodiment, the control circuitry **118** may be operably coupled to the energy storage device and control distribution of the electricity therefrom to the electrical-optical converter **104**. In some embodiment, the energy storage device and separate power source may be separately packaged in a biocompatible packaging.

The electrical-optical converter **104** may include at least one light-emitting device. For example, in some embodiments, the at least one light-emitting device of the electrical-optical converter **104** may include a light-emitting diode or a laser diode configured to transmit the converted electricity received from the power source **102** as the one or more optical power signals **110** with a power of at least about 10 μW. In more specific embodiments, the power output by the electrical-optical converter **104** may range from about 10 μW to about 10 W, about 10 μW to about 1 mW, about 1 mW to about 100 W, and about 100 mW to about 1 W. The electrical-optical converter **104** may output the one or more optical power signals **110** at a selected one or more wavelengths that are transmittable through tissue of the living subject **103**. For example, the selected one or more wavelengths may include one or more infrared wavelengths having a wavelength of about 800 nm to about 1 mm. The selected one or more wavelengths may include one or more visible wavelengths having a wavelength of about 380 nm to about 750 nm.

As previously discussed, the power source **102** and components thereof, and electrical-optical converter **104** may be enclosed in the biocompatible protective packaging **106** that is at least partially transparent to the one or more optical power signals **110** output by the electrical-optical converter **104**. The biocompatible protective packaging **106** may be formed from a number of different biocompatible polymeric materials, such as at least one of polyxylene, polyethylene, poly(ethylene oxide), polyurethane, or poly(butylene terephthalate). The biocompatible protective packaging **106** may also be formed from a number of different biocompatible ceramics, such as silicate-based ceramics. In some embodiments, the biocompatible protective packaging **106** may be in the form of a biocompatible coating made from at least one of the aforementioned biocompatible polymeric or ceramic materials and formed over a relatively less biocompatible housing that provides structural support for the biocompatible coating or a housing formed from at least one of the aforementioned biocompatible materials.

The control circuitry **105** may be configured to direct the electrical-optical converter **104** to output the one or more optical power signals **110** with one or more selected optical parameters. For example, the one or more selected optical parameters may include wavelength, start time, duration, end time, power, or time-integrated power of the one or more optical power signals **110**.

The one or more optical power signals **110** may be employed to power a number of different external devices without limitation. For example, the at least one external device **112** may include a personal electronic device, such as a cell phone, personal data assistant, a video game device, or an electronic medical device.

FIG. **2** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system **200** configured to transmit and selectively steer one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device. The system **200** includes an internal optical power transmitter **201** configured to be disposed within the living subject **103**. The internal optical power transmitter **201** includes the power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104** operably coupled to the power source **102** to receive electricity therefrom, a beam steering device **202** in optical communication with the electrical-optical converter **104**, and control circuitry **204** configured to control distribution of electricity from the power source **102** to the electrical-optical converter **104** and beam steering device **202** and control the operation of the electrical-optical converter **104** and beam steering device **202**. The power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, beam steering device **202**, and control circuitry **204** may be enclosed individually or collectively in a biocompatible protective packaging **205** that is disposed within the living subject **103** and configured the same or similarly as the biocompatible protective packaging **108** (FIG. **1**). The electrical-

optical converter **104** is configured to convert at least a portion of the electricity received from the power source **102** into one or more optical power signals **206** that are transmittable through and out of tissue of the living subject **103** and have a power of at least about 10 μW or any of the power ranges previously described with respect to FIG. **1**.

The beam steering device **202** is positioned to receive the one or more optical power signals **206** from the electrical-optical converter **104** and configured to selectively steer the one or more optical power signals **206** as one or more steered optical power signals **208** that are transmitted transdermally through tissue of and out of the living subject **103**. According to various embodiments, the beam steering device **202** may include at least one of a diffraction grating, a micro-electro-mechanical scanner, an acoustic-optical device, or an electro-optical device configured to selectively steering the one or more optical power signals **206** as the one or more steered optical power signals **208**. In an embodiment, the beam steering device **202** may be configured as a steerable mount that supports the electrical-optical converter **104** so that the one or more optical power signals **110** may be selectively steered or supports one or more optical elements. For example, the steerable mount may support one or more reflective elements (e.g., a spherical mirror) that receives the one or more optical power signals **206** and reflects them in a selected direction.

The control circuitry **204** operably coupled to the beam steering device **202** may be configured to direct the electrical-optical converter **104** to output the one or more optical power signals **208** with one or more selected optical parameters. For example, the one or more selected optical parameters may include wavelength, start time, duration, end time, power, or time-integrated power of the one or more steered optical power signals **208**. The control circuitry **204** may also be configured to control a direction of the one or more optical power signals **208** that the beam steering device **202** steers the one or more optical power signals **206**.

As with the system **100** shown in FIG. **1**, the system **200** further includes at least one external device **112** positioned or positionable externally to the living subject **103** to receive the one or more steered optical power signals **208** transmitted out of the living subject **103** by the beam steering device **202**.

In operation, the electrical-optical converter **104** transmits the one or more optical power signals **206** to the beam steering device **202** responsive to instructions from the control circuitry **204**, which selectively steers the one or more optical power signals **206** (represented as the one or more steered optical power signals **208**) prior to transmission out of the living subject **103**. The one or more steered optical power signals **208** are received by the optical-electrical converter **114** of the at least one external device **112**. The optical-electrical converter **114** converts the one or more steered optical power signals **208** to one or more electrical power signals **210**. The control circuitry **118** receives the one or more electrical power signals **210** and uses the one or more electrical power signals **210** to power and control the operation of the at least one external device **112**.

FIG. **3** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system **300** configured to focus one or more optical power signals prior to transmission transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device to reduce optical spreading due to transmission through tissue of the living subject. The system **300** includes an internal optical power transmitter **301** configured to be disposed within the living subject **103**. The internal optical power transmitter **301** includes the power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104** operably coupled to the power source **102** to receive electricity therefrom, focusing optics **302** in optical communication with the electrical-optical converter **104**, and control circuitry **304** configured to control distribution of electricity from the power source **102** to the electrical-optical converter **104** and control the operation of the electrical-optical converter **104**. The power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, focusing optics **302**, and control circuitry **304** may be enclosed individually or collectively in a biocompatible protective packaging **306** that is disposed within the living subject **103** and configured as the biocompatible protective packaging **106** (FIG. **1**).

The electrical-optical converter **104** is configured to convert at least a portion of the electricity received from the power source **102** into one or more optical power signals **306** that are transmittable through and out of tissue of the living subject **103** and have a power of at least about 10 μW or any of the power ranges previously described with respect to FIG. **1**. The focusing optics **302** are positioned to receive the one or more optical power signals **306** from the electrical-optical converter **104** and configured to focus the one or more optical power signals **306** to a selected angular spread, which are represented as one or more focused optical power signals **308** and transmitted transdermally through tissue of and out of the living subject **103** as the one or more optical power signals **310**. For example, the focusing optics **302** may be configured to reduce a diameter or a divergence angle of a beam of the one or more optical signals **110**. According to various embodiments, the focusing optics **302** may be configured as one or more lenses (e.g., one or more diffractive lenses or refractive lenses) or a reflective element (e.g., a spherical mirror or other type of mirror having optical power). By focusing the one or more optical power signals **306**, the effect of optical spreading (e.g., scattering, diffraction, or refraction) as the light output by the electrical-optical converter **104** propagates through tissue of the living subject **103** may be at least partially countered. For example, in an embodiment, the focusing optics **302** may be configured to focus the one or more optical power signals **306** so that a beam diameter of the one or more optical power signals **310** transmitted transdermally out of the living subject **103** is about equal to a beam diameter output by the electrical-optical converter **104** prior to transmission through the tissue of the living subject **103**.

As with the system **100** shown in FIG. **1**, the system **300** further includes at least one external device **112** positioned or positionable externally to the living subject **103** to receive the one or more optical power signals **310** transmitted out of the living subject **103** by the beam steering device **202**.

In operation, the electrical-optical converter **104** transmits the one or more optical power signals **306** to the focusing optics **302** responsive to instructions from the control circuitry **304**, which focuses the one or more optical power signals **306** represented as the one or more focused optical power signals **308**. The one or more focused optical power signals **308** are transmitted through the tissue of the living subject **103** and output as the one or more optical power signals **310** that are received by the optical-electrical converter **114** of the at least one external device **112**. The optical-electrical converter **114** converters the one or more optical power signals **310** to one or more electrical power signals **312**. The control circuitry **118** receives the one or more electrical power signals **312** and uses the one or more electrical power signals **312** to power and control the operation of the at least one external device **112**.

In some embodiments, the internal optical power transmitter **301** may include a beam steering device (e.g., the beam steering device **202**) configured to steer the one or more optical power signals **306** prior to focusing by the focusing

optics **302**. In other embodiments, the beam steering device may steer the one or more focused optical power signals **308**.

FIG. **4** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system **400** configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to power at least one external device responsive to receiving instructions from the at least one external device. The system **400** includes an internal optical power transmitter **401** configured to be disposed within the living subject **103**. The internal optical power transmitter **401** includes the power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104** operably coupled to the power source **102** to receive electricity therefrom, beam steering device **202** in optical communication with the electrical-optical converter **104**, and a controller **402** configured to control distribution of electricity from the power source **102** to the electrical-optical converter **104** and beam steering device **202** and control the operation of the electrical-optical converter **104** and beam steering device **202**. The power source **102**, electrical-optical converter **104**, and controller **402** may be enclosed individually or collectively in a biocompatible protective packaging **404** that is disposed within the living subject **103** and configured the same or similarly as the biocompatible protective packaging **106** (FIG. **1**). The electrical-optical converter **104** is configured to convert at least a portion of the electricity received from the power source **102** into one or more optical power signals **406** that are transmittable through and out of tissue of the living subject **103** and have a power of at least about 10 μW or any of the power ranges previously described with respect to FIG. **1**. The beam steering device **202** is configured to selectively steer the one or more optical power signals **406** as one or more steered optical power signals **408** that are transmitted transdermally through tissue of and out of the living subject **103**. The controller **402** includes control circuitry **412** coupled to a receiver **414** configured to receive control signals through the living subject **103**.

The system **400** further includes at least one external device **416** (e.g., a cell phone, personal data assistant, a video game device, or an electronic medical device) positioned or positionable externally to the living subject **103** to receive the one or more steered optical power signals **408** transmitted out of the living subject **103** by the beam steering device **202**. The at least one external device **416** includes an optical-electrical converter **418** configured to convert the received one or more steered optical power signals **408** into one or more electrical power signals **420**. The at least one external device **416** further includes a transmitter **419** configured to transmit one or more optical control signals **428** encoding operational instructions for the internal optical power transmitter **401** that are transmittable transdermally through the living subject **103**, and control circuitry **422** that is operably coupled to the optical-electrical converter **114** and transmitter **419**. The control circuitry **422** is configured to control the operation of the transmitter **419**, and the operation of the at least one external device **416** responsive to receiving the converted one or more electrical power signals **420** via the optical-electrical converter **418**. The at least one external device **416** may also include a user interface **424** (e.g., a touch screen, keypad, or other suitable user interface) operably coupled to the control circuitry **422** to allow a user to direct the selective output of the one or more optical control signals **428** from the transmitter **419**.

In operation, the user may direct, through the user interface **424**, the transmitter **419** to selectively output the one or more optical control signals **428** that are received by the receiver **414** of the controller **402**. Responsive to receiving the one or more optical control signals **428**, the controller **402** directs the electrical-optical converter **104** to output the one or more optical power signals **406** to the beam steering device **202** that selectively steers the one or more optical power signals **406** as the one or more steered optical power signals **408**. The one or more steered optical power signals **408** are transmitted transdermally through the living subject **103** and received by the optical-electrical converter **418** that converts the received one or more steered optical power signals **408** to the one or more electrical power signals **420** that powers the control circuitry **422** for directing the operation of the at least one external device **416**.

Although the illustrated embodiment of the system **400** employs the beam steering device **202**, in other embodiments, the beam steering device **202** may be omitted. In such an embodiment, a user may control the transdermal transmission of the one or more optical power signals **406** responsive to the user inputting user input into the user interface **424** of the at least one external device **416**.

FIG. **5** is a functional block diagram of an embodiment of a system **500** configured to transmit one or more optical power signals transdermally out of a living subject to a beam steering apparatus that directs the one or more optical power signals to at least one external device. The system **500** differs from the system **100** shown in FIG. **1** in that an external beam steering apparatus **502** (i.e., a target) is provided, which is configured to selectively direct the one or more optical power signals **110** transmitted transdermally out of the living subject **103**. The beam steering apparatus **502** may include a beam steering device **504**, such as at least one of a diffraction grating, a micro-electro-mechanical scanner, an acoustic-optical device, or an electro-optical device configured to selectively steer the one or more optical power signals **110** as one or more steered optical power signals **506**. The one or more steered optical power signals **506** may be directed to the optical-electrical converter **114** of the at least one external device **112**, which converts the one or more steered optical power signals **506** to electricity to power the at least one external device **112**. The beam steering apparatus **502** may also include control circuitry **508** operably coupled to the beam steering device **504** and an associated user interface **510** that enables a user to program or control, for example, the direction that the one or more optical power signals **110** are steered.

In an embodiment, the beam steering apparatus **502** may be replaced with an optical-optical converter configured to alter a peak wavelength of the one or more optical power signals **110** (e.g., an up-converting or down-converting optical device or material). In an embodiment, the beam steering apparatus **502** may be replaced with an optical-thermal converter configured to convert the one or more optical power signals **110** to heat. For example, the optical-thermal converter may include a body of material selected to substantially absorb the one or more optical power signals **110**. In an embodiment, the optical-optical converter may be included in the beam steering apparatus **502** and positioned to alter a peak wavelength of the one or more steered optical power signals **506**. In an embodiment, focusing optics may be disposed in the optical path of the one or more optical power signals **110** or the one or more steered optical power signals **506**.

Referring to FIG. **6**, in any of the above-described embodiments, electrical energy provided by a power source may be converted to a different electrical state. For example, in the system **100** shown in FIG. **6**, a power converter **600** may be electrically coupled to the power source **102** and the electrical-optical converter **104**. The power converter **600** is configured to convert electrical energy provided by the power source **102** to a different electrical state prior to being

received by the electrical-optical converter **104**. For example, the power converter **600** may be configured to convert a direct current electrical signal to an alternating current electrical signal (i.e., an inverter), configured to converter a direct current waveform to a selected different direct current waveform, or other suitable treatment that may be better used by the electrical-optical converter **104**.

In some embodiments, the electrical-optical converter **104** may include one or more power inputs **602** configured to receive power from one or more additional power sources **604** that are independent from the power source **102**. For example, the one or more power sources **604** may include at least one of a battery, an ultrasonic power source, an inductive power source, or an optical power source. When the one or more power sources **604** include an ultrasonic power source, an inductive power source, or an optical power source, an ultrasonic-electrical converter, inductive receiver, or optical-electrical converter may be provided, respectively, to convert the type of energy to electrical energy useable by the electrical-optical converter **104**. In some embodiments, the control circuitry **105** may be configured to instruct the electrical-optical converter to selectively extract power from the power source **102** or the one or more power sources **604**. For example, when one of the power sources exhibits a power level below a threshold power level, the control circuitry **105** may instruct the electrical-optical converter **104** to selectively extract power from one of the power sources having sufficient power.

The reader will recognize that the state of the art has progressed to the point where there is little distinction left between hardware and software implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware or software is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. The reader will appreciate that there are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle will vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; alternatively, if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware. Hence, there are several possible vehicles by which the processes and/or devices and/or other technologies described herein may be effected, none of which is inherently superior to the other in that any vehicle to be utilized is a choice dependent upon the context in which the vehicle will be deployed and the specific concerns (e.g., speed, flexibility, or predictability) of the implementer, any of which may vary. The reader will recognize that optical aspects of implementations will typically employ optically-oriented hardware, software, and or firmware.

The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In one embodiment, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, the reader will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a Compact Disc (CD), a Digital Video Disk (DVD), a digital tape, a computer memory, etc.; and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link, etc.).

In a general sense, the various embodiments described herein can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by various types of electro-mechanical systems having a wide range of electrical components such as hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof; and a wide range of components that may impart mechanical force or motion such as rigid bodies, spring or torsional bodies, hydraulics, and electro-magnetically actuated devices, or virtually any combination thereof. Consequently, as used herein "electro-mechanical system" includes, but is not limited to, electrical circuitry operably coupled with a transducer (e.g., an actuator, a motor, a piezoelectric crystal, etc.), electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configured by a computer program (e.g., a general purpose computer configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein, or a microprocessor configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein), electrical circuitry forming a memory device (e.g., forms of random access memory), electrical circuitry forming a communications device (e.g., a modem, communications switch, or optical-electrical equipment), and any non-electrical analog thereto, such as optical or other analogs. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that examples of electro-mechanical systems include but are not limited to a variety of consumer electronics systems, as well as other systems such as motorized transport systems, factory automation systems, security systems, and communication/computing systems. Those skilled in the art will recognize that electro-mechanical as used herein is not necessarily limited to a system that has both electrical and mechanical actuation except as context may dictate otherwise.

In a general sense, the various aspects described herein which can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or any combination thereof can be viewed as being composed of

various types of "electrical circuitry." Consequently, as used herein "electrical circuitry" includes, but is not limited to, electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configured by a computer program (e.g., a general purpose computer configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein, or a microprocessor configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein), electrical circuitry forming a memory device (e.g., forms of random access memory), and/or electrical circuitry forming a communications device (e.g., a modem, communications switch, or optical-electrical equipment). The subject matter described herein may be implemented in an analog or digital fashion or some combination thereof.

The herein described components (e.g., steps), devices, and objects and the discussion accompanying them are used as examples for the sake of conceptual clarity. Consequently, as used herein, the specific exemplars set forth and the accompanying discussion are intended to be representative of their more general classes. In general, use of any specific exemplar herein is also intended to be representative of its class, and the non-inclusion of such specific components (e.g., steps), devices, and objects herein should not be taken as indicating that limitation is desired.

With respect to the use of substantially any plural and/or singular terms herein, the reader can translate from the plural to the singular and/or from the singular to the plural as is appropriate to the context and/or application. The various singular/plural permutations are not expressly set forth herein for sake of clarity.

The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely exemplary, and that in fact many other architectures can be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected," or "operably coupled," to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable," to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components and/or wirelessly interactable and/or wirelessly interacting components and/or logically interacting and/or logically interactable components.

In some instances, one or more components may be referred to herein as "configured to." The reader will recognize that "configured to" can generally encompass active-state components and/or inactive-state components and/or standby-state components, etc. unless context requires otherwise.

In some instances, one or more components may be referred to herein as "configured to." The reader will recognize that "configured to" can generally encompass active-state components and/or inactive-state components and/or standby-state components, unless context requires otherwise.

While particular aspects of the present subject matter described herein have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that, based upon the teachings herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from the subject matter described herein and its broader aspects and, therefore, the appended claims are to encompass within their scope all such changes and modifications as are within the true spirit and scope of the subject matter described herein. Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention is defined by the appended claims. In general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as "open" terms (e.g., the term "including" should be interpreted as "including but not limited to," the term "having" should be interpreted as "having at least," the term "includes" should be interpreted as "includes but is not limited to," etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to inventions containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" (e.g., "a" and/or "an" should typically be interpreted to mean "at least one" or "one or more"); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is explicitly recited, such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean at least the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two recitations," without other modifiers, typically means at least two recitations, or two or more recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, and C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, and C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, or C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, or C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). Virtually any disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms. For example, the phrase "A or B" will be understood to include the possibilities of "A" or "B" or "A and B."

With respect to the appended claims, the recited operations therein may generally be performed in any order. Examples of such alternate orderings may include overlapping, interleaved, interrupted, reordered, incremental, preparatory, supplemental, simultaneous, reverse, or other variant orderings, unless context dictates otherwise. With respect to context, even terms like "responsive to," "related to," or other

past-tense adjectives are generally not intended to exclude such variants, unless context dictates otherwise.

While various aspects and embodiments have been disclosed herein, the various aspects and embodiments disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting, with the true scope and spirit being indicated by the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

with control circuitry, selecting a direction among multiple possible directions for one or more optical power signals to be transmitted transdermally out of a living subject;

receiving the one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of the living subject;

converting the one or more optical signals to one or more electrical power signals; and

powering at least one device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein receiving one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of a living subject includes receiving the one or more optical power signals that were focused prior to transmission through tissue of the living subject.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein receiving the one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of the living subject occurs responsive to transmitting instructions transdermally into the living subject from the at least one device located externally to the living subject.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein transmitting instructions transdermally into the living subject includes directing an electrical-optical converter disposed in the living subject to transmit the one or more optical signals transdermally out of the living subject.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein powering at least one device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals includes powering a personal electronic device located externally to the living subject.

6. The method of claim **1**, wherein the converting is performed by an optical-electrical converter integrated with the at least one device.

7. The method of claim **1**, wherein the converting is performed by an optical-electrical converter separate from the at least one device.

8. The method of claim **1**, further comprising storing the one or more electrical power signals prior to the powering.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the one or more optical power signals have a power of at least about 10 μW.

10. The method of claim **1**, further comprising utilizing the powering to control an operation of the at least one device.

11. A method, comprising:

with control circuitry, selecting a direction among multiple possible directions for one or more optical power signals to be transmitted transdermally out of a living subject;

receiving the one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of the living subject with an optical-electrical converter;

converting the one or more optical signals to one or more electrical power signals with the optical-electrical converter;

powering at least one device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals; and

utilizing the powering to control an operation of the at least one device.

12. The method of claim **11**, further comprising storing the one or more electrical power signals as electrical power prior to the powering.

13. The method of claim **11**, wherein the optical-electrical converter is separate from the at least one device.

14. The method of claim **11**, wherein the at least one device includes a personal electronic device.

15. The method of claim **11**, wherein the one or more optical power signals are transmitted transdermally out of the living subject using an electrical-optical converter disposed within the living subject.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the electrical-optical converter is completely enclosed in a biocompatible packaging.

17. A method, comprising:

with control circuitry, selecting a direction from multiple possible directions for one or more power signals to be transmitted transdermally out of a living subject from a beam steering device disposed in the living subject;

responsive to instructions transmitted from at least one electronic device transmitted transdermally into the living subject, at an optical-electrical converter, receiving the one or more optical power signals transmitted transdermally out of the living subject from the beam steering device;

with the optical-electrical converter, converting the one or more optical signals to one or more electrical power signals;

powering at least one electronic device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals; and

utilizing the powering to control an operation of the at least one electronic device.

18. The method of claim **17**, further comprising storing electrical energy associated with the one or more electrical power signals prior to the powering.

19. The method of claim **17**, wherein powering the at least one electronic device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals includes receiving the one or more electrical power signals with control electrical circuitry operably coupled to the at least one electronic device.

20. The method of claim **17**, wherein powering at least one electronic device located externally to the living subject using the one or more electrical power signals includes powering a personal electronic device located externally to the living subject, wherein the personal electronic device includes a cell phone, a personal data assistant, a video game device, or an electronic medical device.

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