



US007563232B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Freeman et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,563,232 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 21, 2009**

(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PENETRATING TISSUE**

(75) Inventors: **Dominique M. Freeman**, La Honda, CA
(US); **Dirk Boecker**, Palo Alto, CA
(US); **Don Alden**, Sunnyvale, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Pelikan Technologies, Inc.**, Palo Alto,
CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 781 days.

3,358,689 A	12/1967	Higgins	128/329
3,494,358 A	2/1970	Grossenbacher	128/218
3,626,929 A	12/1971	Sanz	128/2 R
3,673,475 A	6/1972	Britton, Jr.	318/122
3,742,954 A	7/1973	Strickland	128/302
3,832,776 A	9/1974	Sawyer	30/272
3,953,172 A	4/1976	Shapiro	23/230
4,077,406 A	3/1978	Sandhage et al.	128/217
4,154,228 A *	5/1979	Feldstein et al.	606/169
4,203,446 A	5/1980	Höfert et al.	128/329
4,223,674 A	9/1980	Fluent et al.	128/217

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(21) Appl. No.: **10/335,215**

DE 4420232 12/1995

(22) Filed: **Dec. 31, 2002**

(Continued)

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2003/0199791 A1 Oct. 23, 2003

Primary Examiner—Max Hindenburg

Assistant Examiner—Rene Towia

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Paul Davis; Heller Ehrman
LLP

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/127,395,
filed on Apr. 19, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,025,774, and a
continuation-in-part of application No. 10/237,261,
filed on Sep. 5, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,344,507.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 5/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **600/583**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 600/573,
600/575–579, 583; 606/181–183

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

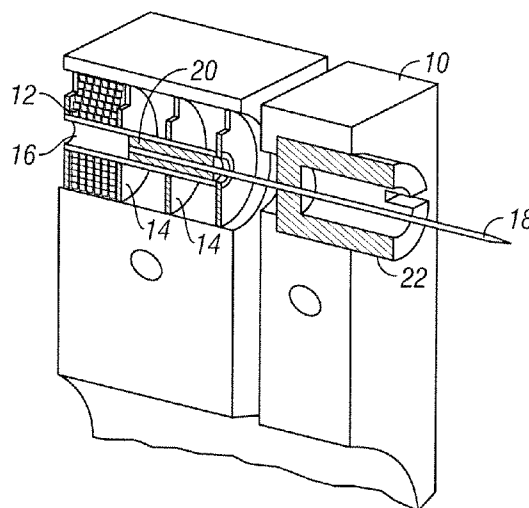
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,714,890 A	8/1955	Vang	128/305
3,086,288 A	4/1963	Balamuth et al.	30/272
3,208,452 A	9/1965	Stern	128/315

(57) **ABSTRACT**

These and other objects of the present invention are achieved in a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site that includes an electrically powered drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 mL of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

43 Claims, 33 Drawing Sheets



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,224,125 A	9/1980	Nakamura	204/195 B	4,895,147 A	1/1990	Bodicky	606/182
4,230,118 A	10/1980	Holman et al.		4,897,173 A	1/1990	Nankai et al.	204/403
4,338,174 A	7/1982	Tamura	204/195	4,900,424 A	2/1990	Birch et al.	204/409
4,340,669 A	7/1982	Bauer	435/14	4,911,794 A	3/1990	Parce	204/1 T
4,353,984 A	10/1982	Yamada	435/14	4,920,977 A	5/1990	Haynes	128/770
4,356,826 A	11/1982	Kubota	128/630	4,924,879 A	5/1990	O'Brien	128/770
4,360,016 A	11/1982	Sarrine	128/763	4,945,045 A	7/1990	Forrest	435/25
4,391,905 A	7/1983	Bauer	435/14	4,948,727 A	8/1990	Cass	435/18
4,391,906 A	7/1983	Bauer	435/14	4,952,515 A	8/1990	Gleisner	436/169
4,414,975 A	11/1983	Ryder	128/314	4,953,552 A	9/1990	DeMarzo	128/635
4,420,564 A	12/1983	Tsuji	435/288	4,966,671 A	10/1990	Nylander	204/153.14
4,426,451 A	1/1984	Columbus	436/518	4,976,724 A	12/1990	Nieto	606/182
4,426,884 A	1/1984	Polchaninoff	73/172	4,983,178 A	1/1991	Schnell	606/181
4,449,529 A	5/1984	Burns et al.	128/314	4,990,154 A	2/1991	Brown	606/182
4,462,405 A	7/1984	Ehrlich	128/329	4,995,402 A	2/1991	Smith et al.	128/771
4,469,110 A	9/1984	Slama	128/770	4,999,582 A	3/1991	Parks	324/438
4,517,978 A	5/1985	Levin	128/314	5,010,772 A	4/1991	Bourland	73/862.04
4,518,384 A	5/1985	Tarello et al.	604/61	5,010,774 A	4/1991	Kikuo	73/862.04
4,535,773 A	8/1985	Yoon	604/51	5,014,718 A	5/1991	Mitchen	128/771
4,539,988 A	9/1985	Shirley	128/314	5,019,974 A	5/1991	Beckers	364/413.02
4,545,382 A	10/1985	Higgins	128/635	5,026,388 A	6/1991	Ingalz	606/182
4,553,541 A	11/1985	Burns	128/314	5,029,583 A *	7/1991	Meserol et al.	600/316
4,577,630 A	3/1986	Nitzsche	128/314	5,035,704 A	7/1991	Lambert et al.	606/182
4,580,564 A	4/1986	Anderson	502/8	5,047,044 A	9/1991	Smith et al.	606/182
4,580,565 A	4/1986	Cornell	128/314	5,054,499 A	10/1991	Swierczek	128/770
4,590,411 A	5/1986	Kelly	318/687	5,059,789 A	10/1991	Salcudean	250/206.1
4,595,479 A	6/1986	Kimura	204/294	5,060,174 A	10/1991	Gross	702/139
4,608,997 A	9/1986	Conway	128/763	5,070,886 A	12/1991	Mitchen	128/771
4,615,340 A	10/1986	Cronenberg	128/635	5,074,872 A	12/1991	Brown	606/182
4,616,649 A	10/1986	Burns	128/314	5,089,112 A	2/1992	Skotheim	204/403
4,619,754 A	10/1986	Niki	204/290	5,092,842 A	3/1992	Bechtold	604/135
4,622,974 A	11/1986	Coleman	128/634	5,097,810 A	3/1992	Fishman et al.	128/743
4,624,253 A	11/1986	Burns	128/314	5,100,427 A	3/1992	Crossman	606/182
4,627,445 A	12/1986	Garcia et al.	128/770	5,100,428 A	3/1992	Mumford	606/182
4,637,393 A	1/1987	Ray	128/305	5,104,380 A	4/1992	Holman	604/117
4,637,403 A	1/1987	Garcia et al.	128/770	5,104,619 A	4/1992	Castro	422/56
4,643,189 A	2/1987	Mintz	128/314	5,108,564 A	4/1992	Szuminsky	204/153.12
4,648,408 A	3/1987	Hutcheson	128/770	5,116,759 A	5/1992	Klainer	435/288
4,653,511 A	3/1987	Goch	128/763	5,120,420 A	6/1992	Nankai	204/403
4,653,513 A	3/1987	Dombrowski	128/765	5,122,244 A	6/1992	Hoenes	204/153
4,676,244 A	6/1987	Enstrom	128/314	5,126,034 A	6/1992	Carter	204/403
4,677,979 A	7/1987	Burns	128/314	5,128,015 A	7/1992	Szuminsky	204/403
4,711,245 A	12/1987	Higgins	128/635	5,128,171 A	7/1992	Gleisner	427/2
4,712,548 A	12/1987	Enstrom	128/314	5,133,730 A	7/1992	Biro	606/182
4,715,374 A	12/1987	Maggio	128/314	5,139,685 A	8/1992	Castro	210/767
4,735,203 A	4/1988	Ryder	128/314	5,141,868 A	8/1992	Shanks	435/288
4,750,489 A	6/1988	Berkman et al.	128/314	5,145,565 A	9/1992	Kater et al.	204/153.1
4,758,323 A	7/1988	Davis	204/403	5,152,775 A	10/1992	Ruppert	606/182
4,787,398 A	11/1988	Garcia et al.	128/770	5,156,611 A	10/1992	Haynes	606/181
4,794,926 A	1/1989	Munsch et al.	606/183	5,163,442 A	11/1992	Ono	128/760
4,814,142 A	3/1989	Gleisner	422/56	5,170,364 A	12/1992	Gross	702/139
4,814,661 A	3/1989	Ratzlaff	310/328	D332,490 S	1/1993	Brown	D24/146
4,820,010 A	4/1989	Sciefres	385/43	5,178,142 A	1/1993	Harjunmaa	128/633
4,820,399 A	4/1989	Senda	204/403	5,181,910 A	1/1993	Scanlon	604/67
4,823,806 A	4/1989	Bajada	128/744	5,181,914 A	1/1993	Zook	604/307
4,824,639 A	4/1989	Hildenbrand	422/56	5,183,042 A	2/1993	Harjunmaa	128/633
RE32,922 E	5/1989	Levin	128/314	5,185,256 A	2/1993	Nankai	435/174
4,827,763 A	5/1989	Bourland	73/172	5,187,100 A	2/1993	Matzinger	436/16
4,830,959 A	5/1989	McNeill	435/53	5,188,118 A	2/1993	Terwilliger	128/753
4,836,904 A	6/1989	Armstrong	204/294	5,189,751 A	3/1993	Giuliani et al.	15/22.1
4,844,095 A	7/1989	Chiodo	128/314	5,192,415 A	3/1993	Yoshioka	204/403
4,850,973 A	7/1989	Jordan	604/157	5,196,025 A	3/1993	Ranalletta	606/182
4,857,274 A	8/1989	Simon	422/72	5,201,324 A	4/1993	Swierczek	128/770
4,869,249 A	9/1989	Crossman	128/314	5,205,920 A	4/1993	Oyama	204/403
4,869,265 A	9/1989	McEwen	128/774	5,212,879 A	5/1993	Biro	29/437
4,873,993 A	10/1989	Meserol	128/780	5,216,597 A	6/1993	Beckers	364/413.02
4,882,013 A	11/1989	Turner	204/1	5,217,480 A	6/1993	Haber	606/182
4,883,068 A	11/1989	Dechow	128/760	5,222,504 A	6/1993	Solomon	128/744
4,886,499 A	12/1989	Cirelli	604/131	5,228,972 A	7/1993	Osaka	204/415
4,889,529 A	12/1989	Haendl	604/274	5,229,282 A	7/1993	Yoshioka	435/177
4,892,097 A	1/1990	Ranalletta	606/182	5,230,866 A	7/1993	Shartle	422/103
				5,231,993 A	8/1993	Haber	128/770
				5,241,969 A *	9/1993	Carson et al.	600/566

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 3

5,250,066 A	10/1993	Lambert	606/181	5,498,542 A	3/1996	Corey	435/283.1
5,251,126 A	10/1993	Kahn	364/413.11	5,507,288 A	4/1996	Bocker	128/633
5,253,656 A	10/1993	Rincoe	128/782	5,508,171 A	4/1996	Walling	205/777.5
5,256,998 A	10/1993	Becker	335/229	5,509,410 A	4/1996	Hill	128/637
5,264,103 A	11/1993	Yoshioka	204/403	5,510,266 A	4/1996	Bonner	436/43
5,264,105 A	11/1993	Gregg	204/403	5,512,159 A	4/1996	Yoshioka	204/403
5,264,106 A	11/1993	McAleer	204/403	5,514,152 A	5/1996	Smith	606/182
5,266,179 A	11/1993	Nankai	204/401	5,518,006 A	5/1996	Mawhirt	128/770
D342,673 S	12/1993	Kataoka	D24/147	5,524,636 A	6/1996	Sarvazyan	128/774
5,272,087 A	12/1993	El Murr	435/291	5,525,511 A	6/1996	D'Costa	435/287.9
5,277,181 A	1/1994	Mendelson	128/633	5,527,333 A	6/1996	Nikkels	606/182
5,279,294 A	1/1994	Anderson et al.	128/633	5,527,334 A	6/1996	Kanner	606/182
5,282,822 A	2/1994	Macors	606/182	5,529,074 A	6/1996	Greenfield	128/744
5,286,362 A	2/1994	Hoenes	204/403	5,540,709 A	7/1996	Ramel	606/183
5,286,364 A	2/1994	Yacynych	204/418	5,543,326 A	8/1996	Heller	435/287.9
5,288,636 A	2/1994	Pollmann	435/288	5,545,174 A	8/1996	Schenk	606/182
5,304,192 A	4/1994	Crouse	606/181	5,547,702 A	8/1996	Gleisner	427/2.13
5,304,193 A	4/1994	Zhadanov	606/182	5,554,166 A	9/1996	Lange	606/182
5,312,590 A	5/1994	Gunasingham	422/56	5,558,834 A	9/1996	Chu	422/55
5,314,441 A	5/1994	Cusack	606/182	5,569,286 A	10/1996	Peckham	606/181
5,314,442 A	5/1994	Morita	606/182	5,569,287 A	10/1996	Tezuka	606/182
5,316,012 A	5/1994	Siegal	128/744	5,571,132 A	11/1996	Mawhirt	606/182
5,318,583 A	6/1994	Rabenau	606/182	5,575,403 A	11/1996	Charlton et al.	221/31
5,320,607 A	6/1994	Ishibashi	604/115	5,575,895 A	11/1996	Ikeda	204/403
5,320,808 A	6/1994	Holen et al.	422/64	5,582,697 A	12/1996	Ikeda	204/403
5,324,302 A	6/1994	Crouse	606/181	5,584,846 A	12/1996	Mawhirt	606/181
5,324,303 A	6/1994	Strong	606/181	5,593,852 A	1/1997	Heller	435/14
5,332,479 A	7/1994	Uenoyama	204/153.12	5,609,749 A	3/1997	Yamauchi	205/777.5
5,350,392 A	9/1994	Purcell	606/182	5,613,978 A	3/1997	Harding	606/181
5,352,351 A	10/1994	White	204/406	5,620,579 A	4/1997	Genshaw et al.	204/402
5,354,287 A	10/1994	Wacks	604/232	5,624,537 A	4/1997	Turner	204/403
5,354,447 A	10/1994	Uenoyama	204/403	D379,516 S	5/1997	Rutter	D24/146
5,356,420 A	10/1994	Czernecki	606/182	5,628,764 A	5/1997	Schraga	606/182
5,360,410 A	11/1994	Wacks	604/232	5,628,765 A	5/1997	Morita	606/182
5,366,469 A	11/1994	Steg	606/182	5,628,890 A	5/1997	Carter	204/403
5,366,470 A	11/1994	Ramel	606/183	5,630,986 A	5/1997	Charlton et al.	422/64
5,366,609 A	11/1994	White	204/403	5,632,410 A	5/1997	Moulton et al.	221/79
5,368,047 A	11/1994	Suzuki et al.	128/765	5,640,954 A	6/1997	Pfeiffer	128/635
5,371,687 A	12/1994	Holmes	364/514	5,643,306 A	7/1997	Schraga	606/182
5,375,397 A	12/1994	Ferrand	54/66	5,645,555 A	7/1997	Davis	606/182
5,378,628 A	1/1995	Gratzel	435/288	5,650,062 A	7/1997	Ikeda	205/778
5,382,346 A	1/1995	Uenoyama	204/403	5,653,863 A	8/1997	Genshaw	205/777.5
5,383,885 A	1/1995	Bland	606/182	5,657,760 A	8/1997	Ying	128/660.03
5,389,534 A	2/1995	Gentekow	435/180	5,658,444 A	8/1997	Black	204/415
5,393,903 A	2/1995	Gratzel	556/137	5,662,127 A	9/1997	De Vaughn	128/765
5,395,387 A	3/1995	Burns	606/181	5,662,672 A	9/1997	Pambianchi	606/181
5,397,334 A	3/1995	Schenk	606/182	5,676,143 A	10/1997	Simonsen	128/633
5,401,376 A	3/1995	Foos	204/415	5,680,858 A	10/1997	Hansen et al.	128/635
5,402,798 A	4/1995	Swierczek	128/770	5,680,872 A	10/1997	Sesekura	128/760
5,405,511 A	4/1995	White	204/153.1	5,682,884 A	11/1997	Hill	128/637
5,407,545 A	4/1995	Hirose	204/153.12	5,683,562 A	11/1997	Schaffar	204/403
5,407,554 A	4/1995	Saurer	204/403	5,695,947 A	12/1997	Guo	435/11
5,407,818 A	4/1995	Gentekow	435/180	5,700,695 A	12/1997	Yassinzadeh et al.	436/180
5,409,583 A	4/1995	Yoshioka	204/153.12	5,705,045 A	1/1998	Park	204/403
5,410,059 A	4/1995	Fraser	546/10	5,708,247 A	1/1998	McAleer	204/403
5,415,169 A	5/1995	Siczek et al.	128/653.1	5,709,668 A	1/1998	Wacks	604/232
5,423,847 A	6/1995	Strong et al.	606/182	5,709,699 A	1/1998	Warner	606/181
5,436,161 A	7/1995	Bergstrom	435/291	5,710,011 A	1/1998	Forrow	435/25
5,437,999 A	8/1995	Diebold	435/288	5,714,390 A	2/1998	Hallowitz et al.	436/526
5,438,271 A	8/1995	White	324/444	5,720,862 A	2/1998	Hamamoto	204/403
5,443,701 A	8/1995	Willner	204/153	5,720,924 A	2/1998	Eikmeier et al.	422/102
5,445,920 A	8/1995	Saito	430/311	D392,391 S	3/1998	Douglas	D24/225
D362,719 S	9/1995	Kaplan	D24/147	5,723,284 A	3/1998	Ye	435/4
5,454,828 A	10/1995	Schraga	606/181	5,727,548 A	3/1998	Hill	128/637
5,456,875 A	10/1995	Lambert	264/328.1	5,730,753 A	3/1998	Morita	606/181
5,464,418 A	11/1995	Schraga	606/182	5,733,300 A	3/1998	Pambianchi	606/181
5,471,102 A	11/1995	Becker	310/50	D393,716 S	4/1998	Brenneman	D24/147
5,472,427 A	12/1995	Rammmler	604/164	D393,717 S	4/1998	Brenneman et al.	D24/147
5,474,084 A	12/1995	Cunniff	128/744	5,738,244 A	4/1998	Charlton et al.	221/26
5,476,474 A	12/1995	Davis	606/182	5,741,228 A	4/1998	Lambrecht	604/93
5,480,387 A	1/1996	Gabriel	604/134	5,741,634 A	4/1998	Nozoe	435/4
5,487,748 A	1/1996	Marshall	606/182	RE35,803 E	5/1998	Lange	606/182
5,496,453 A	3/1996	Uenoyama	205/777.5	5,746,217 A	5/1998	Erickson	128/760

5,746,898 A	5/1998	Preidel	204/403	5,918,603 A	7/1999	Brown	128/897
5,755,733 A	5/1998	Morita	606/182	5,921,963 A	7/1999	Erez	604/192
5,758,643 A	6/1998	Wong et al.	128/632	5,922,188 A	7/1999	Ikeda	204/777.5
5,759,364 A	6/1998	Charlton	204/403	RE36,268 E	8/1999	Szuminsky	205/777.5
5,762,770 A	6/1998	Pritchard	204/403	5,933,136 A	8/1999	Brown	345/327
5,770,369 A	6/1998	Meade	435/6	5,935,075 A	8/1999	Casscells	600/474
5,772,586 A	6/1998	Heinonen	600/300	5,938,679 A	8/1999	Freeman et al.	606/181
5,772,677 A	6/1998	Mawhirt	606/181	5,942,102 A	8/1999	Hodges	205/775
5,773,270 A	6/1998	D'Orazio	435/177	5,951,300 A	9/1999	Brown	434/236
5,776,157 A	7/1998	Thorne et al.	606/182	5,951,492 A	9/1999	Douglas	600/583
5,776,719 A	7/1998	Douglas	435/28	5,951,582 A	9/1999	Thorne et al.	606/182
5,782,770 A	7/1998	Mooradian	600/476	5,951,836 A	9/1999	McAleer	204/403
5,782,852 A	7/1998	Foggia	606/182	5,954,738 A	9/1999	LeVaughn	606/181
5,788,651 A	8/1998	Weilandt	600/567	5,956,501 A	9/1999	Brown	395/500.32
5,788,652 A	8/1998	Rahn	600/577	5,958,199 A	9/1999	Miyamoto	204/403
5,794,219 A	8/1998	Brown	705/37	5,960,403 A	9/1999	Brown	705/2
5,795,725 A	8/1998	Buechler	435/7.1	5,964,718 A	10/1999	Duchon	600/583
5,795,774 A	8/1998	Matsumoto	435/287.9	5,965,380 A	10/1999	Heller	435/14
5,797,940 A	8/1998	Mawhirt	606/167	5,968,063 A	10/1999	Chu et al.	606/185
5,797,942 A	8/1998	Schrage	606/182	5,971,941 A	10/1999	Simons et al.	600/573
5,798,030 A	8/1998	Raguse	204/403	5,972,199 A	10/1999	Heller	205/777.5
5,798,031 A	8/1998	Charlton	204/403	5,972,715 A	10/1999	Celentano	436/164
5,800,781 A	9/1998	Gavin et al.	422/73	5,974,124 A	10/1999	Schlueter	379/106.02
5,801,057 A	9/1998	Smart et al.	436/68	5,983,193 A	11/1999	Heinonen	705/2
5,807,375 A	9/1998	Gross	604/890.1	5,985,116 A	11/1999	Ikeda	204/403
5,810,199 A	9/1998	Charlton et al.	221/31	5,985,559 A	11/1999	Brown	435/6
8,800,781	9/1998	Gavin	422/73	5,993,400 A	11/1999	Rincoe	600/595
5,820,551 A	10/1998	Hill	600/347	5,997,476 A	12/1999	Brown	600/300
5,822,715 A	10/1998	Worthington	702/19	5,997,561 A	12/1999	Boecker	606/182
5,823,973 A	10/1998	Racchini et al.	600/573	5,997,817 A	12/1999	Crismore	422/58
5,824,491 A	10/1998	Priest	435/28	5,997,818 A	12/1999	Hackner	422/681
5,828,943 A	10/1998	Brown	434/258	6,001,067 A	12/1999	Shults	600/584
5,830,219 A	11/1998	Bird et al.	606/130	6,015,392 A	1/2000	Douglas	600/583
5,832,448 A	11/1998	Brown	705/2	6,020,110 A	2/2000	Williams	430/315
5,840,020 A	11/1998	Heinonen	600/309	6,022,324 A	2/2000	Skinner	600/566
5,840,171 A	11/1998	Birch	205/335	6,022,366 A	2/2000	Schrage	606/181
5,846,490 A	12/1998	Yokota et al.	422/66	6,023,686 A	2/2000	Brown	705/37
5,849,174 A	12/1998	Sanghera	205/775	6,027,459 A	2/2000	Shain et al.	600/573
5,853,373 A	12/1998	Griffith	600/554	6,030,399 A	2/2000	Ignotz	606/167
5,854,074 A	12/1998	Charlton et al.	436/46	6,030,827 A	2/2000	Davis	435/287
D403,975 S	1/1999	Douglas	D10/81	6,032,119 A	2/2000	Brown	705/2
5,855,801 A	1/1999	Lin et al.	216/2	6,033,421 A	3/2000	Theiss	606/186
5,857,983 A	1/1999	Douglas	600/538	6,033,866 A	3/2000	Guo	435/14
5,860,922 A	1/1999	Gordon	600/431	6,036,924 A	3/2000	Simons et al.	422/100
5,863,800 A	1/1999	Eikmeier et al.	436/48	6,041,253 A	3/2000	Kost	604/20
5,866,353 A	2/1999	Berneth	435/26	6,048,352 A	4/2000	Douglas et al.	606/181
5,868,135 A	2/1999	Kaufman	128/630	D424,696 S	5/2000	Ray	D24/169
5,868,772 A	2/1999	LeVaughn	606/181	6,056,701 A	5/2000	Duchon	600/583
5,869,972 A	2/1999	Birch	324/439	6,060,327 A	5/2000	Keen	436/518
5,871,494 A	2/1999	Simons et al.	606/181	6,061,128 A	5/2000	Zweig	356/243.4
5,872,713 A	2/1999	Douglas	702/85	6,063,039 A	5/2000	Cunningham	600/573
5,873,887 A	2/1999	King	606/182	6,066,103 A	5/2000	Duchon	600/583
5,876,957 A	3/1999	Douglas	435/28	6,066,296 A	5/2000	Brady	422/63
5,879,163 A	3/1999	Brown	434/236	6,067,463 A	5/2000	Jeng	600/336
5,879,310 A	3/1999	Sopp	600/578	6,068,615 A	5/2000	Brown	604/207
5,879,311 A	3/1999	Duchon et al.	600/583	D426,638 S	6/2000	Ray	D24/169
5,879,373 A	3/1999	Roeper	606/344	6,071,249 A	6/2000	Cunningham	600/578
5,880,829 A	3/1999	Kauhaniemi et al.	356/246	6,071,250 A	6/2000	Douglas	600/583
5,882,494 A	3/1999	van Antwerp	204/403	6,071,251 A	6/2000	Cunningham	600/584
5,885,211 A	3/1999	Eppstein et al.	600/309	6,071,294 A	6/2000	Simons et al.	606/181
5,887,133 A	3/1999	Brown	395/200.3	6,074,360 A	6/2000	Haar et al.	604/57
RE36,191 E	4/1999	Solomon	395/308	6,077,408 A	6/2000	Miyamoto	204/403
5,891,053 A	4/1999	Sesekura	600/583	6,080,172 A	6/2000	Fujiwara	606/166
5,893,870 A	4/1999	Talen	606/201	6,083,710 A	7/2000	Heller	435/14
5,897,493 A	4/1999	Brown	600/300	6,086,545 A	7/2000	Roe	600/570
5,899,855 A	5/1999	Brown	600/301	6,086,562 A	7/2000	Jacobsen	604/156
5,900,130 A	5/1999	Benvegnu	204/453	6,090,078 A	7/2000	Erskine	604/198
5,906,921 A	5/1999	Ikeda	435/25	6,093,146 A	7/2000	Filangeri	600/300
D411,619 S	6/1999	Duchon	D24/146	6,093,156 A	7/2000	Cunningham et al.	600/573
5,913,310 A	6/1999	Brown	128/897	6,101,478 A	8/2000	Brown	705/2
5,916,156 A	6/1999	Hildenbrand	600/347	6,103,033 A	8/2000	Say	156/73.1
5,916,229 A	6/1999	Evans	606/171	6,107,083 A	8/2000	Collins	435/288
5,916,230 A	6/1999	Brenneman	606/172	6,113,578 A	9/2000	Brown	604/207

6,117,630 A	9/2000	Reber et al.	435/4	6,284,478 B1	9/2001	Heller	435/14
6,120,462 A	9/2000	Hibner et al.	600/566	6,285,448 B1	9/2001	Kuenstner	356/39
6,120,676 A	9/2000	Heller	205/777.5	6,285,454 B1	9/2001	Douglas et al.	356/446
6,121,009 A	9/2000	Heller	435/14	6,290,683 B1	9/2001	Erez	604/273
6,122,536 A	9/2000	Sun	600/341	6,294,897 B1	9/2001	Champlin	320/153
6,129,823 A	10/2000	Hughes	204/403.01	6,295,506 B1	9/2001	Heinonen	702/104
6,132,449 A	10/2000	Lum et al.	606/181	6,299,757 B1	10/2001	Feldman	205/775
6,133,837 A	10/2000	Riley	340/573.1	6,302,844 B1	10/2001	Walker	600/300
6,134,461 A	10/2000	Say	600/345	6,302,855 B1	10/2001	Lav	600/584
6,136,013 A	10/2000	Marshall et al.	606/167	6,305,804 B1	10/2001	Rice	351/221
6,139,562 A	10/2000	Mauze et al.	606/171	6,306,104 B1	10/2001	Cunningham et al.	600/573
6,143,164 A	11/2000	Heller et al.	205/777.5	6,306,152 B1	10/2001	Verdonk et al.	606/182
6,144,837 A	11/2000	Quy	434/307 R	6,306,347 B1	10/2001	Mason	422/58
6,151,586 A	11/2000	Brown	705/14	6,309,535 B1	10/2001	Williams	205/777.5
6,152,942 A	11/2000	Brenneman et al.	606/181	6,312,612 B1	11/2001	Sherman	216/2
6,153,069 A	11/2000	Pottgen	204/403	6,315,738 B1	11/2001	Nishikawa et al.	600/583
RE36,991 E	12/2000	Yamamoto et al.	204/403	6,319,210 B1	11/2001	Douglas et al.	600/583
6,155,267 A	12/2000	Nelson	128/899	6,322,574 B1	11/2001	Lloyd	606/181
6,155,992 A	12/2000	Henning et al.	600/583	6,329,161 B1	12/2001	Heller	435/14
6,156,051 A	12/2000	Schrage	606/181	6,330,426 B2	12/2001	Brown	434/307 R
6,157,442 A	12/2000	Raskas	356/39	6,331,163 B1	12/2001	Kaplan	600/486
6,159,424 A	12/2000	Kauhaniemi et al.	422/63	6,332,871 B1	12/2001	Douglas et al.	600/583
6,161,095 A	12/2000	Brown	705/2	6,334,363 B1	1/2002	Testud	73/862
6,162,611 A	12/2000	Heller	435/14	6,334,778 B1	1/2002	Brown	434/258
6,167,362 A	12/2000	Brown	703/11	6,334,856 B1	1/2002	Allen	604/191
6,167,386 A	12/2000	Brown	705/37	6,338,790 B1	1/2002	Feldman	205/777.5
6,168,563 B1	1/2001	Brown	600/301	6,349,229 B1	2/2002	Watanabe	600/345
6,171,325 B1	1/2001	Mauze et al.	356/446	6,350,273 B1	2/2002	Minagawa	606/186
6,175,752 B1	1/2001	Say	600/345	6,350,451 B1	2/2002	Horn	424/184.1
6,176,865 B1	1/2001	Mauze et al.	606/171	6,352,514 B1	3/2002	Douglas et al.	600/583
6,177,000 B1	1/2001	Peterson	205/777.5	6,352,523 B1	3/2002	Brown	604/207
6,183,489 B1	2/2001	Douglas et al.	606/181	6,353,753 B1	3/2002	Flock	600/473
6,186,145 B1	2/2001	Brown	128/897	6,364,889 B1	4/2002	Kheiri et al.	606/181
6,190,612 B1	2/2001	Berger	422/82.07	6,364,890 B1	4/2002	Lum et al.	606/181
6,191,852 B1	2/2001	Paffhausen	356/244	6,368,273 B1	4/2002	Brown	600/300
6,192,891 B1	2/2001	Gravel	128/920	6,375,469 B1	4/2002	Brown	434/236
6,193,673 B1	2/2001	Viola et al.	600/568	6,375,627 B1	4/2002	Mauze et al.	600/584
6,194,900 B1	2/2001	Freeman	324/321	6,379,301 B1	4/2002	Worthington	600/309
6,197,257 B1	3/2001	Raskas	422/82.05	6,379,317 B1	4/2002	Kintzig et al.	600/573
6,203,504 B1	3/2001	Latterell et al.	600/576	6,379,324 B1	4/2002	Gartstein	604/22
6,206,841 B1	3/2001	Cunningham et al.		6,379,969 B1	4/2002	Mauze et al.	436/68
6,210,272 B1	4/2001	Brown	463/1	6,381,577 B1	4/2002	Brown	705/2
6,210,420 B1 *	4/2001	Mauze et al.	606/182	6,387,709 B1	5/2002	Mason	436/164
6,210,421 B1	4/2001	Böcker et al.	606/182	6,391,005 B1 *	5/2002	Lum et al.	604/117
6,212,417 B1	4/2001	Ikeda	204/403.14	6,399,394 B1	6/2002	Dahm	436/180
6,214,804 B1	4/2001	Felgner	514/44	6,402,701 B1	6/2002	Kaplan et al.	600/567
6,221,238 B1	4/2001	Grundig	205/777.5	6,402,704 B1	6/2002	McMorrow	600/576
6,225,078 B1	5/2001	Ikeda	435/25	6,409,740 B1	6/2002	Kuhr et al.	606/182
6,228,100 B1	5/2001	Schrage	606/183	6,413,410 B1	7/2002	Hodges	205/775
6,230,501 B1	5/2001	Bailey	62/51.1	6,413,411 B1	7/2002	Pottgen	205/777.5
6,231,531 B1	5/2001	Lum et al.	601/46	6,421,633 B1	7/2002	Heinonen	703/11
6,233,471 B1	5/2001	Berner	600/345	6,428,664 B1	8/2002	Bhullar	204/403.03
6,233,539 B1	5/2001	Brown	703/11	6,436,256 B1	8/2002	Williams	204/403.06
6,240,393 B1	5/2001	Brown	705/1	6,436,721 B1	8/2002	Kuo	436/514
6,241,862 B1	6/2001	McAleer	204/403	6,440,645 B1	8/2002	Yon-Hin	430/322
6,245,060 B1	6/2001	Loomis	606/9	6,451,040 B1	9/2002	Purcell	606/181
6,246,992 B1	6/2001	Brown	705/2	6,458,258 B2	10/2002	Taniike	204/403
6,248,065 B1	6/2001	Brown	600/300	6,461,496 B1	10/2002	Feldman et al.	205/777.5
6,251,121 B1 *	6/2001	Saadat	606/180	6,462,162 B2	10/2002	van Antwerp	528/77
6,251,260 B1	6/2001	Heller	205/777.5	6,464,649 B1	10/2002	Duchon	600/583
6,254,831 B1	7/2001	Barnard	422/82.08	6,471,903 B2	10/2002	Sherman	264/328.1
6,256,533 B1	7/2001	Vuzhakov	604/21	6,472,220 B1	10/2002	Simons et al.	436/63
6,258,229 B1	7/2001	Winarta	204/403	6,475,436 B1	11/2002	Schabbach	422/64
6,258,254 B1	7/2001	Miyamoto	205/777.5	6,475,750 B1	11/2002	Han et al.	
6,261,241 B1	7/2001	Burbank et al.	600/564	6,477,394 B2	11/2002	Rice	600/318
6,261,245 B1	7/2001	Kawai et al.	600/576	6,477,424 B1	11/2002	Thompson	607/60
6,268,161 B1	7/2001	Han	435/14	6,484,046 B1	11/2002	Say	600/345
6,270,455 B1	8/2001	Brown	600/300	6,485,439 B1	11/2002	Roe et al.	600/578
6,270,637 B1	8/2001	Crismore	204/403	6,488,891 B2	12/2002	Mason et al.	422/58
6,272,359 B1	8/2001	Kivela	455/567	6,491,709 B2	12/2002	Sharma et al.	606/181
6,281,006 B1	8/2001	Heller	435/287.9	6,494,830 B1	12/2002	Wessel	600/300
6,283,926 B1	9/2001	Cunningham et al.	600/573	6,497,845 B1	12/2002	Sacherer	422/104
6,283,982 B1	9/2001	Levaughn	606/172	6,501,404 B2	12/2002	Walker	341/143

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 6

6,503,210 B1	1/2003	Hirao et al.	600/576	6,645,368 B1	11/2003	Beatty	205/792
6,503,231 B1	1/2003	Prausnitz	604/272	6,650,915 B2	11/2003	Routt	600/319
6,503,381 B1	1/2003	Gotoh	204/403.14	6,652,720 B1	11/2003	Mansouri	204/403.11
6,506,168 B1	1/2003	Fathallah	600/578	6,656,702 B1	12/2003	Yugawa	435/26
6,506,575 B1	1/2003	Knappe et al.	435/25	6,659,966 B2	12/2003	Essenpreis	600/583
6,508,785 B1	1/2003	Eppstein	604/113	6,660,018 B2	12/2003	Lum	606/181
6,514,270 B1	2/2003	Schrage	606/182	6,671,527 B2	12/2003	Peterson	600/316
6,514,460 B1	2/2003	Fendrock	422/55	6,679,841 B2	1/2004	Bojan	600/309
6,519,241 B1	2/2003	Theimer	370/338	6,679,852 B1	1/2004	Schmelzeisen-Redeker et al.	600/583
6,520,326 B2	2/2003	McIvor	206/305	6,706,000 B2 *	3/2004	Perez et al.	600/583
6,527,778 B2	3/2003	Athanasiou	606/80	6,706,049 B2	3/2004	Moerman	606/181
6,530,892 B1	3/2003	Kelly		6,706,159 B2 *	3/2004	Moerman et al.	204/403.03
6,530,937 B1	3/2003	Schrage	606/182	6,706,232 B2	3/2004	Hasegawa	264/403.09
6,533,949 B1	3/2003	Yeshurun	216/11	6,713,660 B1	3/2004	Roe	604/361
6,537,207 B1	3/2003	Rice	600/121	6,719,887 B2	4/2004	Hasegawa	204/403.09
6,537,242 B1	3/2003	Palmer	604/22	6,719,923 B2	4/2004	Stiene	252/511
6,537,292 B1	3/2003	Lee	606/182	6,721,586 B2	4/2004	Kiser	600/345
6,540,672 B1	4/2003	Simonsen	600/300	6,723,046 B2	4/2004	Lichtenstein	600/300
6,540,675 B2 *	4/2003	Aceti et al.	600/309	6,723,111 B2	4/2004	Abulhaj	606/181
6,540,762 B1	4/2003	Bertling	606/182	6,723,371 B2	4/2004	Chih-hui	472/2.13
6,540,891 B1	4/2003	Stewart	204/403.14	6,723,500 B2	4/2004	Yu	435/4
6,541,266 B2	4/2003	Modzelewski	436/95	6,726,818 B2	4/2004	Cui	204/403.01
6,547,954 B2	4/2003	Ikeda	205/777.5	6,733,493 B2	5/2004	Gruzdev	606/9
6,549,796 B2	4/2003	Sohrab	600/345	6,736,777 B2	5/2004	Kim	600/365
6,551,494 B1	4/2003	Heller et al.	205/777.5	6,740,215 B1	5/2004	Nakaminami	204/403.14
6,553,244 B2	4/2003	Lesho	600/347	6,743,211 B1	6/2004	Prausnitz	604/239
6,554,381 B2	4/2003	Locher	347/7	6,743,635 B2	6/2004	Neel	436/95
6,555,061 B1	4/2003	Leong	422/58	6,749,618 B2	6/2004	Levaughn	606/182
6,558,320 B1	5/2003	Causey	600/300	6,749,792 B2	6/2004	Olsen	264/328.1
6,558,361 B1	5/2003	Yeshurun	604/272	6,751,491 B2	6/2004	Lew	600/345
6,558,402 B1	5/2003	Chelak	606/182	6,752,817 B2	6/2004	Flora	606/181
6,558,528 B1	5/2003	Matzinger	205/777.5	6,759,190 B2	7/2004	Lin	435/4
6,560,471 B1	5/2003	Heller	600/347	6,764,496 B2	7/2004	Schrage	606/182
6,561,978 B1	5/2003	Conn	600/309	6,764,581 B1	7/2004	Forrow	204/403
6,561,989 B2	5/2003	Whitson	600/573	6,767,441 B1	7/2004	Cai	204/403.03
6,562,210 B1	5/2003	Bhullar	204/403.3	6,773,671 B1	8/2004	Lewis	422/58
6,565,509 B1	5/2003	Say et al.	600/365	6,776,888 B2	8/2004	Yamamoto	204/403.06
6,565,808 B2	5/2003	Hudak	422/58	6,780,645 B2	8/2004	Hayter	436/8
6,569,157 B1	5/2003	Shain	606/12	6,780,647 B2	8/2004	Fujiwara	436/169
6,571,651 B1	6/2003	Hodges	73/864.72	6,783,502 B2	8/2004	Orloff	600/583
6,572,566 B2	6/2003	Effenhauser	600/584	6,783,537 B1	8/2004	Kuhr	606/182
6,574,490 B2	6/2003	Abbink	600/316	6,784,274 B2	8/2004	van Antwerp	528/77
6,575,905 B2	6/2003	Knobbe	600/365	6,786,874 B2	9/2004	Grace	600/573
6,576,101 B1	6/2003	Heller	204/403.14	6,787,013 B2	9/2004	Chang	204/412
6,576,117 B1	6/2003	Iketaki et al.	205/777.5	6,787,109 B2	9/2004	Haar	422/82.05
6,576,416 B2	6/2003	Haviland	435/4	6,790,327 B2	9/2004	Ikeda et al.	204/403.1
6,582,573 B2	6/2003	Douglas	204/403.1	6,790,599 B1	9/2004	Madou	430/320
6,587,705 B1	7/2003	Kim et al.	600/347	6,792,791 B2	9/2004	Sato	73/1.02
6,589,260 B1	7/2003	Schmelzeisen-Redeker	606/181	6,793,632 B2	9/2004	Sohrab	600/573
6,589,261 B1	7/2003	Abulhaj	606/181	6,793,633 B2	9/2004	Douglas	600/583
6,591,124 B2 *	7/2003	Sherman et al.	600/345	6,793,802 B2	9/2004	Lee	205/777.5
6,591,125 B1	7/2003	Buse	600/347	6,797,150 B2	9/2004	Kermani	205/777.5
6,592,745 B1	7/2003	Feldman	205/777.5	6,800,488 B2	10/2004	Khan	436/166
6,595,919 B2	7/2003	Berner	600/365	6,801,041 B2	10/2004	Karinka	324/444
6,599,407 B2	7/2003	Taniike	204/403.1	6,801,804 B2	10/2004	Miller	604/20
6,599,693 B1	7/2003	Webb	435/4	6,802,199 B2	10/2004	Hilgers	72/370.1
6,602,205 B1	8/2003	Erickson	600/573	6,802,811 B1	10/2004	Slepian	600/309
6,602,268 B2	8/2003	Kuhr	606/181	6,802,957 B2	10/2004	Jung	205/777.5
6,602,678 B2	8/2003	Kwon	435/14	6,805,780 B1	10/2004	Ryu	204/403.01
6,604,050 B2	8/2003	Trippel	702/19	6,808,499 B1	10/2004	Churchill	600/587
6,607,494 B1	8/2003	Fowler	600/570	6,808,908 B2	10/2004	Yao	435/181
6,607,658 B1	8/2003	Heller	205/777.5	6,808,937 B2	10/2004	Ligler	436/518
6,616,616 B2	9/2003	Fritz	600/583	6,809,807 B1	10/2004	Erickson	356/213
6,616,819 B1	9/2003	Liamos	204/403.02	6,811,557 B2	11/2004	Schrage	606/182
6,618,934 B1	9/2003	Feldman	29/830	6,811,659 B2	11/2004	Vachon	204/224
6,620,112 B2	9/2003	Klitmose	600/583	6,811,753 B2	11/2004	Hirao	422/101
6,623,501 B2	9/2003	Heller	606/181	6,811,792 B2	11/2004	Roser	424/423
6,626,851 B2	9/2003	Hirao	600/576	6,812,031 B1	11/2004	Carlsson	436/52
6,635,222 B2	10/2003	Kent	422/22	6,814,843 B1	11/2004	Bhullar	204/403.01
6,638,772 B1	10/2003	Douglas	436/518	6,814,844 B2	11/2004	Bhullar	204/403.1
6,641,533 B2	11/2003	Causey	600/300	6,814,845 B2	11/2004	Wilson	204/486
6,645,142 B2	11/2003	Braig	600/300	6,815,186 B2	11/2004	Clark	435/183
6,645,219 B2	11/2003	Roe	606/182				

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 7

6,816,742 B2	11/2004	Kim	600/345	6,916,410 B2	7/2005	Katsuki	204/403
6,818,180 B2	11/2004	Douglas	422/58	6,918,874 B1	7/2005	Hatch	600/365
6,821,483 B2	11/2004	Phillips et al.	422/58	6,918,918 B1	7/2005	Schrage	606/182
6,823,750 B2	11/2004	Hodges	73/864.72	6,922,576 B2	7/2005	Raskas	600/316
6,825,047 B1	11/2004	Woudenberg	436/518	6,922,578 B2	7/2005	Eppstein	600/347
6,827,250 B2	12/2004	Uhland	228/110.1	6,923,764 B2	8/2005	Aceti	600/309
6,827,829 B2	12/2004	Kawanaka	204/403.02	6,923,894 B2	8/2005	Huang	204/403.06
6,830,551 B1	12/2004	Uchigaki	600/584	6,923,936 B2	8/2005	Swanson	422/22
6,830,668 B2	12/2004	Musho	204/400	6,924,093 B2	8/2005	Haviland	435/4
6,830,669 B2	12/2004	Miyazaki	204/409	6,925,317 B1	8/2005	Samuels	600/344
6,833,540 B2	12/2004	MacKenzie	250/214	6,925,393 B1	8/2005	Kalatz	702/27
6,835,184 B1	12/2004	Sage	604/46	6,929,649 B2	8/2005	Pugh	606/182
6,835,553 B2	12/2004	Han	435/14	6,929,650 B2	8/2005	Fukuzawa	606/182
6,837,858 B2	1/2005	Cunningham	600/573	6,931,327 B2	8/2005	Goode	702/22
6,837,976 B2	1/2005	Cai	204/403.14	6,931,328 B2	8/2005	Braig	702/23
6,837,988 B2	1/2005	Leong	205/792	6,939,310 B2	9/2005	Matzinger	600/573
6,840,912 B2	1/2005	Kloepfer	600/583	6,939,312 B2	9/2005	Hodges	600/583
6,841,052 B2	1/2005	Musho	204/401	6,939,450 B2	9/2005	Karinka	204/409
6,843,254 B2	1/2005	Tapper	128/898	6,940,591 B2	9/2005	Sopp	356/244
6,847,451 B2	1/2005	Pugh	356/436	6,942,518 B2	9/2005	Liamos	439/495
6,849,052 B2	2/2005	Uchigaki	600/584	6,942,769 B2	9/2005	Cheng	204/400
6,849,168 B2	2/2005	Crumly et al.	204/416	6,942,770 B2	9/2005	Cai	204/403.04
6,849,216 B2	2/2005	Rappin	264/134	6,944,486 B2	9/2005	Braig	600/310
6,850,790 B2	2/2005	Berner	600/347	6,945,943 B2	9/2005	Pugh	600/584
6,869,418 B2	3/2005	Marano-Ford	604/192	6,946,067 B2	9/2005	Hodges	205/792
6,872,200 B2	3/2005	Mann	604/890.1	6,946,098 B2	9/2005	Miekka	422/22
6,875,208 B2	4/2005	Santini	604/890.1	6,946,299 B2	9/2005	Neel	436/95
6,875,223 B2	4/2005	Argauer	606/181	6,949,111 B2	9/2005	Schrage	606/182
6,875,613 B2	4/2005	Shartle	436/63	6,949,221 B2	9/2005	Kiser	422/56
6,878,120 B2	4/2005	Roe	600/583	6,951,631 B1	10/2005	Catt	422/56
6,878,251 B2	4/2005	Hodges	204/403.14	6,951,728 B2	10/2005	Qian	435/14
6,878,255 B1	4/2005	Wang	204/452	6,952,603 B2	10/2005	Gerber	600/310
6,878,262 B2	4/2005	Taniike	205/777.5	6,952,604 B2	10/2005	DeNuzzio	600/345
6,880,968 B1	4/2005	Haar	374/131	6,953,693 B2	10/2005	Neel	436/149
6,881,203 B2	4/2005	Delmore	604/272	6,954,662 B2	10/2005	Freger	600/316
6,881,322 B2	4/2005	Tokunaga	205/775	6,958,072 B2	10/2005	Schrage	606/182
6,881,378 B1	4/2005	Zimmer	422/58	6,958,129 B2	10/2005	Galen	422/57
6,881,550 B2	4/2005	Phillips	435/14	6,958,809 B2	10/2005	Sterling	356/39
6,881,551 B2	4/2005	Heller	435/14	6,959,211 B2	10/2005	Rule	600/310
6,881,578 B2	4/2005	Otake	436/44	6,959,247 B2	10/2005	Neel	702/19
6,882,940 B2	4/2005	Potts	702/23	6,960,287 B2	11/2005	Charlton	205/775
6,884,592 B2	4/2005	Matzinger	435/7.1	6,960,289 B2	11/2005	Hodges	205/778
6,885,196 B2	4/2005	Taniike	324/444	6,964,871 B2	11/2005	Bell	436/95
6,885,883 B2	4/2005	Parris	600/347	6,965,791 B1	11/2005	Hitchcock	600/345
6,887,239 B2	5/2005	Elstrom	606/41	6,966,880 B2	11/2005	Boecker	600/583
6,887,253 B2	5/2005	Schrage	606/181	6,966,977 B2	11/2005	Hasegawa	204/403.07
6,887,254 B1	5/2005	Curie	606/181	6,967,105 B2	11/2005	Nomura	436/169
6,887,426 B2	5/2005	Phillips	422/56	6,968,375 B1	11/2005	Brown	709/224
6,887,709 B2	5/2005	Leong	436/8	6,969,359 B2	11/2005	Duchon	600/583
6,889,069 B2	5/2005	Routt	600/319	6,969,450 B2	11/2005	Taniike	204/403.01
6,890,319 B1	5/2005	Crocker	604/131	6,969,451 B2	11/2005	Shin	204/412
6,890,421 B2	5/2005	Ohara	205/777.5	6,973,706 B2	12/2005	Say	29/595
6,890,484 B2	5/2005	Bautista	422/58	6,975,893 B2	12/2005	Say	600/347
6,891,936 B2	5/2005	Kai	379/106.02	6,977,032 B2	12/2005	Hasegawa	204/403.05
6,892,085 B2	5/2005	McIvor	600/347	6,979,544 B2	12/2005	Keen	435/6
6,893,396 B2	5/2005	Schulze	600/300	6,979,571 B2	12/2005	Modzelewski	436/164
6,893,545 B2	5/2005	Gotoh	204/403.5	6,982,027 B2	1/2006	Yagi	204/403.06
6,893,552 B1	5/2005	Wang	205/777.5	6,983,176 B2	1/2006	Gardner	600/310
6,895,263 B2	5/2005	Shin	600/316	6,983,177 B2	1/2006	Rule	600/310
6,895,264 B2	5/2005	Rice	600/319	6,984,307 B2	1/2006	Zweig	205/777.5
6,895,265 B2	5/2005	Silver	600/345	6,986,777 B2	1/2006	Kim	606/182
6,896,793 B2	5/2005	Erdosy	205/775	6,986,869 B2	1/2006	Tuohy	422/56
6,897,788 B2	5/2005	Khair	340/870.16	6,988,996 B2	1/2006	Roe	600/584
6,902,905 B2	6/2005	Burson	435/14	6,989,243 B2	1/2006	Yani	435/14
6,904,301 B2	6/2005	Raskas	600/310	6,989,891 B2	1/2006	Braig	356/39
6,905,733 B2	6/2005	Russell	427/393.5	6,990,365 B1	1/2006	Parker	600/328
6,908,008 B2	6/2005	Pugh	221/135	6,990,366 B2	1/2006	Say	600/345
6,908,535 B2	6/2005	Rankin	204/406	6,990,367 B2	1/2006	Kiser et al.	600/345
6,908,591 B2	6/2005	MacPhee	422/22	6,990,849 B2	1/2006	Bohm	73/53.01
6,908,593 B1	6/2005	Shartle	422/58	6,991,918 B2	1/2006	Keith	435/31
6,911,130 B2	6/2005	Brenneman	204/400	6,991,940 B2	1/2006	Carroll	436/514
6,911,131 B2	6/2005	Miyazaki	204/403.14	6,994,825 B2	2/2006	Haviland	422/58
6,911,621 B2	6/2005	Bhullar	219/121.69	6,997,317 B2	2/2006	Catelli	206/438

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 8

6,997,343 B2	2/2006	May	221/232	7,066,884 B2	6/2006	Custer	600/309
6,997,344 B2	2/2006	Brown	221/258	7,066,885 B2	6/2006	Erickson	600/309
6,997,936 B2	2/2006	Marshall	606/181	7,070,564 B2	7/2006	Matzinger	600/300
6,998,247 B2	2/2006	Monfre	435/14	7,070,680 B2	7/2006	Bae	204/403.04
6,998,248 B2	2/2006	Yani	435/14	7,073,246 B2	7/2006	Bhullar	29/595
6,999,810 B2	2/2006	Berner	600/345	7,074,307 B2	7/2006	Simpson	204/403.04
7,001,343 B2	2/2006	Erickson	600/573	7,074,308 B2	7/2006	Mao	204/403.14
7,001,344 B2	2/2006	Freeman	600/583	7,077,328 B2	7/2006	Krishnaswamy	235/472.01
7,003,337 B2	2/2006	Harjunmaa	600/316	7,077,828 B2	7/2006	Kuhr	604/207
7,003,340 B2	2/2006	Say	600/345	7,078,480 B2	7/2006	Nagel	530/322
7,003,341 B2	2/2006	Say	600/345	7,081,188 B1	7/2006	Cho	204/403.04
7,004,928 B2	2/2006	Aceti	604/191	7,083,712 B2	8/2006	Morita	205/775
7,005,048 B1	2/2006	Watanabe	204/403.04	7,086,277 B2	8/2006	Tess	73/53.01
7,005,273 B2	2/2006	Heller	435/25	7,087,149 B1	8/2006	Muguruma	205/778
7,005,459 B2	2/2006	Hekal	523/102	7,090,764 B2	8/2006	Iyengar	205/775
7,005,857 B2	2/2006	Stiene	324/449	7,096,053 B2	8/2006	Loeb	600/317
7,006,857 B2	2/2006	Braig	600/310	7,096,124 B2	8/2006	Sterling	702/23
7,006,858 B2	2/2006	Silver	600/345	7,097,631 B2	8/2006	Trautman	604/46
7,008,384 B2	3/2006	Tapper	600/345	7,098,038 B2	8/2006	Fukuoka	436/164
7,010,432 B2	3/2006	Kermani	702/19	7,103,578 B2	9/2006	Beck	705/75
7,011,630 B2	3/2006	Desai	600/309	7,105,066 B2	9/2006	Jeong et al.	606/182
7,011,954 B2	3/2006	Ouyang	435/7.9	7,107,253 B1	9/2006	Sumner	706/45
7,014,615 B2	3/2006	Erickson	600/573	7,108,680 B2	9/2006	Rohr	604/151
7,015,262 B2	3/2006	Leong	523/205	7,108,778 B2	9/2006	Simpson	205/778
7,016,713 B2	3/2006	Gardner	600/310	7,109,271 B2	9/2006	Liu	525/283
7,018,568 B2	3/2006	Tierney	252/511	7,110,112 B2	9/2006	Uchida	356/364
7,018,848 B2	3/2006	Douglas	436/524	7,110,803 B2	9/2006	Shults	600/347
7,022,217 B2	4/2006	Hodges	205/777.5	7,112,265 B1	9/2006	McAleer	204/403.09
7,022,218 B2	4/2006	Taniike	205/777.5	7,112,451 B2	9/2006	Takahashi	436/514
7,022,286 B2	4/2006	Lemke	422/67	7,115,362 B2	10/2006	Douglas	435/4
7,024,236 B2	4/2006	Ford	600/345	7,118,351 B2	10/2006	Effenhauser	417/208
7,024,248 B2	4/2006	Penner	607/60	7,118,667 B2	10/2006	Lee	205/777.5
7,024,399 B2	4/2006	Sumner	706/45	7,118,668 B1	10/2006	Edelbrock	205/777.5
7,025,425 B2	4/2006	Kovatchev	300/365	7,118,916 B2	10/2006	Matzinger	436/34
7,025,774 B2	4/2006	Freeman	606/181	7,118,919 B2	10/2006	Yatscoff	436/56
7,027,848 B2	4/2006	Robinson	600/310	7,120,483 B2	10/2006	Russell	600/345
7,029,444 B2	4/2006	Shin	600/365	7,122,102 B2	10/2006	Wogoman	204/400
7,033,322 B2	4/2006	Silver	600/486	7,122,110 B2	10/2006	Deng	205/777.5
7,033,371 B2	4/2006	Alden	606/181	7,122,111 B2	10/2006	Tokunaga	205/792
7,039,560 B2	5/2006	Kawatahara	702/187	7,125,481 B2	10/2006	Musho	205/775
7,041,057 B1	5/2006	Faupel	600/365	7,129,038 B2	10/2006	Gopalan	435/4
7,041,063 B2	5/2006	Abreu	600/549	RE39,390 E	11/2006	Hasegawa	204/403.09
7,041,068 B2	5/2006	Freeman	600/583	D531,725 S	11/2006	Loerwald	D24/146
7,041,254 B2	5/2006	Haviland	422/58	7,131,342 B2	11/2006	Hodges	73/864.72
7,041,468 B2	5/2006	Drucker	435/14	7,131,984 B2	11/2006	Sato	606/182
7,043,287 B1	5/2006	Khalil	600/310	7,132,041 B2	11/2006	Deng	205/777.5
7,044,911 B2	5/2006	Drinan	600/300	7,133,710 B2	11/2006	Acosta	600/316
7,045,054 B1	5/2006	Buck	205/778	7,134,999 B2	11/2006	Brauker	600/309
7,045,097 B2	5/2006	Kovacs	422/82.08	7,135,100 B1	11/2006	Lau	204/403.14
7,045,310 B2	5/2006	Buck	435/7.93	7,137,957 B2	11/2006	Erickson	600/573
7,045,361 B2	5/2006	Heiss	436/172	7,138,041 B2	11/2006	Su	204/403.04
7,047,070 B2	5/2006	Wilkinson	604/20	7,138,089 B2	11/2006	Aitken	422/82.01
7,047,795 B2	5/2006	Sato	73/64.56	7,141,058 B2	11/2006	Briggs	606/181
7,049,130 B2	5/2006	Carroll	435/287.2	7,144,404 B2	12/2006	Whitson	606/181
7,050,843 B2	5/2006	Shartle	600/345	7,144,485 B2	12/2006	Hsu	204/403.02
7,051,495 B2	5/2006	Lang	53/475	7,144,495 B2	12/2006	Teodorezyk	205/792
7,052,268 B2	5/2006	Powell	425/542	7,144,496 B2	12/2006	Meserol	205/792
7,052,591 B2	5/2006	Gao	204/490	7,147,825 B2	12/2006	Matsuda	422/58
7,052,652 B2	5/2006	Zanzucchi	422/82.05	7,150,755 B2	12/2006	Levaughn	606/181
7,052,864 B2	5/2006	Durkop	435/25	7,150,975 B2	12/2006	Tamada	435/14
7,054,682 B2	5/2006	Young	604/20	7,150,995 B2	12/2006	Xie	436/67
7,054,759 B2	5/2006	Fukunaga	702/23	7,153,696 B2	12/2006	Fukuoka	436/164
D523,555 S	6/2006	Loerwald	D24/146	7,155,371 B2	12/2006	Kawatahara	702/187
7,056,425 B2	6/2006	Hasegawa	204/403.04	7,160,251 B2	1/2007	Neel	600/365
7,056,495 B2	6/2006	Roser	424/45	7,160,313 B2	1/2007	Galloway	606/167
7,058,437 B2	6/2006	Buse	600/347	7,163,616 B2	1/2007	Vreeke	205/777.5
7,060,059 B2	6/2006	Keith	604/504	7,166,074 B2	1/2007	Reghabi	600/365
7,060,192 B2	6/2006	Yuzhakov	216/11	7,167,734 B2	1/2007	Khalil	600/310
7,061,593 B2	6/2006	Braig	356/39	7,167,818 B2	1/2007	Brown	703/11
7,063,234 B2	6/2006	Giraud	221/271	2001/0011157 A1	8/2001	Latterell	600/576
7,063,774 B2	6/2006	Bhullar	204/403.02	2001/0016682 A1	8/2001	Berner	600/345
7,063,775 B2	6/2006	Yamaoka	204/403.06	2001/0017269 A1	8/2001	Heller	205/777.5
7,063,776 B2	6/2006	Huang	204/403.14	2001/0027328 A1	10/2001	Lum	606/186

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 9

2001/0031931 A1	10/2001	Cunningham et al.	600/573	2003/0163351 A1	8/2003	Brown	705/2
2001/0054319 A1	12/2001	Heller	73/849	2003/0178322 A1	9/2003	Iyengar	205/775
2002/0002344 A1	1/2002	Douglas et al.	600/583	2003/0191415 A1	10/2003	Moerman	600/584
2002/0004196 A1	1/2002	Whitson	435/4	2003/0195435 A1	10/2003	Williams	600/583
2002/0016568 A1 *	2/2002	Lebel et al.	604/131	2003/0195540 A1	10/2003	Moerman	606/181
2002/0016606 A1	2/2002	Moerman	606/181	2003/0199744 A1	10/2003	Buse	600/347
2002/0019748 A1	2/2002	Brown	705/2	2003/0199789 A1	10/2003	Boecker	600/575
2002/0025469 A1	2/2002	Heller	429/43	2003/0199790 A1	10/2003	Boecker	600/576
2002/0029058 A1	3/2002	Levaughn	606/181	2003/0199791 A1	10/2003	Boecker	600/576
2002/0040230 A1	4/2002	Kuhr	606/181	2003/0199891 A1	10/2003	Argauer	606/181
2002/0042090 A1	4/2002	Heller	435/14	2003/0199893 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0044890 A1	4/2002	Black	422/56	2003/0199894 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0052618 A1	5/2002	Haar	606/181	2003/0199895 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0053523 A1	5/2002	Liamos et al.	205/787	2003/0199896 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0057993 A1	5/2002	Maisey	422/82.01	2003/0199897 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0076349 A1	6/2002	Aitken	422/58	2003/0199898 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0078091 A1	6/2002	Vu	707/513	2003/0199899 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0081559 A1	6/2002	Brown	434/307 R	2003/0199900 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0081588 A1	6/2002	Lumley-Woodyear	435/6	2003/0199901 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0082543 A1	6/2002	Park et al.	604/21	2003/0199902 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0084196 A1	7/2002	Liamos	205/792	2003/0199903 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0087056 A1	7/2002	Aceti		2003/0199904 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0092612 A1	7/2002	Davies	156/292	2003/0199905 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0103499 A1	8/2002	Perez et al.	606/182	2003/0199906 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0120216 A1	8/2002	Fritz	600/583	2003/0199907 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0120261 A1	8/2002	Morris	606/41	2003/0199908 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0130042 A1	9/2002	Moerman	204/403.01	2003/0199909 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0133377 A1	9/2002	Brown	705/3	2003/0199910 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0136667 A1	9/2002	Subramanian	422/100	2003/0199911 A1	10/2003	Boecker	606/181
2002/0136863 A1	9/2002	Subramanian	428/156	2003/0199912 A1	10/2003	Pugh	606/182
2002/0137998 A1	9/2002	Smart	600/347	2003/0201194 A1	10/2003	Heller	205/777.5
2002/0138040 A1	9/2002	Flora	604/116	2003/0203352 A1	10/2003	Haviland	435/4
2002/0148739 A2	10/2002	Liamos	205/787	2003/0206828 A1	11/2003	Bell	422/44
2002/0160520 A1	10/2002	Orloff	436/72	2003/0208140 A1	11/2003	Pugh	600/584
2002/0161289 A1	10/2002	Hopkins	600/322	2003/0212344 A1	11/2003	Yuzhakov	600/583
2002/0168290 A1	11/2002	Yuzhakov et al.	422/56	2003/0212345 A1	11/2003	McAllister	600/584
2002/0176984 A1	11/2002	Smart	428/336	2003/0212346 A1	11/2003	McAllister	600/584
2002/0177761 A1	11/2002	Orloff	600/309	2003/0212347 A1	11/2003	Sohrab	600/584
2002/0188224 A1	12/2002	Roe	600/584	2003/0212423 A1	11/2003	Pugh	606/181
2003/0018282 A1	1/2003	Effenhauser	600/583	2003/0212424 A1	11/2003	Briggs	606/181
2003/0018300 A1	1/2003	Duchon	604/164.01	2003/0212579 A1	11/2003	Brown	705/2
2003/0028125 A1	2/2003	Yuzhakov		2003/0216767 A1	11/2003	List et al.	606/181
2003/0028126 A1	2/2003	List	600/583	2003/0217918 A1	11/2003	Davies	204/403.14
2003/0050537 A1	3/2003	Wessel	600/300	2003/0220552 A1	11/2003	Reghabi	600/365
2003/0050573 A1	3/2003	Kuhr	600/567	2003/0220663 A1	11/2003	Fletcher	606/182
2003/0050656 A1	3/2003	Schraga	606/182	2003/0223906 A1	12/2003	McAllister	422/58
2003/0060730 A1	3/2003	Perez	600/575	2003/0225317 A1	12/2003	Schell	600/300
2003/0069753 A1	4/2003	Brown	705/2	2003/0225429 A1	12/2003	Garthe	606/182
2003/0073089 A1	4/2003	Mauze	435/6	2003/0225430 A1	12/2003	Schraga	606/182
2003/0073229 A1	4/2003	Greenstein	435/287.2	2003/0228637 A1	12/2003	Wang	435/7.9
2003/0073931 A1	4/2003	Boecker	600/573	2003/0229514 A2	12/2003	Brown	705/2
2003/0083685 A1	5/2003	Freeman	606/181	2003/0232370 A1	12/2003	Trifiro	435/6
2003/0083686 A1	5/2003	Freeman	606/181	2003/0233055 A1	12/2003	Erickson	600/573
2003/0088160 A1	5/2003	Halleck	600/300	2003/0233112 A1	12/2003	Alden et al.	606/181
2003/0088191 A1	5/2003	Freeman et al.	600/583	2003/0233113 A1	12/2003	Alden et al.	606/182
2003/0089730 A1	5/2003	May	221/232	2004/0006285 A1	1/2004	Douglas	600/583
2003/0093010 A1	5/2003	Essenpreis	600/583	2004/0007585 A1	1/2004	Griffith	221/232
2003/0100040 A1	5/2003	Bonnecaze	435/14	2004/0009100 A1	1/2004	Simons	422/102
2003/0106810 A1	6/2003	Douglas	205/777.5	2004/0010279 A1	1/2004	Freeman	606/182
2003/0109777 A1	6/2003	Kloepfer	600/367	2004/0015064 A1	1/2004	Parsons	600/347
2003/0111357 A1	6/2003	Black	205/775	2004/0019250 A1	1/2004	Catelli	600/1
2003/0113827 A1	6/2003	Burkoth	435/14	2004/0019259 A1	1/2004	Brown	600/300
2003/0116447 A1	6/2003	Sturridge	205/777.5	2004/0026243 A1	2/2004	Davies	204/403.14
2003/0135333 A1	7/2003	Aceti	702/31	2004/0030353 A1	2/2004	Schmelzeisen	606/201
2003/0139653 A1	7/2003	Manser	600/300	2004/0031682 A1	2/2004	Wilsey	204/403.1
2003/0143113 A2	7/2003	Yuzhakov	422/56	2004/0034318 A1	2/2004	Fritz	604/19
2003/0144608 A1	7/2003	Kojima	600/583	2004/0038045 A1	2/2004	Smart	428/446
2003/0144609 A1	7/2003	Kennedy	600/583	2004/0039303 A1	2/2004	Wurster	600/584
2003/0146110 A1	8/2003	Karinka	205/777.5	2004/0039342 A1	2/2004	Eppstein	604/200
2003/0149348 A1	8/2003	Raskas	600/310	2004/0039407 A1	2/2004	Schraga	606/181
2003/0149377 A1	8/2003	Erickson	600/573	2004/0039408 A1	2/2004	Abulhaj	606/181
2003/0153900 A1	8/2003	Aceti	604/890.1	2004/0049219 A1	3/2004	Briggs	606/181
2003/0159944 A1	8/2003	Pottgen	205/777.5	2004/0049220 A1	3/2004	Boecker	606/181

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 10

2004/0050694 A1	3/2004	Yang	204/403.02	2004/0193201 A1	9/2004	Kim	606/181
2004/0054267 A1	3/2004	Feldman	600/316	2004/0193377 A1	9/2004	Brown	702/19
2004/0054898 A1	3/2004	Heller	205/777.5	2004/0194302 A1	10/2004	Bhullar	29/847
2004/0059256 A1	3/2004	Perez	600/583	2004/0197231 A1	10/2004	Katsuki	422/68.1
2004/0060818 A1	4/2004	Feldman	204/403.01	2004/0197821 A1	10/2004	Bauer	437/7.1
2004/0061841 A1	4/2004	Black	355/30	2004/0199062 A1	10/2004	Petersson	600/316
2004/0064068 A1	4/2004	DeNuzzio	600/583	2004/0199409 A1	10/2004	Brown	705/3
2004/0087990 A1	5/2004	Boecker	606/181	2004/0200720 A1	10/2004	Musho	204/403.01
2004/0092842 A1	5/2004	Boecker	600/575	2004/0200721 A1	10/2004	Bhullar	204/403.01
2004/0092994 A1	5/2004	Briggs	606/181	2004/0202576 A1	10/2004	Aceti	422/82.05
2004/0092995 A1	5/2004	Boecker	606/181	2004/0204662 A1	10/2004	Perez	600/583
2004/0096991 A1	5/2004	Zhang	436/518	2004/0206625 A1	10/2004	Bhullar	204/403.1
2004/0098009 A1	5/2004	Boecker	606/181	2004/0206636 A1	10/2004	Hodges	205/792
2004/0098010 A1	5/2004	Davison	606/181	2004/0206658 A1	10/2004	Hammerstedt	206/524.1
2004/0102803 A1	5/2004	Boecker	606/183	2004/0209307 A1	10/2004	Valkirs	435/7.1
2004/0106855 A1	6/2004	Brown	600/301	2004/0209350 A1	10/2004	Sakata	435/287.1
2004/0106858 A1	6/2004	Say	600/345	2004/0209354 A1	10/2004	Mathies	435/287.2
2004/0106859 A1	6/2004	Say	600/345	2004/0210279 A1	10/2004	Gruzdev	607/89
2004/0106860 A1	6/2004	Say	600/345	2004/0211666 A1	10/2004	Pamidi	204/403.01
2004/0106904 A1	6/2004	Gonnelli	604/173	2004/0214253 A1	10/2004	Paek	435/7.92
2004/0106941 A1	6/2004	Roe	606/181	2004/0215224 A1	10/2004	Sakata	606/181
2004/0107116 A1	6/2004	Brown	705/2	2004/0215225 A1	10/2004	Nakayama	606/182
2004/0115754 A1	6/2004	Chang	435/14	2004/0216516 A1	11/2004	Sato	73/64.56
2004/0115831 A1	6/2004	Meathrel	436/514	2004/0217019 A1	11/2004	Cai	205/792
2004/0116780 A1	6/2004	Brown	600/300	2004/0219500 A1	11/2004	Brown	434/307 R
2004/0116829 A1	6/2004	Raney	600/573	2004/0219535 A1	11/2004	Bell	435/6
2004/0117207 A1	6/2004	Brown	705/2	2004/0220456 A1	11/2004	Eppstein	600/309
2004/0117208 A1	6/2004	Brown	705/2	2004/0220495 A1	11/2004	Cahir	600/562
2004/0117209 A1	6/2004	Brown	705/2	2004/0220564 A1	11/2004	Ho	606/47
2004/0117210 A1	6/2004	Brown	705/2	2004/0220603 A1	11/2004	Rutynowski	606/181
2004/0122339 A1	6/2004	Roe	600/583	2004/0222092 A1	11/2004	Musho	204/401
2004/0127818 A1	7/2004	Roe	600/583	2004/0224369 A1	11/2004	Cai	435/7.7
2004/0127819 A1	7/2004	Roe	600/583	2004/0225230 A1	11/2004	Liamos	600/583
2004/0127928 A1	7/2004	Whitson	606/181	2004/0225311 A1	11/2004	Levaughn	606/181
2004/0127929 A1	7/2004	Roe	606/181	2004/0225312 A1	11/2004	Orloff	606/182
2004/0132167 A1	7/2004	Rule	435/287.1	2004/0230216 A1	11/2004	Levaughn	606/181
2004/0133125 A1	7/2004	Miyashita	600/573	2004/0231984 A1	11/2004	Lauks	204/416
2004/0133127 A1	7/2004	Roe	600/583	2004/0232009 A1	11/2004	Okuda	205/789
2004/0137640 A1	7/2004	Hirao	436/514	2004/0236250 A1	11/2004	Hodges	600/583
2004/0138541 A1	7/2004	Ward	600/345	2004/0236251 A1	11/2004	Roe	600/583
2004/0138588 A1	7/2004	Saikley	600/583	2004/0236268 A1	11/2004	Mitragotri	604/20
2004/0138688 A1	7/2004	Giraud	606/181	2004/0236362 A1	11/2004	Schraga	606/181
2004/0146958 A1	7/2004	Bae	435/14	2004/0238357 A1	12/2004	Bhullar	204/400
2004/0154932 A1	8/2004	Deng	205/777.5	2004/0238358 A1	12/2004	Forrow	204/403
2004/0157017 A1	8/2004	Mauze	428/35.7	2004/0238359 A1	12/2004	Ikeda	204/403.1
2004/0157149 A1	8/2004	Hofmann	430/131	2004/0241746 A1	12/2004	Adlassnig	435/7.1
2004/0157319 A1	8/2004	Keen	435/287.1	2004/0242977 A1	12/2004	Dosmann	600/315
2004/0157338 A1	8/2004	Burke	436/147	2004/0243164 A1	12/2004	D'Agostino	606/181
2004/0157339 A1	8/2004	Burke	436/149	2004/0243165 A1	12/2004	Koike	606/181
2004/0158137 A1	8/2004	Eppstein	600/347	2004/0245101 A1	12/2004	Willner	204/403
2004/0158271 A1	8/2004	Hamamoto	606/181	2004/0248282 A1	12/2004	Sobha	435/287.2
2004/0161737 A1	8/2004	Yang	435/5	2004/0248312 A1	12/2004	Vreeke	436/95
2004/0162473 A1	8/2004	Sohrab	600/345	2004/0249254 A1	12/2004	Racchini	600/347
2004/0162474 A1	8/2004	Kiser	600/345	2004/0249310 A1	12/2004	Shartle	600/583
2004/0162506 A1	8/2004	Duchon	600/583	2004/0249311 A1	12/2004	Haar	600/584
2004/0162573 A1	8/2004	Keheiri	606/182	2004/0249405 A1	12/2004	Watanabe	606/181
2004/0167383 A1	8/2004	Kim	600/365	2004/0249406 A1	12/2004	Griffin	606/182
2004/0171057 A1	9/2004	Yang	435/6	2004/0251131 A1	12/2004	Ueno	204/403
2004/0171968 A1	9/2004	Katsuki	600/583	2004/0253634 A1	12/2004	Wang	435/7.1
2004/0172000 A1	9/2004	Roe	604/361	2004/0254434 A1	12/2004	Goodnow	600/365
2004/0173472 A1	9/2004	Jung	205/777.5	2004/0254599 A1	12/2004	Lipoma	606/181
2004/0173488 A1	9/2004	Griffin	206/363	2004/0256228 A1	12/2004	Huang	204/434
2004/0176705 A1	9/2004	Stevens	600/584	2004/0256248 A1	12/2004	Burke	205/792
2004/0176732 A1	9/2004	Frazier	604/345	2004/0256685 A1	12/2004	Chou	257/414
2004/0178066 A1	9/2004	Miyazaki	204/403.01	2004/0258564 A1	12/2004	Charlton	422/58
2004/0178067 A1	9/2004	Miyazaki	204/403.1	2004/0260204 A1	12/2004	Boecker	600/584
2004/0178216 A1	9/2004	Brickwood	221/268	2004/0260324 A1	12/2004	Fukuzawa	606/181
2004/0180379 A1	9/2004	van Duyne	435/7.1	2004/0260325 A1	12/2004	Kuhr	606/181
2004/0182703 A1	9/2004	Bell	204/403.11	2004/0260326 A1	12/2004	Lipoma	606/182
2004/0185568 A1	9/2004	Matsumoto	436/8	2004/0260511 A1	12/2004	Burke	702/182
2004/0186359 A1	9/2004	Beaudoin	600/310	2004/0267105 A1	12/2004	Monfre	600/344
2004/0186394 A1	9/2004	Roe	600/598	2004/0267160 A9	12/2004	Perez	600/583
2004/0186500 A1	9/2004	Koike	606/181	2004/0267229 A1	12/2004	Moerman	604/500

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 11

2004/0267299	A1	12/2004	Kuriger	606/181	2005/0098433	A1	5/2005	Grundel	204/403.2
2004/0267300	A1	12/2004	Mace	606/182	2005/0098434	A1	5/2005	Grundel	204/403.02
2005/0000806	A1	1/2005	Hsieh	203/403.1	2005/0100880	A1	5/2005	Chang	435/4
2005/0000807	A1	1/2005	Wang	204/403.81	2005/0101841	A9	5/2005	Kaylor	600/300
2005/0000808	A1	1/2005	Cui	203/403.14	2005/0101979	A1	5/2005	Alden	606/181
2005/0003470	A1	1/2005	Nelson	435/14	2005/0101980	A1	5/2005	Alden	606/181
2005/0004437	A1	1/2005	Kaufmann	600/300	2005/0101981	A1	5/2005	Alden	606/181
2005/0004494	A1	1/2005	Perez	600/583	2005/0103624	A1	5/2005	Bhullar	204/403.01
2005/0008537	A1	1/2005	Mosolu	422/56	2005/0106713	A1	5/2005	Phan	435/287.2
2005/0008851	A1	1/2005	Ezoe	428/336	2005/0109637	A1	5/2005	Iyengar	205/775
2005/0009191	A1	1/2005	Swenson	436/43	2005/0112782	A1	5/2005	Buechler	436/518
2005/0010090	A1	1/2005	Acosta	600/316	2005/0113658	A1	5/2005	Jacobson	600/342
2005/0010093	A1	1/2005	Ford	600/345	2005/0113717	A1	5/2005	Matzinger	600/573
2005/0010134	A1	1/2005	Douglas	600/573	2005/0114062	A1	5/2005	Davies	702/704
2005/0010137	A1	1/2005	Hodges	600/583	2005/0114154	A1	5/2005	Wolkowicz	705/1
2005/0010198	A1	1/2005	Marchitto	606/9	2005/0114444	A1	5/2005	Brown	709/203
2005/0011759	A1	1/2005	Moerman	204/403.03	2005/0118056	A1	6/2005	Swanson	423/23
2005/0013731	A1	1/2005	Burke	422/56	2005/0119681	A1	6/2005	Marshall	606/181
2005/0014997	A1	1/2005	Ruchti	600/310	2005/0123443	A1	6/2005	Fujiwara	422/58
2005/0015020	A1	1/2005	Levaughn	600/583	2005/0123680	A1	6/2005	Kang	427/248.1
2005/0016844	A1	1/2005	Burke	204/403.1	2005/0124869	A1	6/2005	Hefi	600/316
2005/0019212	A1	1/2005	Bhullar	422/56	2005/0125017	A1	6/2005	Kudrna	606/181
2005/0019219	A1	1/2005	Oshiman	422/82.12	2005/0125018	A1	6/2005	Galloway	606/181
2005/0019805	A1	1/2005	Groll	435/6	2005/0125019	A1	6/2005	Kudrna	606/182
2005/0019945	A1	1/2005	Groll	436/169	2005/0126929	A1	6/2005	Mansouri	205/778
2005/0019953	A1	1/2005	Groll	436/514	2005/0130248	A1	6/2005	Willner	435/14
2005/0021066	A1	1/2005	Kuhr	606/181	2005/0130249	A1	6/2005	Parris	435/14
2005/0027211	A1	2/2005	Kuhr	600/583	2005/0130292	A1	6/2005	Ahn	435/287.1
2005/0027562	A1	2/2005	Brown	705/2	2005/0131286	A1	6/2005	Parker	600/328
2005/0033341	A1	2/2005	Vreeke	606/181	2005/0131441	A1	6/2005	Iio	606/182
2005/0034983	A1	2/2005	Chambers	204/403.01	2005/0133368	A1	6/2005	Davies	204/403.01
2005/0036020	A1	2/2005	Li	347/100	2005/0136471	A1	6/2005	Bhullar	435/6
2005/0036146	A1	2/2005	Braig	356/246	2005/0136501	A1	6/2005	Kuriger	435/14
2005/0036906	A1	2/2005	Katsuji	422/58	2005/0136529	A1	6/2005	Yang	435/287
2005/0036909	A1	2/2005	Erickson	422/61	2005/0136550	A1	6/2005	Yang	436/514
2005/0037482	A1	2/2005	Braig	435/287	2005/0137531	A1	6/2005	Gonnelli	604/173
2005/0038329	A1	2/2005	Morris	600/319	2005/0137536	A1	6/2005	Gonnelli	604/264
2005/0038330	A1	2/2005	Jansen	600/345	2005/0143675	A1	6/2005	Neel	600/583
2005/0038463	A1	2/2005	Davar	606/181	2005/0143713	A1	6/2005	Delmore	604/506
2005/0038464	A1	2/2005	Schraga	606/182	2005/0143771	A1	6/2005	Stout	606/181
2005/0038465	A1	2/2005	Schraga	606/182	2005/0145490	A1	7/2005	Shinno	204/403
2005/0038674	A1	2/2005	Braig	705/2	2005/0145491	A1	7/2005	Amano	204/403
2005/0042766	A1	2/2005	Ohman	436/174	2005/0145520	A1	7/2005	Ilo	206/365
2005/0043894	A1	2/2005	Fernandez	702/19	2005/0149088	A1	7/2005	Fukuda	606/181
2005/0043965	A1	2/2005	Heller	705/2	2005/0149089	A1	7/2005	Trissel	606/181
2005/0045476	A1	3/2005	Neel	204/403.2	2005/0150762	A1	7/2005	Butters	204/403
2005/0049473	A1	3/2005	Desai	600/347	2005/0150763	A1	7/2005	Butters	204/403
2005/0050859	A1	3/2005	Coppeta	53/471	2005/0154277	A1	7/2005	Ting	600/407
2005/0054082	A1	3/2005	Pachl	435/287.2	2005/0154374	A1	7/2005	Hunter	604/890
2005/0059895	A1	3/2005	Brown	600/481	2005/0154410	A1	7/2005	Conway	606/181
2005/0060194	A1	3/2005	Brown	705/2	2005/0154616	A1	7/2005	Iliff	705/3
2005/0067280	A1	3/2005	Reid	204/403.14	2005/0158850	A1	7/2005	Kubo	435/287.2
2005/0067737	A1	3/2005	Rappin	264/272.19	2005/0159656	A1	7/2005	Hockersmith	600/315
2005/0070771	A1	3/2005	Rule	600/316	2005/0159768	A1	7/2005	Boehm	606/182
2005/0070819	A1	3/2005	Poux	600/576	2005/0164322	A1	7/2005	Heller	435/14
2005/0070945	A1	3/2005	Schraga	606/182	2005/0164329	A1	7/2005	Wallace-Davis	435/25
2005/0072670	A1	4/2005	Hasegawa	204/403.01	2005/0165285	A1	7/2005	Iliff	600/300
2005/0077176	A1	4/2005	Hodges	204/403.01	2005/0165393	A1	7/2005	Eppstein	606/41
2005/0077584	A1	4/2005	Uhland	257/414	2005/0165622	A1	7/2005	Neel	705/2
2005/0079542	A1	4/2005	Cullen	435/7.1	2005/0169961	A1	8/2005	Hunter	424/423
2005/0080652	A1	4/2005	Brown	705/2	2005/0170448	A1	8/2005	Burson	435/14
2005/0085839	A1	4/2005	Allen	606/181	2005/0171567	A1	8/2005	DeHart	606/181
2005/0085840	A1	4/2005	Yi	606/182	2005/0172021	A1	8/2005	Brown	709/224
2005/0086083	A1	4/2005	Brown	705/2	2005/0172022	A1	8/2005	Brown	709/224
2005/0090754	A1	4/2005	Wolf	600/509	2005/0173245	A1	8/2005	Feldman	204/403.01
2005/0090850	A1	4/2005	Toes	606/182	2005/0173246	A1	8/2005	Hodges	204/403.11
2005/0096520	A1	5/2005	Maekawa	600/365	2005/0175509	A1	8/2005	Nakaminami	422/82.03
2005/0096565	A1	5/2005	Chang	600/584	2005/0176084	A1	8/2005	Burkoth	435/14
2005/0096586	A1	5/2005	Trautman	604/46	2005/0176133	A1	8/2005	Miyashita	435/287.1
2005/0096587	A1	5/2005	Santini	604/66	2005/0177071	A1	8/2005	Nakayama	600/583
2005/0096686	A1	5/2005	Allen	606/181	2005/0177201	A1	8/2005	Freeman	607/46
2005/0098431	A1	5/2005	Hodges	204/403.01	2005/0177398	A1	8/2005	Watanabe	705/3
2005/0098432	A1	5/2005	Grundel	204/403.2	2005/0178218	A1	8/2005	Montagu	73/864.34

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 12

2005/0181010 A1	8/2005	Hunter	424/423	2005/0284110 A1	12/2005	Lang	53/473
2005/0181497 A1	8/2005	Salto	435/287.1	2005/0284757 A1	12/2005	Allen	204/400
2005/0182307 A1	8/2005	Currie	600/300	2005/0287620 A1	12/2005	Heller	435/14
2005/0187439 A1	8/2005	Blank	600/310	2005/0288637 A1	12/2005	Kuhr	604/204
2005/0187444 A1	8/2005	Hubner	600/322	2005/0288698 A1	12/2005	Matsumoto	606/181
2005/0192488 A1	9/2005	Bryenton	600/301	2005/0288699 A1	12/2005	Schraga	606/181
2005/0196821 A1	9/2005	Monfre	435/14	2006/0000549 A1	1/2006	Lang	156/320
2005/0197666 A1	9/2005	Raney	606/181	2006/0003398 A1	1/2006	Heller	435/14
2005/0201897 A1	9/2005	Zimmer	422/82.05	2006/0004270 A1	1/2006	Bedard	600/316
2005/0202567 A1	9/2005	Zanzucchi	436/95	2006/0004271 A1	1/2006	Peyser	600/362
2005/0203358 A1	9/2005	Monfre	600/331	2006/0004272 A1	1/2006	Shah	600/365
2005/0203364 A1	9/2005	Monfre	600/365	2006/0006574 A1	1/2006	Lang	264/165
2005/0204939 A1	9/2005	Krejci	101/129	2006/0008389 A1	1/2006	Sacherer	422/102
2005/0205422 A1	9/2005	Moser	204/403.06	2006/0015129 A1	1/2006	Shahrokni	606/181
2005/0205816 A1	9/2005	Hayenga	251/61.1	2006/0016698 A1	1/2006	Lee	205/777.5
2005/0209515 A1	9/2005	Hockersmith	600/316	2006/0020228 A1	1/2006	Fowler	600/583
2005/0209564 A1	9/2005	Bonner	604/173	2006/0024774 A1	2/2006	Zocchi	435/14
2005/0209625 A1	9/2005	Chan	606/181	2006/0025662 A1	2/2006	Buse	600/347
2005/0211571 A1	9/2005	Schulein	205/777.5	2006/0029979 A1	2/2006	Bai	435/7.1
2005/0211572 A1	9/2005	Buck	205/778	2006/0029991 A1	2/2006	Hagino	435/14
2005/0214881 A1	9/2005	Azarnia	435/7.92	2006/0030028 A1	2/2006	Nakaminami	435/287.2
2005/0214892 A1	9/2005	Kovatchev	435/25	2006/0030788 A1	2/2006	Wong	600/583
2005/0215871 A1	9/2005	Feldman	600/309	2006/0034728 A1	2/2006	Kloepfer	422/68.1
2005/0215872 A1	9/2005	Berner	600/347	2006/0040333 A1	2/2006	Zocchi	435/14
2005/0215923 A1	9/2005	Wiegel	600/573	2006/0047220 A1	3/2006	Sakata	600/583
2005/0215925 A1	9/2005	Chan	600/583	2006/0047294 A1	3/2006	Mori	606/181
2005/0216046 A1	9/2005	Yeoh	606/181	2006/0052723 A1	3/2006	Roe	600/583
2005/0218024 A1	10/2005	Lang	206/438	2006/0052724 A1	3/2006	Roe	600/583
2005/0221276 A1	10/2005	Rozakis	435/4	2006/0052809 A1	3/2006	Karbowniczek	606/181
2005/0221470 A1	10/2005	Matsumoto	435/287.1	2006/0052810 A1	3/2006	Freeman	606/181
2005/0222599 A1	10/2005	Czernecki	606/182	2006/0058827 A1	3/2006	Sakata	606/181
2005/0227372 A1	10/2005	Khan	436/514	2006/0058828 A1	3/2006	Shi	606/181
2005/0228242 A1	10/2005	Kawamura	600/300	2006/0062852 A1	3/2006	Holmes	424/484
2005/0228883 A1	10/2005	Brown	709/224	2006/0063988 A1	3/2006	Schurman	600/316
2005/0230252 A1	10/2005	Tsai	204/450	2006/0064035 A1	3/2006	Wang	600/583
2005/0230253 A1	10/2005	Marquant	204/451	2006/0079739 A1	4/2006	Chen Wang	600/300
2005/0232813 A1	10/2005	Karmali	422/58	2006/0079810 A1	4/2006	Patel	600/583
2005/0232815 A1	10/2005	Ruhl	422/66	2006/0079811 A1	4/2006	Roe	600/583
2005/0234368 A1	10/2005	Wong	600/583	2006/0079920 A1	4/2006	Schraga	606/181
2005/0234486 A1	10/2005	Allen	606/181	2006/0081469 A1	4/2006	Lee	204/403.02
2005/0234487 A1	10/2005	Shi	600/181	2006/0085020 A1	4/2006	Freeman	606/181
2005/0234488 A1	10/2005	Allen	606/181	2006/0085137 A1	4/2006	Bartkowiak	702/19
2005/0234489 A1	10/2005	Allen	606/181	2006/0086624 A1	4/2006	Tapsak	205/775
2005/0234490 A1	10/2005	Allen	606/181	2006/0088945 A1	4/2006	Douglas	436/518
2005/0234491 A1	10/2005	Allen	606/181	2006/0089566 A1	4/2006	DeHart	600/573
2005/0234492 A1	10/2005	Tsai	606/181	2006/0091006 A1	5/2006	Wang	204/403.02
2005/0234494 A1	10/2005	Conway	606/181	2006/0094944 A1	5/2006	Chuang	600/347
2005/0234495 A1	10/2005	Schraga	606/181	2006/0094947 A1	5/2006	Kovatchev	600/365
2005/0235060 A1	10/2005	Brown	709/224	2006/0094986 A1	5/2006	Neel	600/583
2005/0239154 A1	10/2005	Feldman	435/14	2006/0095061 A1	5/2006	Trautman	606/185
2005/0239156 A1	10/2005	Drucker	435/14	2006/0096859 A1	5/2006	King Tong Lau	204/403.14
2005/0239194 A1	10/2005	Takahashi	435/287.2	2006/0099107 A1	5/2006	Yamamoto	422/57
2005/0240090 A1	10/2005	Ruchti	600/316	2006/0099703 A1	5/2006	Choi	435/287.1
2005/0240119 A1	10/2005	Draudt	600/583	2006/0100542 A9	5/2006	Wong	600/583
2005/0240207 A1	10/2005	Marshall	606/181	2006/0100543 A1	5/2006	Raney	600/583
2005/0240778 A1	10/2005	Saito	713/186	2006/0100654 A1	5/2006	Fukuda	606/181
2005/0245798 A1	11/2005	Yamaguchi	600/345	2006/0100655 A1	5/2006	Leong	606/181
2005/0245843 A1	11/2005	Day	600/583	2006/0100656 A1	5/2006	Olsen	606/181
2005/0245844 A1	11/2005	Mace	600/583	2006/0106373 A1	5/2006	Cahir	606/9
2005/0245845 A1	11/2005	Roe	600/583	2006/0108236 A1	5/2006	Kasielke	205/792
2005/0245846 A1	11/2005	Day	600/583	2006/0113187 A1	6/2006	Deng	204/403.01
2005/0245954 A1	11/2005	Roe	606/181	2006/0115857 A1	6/2006	Keen	435/7.1
2005/0245955 A1	11/2005	Schraga	606/181	2006/0116562 A1	6/2006	Acosta	600/316
2005/0256534 A1	11/2005	Alden	606/182	2006/0116704 A1	6/2006	Ashby	606/167
2005/0258035 A1	11/2005	Harding	204/403.01	2006/0116705 A1	6/2006	Schraga	606/181
2005/0258036 A1	11/2005	Harding	204/403.01	2006/0119362 A1	6/2006	Kermani	324/324
2005/0258050 A1	11/2005	Harding	205/775	2006/0121547 A1	6/2006	McIntire	435/14
2005/0265094 A1	12/2005	Harding	365/203	2006/0121625 A1	6/2006	Clemens	436/514
2005/0276133 A1	12/2005	Harding	365/203	2006/0121759 A1	6/2006	Kasai	439/188
2005/0278945 A1	12/2005	Feldman	29/830	2006/0122099 A1	6/2006	Aoki	514/3
2005/0279631 A1	12/2005	Celentano	204/403.01	2006/0122536 A1	6/2006	Haar	600/581
2005/0279647 A1	12/2005	Beaty	205/792	2006/0129065 A1	6/2006	Matsumoto	600/583
2005/0283094 A1	12/2005	Thym	600/583	2006/0129172 A1	6/2006	Crossman	606/181

2006/0129173	A1	6/2006	Wilkinson	606/181	2006/0241666	A1	10/2006	Briggs	606/181
2006/0134713	A1	6/2006	Rylatt	435/7.92	2006/0241667	A1	10/2006	Freeman	606/181
2006/0140457	A1	6/2006	Simshauser	382/124	2006/0241668	A1	10/2006	Schrage	606/181
2006/0144704	A1	7/2006	Ghesquiere	204/403.01	2006/0241669	A1	10/2006	Stout	606/182
2006/0151323	A1	7/2006	Cho	204/403.04	2006/0247554	A1	11/2006	Roe	600/583
2006/0151342	A1	7/2006	Yaguchi	206/306	2006/0247555	A1	11/2006	Harttig	600/584
2006/0155215	A1	7/2006	Cha	600/583	2006/0247670	A1	11/2006	LeVaughn	606/181
2006/0155316	A1	7/2006	Perez	606/181	2006/0247671	A1	11/2006	Levaughn	606/182
2006/0155317	A1	7/2006	List	606/181	2006/0259057	A1	11/2006	Kim	606/181
2006/0156796	A1	7/2006	Burke	73/61.44	2006/0259058	A1	11/2006	Schiff	606/181
2006/0157362	A1	7/2006	Schrage	206/363	2006/0259060	A1	11/2006	Whitson	606/182
2006/0161078	A1	7/2006	Schrage	600/583	2006/0264718	A1	11/2006	Ruchti	600/310
2006/0161194	A1	7/2006	Freeman	606/185	2006/0264996	A1	11/2006	Levaughn	606/181
2006/0166302	A1	7/2006	Clarke	435/25	2006/0264997	A1	11/2006	Colonna	606/181
2006/0167382	A1	7/2006	Deshmukh	600/583	2006/0271083	A1	11/2006	Boecker	606/181
2006/0169599	A1	8/2006	Feldman	205/792	2006/0271084	A1	11/2006	Schrage	606/182
2006/0173254	A1	8/2006	Acosta	600/316	2006/0276724	A1	12/2006	Freeman	600/583
2006/0173255	A1	8/2006	Acosta	600/316	2006/0277048	A1	12/2006	Kintzig	704/275
2006/0173379	A1	8/2006	Rasch-Menges	600/583	2006/0278545	A1	12/2006	Henning	206/363
2006/0173380	A1	8/2006	Hoenes	600/583	2006/0282109	A1	12/2006	Jansen	606/181
2006/0173478	A1	8/2006	Schrage	606/181	2006/0286620	A1	12/2006	Werner	435/14
2006/0175216	A1	8/2006	Freeman	206/363	2006/0287664	A1	12/2006	Grage	606/181
2006/0178573	A1	8/2006	Kermani	600/347	2006/0293577	A1	12/2006	Morrison	600/365
2006/0178599	A1	8/2006	Faupel	600/578	2007/0004989	A1	1/2007	Dhillon	600/583
2006/0178600	A1	8/2006	Kennedy	600/584	2007/0004990	A1	1/2007	Kistner	600/583
2006/0178686	A1	8/2006	Schrage	606/181	2007/0007183	A1	1/2007	Schulat	209/573
2006/0178687	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181	2007/0009381	A1	1/2007	Schulat	422/58
2006/0178688	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181	2007/0010839	A1	1/2007	Galloway	606/167
2006/0178689	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181	2007/0010841	A1	1/2007	Teo	606/181
2006/0178690	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181	2007/0015978	A1	1/2007	Kanayama	600/310
2006/0183871	A1	8/2006	Ward	525/464	2007/0016079	A1	1/2007	Freeman	600/476
2006/0183983	A1	8/2006	Acosta	600/316	2007/0016103	A1	1/2007	Calasso	600/583
2006/0184101	A1	8/2006	Srinivasan	604/68	2007/0016104	A1	1/2007	Jansen	600/583
2006/0188395	A1	8/2006	Taniike	422/57					
2006/0189895	A1	8/2006	Neel	600/584					
2006/0191787	A1	8/2006	Wang	204/400					
2006/0195023	A1	8/2006	Acosta	600/316					
2006/0195047	A1	8/2006	Freeman	600/583					
2006/0195128	A1	8/2006	Alden	606/181					
2006/0195129	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181					
2006/0195130	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181					
2006/0195131	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181					
2006/0195132	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181					
2006/0195133	A1	8/2006	Freeman	606/181					
2006/0196031	A1	9/2006	Hoenes	29/432					
2006/0196795	A1	9/2006	Windus-Smith	206/438					
2006/0200044	A1	9/2006	Freeman	600/583					
2006/0200045	A1	9/2006	Roe	600/583					
2006/0200046	A1	9/2006	Windus-Smith	600/583					
2006/0200181	A1	9/2006	Fukuzawa	606/181					
2006/0200981	A1	9/2006	Bhullar	29/847					
2006/0200982	A1	9/2006	Bhullar	29/847					
2006/0204399	A1	9/2006	Freeman	422/58					
2006/0205029	A1	9/2006	Heller	435/25					
2006/0205060	A1	9/2006	Kim	435/287.2					
2006/0206135	A1	9/2006	Uchata	606/181					
2006/0211127	A1	9/2006	Iwaki	436/169					
2006/0211927	A1	9/2006	Acosta	600/316					
2006/0211931	A1	9/2006	Blank	600/344					
2006/0219551	A1	10/2006	Edelbrock	204/403.14					
2006/0222567	A1	10/2006	Kloepfer	422/68.1					
2006/0224171	A1	10/2006	Sakata	606/181					
2006/0224172	A1	10/2006	Levaughn	606/181					
2006/0229532	A1	10/2006	Wong	600/583					
2006/0229533	A1	10/2006	Hoenes	600/584					
2006/0229651	A1	10/2006	Marshall	606/181					
2006/0231396	A1	10/2006	Yamaoka	204/403.14					
2006/0231418	A1	10/2006	Harding	205/775					
2006/0231442	A1	10/2006	Windus-Smith	206/438					
2006/0234369	A1	10/2006	Sih	435/287.1					
2006/0235284	A1	10/2006	Lee	600/345					
2006/0235454	A1	10/2006	LeVaughn	606/181					
2006/0241517	A1	10/2006	Fowler	600/583					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	29824204	10/2000
DE	10032042	1/2002
DE	10057832	2/2002
DE	10057832 C1	2/2002
DE	10142232	3/2003
DE	10208575 C1	8/2003
DE	1045721	12/2003
DE	10361560 A1	7/2005
EP	0289 269 A2	11/1988
EP	0289 269 A3	11/1988
EP	0320109 A1	6/1989
EP	0170375 B1	5/1990
EP	0136362	12/1990
EP	0453283	10/1991
EP	0263948	2/1992
EP	0374355 B1	6/1993
EP	0351891 B1	9/1993
EP	0593096 A2	4/1994
EP	0505494 B1	7/1995
EP	0359831	8/1995
EP	0471986 B1	10/1995
EP	0368474 B1	12/1995
EP	0461601 B1	12/1995
EP	0429076	1/1996
EP	0415388 B1	5/1996
EP	0552223 B1	7/1996
EP	0735363	10/1996
EP	0505504 B1	3/1997
EP	0593096 A3	3/1997
EP	0406304	8/1997
EP	0537761	8/1997
EP	0795601	9/1997
EP	0795601 A3	9/1997
EP	0562370	11/1997
EP	0415393 B1	12/1997
EP	0560336	5/1998
EP	0878 708	11/1998

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 14

EP	0505475	B1	3/1999	WO	WO 99/27483	6/1999
EP	0901018		3/1999	WO	WO 99/27852	6/1999
EP	0470649	B1	6/1999	WO	WO 99/62576	12/1999
EP	0847447		11/1999	WO	WO 99/64580	12/1999
EP	0964059		12/1999	WO	WO 00/06024	2/2000
EP	0969097	A2	1/2000	WO	WO 00/09184	2/2000
EP	1021950		7/2000	WO	WO 00/11578	3/2000
EP	0894869		2/2001	WO	WO 00/15103	3/2000
EP	1074832		2/2001	WO	WO 00/17799	3/2000
EP	1093854		4/2001	WO	WO 00/17800	3/2000
EP	1114995	A2	7/2001	WO	WO 00/18293	4/2000
EP	0736607		8/2001	WO	WO 00/19346	4/2000
EP	0969097	A3	8/2001	WO	WO 00/30186	5/2000
EP	0874984		11/2001	WO	WO 00/32097	6/2000
EP	0730037		12/2001	WO	WO 00/32098	6/2000
EP	0636879		1/2002	WO	WO 00/33236	6/2000
EP	01174083		1/2002	WO	WO 00/39914	7/2000
EP	0851224		3/2002	WO	WO 00/42422	7/2000
EP	0759553		5/2002	WO	WO 00/44084	A2 7/2000
EP	0856586		5/2002	WO	WO 00/44084	A3 7/2000
EP	0817809		7/2002	WO	WO 00/50771	8/2000
EP	0872728		7/2002	WO	WO 00/60340	10/2000
EP	0795748		8/2002	WO	WO 00/64022	10/2000
EP	0685737		9/2002	WO	WO 00/67245	11/2000
EP	0958495		11/2002	WO	WO 00/67268	11/2000
EP	0937249		12/2002	WO	WO 00/72452	11/2000
EP	1114995	A3	10/2003	WO	WO 01/00090	1/2001
EP	0880692		1/2004	WO	WO 01/75433	3/2001
EP	01374770		1/2004	WO	WO 01/23885	A1 4/2001
EP	1246688		5/2004	WO	WO 01/23885	A3 4/2001
EP	1502614		2/2005	WO	WO 01/25775	4/2001
GB	2168815		6/1986	WO	WO 01/26813	4/2001
JP	2-326247		11/1990	WO	WO 01/26813	A3 4/2001
JP	9-276235		10/1997	WO	WO 01/33216	5/2001
JP	10-296325		10/1998	WO	WO 01/34029	5/2001
WO	WO 80/01389		7/1980	WO	WO 01/36955	5/2001
WO	WO 8504089		9/1985	WO	WO 01/37174	5/2001
WO	WO 86/07632		12/1986	WO	WO 01/40788	7/2001
WO	WO 91/09139		6/1991	WO	WO 01/57510	A2 8/2001
WO	WO 93/02720		2/1993	WO	WO 01/57510	A3 8/2001
WO	WO 93/06979		4/1993	WO	WO 01/64105	A1 9/2001
WO	WO 93/12726		7/1993	WO	WO 01/66010	9/2001
WO	WO 93/25898		12/1993	WO	WO 01/66010	A1 9/2001
WO	WO 94/27140		11/1994	WO	WO 01/69505	9/2001
WO	WO 94/29703		12/1994	WO	WO 01/72225	A1 10/2001
WO	WO 94/29704		12/1994	WO	WO 01/73124	A2 10/2001
WO	WO 94/29731		12/1994	WO	WO 01/73124	A3 10/2001
WO	WO 95/00662		1/1995	WO	WO 01/73395	10/2001
WO	WO 95/10223	A2	4/1995	WO	WO 01/89691	11/2001
WO	WO 95/10223	A3	4/1995	WO	WO 01/89691	A3 11/2001
WO	WO 95/22597		8/1995	WO	WO 02/00101	1/2002
WO	WO 96/30431		10/1996	WO	WO 02/02796	1/2002
WO	WO 97/02359		1/1997	WO	WO 02/08750	1/2002
WO	WO 97/02487		1/1997	WO	WO 02/08753	A2 1/2002
WO	WO 97/18464		5/1997	WO	WO 02/08753	A3 1/2002
WO	WO 97/30344		8/1997	WO	WO 02/08950	1/2002
WO	WO 97/42882		11/1997	WO	WO 02/18940	A2 3/2002
WO	WO 97/42888		11/1997	WO	WO 02/18940	A3 3/2002
WO	WO 97/45720		12/1997	WO	WO 02/21317	3/2002
WO	WO 98/03431		1/1998	WO	WO 02/25551	3/2002
WO	WO 98/19159		5/1998	WO	WO 02/32559	4/2002
WO	WO 98/20332		5/1998	WO	WO 02/41227	5/2002
WO	WO 98/20348		5/1998	WO	WO 02/41779	5/2002
WO	WO 98/24366	A2	6/1998	WO	WO 02/44948	6/2002
WO	WO 98/24366	A3	6/1998	WO	WO 02/056769	A1 7/2002
WO	WO 98/35225		8/1998	WO	WO 02/059734	8/2002
WO	WO 99/03584		1/1999	WO	WO 02/069791	9/2002
WO	WO 99/05966		2/1999	WO	WO 02/077638	A2 10/2002
WO	WO 99/13100		3/1999	WO	WO 02/077638	A3 10/2002
WO	WO 99/17854		4/1999	WO	WO 02/100251	12/2002
WO	WO 99/18532		4/1999	WO	WO 02/100252	12/2002
WO	WO 99/19507		4/1999	WO	WO 02/100253	12/2002
WO	WO 99/19717		4/1999	WO	WO 02/100254	12/2002

US 7,563,232 B2

Page 15

WO	WO 02/100460	12/2002	WO	WO 2005/006939	1/2005
WO	WO 02/100461	12/2002	WO	WO 2005/011774	2/2005
WO	WO 02/101343	12/2002	WO	WO 2005/016125	2/2005
WO	WO 02/101359	12/2002	WO	WO 2005/018425	3/2005
WO	WO 03/000321	1/2003	WO	WO 2005/018430	3/2005
WO	WO 03/023389 A2	3/2003	WO	WO 2005/018454	3/2005
WO	WO 03/023389 A3	3/2003	WO	WO 2005/018709	3/2005
WO	WO 03/042691	5/2003	WO	WO 2005/018710	3/2005
WO	WO 03/045557 A2	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/018711	3/2005
WO	WO 03/045557 A3	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/022143	3/2005
WO	WO 03/046542 A2	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/023088	3/2005
WO	WO 03/046542 A3	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/033659	4/2005
WO	WO 03/049609	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/034720	4/2005
WO	WO 03/050534	6/2003	WO	WO 2005/034721	4/2005
WO	WO 03/066128 A2	8/2003	WO	WO 2005/034741	4/2005
WO	WO 03/066128 A3	8/2003	WO	WO 2005/034778	4/2005
WO	WO 03/070099	8/2003	WO	WO 2005/035017	4/2005
WO	WO 03/071940	9/2003	WO	WO 2005/035018	4/2005
WO	WO 03/094752	11/2003	WO	WO 2005/037095	4/2005
WO	WO 03/101297	12/2003	WO	WO 2005/046477	5/2005
WO	WO 2004/008130	1/2004	WO	WO 2005/065399	7/2005
WO	WO 2004/022133	3/2004	WO	WO 2005/065414	7/2005
WO	WO 2004/026130	4/2004	WO	WO 2005/065415	7/2005
WO	WO 2004/040285 A2	5/2004	WO	WO 2006/5545 A2	7/2005
WO	WO 2004/040287 A1	5/2004	WO	WO 2005/072604	8/2005
WO	WO 2004/040948	5/2004	WO	WO 2005/084557	9/2005
WO	WO 2004/041082	5/2004	WO	WO 2005/116622	12/2005
WO	WO 2004/054455	7/2004	WO	WO 2005/119234	12/2005
WO	WO 2004/060174	7/2004	WO	WO 2005/121759	12/2005
WO	WO 2004/060446	7/2004	WO	WO 2006/001973	1/2006
WO	WO 2004/091693	10/2004	WO	WO 2006/011062	2/2006
WO	WO 2004/098405	11/2004	WO	WO 2006/013045	2/2006
WO	WO 2004/003147	12/2004	WO	WO 2006/027702 A2	3/2006
WO	WO 2004/107964	12/2004	WO	WO 2006/032391	3/2006
WO	WO 2004/107975	12/2004	WO	WO 2006/072004	7/2006
WO	WO 2004/112602	12/2004			
WO	WO 2005/001418	1/2005			

* cited by examiner

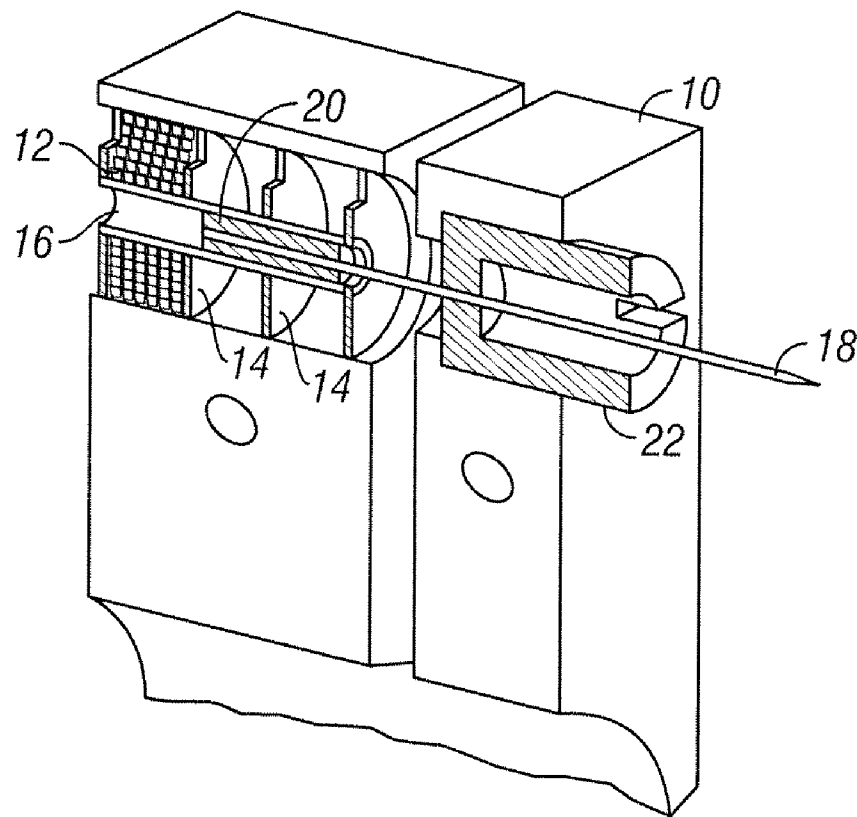
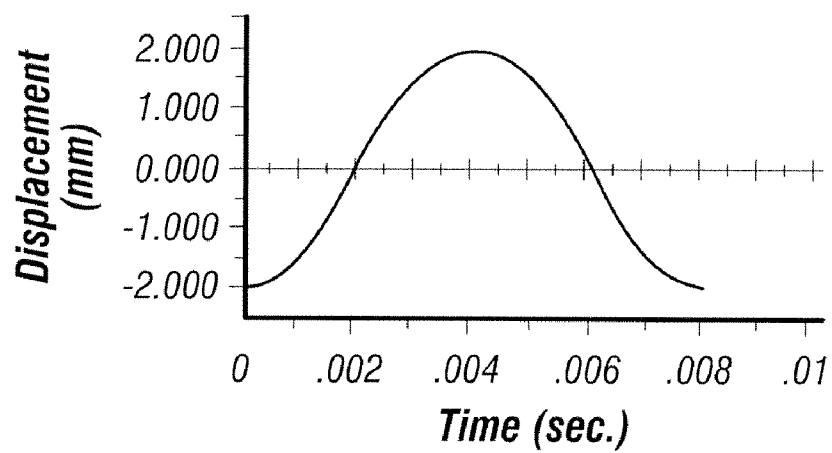
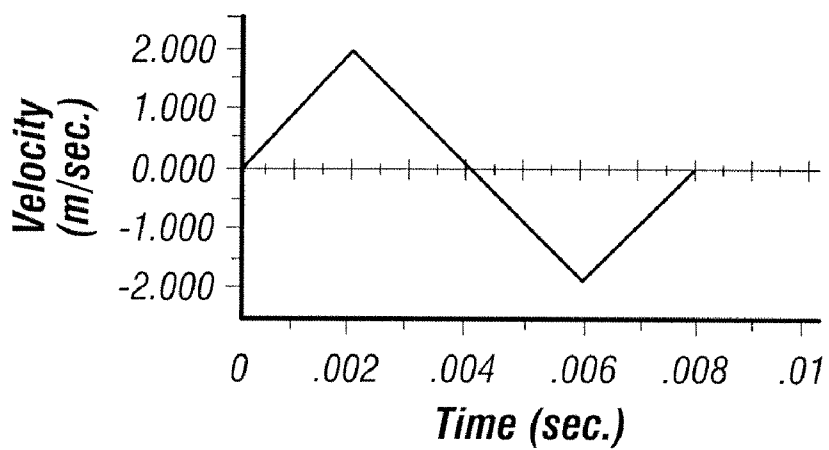
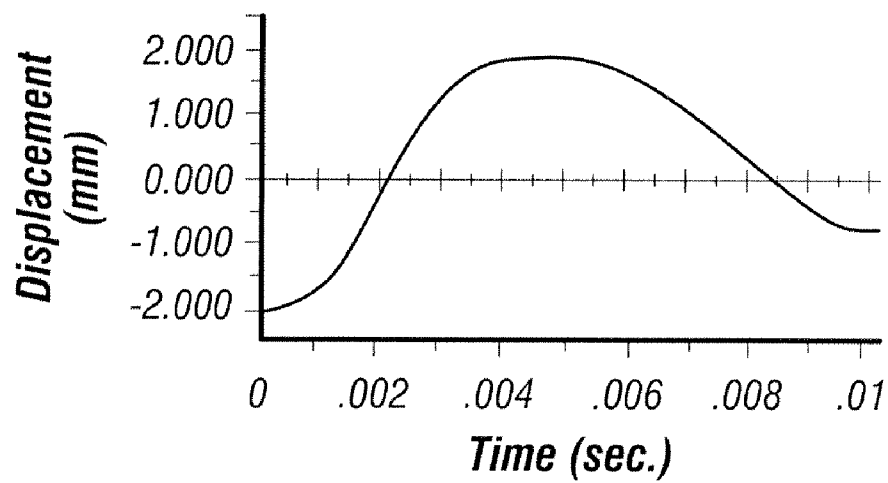
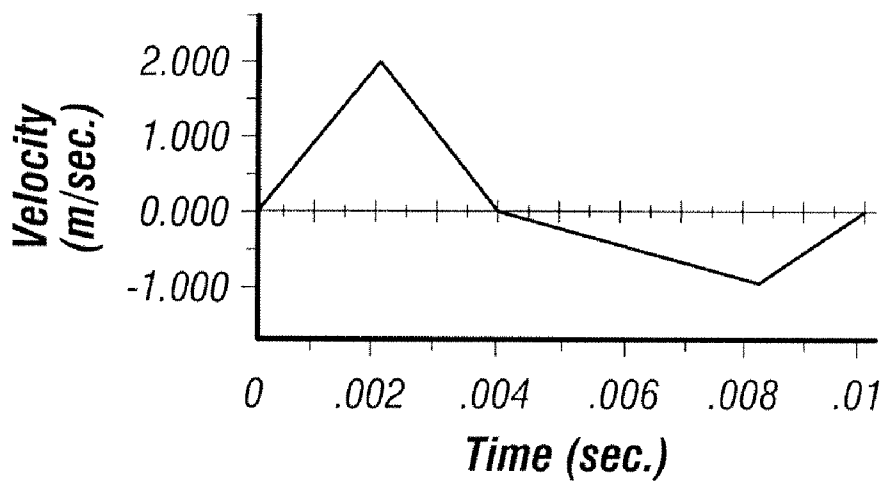
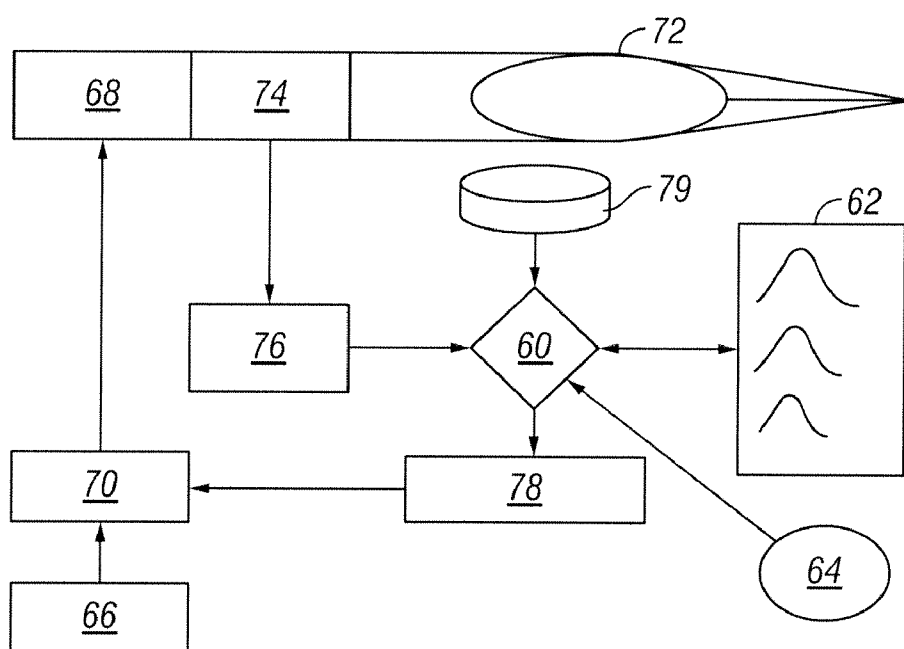


FIG. 1

**FIG. 2A****FIG. 2B**

**FIG. 2C****FIG. 2D**

**FIG. 3**

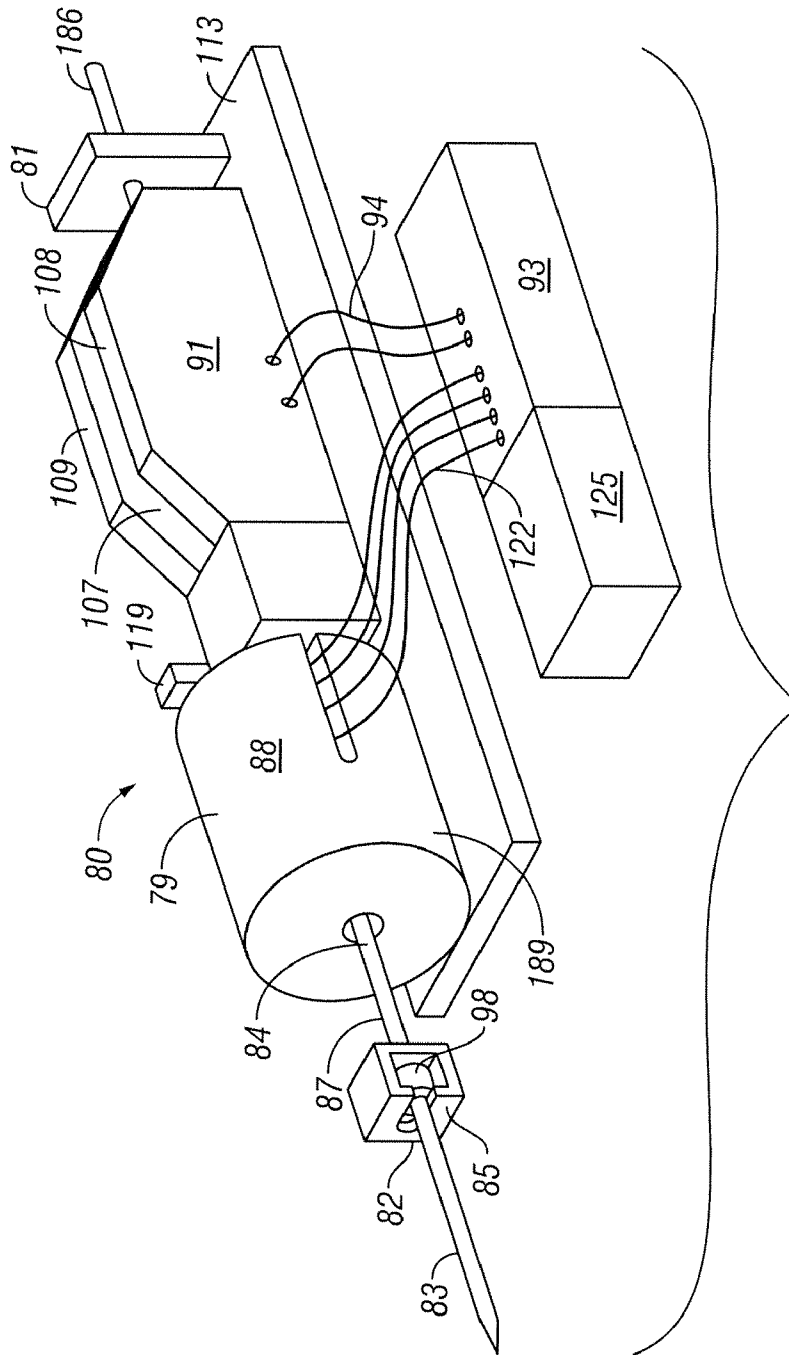


FIG. 4

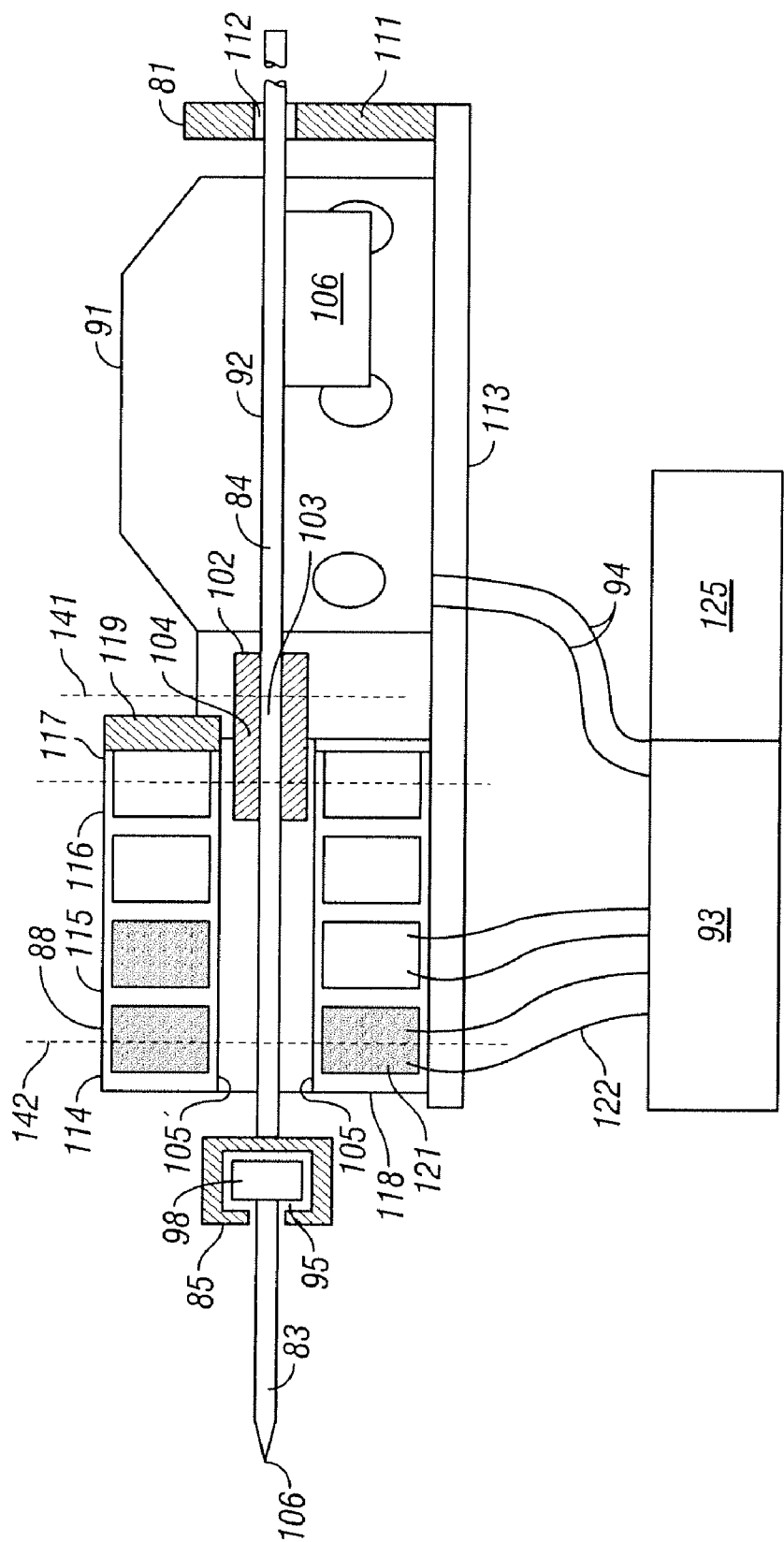
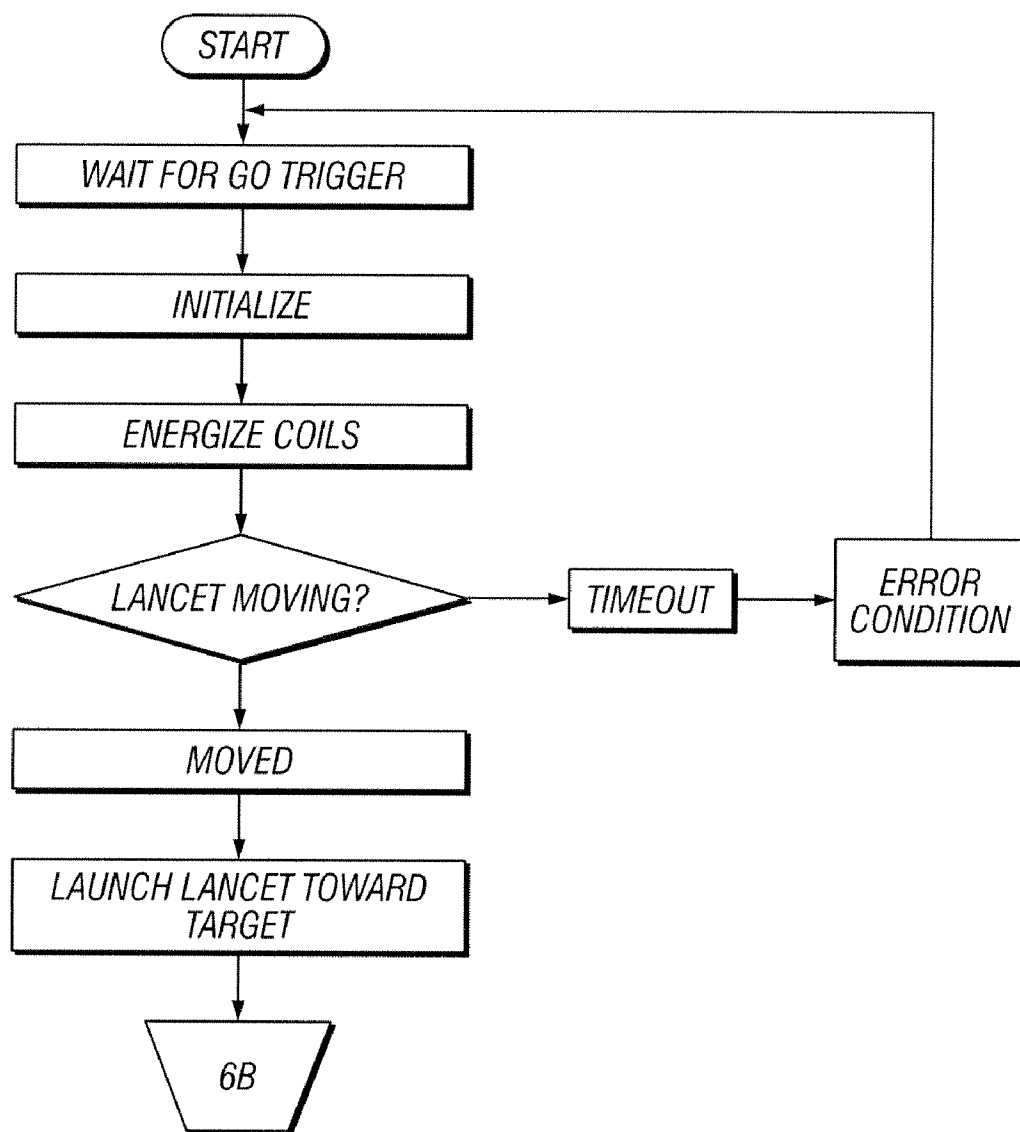


FIG. 5

**FIG. 6A**

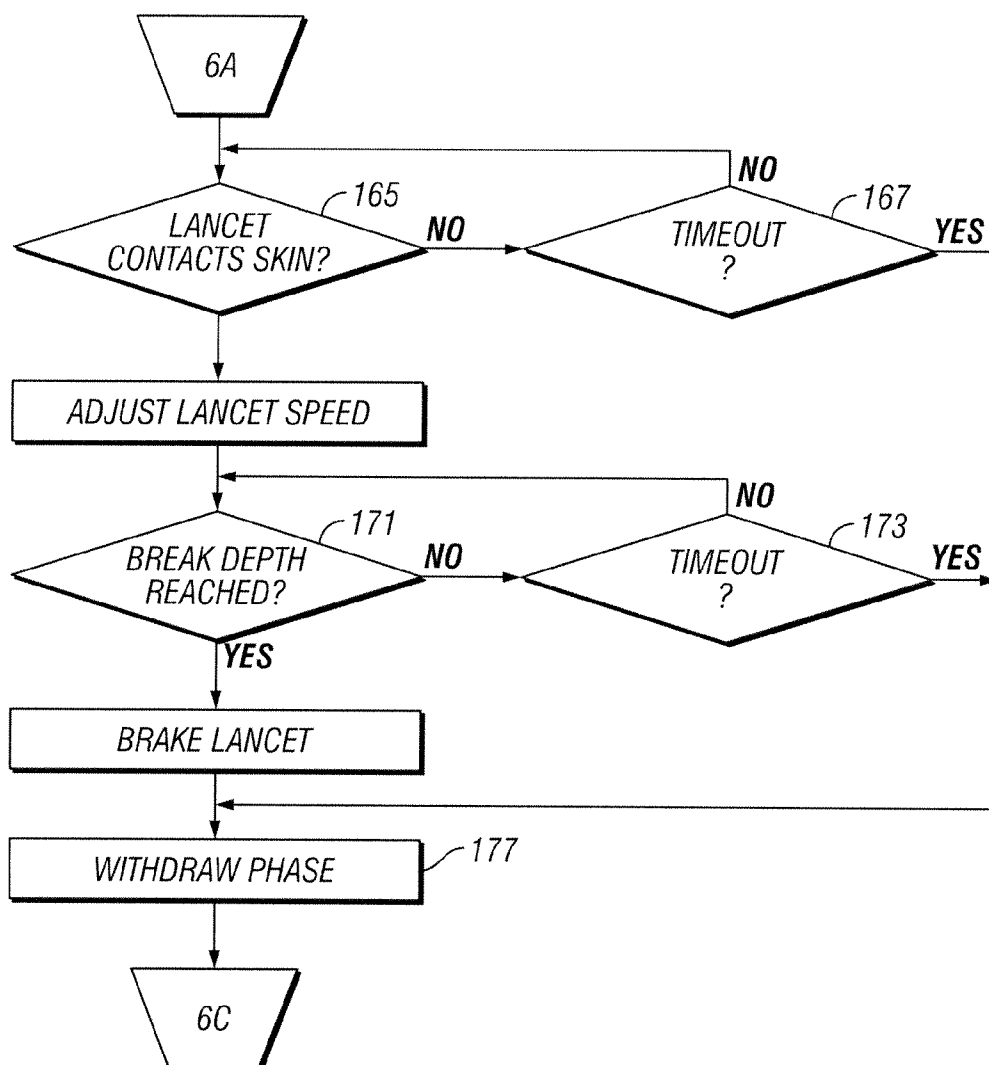


FIG. 6B

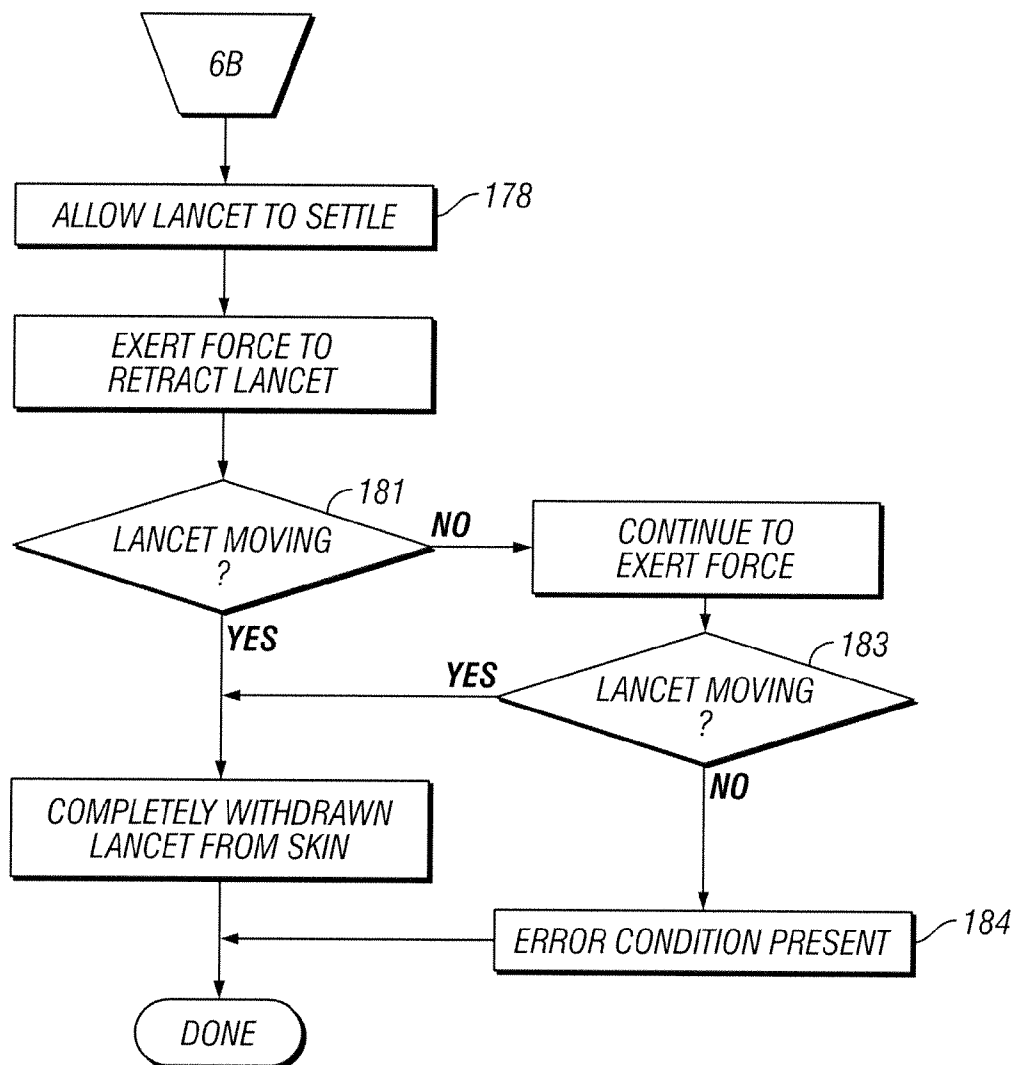
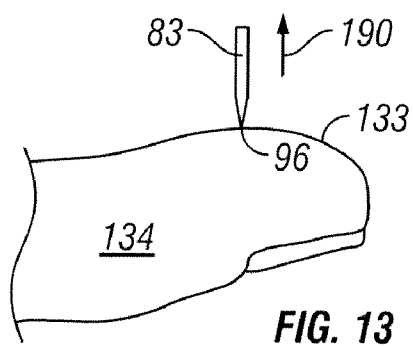
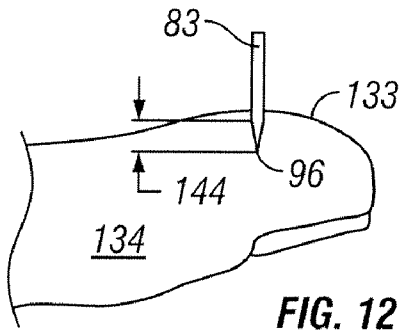
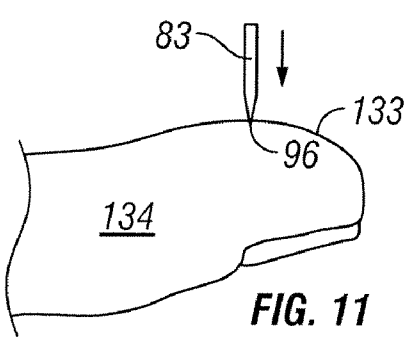
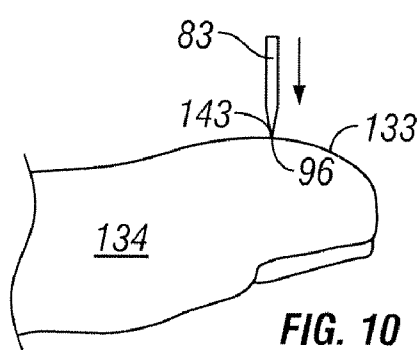
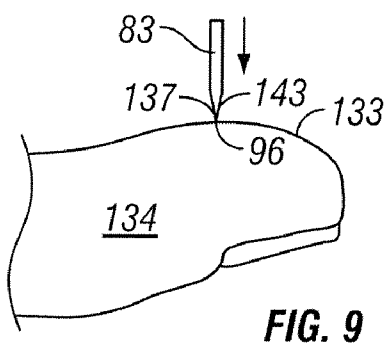
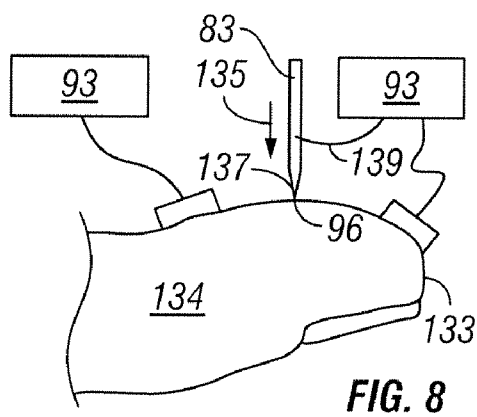
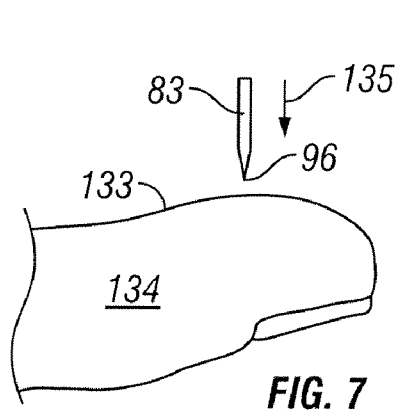


FIG. 6C



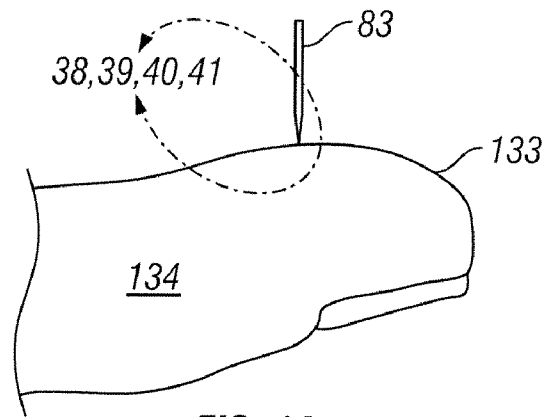


FIG. 14

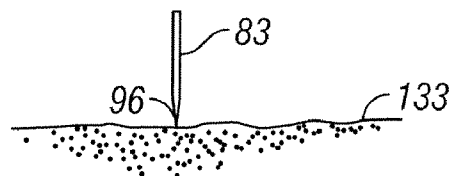


FIG. 15

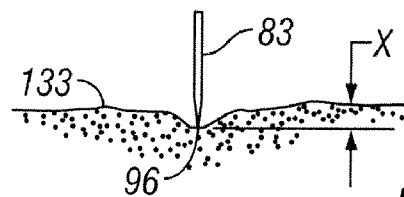


FIG. 16

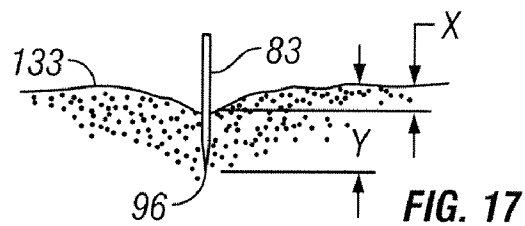


FIG. 17

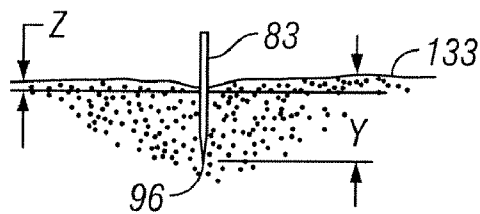


FIG. 18

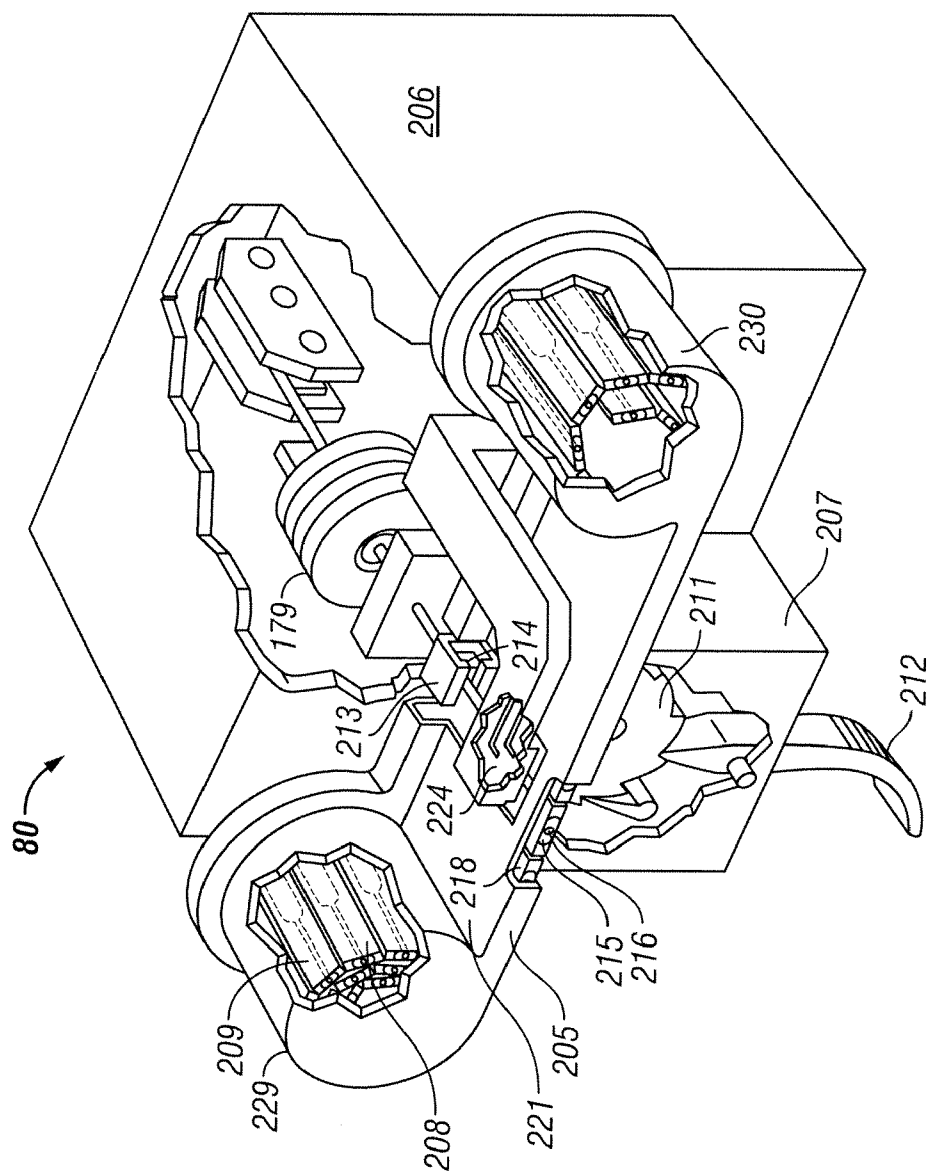


FIG. 19

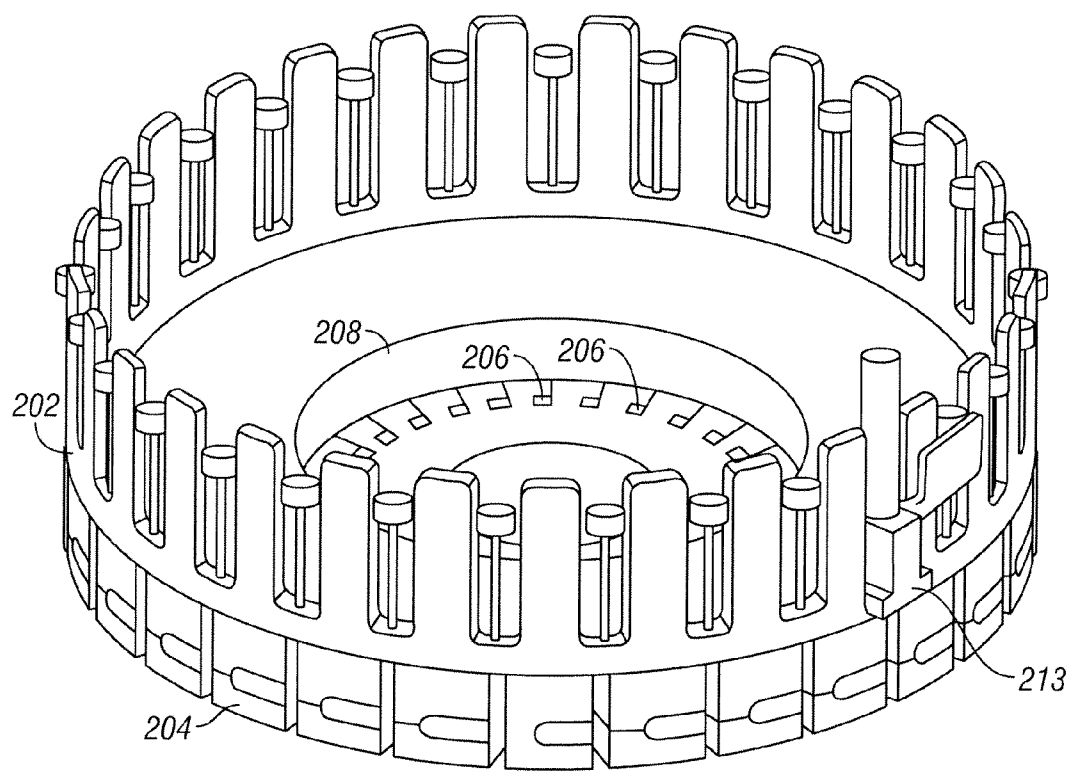


FIG. 20

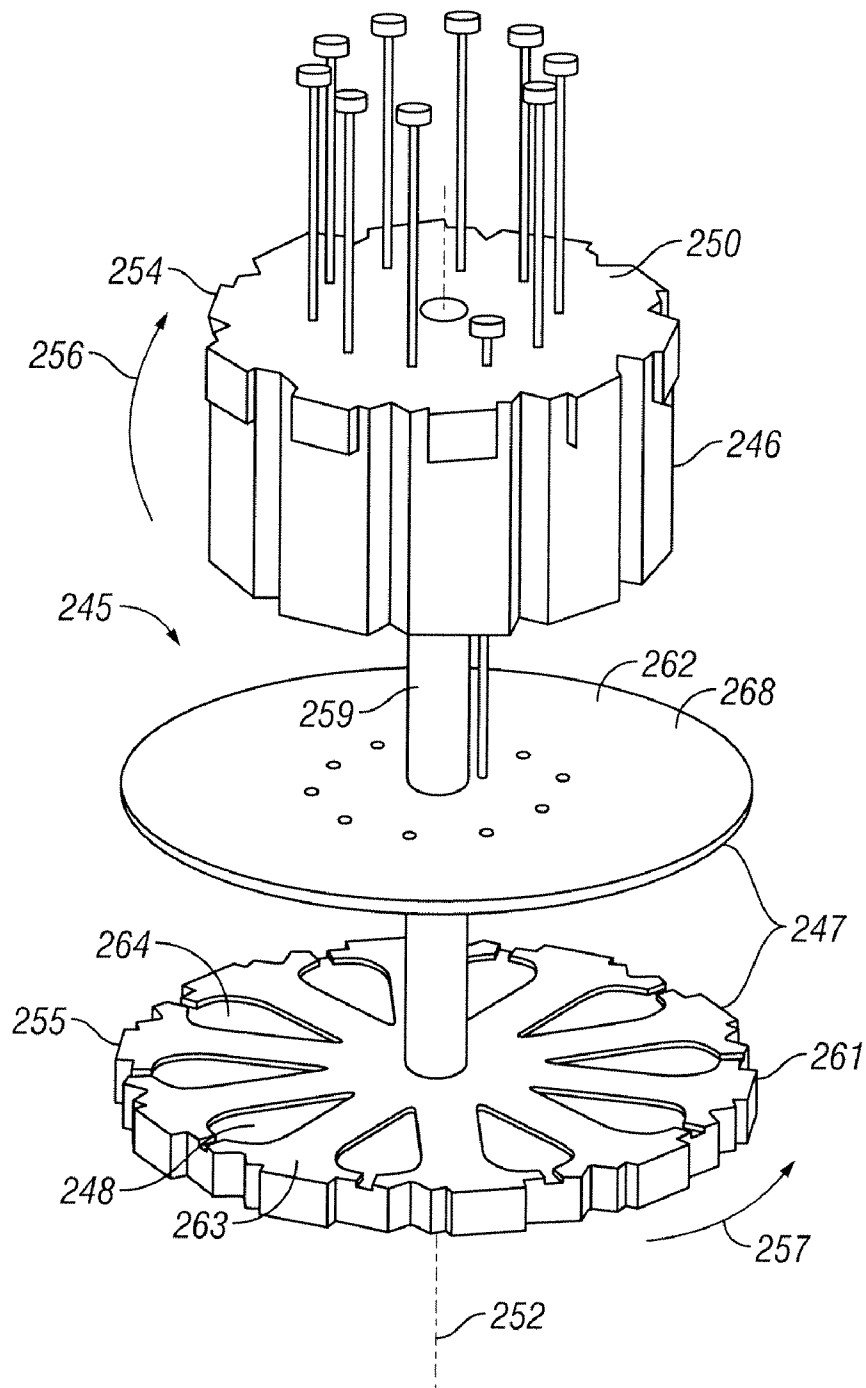
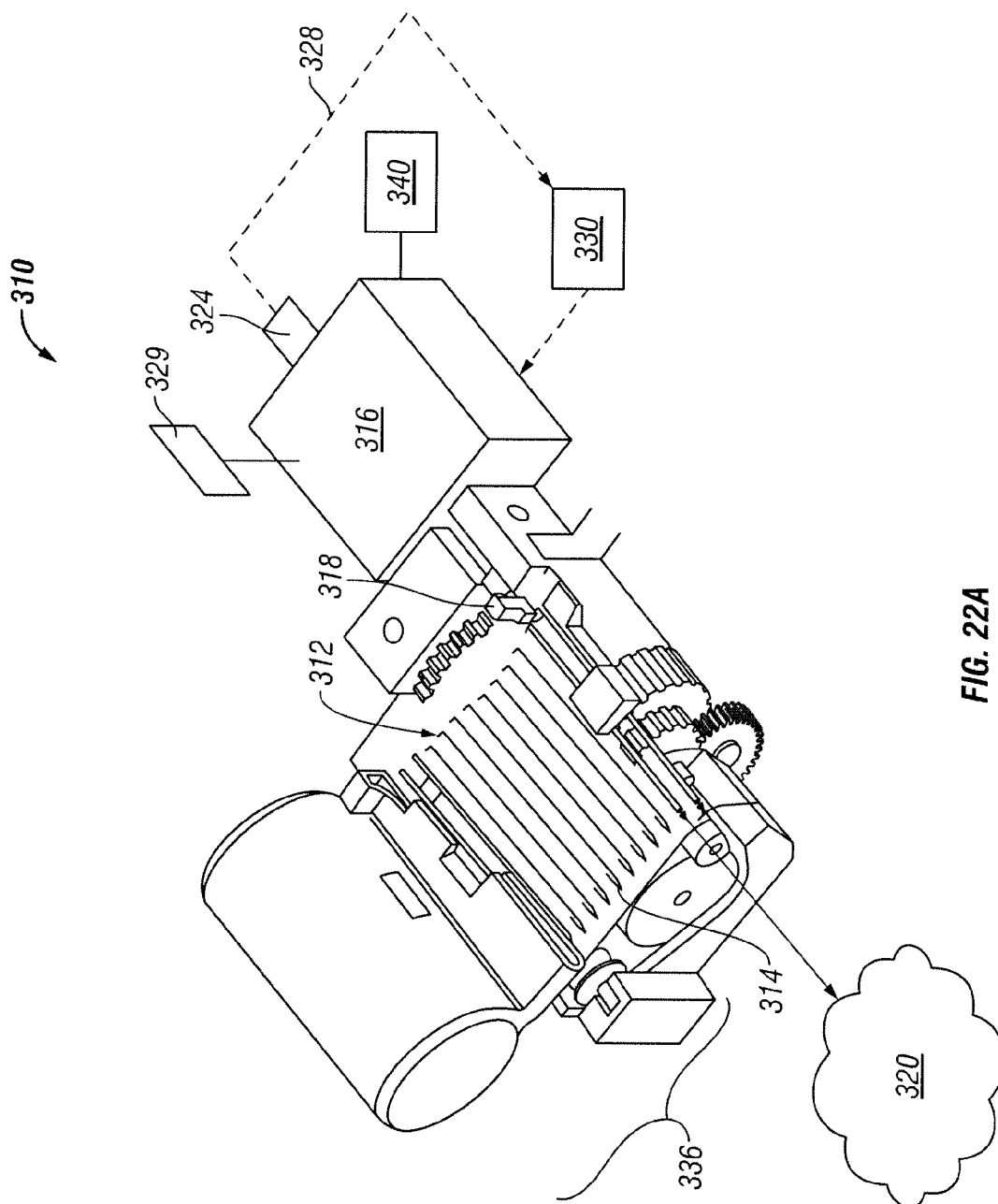
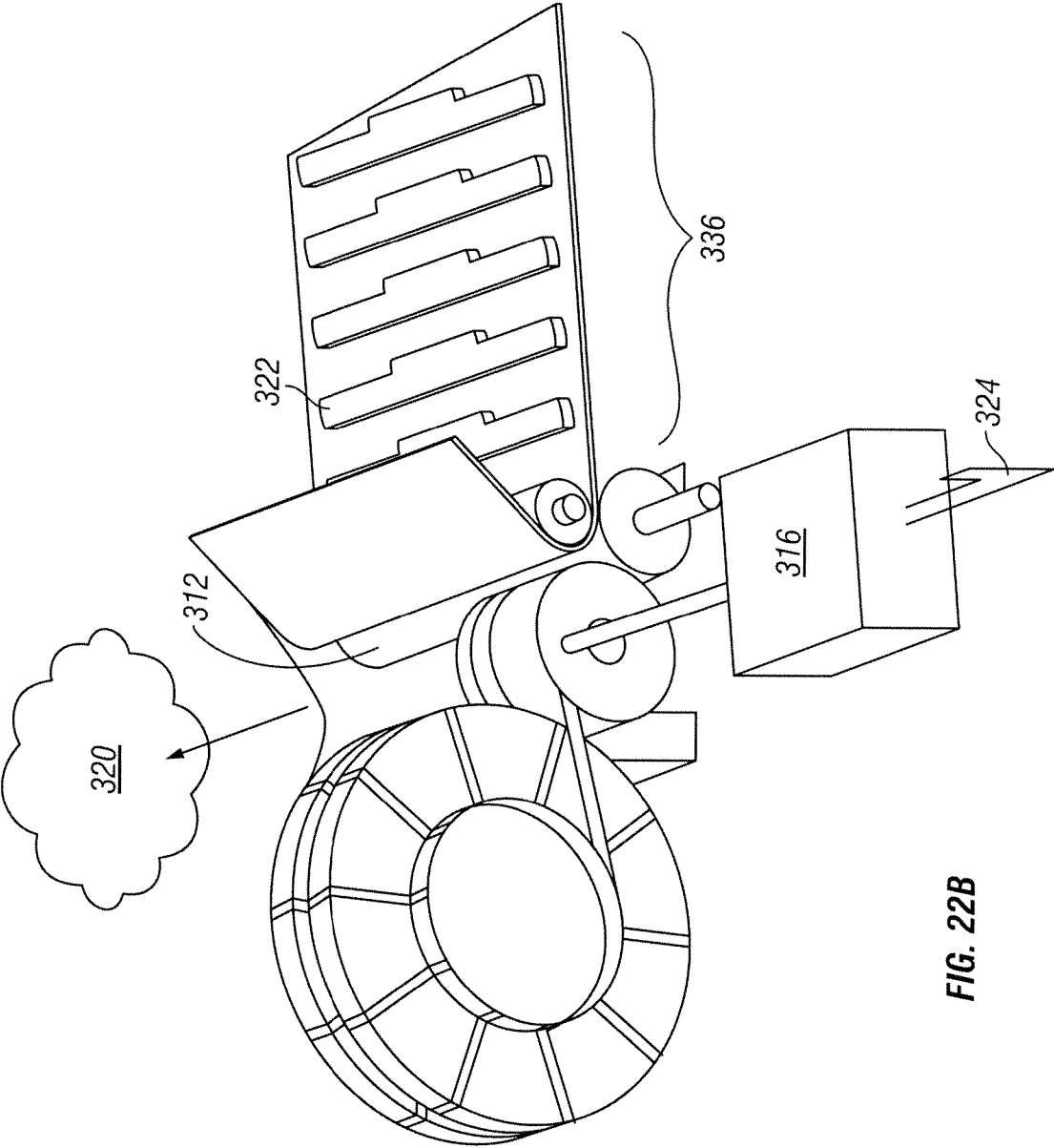


FIG. 21





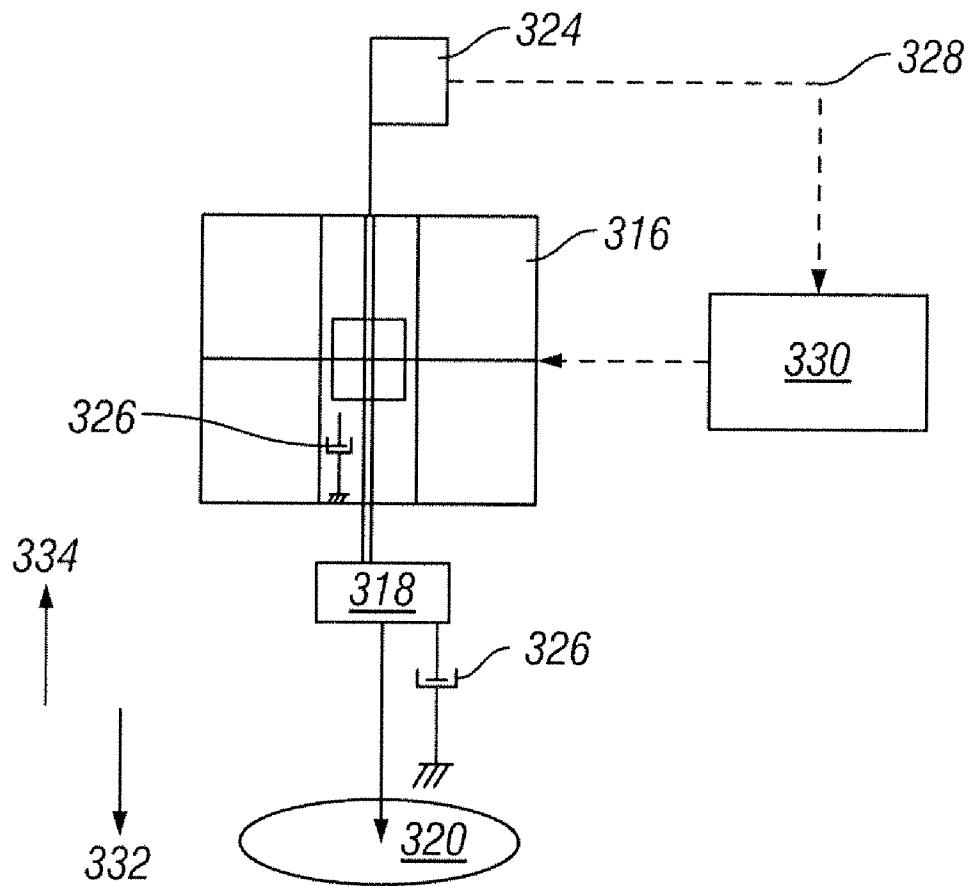


FIG. 22C

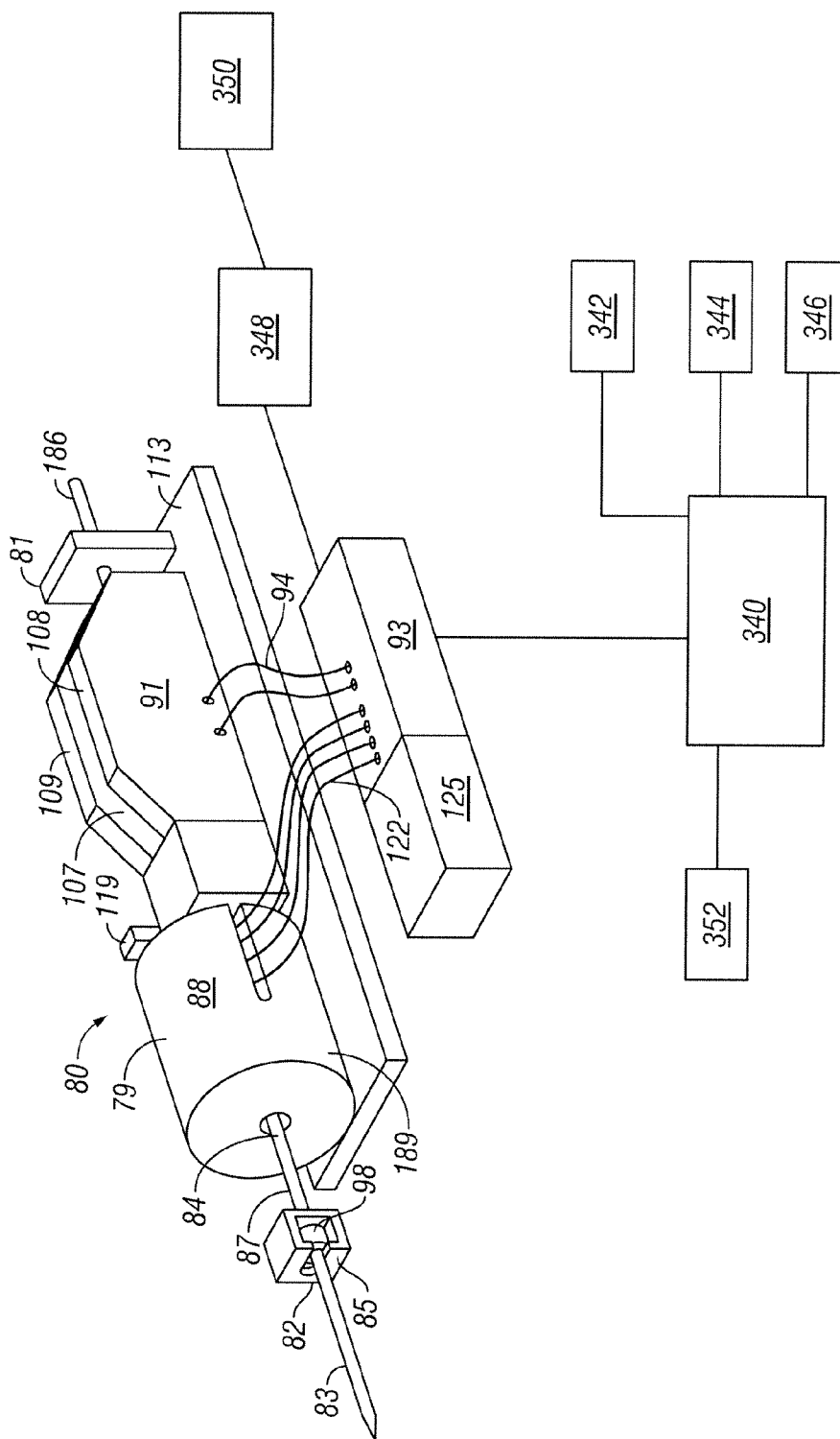


FIG. 23A

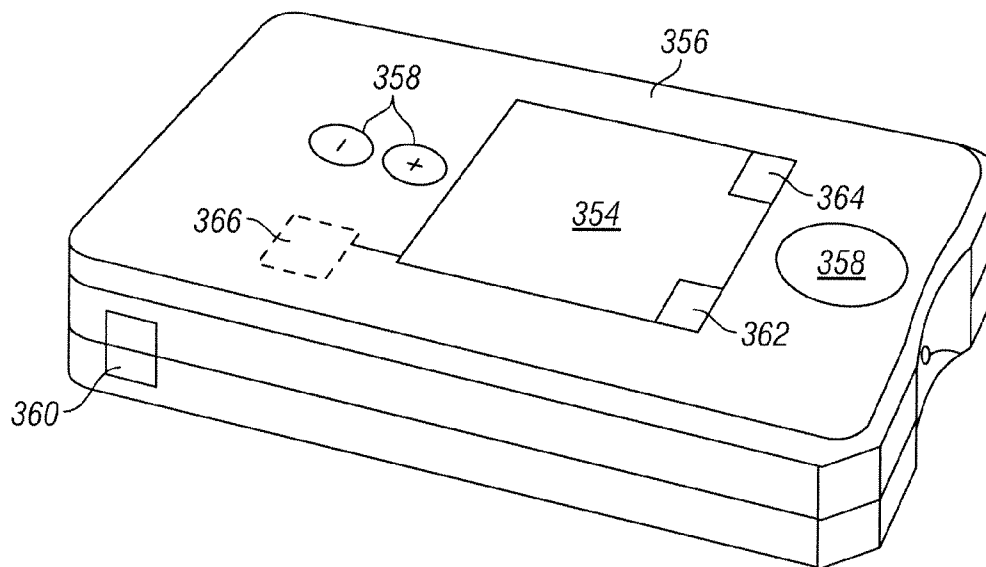


FIG. 23B

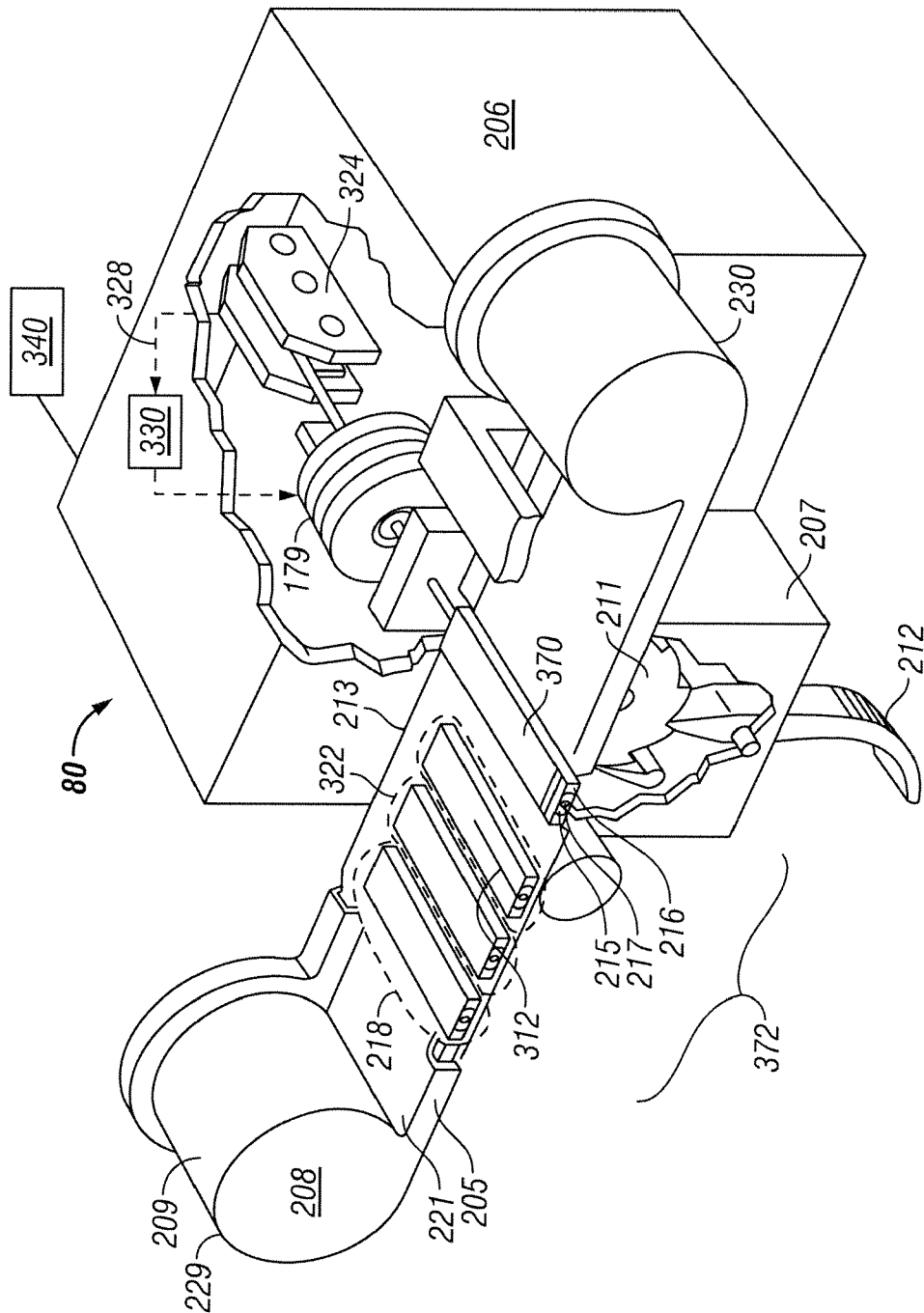


FIG. 24

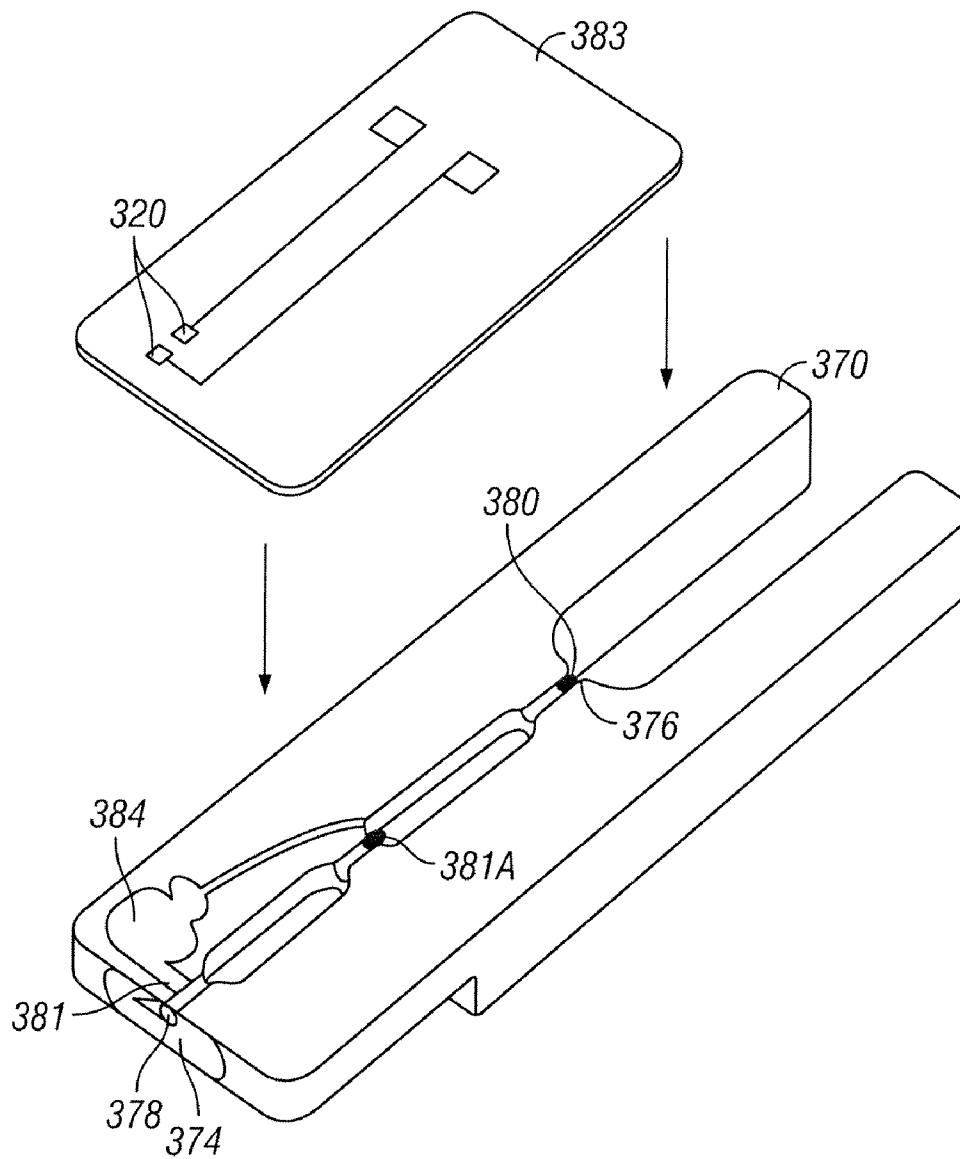


FIG. 25

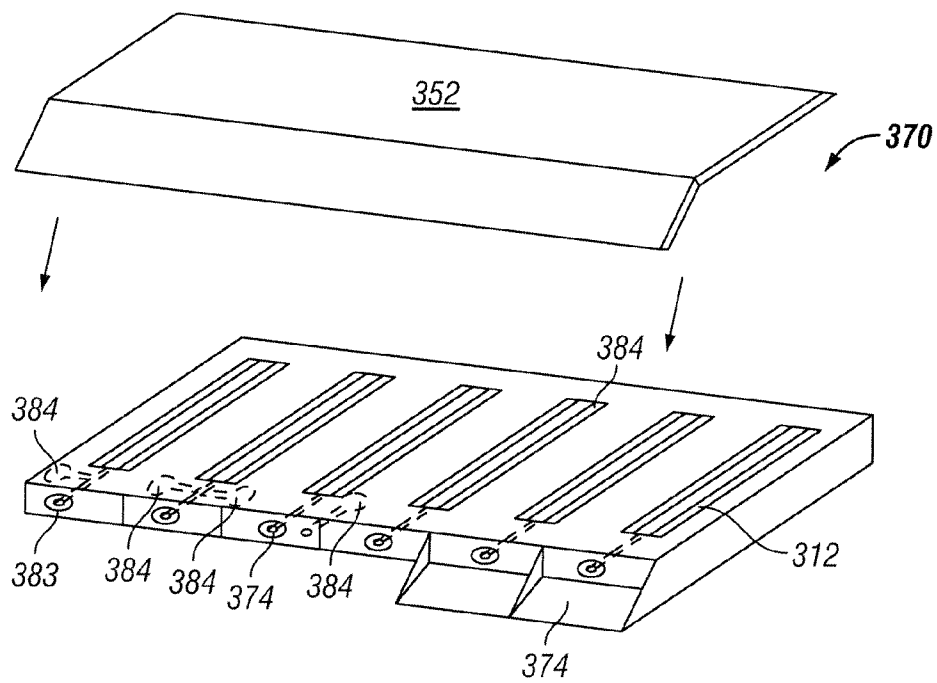


FIG. 26

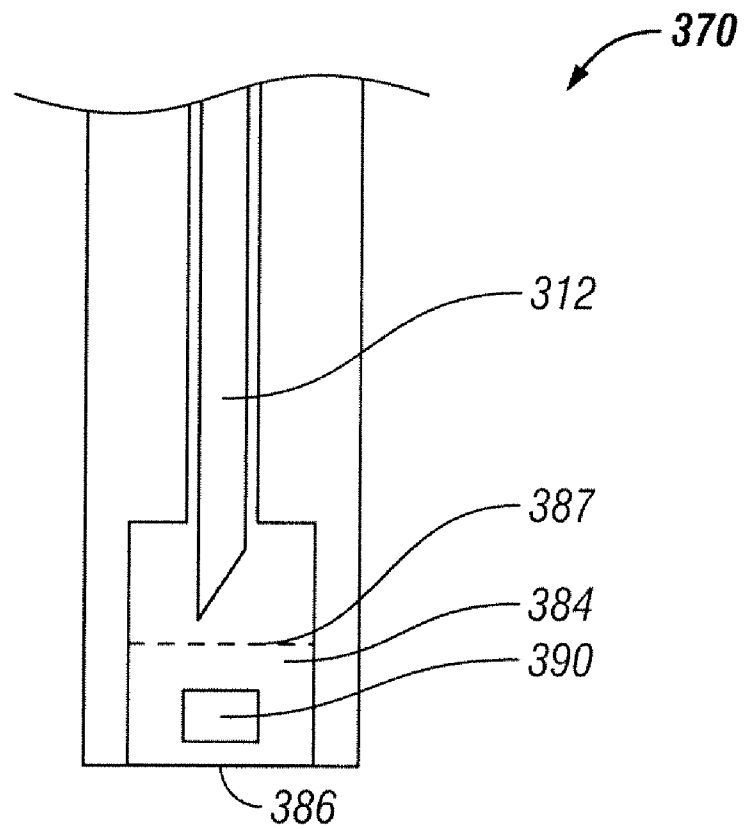


FIG. 27

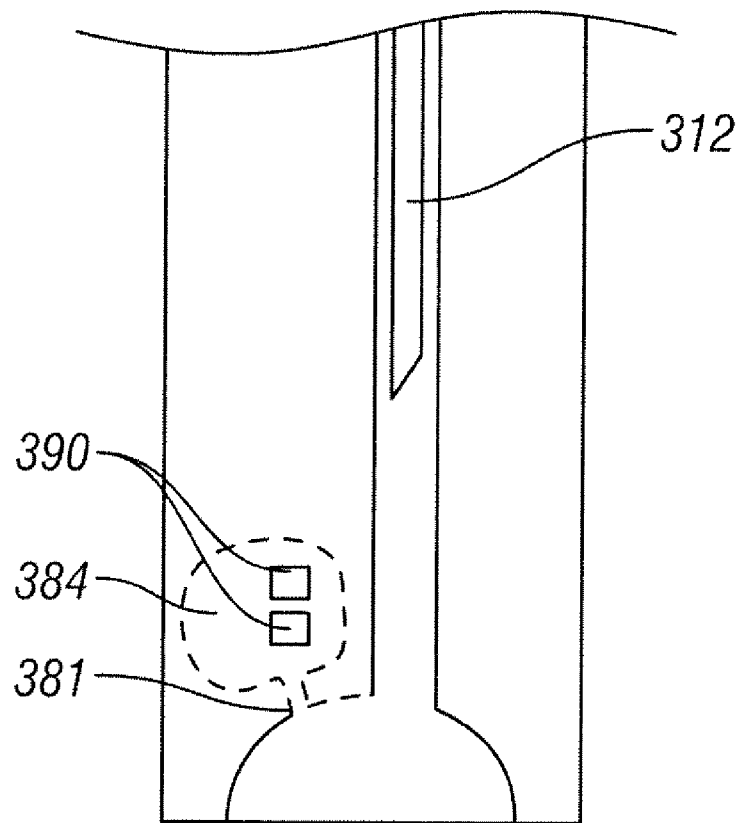
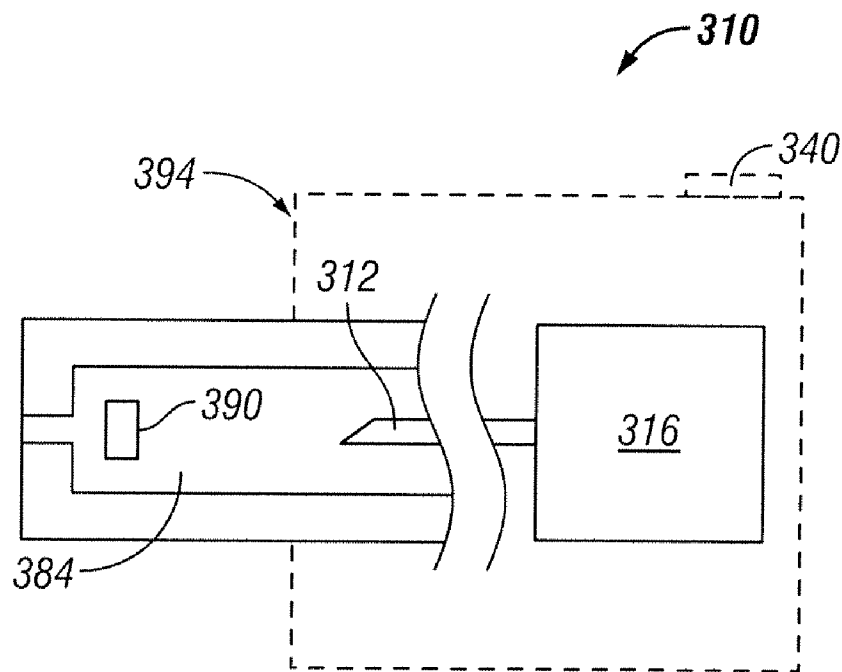


FIG. 28

**FIG. 29**

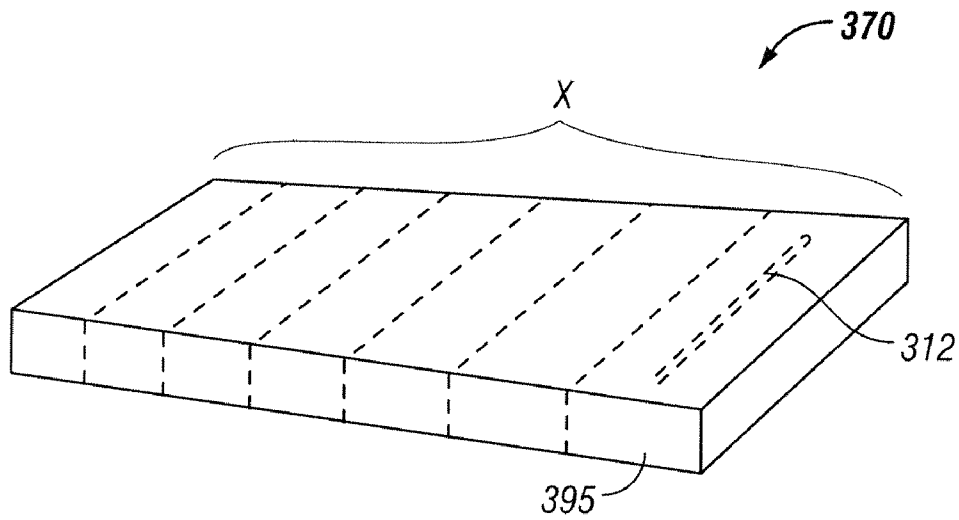


FIG. 30

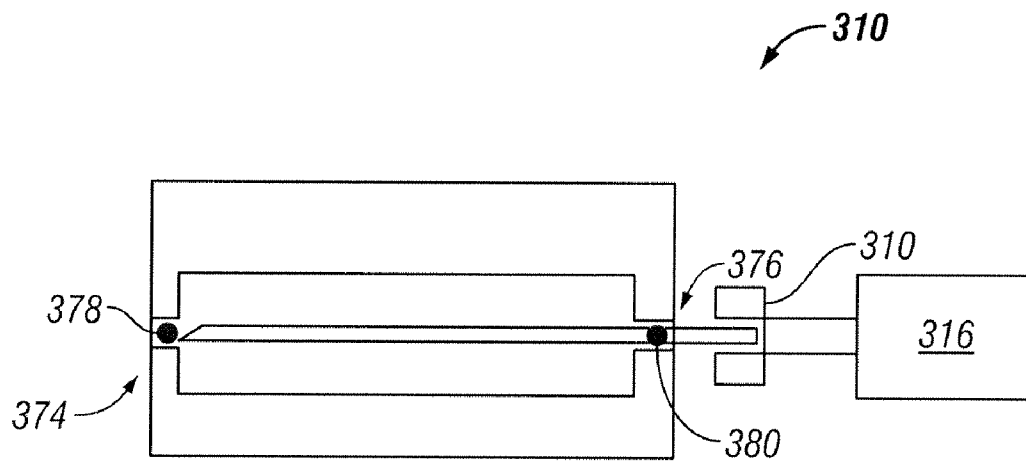


FIG. 31

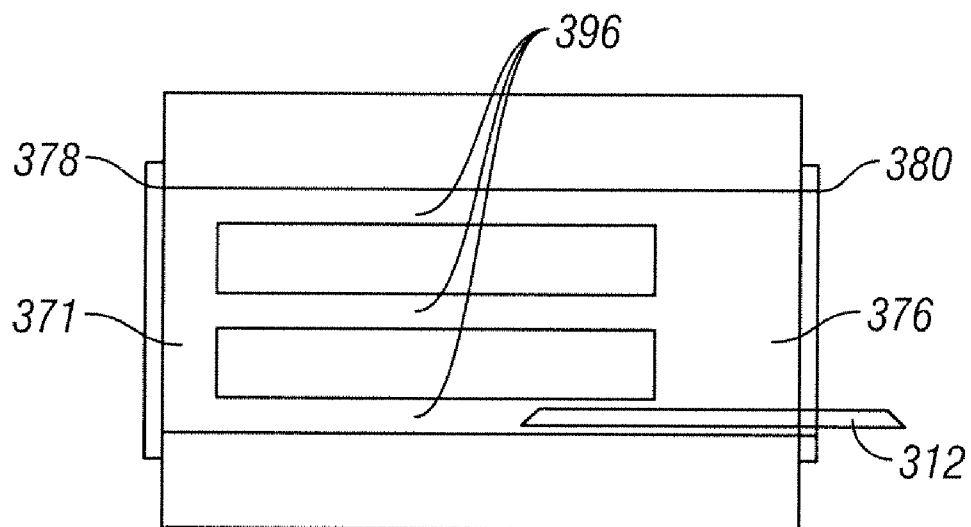


FIG. 32

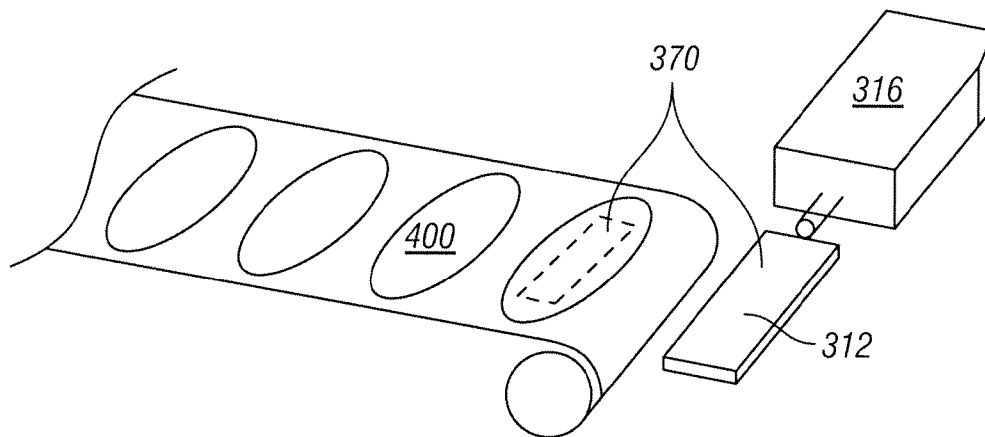


FIG. 33

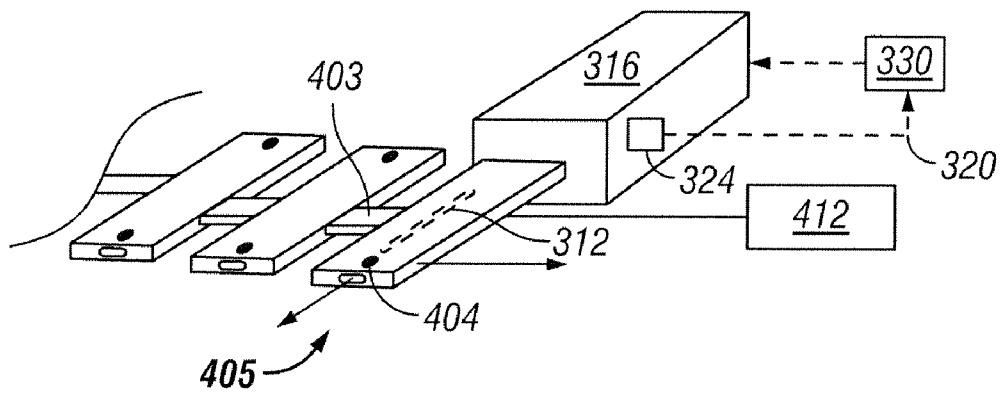


FIG. 34

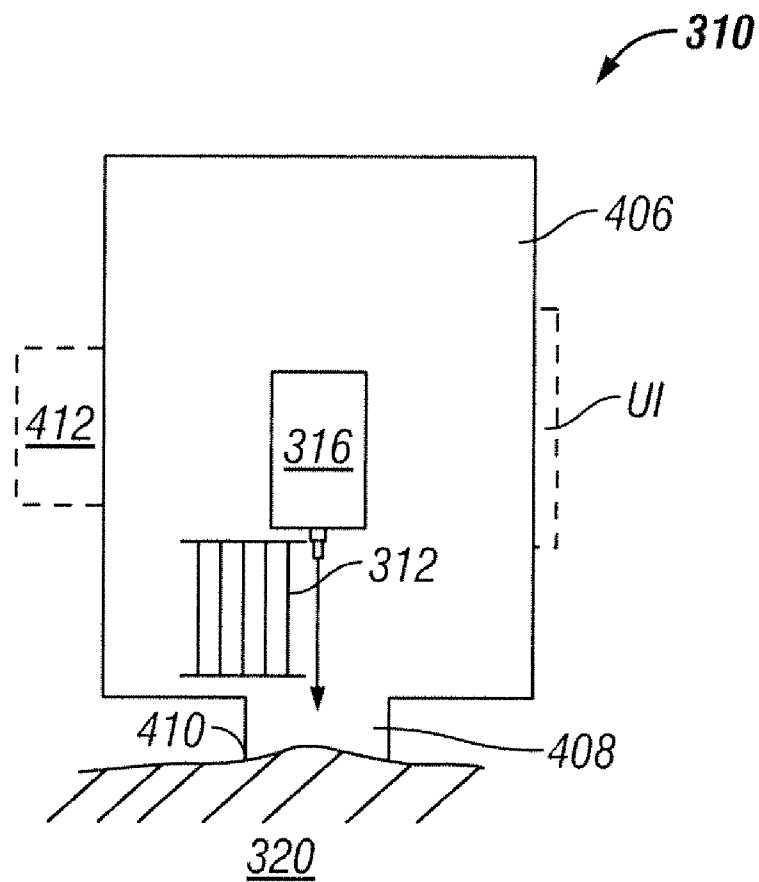


FIG. 35

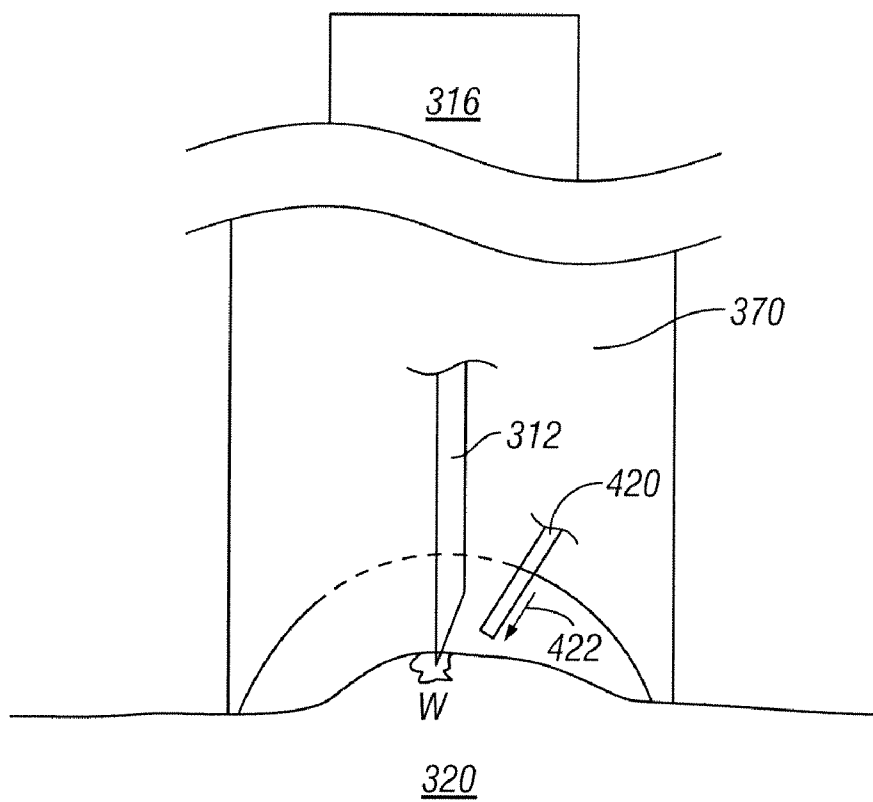


FIG. 36

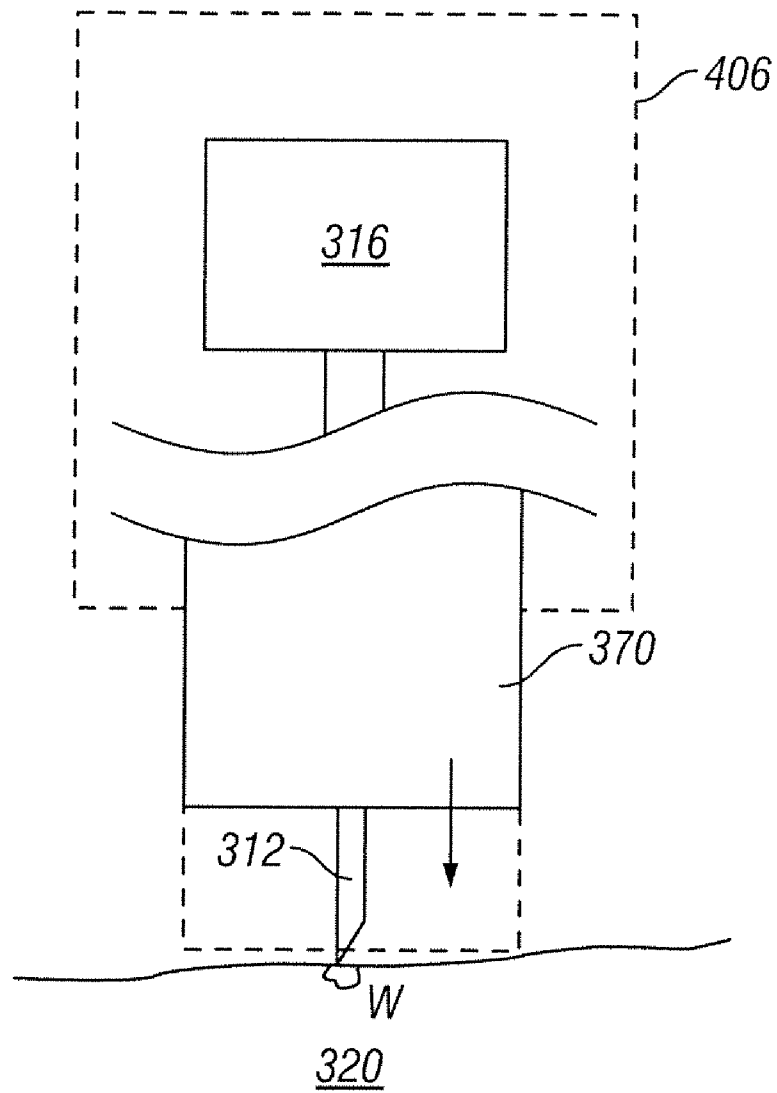


FIG. 37

1

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PENETRATING TISSUE****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation-in-part of commonly assigned, U.S. CIP patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 filed Apr. 19, 2002 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,025,774. This application also claims the benefit of priority from commonly assigned, copending U.S. CIP patent application Ser. No. 10/237,261 filed Sep. 5, 2002 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,344,507. All applications listed above are fully incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lancing devices are known in the medical health-care products industry for piercing the skin to produce blood for analysis. Typically, a drop of blood for this type of analysis is obtained by making a small incision in the fingertip, creating a small wound, which generates a small blood droplet on the surface of the skin.

Early methods of lancing included piercing or slicing the skin with a needle or razor. Current methods utilize lancing devices that contain a multitude of spring, cam and mass actuators to drive the lancet. These include cantilever springs, diaphragms, coil springs, as well as gravity plumbs used to drive the lancet. The device may be held against the skin and mechanically triggered to ballistically launch the lancet. Unfortunately, the pain associated with each lancing event using known technology discourages patients from testing. In addition to vibratory stimulation of the skin as the driver impacts the end of a launcher stop, known spring based devices have the possibility of harmonically oscillating against the patient tissue, causing multiple strikes due to recoil. This recoil and multiple strikes of the lancet against the patient is one major impediment to patient compliance with a structured glucose monitoring regime.

Another impediment to patient compliance is the lack of spontaneous blood flow generated by known lancing technology. In addition to the pain as discussed above, a patient may need more than one lancing event to obtain a blood sample since spontaneous blood generation is unreliable using known lancing technology. Thus the pain is multiplied by the number of tries it takes to successfully generate spontaneous blood flow. Different skin thickness may yield different results in terms of pain perception, blood yield and success rate of obtaining blood between different users of the lancing device. Known devices poorly account for these skin thickness variations.

A still further impediment to improved compliance with glucose monitoring are the many steps and hassle associated with each lancing event. Many diabetic patients that are insulin dependent may need to self-test for blood glucose levels five to six times daily. The large number of steps required in traditional methods of glucose testing, ranging from lancing, to milking of blood, applying blood to the test strip, and getting the measurements from the test strip, discourages many diabetic patients from testing their blood glucose levels as often as recommended. Older patients and those with deteriorating motor skills encounter difficulty loading lancets into launcher devices, transferring blood onto a test strip, or inserting thin test strips into slots on glucose measurement meters. Additionally, the wound channel left on the patient by known systems may also be of a size that discourages those who are

2

active with their hands or who are worried about healing of those wound channels from testing their glucose levels.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide improved tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use.

Another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that provide reduced pain when penetrating a target tissue.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that provide controlled depth of penetration.

Still a further object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that provide controlled velocities into and out of target tissue.

A further object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that provide stimulation to a target tissue.

Another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that apply a pressure to a target tissue.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, with penetrating members that remain in sterile environments prior to launch.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, with penetrating members that remain in sterile environments prior to launch, and the penetrating members are not used to breach the sterile environment.

A further object of the present invention is to provide improved tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that have user interfaces.

Another object of the present invention is to provide improved tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that have human interfaces.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that have low volume sample chambers.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that have sample chambers with volumes that do not exceed 1 μ L.

Another object of the present invention is to provide tissue penetrating systems, and their methods of use, that have multiple penetrating members housed in a cartridge.

These and other objects of the present invention are achieved in a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site that includes an electrically powered drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L. of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes an electrically powered drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site,

3

stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes an electrically powered drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes an electrically powered drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. The drive force generator is configured to be controlled to follow a predetermined velocity trajectory into the tissue and out of the tissue. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. The drive force generator is configured to be controlled to follow a predetermined velocity trajectory into the tissue and out of the tissue. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws

4

out of the tissue site. A position sensor is positioned to provide an indication of a position of the penetrating member during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A position sensor is positioned to provide an indication of a position of the penetrating member during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. The penetrating member is an elongate member without a molded attachment. A coupler, on the force generator, is configured to engage at least a portion of the elongate portion of the penetrating member and drive the member along a path into a tissue site and withdrawn from a tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. The penetrating member is an elongate member without a molded attachment. A coupler, on the force generator, is configured to engage at least a portion of the elongate portion of the penetrating member and drive the member along a path into a tissue site and withdrawn from a tissue site. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A plurality of cartridges each contain a penetrating member. Each cartridge is coupled together to define a flexible array. A transport device moves each of the cartridges into a launch position to operatively couple the penetrating member to the force generator. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is config-

5

ured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL , of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A plurality of cartridges each contain a penetrating member. Each cartridge is coupled together to define a flexible array. A transport device moves each of the cartridges into a launch position to operatively couple the penetrating member to the force generator. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure covers at least a tip of the penetrating member. The sterility enclosure is removed from the penetrating member prior to actuation of the member and positioned so that the penetrating member will not contact the enclosure during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure covers at least a tip of the penetrating member. The sterility enclosure is removed from the penetrating member prior to actuation of the member and positioned so that the penetrating member will not contact the enclosure during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure creates a sterile environment around at least a tip of the penetrating member. The penetrating member breaches the sterile environment during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL , of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure creates a sterile environment around at least a tip of the penetrating member. The penetrating member breaches the sterile environment during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned

6

to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure creates a sterile environment around at least a tip of the penetrating member. The penetrating member breaches the sterile environment during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member has an elongate portion without a molded attachment and is operatively coupled to the force generator. A sterility enclosure creates a sterile environment around at least a tip of the penetrating member. The penetrating member breaches the sterile environment during actuation. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A skin stabilizer device is suitable for stretching a surface of a tissue site. The skin stabilizer at least partially surrounds the penetrating member exit. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A skin stabilizer device is suitable for stretching a surface of a tissue site. The skin stabilizer at least partially surrounds the penetrating member exit. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL , of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws

7

out of the tissue site. A user interface transmits at least one input between a user. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 mL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A user interface transmits at least one input between a user. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 mL of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A user interface transmits at least one input between a user. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 mL of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output. A further understanding of the nature and advantages of the invention will become apparent by reference to the remaining portions of the specification and drawings.

less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A user interface is configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site includes a drive force generator. A penetrating member is operatively coupled to the force generator. The force generator moves the member along a path out of a housing having the a penetrating member exit, into the tissue site, stops in the tissue site, and withdraws out of the tissue site. A user interface transmits at least one input between a user. An analyte detecting member is positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member. The detection member is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid. A human interface provides at least one output. A further understanding of the nature and advantages of the invention will become apparent by reference to the remaining portions of the specification and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an embodiment of a controllable force driver in the form of a cylindrical electric penetrating member driver using a coiled solenoid-type configuration.

FIG. 2A illustrates a displacement over time profile of a penetrating member driven by a harmonic spring/mass system.

8

FIG. 2B illustrates the velocity over time profile of a penetrating member driver by a harmonic spring/mass system.

FIG. 2C illustrates a displacement over time profile of an embodiment of a controllable force driver.

FIG. 2D illustrates a velocity over time profile of an embodiment of a controllable force driver.

FIG. 3 is a diagrammatic view illustrating a controlled feed-back loop.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a tissue penetration device having features of the invention.

FIG. 5 is an elevation view in partial longitudinal section of the tissue penetration device of FIG. 4.

FIGS. 6A-6C show a flowchart illustrating a penetrating member control method.

FIG. 7 is a diagrammatic view of a patient's finger and a penetrating member tip moving toward the skin of the finger.

FIG. 8 is a diagrammatic view of a patient's finger and the penetrating member tip making contact with the skin of a patient's finger.

FIG. 9 is a diagrammatic view of the penetrating member tip depressing the skin of a patient's finger.

FIG. 10 is a diagrammatic view of the penetrating member tip further depressing the skin of a patient's finger.

FIG. 11 is a diagrammatic view of the penetrating member tip penetrating the skin of a patient's finger.

FIG. 12 is a diagrammatic view of the penetrating member tip penetrating the skin of a patient's finger to a desired depth.

FIG. 13 is a diagrammatic view of the penetrating member tip withdrawing from the skin of a patient's finger.

FIGS. 14-18 illustrate a method of tissue penetration that may measure elastic recoil of the skin.

FIG. 19 is a perspective view in partial section of a tissue penetration sampling device with a cartridge of sampling modules.

FIG. 20 is a perspective view of a sampling module cartridge with the sampling modules arranged in a ring configuration.

FIG. 21 illustrate an embodiment of a cartridge for use in sampling having a sampling cartridge body and a penetrating member cartridge body.

FIG. 22A shows a device for use on a tissue site having a plurality of penetrating members.

FIG. 22B shows rear view of a device for use on a tissue site having a plurality of penetrating members.

FIG. 22C shows a schematic of a device for use on a tissue site with a feedback loop and optionally a damper.

FIG. 23A shows an embodiment of a device with a user interface.

FIG. 23B shows an outer view of a device with a user interface.

FIG. 24 is a cut away view of a system for sampling body fluid.

FIG. 25 is an exploded view of a cartridge for use with a system for sampling body fluid.

FIG. 26 is an exploded view of a cartridge having multiple penetrating members for use with a system for sampling body fluid.

FIGS. 27-28 show cartridges for use with a system for sampling body fluid.

FIG. 29 shows a cutaway view of another embodiment of a system for sampling body fluid.

FIG. 30 shows the density associated with a cartridge according to the present invention.

FIG. 31 shows a cutaway view of another embodiment of a system for sampling body fluid.

FIG. 32 is a cut away view of a cartridge according to the present invention.

FIGS. 33-34 show views of a body sampling system using multiple cartridges.

FIG. 35 shows an embodiment of the present invention with a tissue stabilizing member.

FIG. 36 shows a cartridge according to the present invention with a tissue stabilizing member.

FIG. 37 shows a system according to the present invention with a moveable cartridge.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

The present invention provides a solution for body fluid sampling. Specifically, some embodiments of the present invention provides a penetrating member device for consistently creating a wound with spontaneous body fluid flow from a patient. The invention may be a multiple penetrating member device with an optional high density design. It may use penetrating members of smaller size than known penetrating members. The device may be used for multiple lancing events without having to remove a disposable from the device or for the user to handle sharps. The invention may provide improved sensing capabilities. At least some of these and other objectives described herein will be met by embodiments of the present invention.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed. It should be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to "a material" may include mixtures of materials, reference to "a chamber" may include multiple chambers, and the like. References cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety, except to the extent that they conflict with teachings explicitly set forth in this specification.

In this specification and in the claims which follow, reference will be made to a number of terms which shall be defined to have the following meanings:

"Optional" or "optionally" means that the subsequently described circumstance may or may not occur, so that the description includes instances where the circumstance occurs and instances where it does not. For example, if a device optionally contains a feature for analyzing a blood sample, this means that the analysis feature may or may not be present, and, thus, the description includes structures wherein a device possesses the analysis feature and structures wherein the analysis feature is not present.

"Analyte detecting member" refers to any use, singly or in combination, of chemical test reagents and methods, electrical test circuits and methods, physical test components and methods, optical test components and methods, and biological test reagents and methods to yield information about a blood sample. Such methods are well known in the art and may be based on teachings of, e.g. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry, 3d Ed., Sec. V, pp. 776-78 (Burtis & Ashwood, Eds., W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1999); U.S. Pat. No. 5,997,817 to Chrismore et al. (Dec. 7, 1999); U.S. Pat. No. 5,059,394 to Phillips et al. (Oct. 22, 1991); U.S. Pat. No. 5,001,054 to Wagner et al. (Mar. 19, 1991); and U.S. Pat. No. 4,392,933 to Nakamura et al. (Jul. 12, 1983), the teachings of which are hereby incorporated by reference, as well as others. Analyte detecting member may include tests in the sample test chamber that test electrochemical properties of the blood, or they may include optical means for sensing optical properties of the blood (e.g. oxygen saturation level),

or they may include biochemical reagents (e.g. antibodies) to sense properties (e.g. presence of antigens) of the blood. The analyte detecting member may comprise biosensing or reagent material that will react with an analyte in blood (e.g. glucose) or other body fluid so that an appropriate signal correlating with the presence of the analyte is generated and can be read by the reader apparatus. By way of example and not limitation, analyte detecting member may "associated with", "mounted within", or "coupled to" a chamber or other structure when the analyte detecting member participates in the function of providing an appropriate signal about the blood sample to the reader device. Analyte detecting member may also include nanowire analyte detecting members as described herein. Analyte detecting member may use potentiometric, coulometric, or other method useful for detection of analyte levels.

The present invention may be used with a variety of different penetrating member drivers. It is contemplated that these penetrating member drivers may be spring based, solenoid based, magnetic driver based, nanomuscle based, or based on any other mechanism useful in moving a penetrating member along a path into tissue. It should be noted that the present invention is not limited by the type of driver used with the penetrating member feed mechanism. One suitable penetrating member driver for use with the present invention is shown in FIG. 1. This is an embodiment of a solenoid type electromagnetic driver that is capable of driving an iron core or slug mounted to the penetrating member assembly using a direct current (DC) power supply. The electromagnetic driver includes a driver coil pack that is divided into three separate coils along the path of the penetrating member, two end coils and a middle coil. Direct current is alternated to the coils to advance and retract the penetrating member. Although the driver coil pack is shown with three coils, any suitable number of coils may be used, for example, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more coils may be used.

Referring to the embodiment of FIG. 1, the stationary iron housing 10 may contain the driver coil pack with a first coil 12 flanked by iron spacers 14 which concentrate the magnetic flux at the inner diameter creating magnetic poles. The inner insulating housing 16 isolates the penetrating member 18 and iron core 20 from the coils and provides a smooth, low friction guide surface. The penetrating member guide 22 further centers the penetrating member 18 and iron core 20. The penetrating member 18 is protracted and retracted by alternating the current between the first coil 12, the middle coil, and the third coil to attract the iron core 20. Reversing the coil sequence and attracting the core and penetrating member back into the housing retracts the penetrating member. The penetrating member guide 22 also serves as a stop for the iron core 20 mounted to the penetrating member 18.

As discussed above, tissue penetration devices which employ spring or cam driving methods have a symmetrical or nearly symmetrical actuation displacement and velocity profiles on the advancement and retraction of the penetrating member as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. In most of the available lancet devices, once the launch is initiated, the stored energy determines the velocity profile until the energy is dissipated. Controlling impact, retraction velocity, and dwell time of the penetrating member within the tissue can be useful in order to achieve a high success rate while accommodating variations in skin properties and minimize pain. Advantages can be achieved by taking into account of the fact that tissue dwell time is related to the amount of skin deformation as the penetrating member tries to puncture the surface of the skin and variance in skin deformation from patient to patient based on skin hydration.

11

In this embodiment, the ability to control velocity and depth of penetration may be achieved by use of a controllable force driver where feedback is an integral part of driver control. Such drivers can control either metal or polymeric penetrating members or any other type of tissue penetration element. The dynamic control of such a driver is illustrated in FIG. 2C which illustrates an embodiment of a controlled displacement profile and FIG. 2D which illustrates an embodiment of a controlled velocity profile. These are compared to FIGS. 2A and 2B, which illustrate embodiments of displacement and velocity profiles, respectively, of a harmonic spring/mass powered driver. Reduced pain can be achieved by using impact velocities of greater than about 2 m/s entry of a tissue penetrating element, such as a lancet, into tissue. Other suitable embodiments of the penetrating member driver are described in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395, (Attorney Docket No. 38187-2551) filed Apr. 19, 2002 and previously incorporated herein.

FIG. 3 illustrates the operation of a feedback loop using a processor 60. The processor 60 stores profiles 62 in non-volatile memory. A user inputs information 64 about the desired circumstances or parameters for a lancing event. The processor 60 selects a driver profile 62 from a set of alternative driver profiles that have been preprogrammed in the processor 60 based on typical or desired tissue penetration device performance determined through testing at the factory or as programmed in by the operator. The processor 60 may customize by either scaling or modifying the profile based on additional user input information 64. Once the processor has chosen and customized the profile, the processor 60 is ready to modulate the power from the power supply 66 to the penetrating member driver 68 through an amplifier 70. The processor 60 may measure the location of the penetrating member 72 using a position sensing mechanism 74 through an analog to digital converter 76 linear encoder or other such transducer. Examples of position sensing mechanisms have been described in the embodiments above and may be found in the specification for commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395, (Attorney Docket No. 38187-2551) filed Apr. 19, 2002 and previously incorporated herein. The processor 60 calculates the movement of the penetrating member by comparing the actual profile of the penetrating member to the predetermined profile. The processor 60 modulates the power to the penetrating member driver 68 through a signal generator 78, which may control the amplifier 70 so that the actual velocity profile of the penetrating member does not exceed the predetermined profile by more than a preset error limit. The error limit is the accuracy in the control of the penetrating member.

After the lancing event, the processor 60 can allow the user to rank the results of the lancing event. The processor 60 stores these results and constructs a database 80 for the individual user. Using the database 79, the processor 60 calculates the profile traits such as degree of painlessness, success rate, and blood volume for various profiles 62 depending on user input information 64 to optimize the profile to the individual user for subsequent lancing cycles. These profile traits depend on the characteristic phases of penetrating member advancement and retraction. The processor 60 uses these calculations to optimize profiles 62 for each user. In addition to user input information 64, an internal clock allows storage in the database 79 of information such as the time of day to generate a time stamp for the lancing event and the time between lancing events to anticipate the user's diurnal needs. The database stores information and statistics for each user and each profile that particular user uses.

12

In addition to varying the profiles, the processor 60 can be used to calculate the appropriate penetrating member diameter and geometry suitable to realize the blood volume required by the user. For example, if the user requires about 1-5 microliter volume of blood, the processor 60 may select a 200 micron diameter penetrating member to achieve these results. For each class of lancet, both diameter and lancet tip geometry, is stored in the processor 60 to correspond with upper and lower limits of attainable blood volume based on the predetermined displacement and velocity profiles.

The lancing device is capable of prompting the user for information at the beginning and the end of the lancing event to more adequately suit the user. The goal is to either change to a different profile or modify an existing profile. Once the profile is set, the force driving the penetrating member is varied during advancement and retraction to follow the profile. The method of lancing using the lancing device comprises selecting a profile, lancing according to the selected profile, determining lancing profile traits for each characteristic phase of the lancing cycle, and optimizing profile traits for subsequent lancing events.

FIG. 4 illustrates an embodiment of a tissue penetration device, more specifically, a lancing device 80 that includes a controllable driver 179 coupled to a tissue penetration element. The lancing device 80 has a proximal end 81 and a distal end 82. At the distal end 82 is the tissue penetration element in the form of a penetrating member 83, which is coupled to an elongate coupler shaft 84 by a drive coupler 85. The elongate coupler shaft 84 has a proximal end 86 and a distal end 87. A driver coil pack 88 is disposed about the elongate coupler shaft 84 proximal of the penetrating member 83. A position sensor 91 is disposed about a proximal portion 92 of the elongate coupler shaft 84 and an electrical conductor 94 electrically couples a processor 93 to the position sensor 91. The elongate coupler shaft 84 driven by the driver coil pack 88 controlled by the position sensor 91 and processor 93 form the controllable driver, specifically, a controllable electromagnetic driver.

Referring to FIG. 5, the lancing device 80 can be seen in more detail, in partial longitudinal section. The penetrating member 83 has a proximal end 95 and a distal end 96 with a sharpened point at the distal end 96 of the penetrating member 83 and a drive head 98 disposed at the proximal end 95 of the penetrating member 83. A penetrating member shaft 201 is disposed between the drive head 98 and the sharpened point 97. The penetrating member shaft 201 may be comprised of stainless steel, or any other suitable material or alloy and have a transverse dimension of about 0.1 to about 0.4 mm. The penetrating member shaft may have a length of about 3 mm to about 50 mm, specifically, about 15 mm to about 20 mm. The drive head 98 of the penetrating member 83 is an enlarged portion having a transverse dimension greater than a transverse dimension of the penetrating member shaft 201 distal of the drive head 98. This configuration allows the drive head 98 to be mechanically captured by the drive coupler 85. The drive head 98 may have a transverse dimension of about 0.5 to about 2 mm.

A magnetic member 102 is secured to the elongate coupler shaft 84 proximal of the drive coupler 85 on a distal portion 203 of the elongate coupler shaft 84. The magnetic member 102 is a substantially cylindrical piece of magnetic material having an axial lumen 204 extending the length of the magnetic member 102. The magnetic member 102 has an outer transverse dimension that allows the magnetic member 102 to slide easily within an axial lumen 105 of a low friction, possibly lubricious, polymer guide tube 105' disposed within the driver coil pack 88. The magnetic member 102 may have

13

an outer transverse dimension of about 1.0 to about 5.0 mm, specifically, about 2.3 to about 2.5 mm. The magnetic member **102** may have a length of about 3.0 to about 5.0 mm, specifically, about 4.7 to about 4.9 mm. The magnetic member **102** can be made from a variety of magnetic materials including ferrous metals such as ferrous steel, iron, ferrite, or the like. The magnetic member **102** may be secured to the distal portion **203** of the elongate coupler shaft **84** by a variety of methods including adhesive or epoxy bonding, welding, crimping or any other suitable method.

Proximal of the magnetic member **102**, an optical encoder flag **206** is secured to the elongate coupler shaft **84**. The optical encoder flag **206** is configured to move within a slot **107** in the position sensor **91**. The slot **107** of the position sensor **91** is formed between a first body portion **108** and a second body portion **109** of the position sensor **91**. The slot **107** may have separation width of about 1.5 to about 2.0 mm. The optical encoder flag **206** can have a length of about 14 to about 18 mm, a width of about 3 to about 5 mm and a thickness of about 0.04 to about 0.06 mm.

The optical encoder flag **206** interacts with various optical beams generated by LEDs disposed on or in the position sensor body portions **108** and **109** in a predetermined manner. The interaction of the optical beams generated by the LEDs of the position sensor **91** generates a signal that indicates the longitudinal position of the optical flag **206** relative to the position sensor **91** with a substantially high degree of resolution. The resolution of the position sensor **91** may be about 200 to about 400 cycles per inch, specifically, about 350 to about 370 cycles per inch. The position sensor **91** may have a speed response time (position/time resolution) of 0 to about 120,000 Hz, where one dark and light stripe of the flag constitutes one Hertz, or cycle per second. The position of the optical encoder flag **206** relative to the magnetic member **102**, driver coil pack **88** and position sensor **91** is such that the optical encoder **91** can provide precise positional information about the penetrating member **83** over the entire length of the penetrating member's power stroke.

An optical encoder that is suitable for the position sensor **91** is a linear optical incremental encoder, model HEDS 9200, manufactured by Agilent Technologies. The model HEDS 9200 may have a length of about 20 to about 30 mm, a width of about 8 to about 12 mm, and a height of about 9 to about 11 mm. Although the position sensor **91** illustrated is a linear optical incremental encoder, other suitable position sensor embodiments could be used, provided they possess the requisite positional resolution and time response. The HEDS 9200 is a two channel device where the channels are 90 degrees out of phase with each other. This results in a resolution of four times the basic cycle of the flag. These quadrature outputs make it possible for the processor to determine the direction of penetrating member travel. Other suitable position sensors include capacitive encoders, analog reflective sensors, such as the reflective position sensor discussed above, and the like.

A coupler shaft guide **111** is disposed towards the proximal end **81** of the lancing device **80**. The guide **111** has a guide lumen **112** disposed in the guide **111** to slidably accept the proximal portion **92** of the elongate coupler shaft **84**. The guide **111** keeps the elongate coupler shaft **84** centered horizontally and vertically in the slot **102** of the optical encoder **91**.

The driver coil pack **88**, position sensor **91** and coupler shaft guide **111** are all secured to a base **113**. The base **113** is longitudinally coextensive with the driver coil pack **88**, position sensor **91** and coupler shaft guide **111**. The base **113** can take the form of a rectangular piece of metal or polymer, or

14

may be a more elaborate housing with recesses, which are configured to accept the various components of the lancing device **80**.

As discussed above, the magnetic member **102** is configured to slide within an axial lumen **105** of the driver coil pack **88**. The driver coil pack **88** includes a most distal first coil **114**, a second coil **115**, which is axially disposed between the first coil **114** and a third coil **116**, and a proximal-most fourth coil **117**. Each of the first coil **114**, second coil **115**, third coil **116** and fourth coil **117** has an axial lumen. The axial lumens of the first through fourth coils are configured to be coaxial with the axial lumens of the other coils and together form the axial lumen **105** of the driver coil pack **88** as a whole. Axially adjacent each of the coils **114-117** is a magnetic disk or washer **118** that augments completion of the magnetic circuit of the coils **114-117** during a lancing cycle of the device **80**. The magnetic washers **118** of the embodiment of FIG. **5** are made of ferrous steel but could be made of any other suitable magnetic material, such as iron or ferrite. The outer shell **89** of the driver coil pack **88** is also made of iron or steel to complete the magnetic path around the coils and between the washers **118**. The magnetic washers **118** have an outer diameter commensurate with an outer diameter of the driver coil pack **88** of about 4.0 to about 8.0 mm. The magnetic washers **118** have an axial thickness of about 0.05, to about 0.4 mm, specifically, about 0.15 to about 0.25 mm.

Wrapping or winding an elongate electrical conductor **121** about an axial lumen until a sufficient number of windings have been achieved forms the coils **114-117**. The elongate electrical conductor **121** is generally an insulated solid copper wire with a small outer transverse dimension of about 0.06 mm to about 0.88 mm, specifically, about 0.3 mm to about 0.5 mm. In one embodiment, **32** gauge copper wire is used for the coils **114-117**. The number of windings for each of the coils **114-117** of the driver pack **88** may vary with the size of the coil, but for some embodiments each coil **114-117** may have about 30 to about 80 turns, specifically, about 50 to about 60 turns. Each coil **114-117** can have an axial length of about 1.0 to about 3.0 mm, specifically, about 1.8 to about 2.0 mm. Each coil **114-117** can have an outer transverse dimension or diameter of about 4.0, to about 2.0 mm, specifically, about 9.0 to about 12.0 mm. The axial lumen **105** can have a transverse dimension of about 1.0 to about 3.0 mm.

It may be advantageous in some driver coil **88** embodiments to replace one or more of the coils with permanent magnets, which produce a magnetic field similar to that of the coils when the coils are activated. In particular, it may be desirable in some embodiments to replace the second coil **115**, the third coil **116** or both with permanent magnets. In addition, it may be advantageous to position a permanent magnet at or near the proximal end of the coil driver pack in order to provide fixed magnet zeroing function for the magnetic member (Adams magnetic Products 23A0002 flexible magnet material (800) 747-7543).

A permanent bar magnet **119** is disposed on the proximal end of the driver coil pack **88**. As shown in FIG. **5**, the bar magnet **119** is arranged so as to have one end disposed adjacent the travel path of the magnetic member **102** and has a polarity configured so as to attract the magnetic member **102** in a centered position with respect to the bar magnet **119**. Note that the polymer guide tube **105'** can be configured to extend proximally to insulate the inward radial surface of the bar magnet **119** from an outer surface of the magnetic member **102**. This arrangement allows the magnetic member **119** and thus the elongate coupler shaft **84** to be attracted to and held in a zero point or rest position without the consumption of electrical energy from the power supply **125**.

15

Having a fixed zero or start point for the elongate coupler shaft **84** and penetrating member **83** may be useful to properly controlling the depth of penetration of the penetrating member **83** as well as other lancing parameters. This can be because some methods of depth penetration control for a controllable driver measure the acceleration and displacement of the elongate coupler shaft **84** and penetrating member **83** from a known start position. If the distance of the penetrating member tip **96** from the target tissue is known, acceleration and displacement of the penetrating member is known and the start position of the penetrating member is known, the time and position of tissue contact and depth of penetration can be determined by the processor **93**.

Any number of configurations for a magnetic bar **119** can be used for the purposes discussed above. In particular, a second permanent bar magnet (not shown) could be added to the proximal end of the driver coil pack **88** with the magnetic fields of the two bar magnets configured to complement each other. In addition, a disc magnet can be used. Disc magnet is shown disposed at the proximal end of the driver coiled pack **88** with a polymer non-magnetic disc disposed between the proximal-most coil **117** and disc magnet and positions disc magnet away from the proximal end of the proximal-most coil **117**. The polymer non-magnetic disc spacer is used so that the magnetic member **102** can be centered in a zero or start position slightly proximal of the proximal-most coil **117** of the driver coil pack **88**. This allows the magnetic member to be attracted by the proximal-most coil **117** at the initiation of the lancing cycle instead of being passive in the forward drive portion of the lancing cycle.

An inner lumen of the polymer non-magnetic disc can be configured to allow the magnetic member **102** to pass axially there through while an inner lumen of the disc magnet can be configured to allow the elongate coupler shaft **84** to pass through but not large enough for the magnetic member **102** to pass through. This results in the magnetic member **102** being attracted to the disc magnet and coming to rest with the proximal surface of the magnetic member **102** against a distal surface of the disc magnet. This arrangement provides for a positive and repeatable stop for the magnetic member, and hence the penetrating member.

Typically, when the electrical current in the coils **114-117** of the driver coil pack **88** is off, a magnetic member **102** made of soft iron is attracted to the bar magnet **119** or the disc magnet. The magnetic field of the driver coil pack **88** and the bar magnet **119** or the disc magnet, or any other suitable magnet, can be configured such that when the electrical current in the coils **114-117** is turned on, the leakage magnetic field from the coils **114-117** has the same polarity as the bar magnet **119** or the disc magnet.

This results in a magnetic force that repels the magnetic member **102** from the bar magnet **119** or the disc magnet and attracts the magnetic member **102** to the activated coils **114-117**. For this configuration, the bar magnet **119** or disc magnet thus act to facilitate acceleration of the magnetic member **102** as opposed to working against the acceleration.

Electrical conductors **122** couple the driver coil pack **88** with the processor **93** which can be configured or programmed to control the current flow in the coils **114-117** of the driver coil pack **88** based on position feedback from the position sensor **91**, which is coupled to the processor **93** by electrical conductors **94**. A power source **125** is electrically coupled to the processor **93** and provides electrical power to operate the processor **93** and power the coil driver pack **88**. The power source **125** may be one or more batteries that provide direct current power to the **93** processor.

16

Referring to FIGS. **29A-29C**, a flow diagram is shown that describes the operations performed by the processor **93** in controlling the penetrating member **83** of the lancing device **80** discussed above during an operating cycle. FIGS. **30-36** illustrate the interaction of the penetrating member **83** and skin **133** of the patient's finger **134** during an operation cycle of the penetrating member device **83**. The processor **93** operates under control of programming steps that are stored in an associated memory. When the programming steps are executed, the processor **93** performs operations as described herein. Thus, the programming steps implement the functionality of the operations described with respect to the flow diagram of FIG. **29**. The processor **93** can receive the programming steps from a program product stored in recordable media, including a direct access program product storage device such as a hard drive or flash ROM, a removable program product storage device such as a floppy disk, or in any other manner known to those of skill in the art. The processor **93** can also download the programming steps through a network connection or serial connection.

In the first operation, represented by the flow diagram box numbered **245** in FIG. **6A**, the processor **93** initializes values that it stores in memory relating to control of the penetrating member, such as variables that it uses to keep track of the controllable driver **179** during movement. For example, the processor may set a clock value to zero and a penetrating member position value to zero or to some other initial value. The processor **93** may also cause power to be removed from the coil pack **88** for a period of time, such as for about 10 ms, to allow any residual flux to dissipate from the coils.

In the initialization operation, the processor **93** also causes the penetrating member to assume an initial stationary position. When in the initial stationary position, the penetrating member **83** is typically fully retracted such that the magnetic member **102** is positioned substantially adjacent the fourth coil **117** of the driver coil pack **88**, shown in FIG. **5** above. The processor **93** can move the penetrating member **83** to the initial stationary position by pulsing an electrical current to the fourth coil **117** to thereby attract the magnetic member **102** on the penetrating member **83** to the fourth coil **117**. Alternatively, the magnetic member can be positioned in the initial stationary position by virtue of a permanent magnet, such as bar magnet **119**, the disc magnet or any other suitable magnet as discussed above with regard to the tissue penetration device illustrated in FIGS. **20** and **21**.

In the next operation, represented by the flow diagram box numbered **247**, the processor **93** energizes one or more of the coils in the coil pack **88**. This should cause the penetrating member **83** to begin to move (i.e., achieve a non-zero speed) toward the skin target **133**. The processor **93** then determines whether or not the penetrating member is indeed moving. The processor **93** can determine whether the penetrating member **83** is moving by monitoring the position of the penetrating member **83** to determine whether the position changes over time. The processor **93** can monitor the position of the penetrating member **83** by keeping track of the position of the optical encoder flag **106** secured to the elongate coupler shaft **84** wherein the encoder **91** produces a signal coupled to the processor **93** that indicates the spatial position of the penetrating member **83**.

If the processor **93** determines (via timeout without motion events) that the penetrating member **83** is not moving then the process proceeds to the operation where the processor deems that an error condition is present. This means that some error in the system is causing the penetrating member **83** not to move. The error may be mechanical, electrical, or software

17

related. For example, the penetrating member **83** may be stuck in the stationary position because something is impeding its movement.

If the processor **93** determines (via timeout without motion events that the penetration member **83** is not moving (a “No” result from the decision box **149**), then the process proceeds to the operation represented by the flow diagram box numbered **153**, where the processor deems that an error condition is present. This means that some error in the system is causing the penetration member **83** not to move. The error may be mechanical, electrical, or software related. For example, the penetrating member **83** may be stuck in the stationary position because something is impeding its movement.

If the processor **93** determines that the penetrating member **83** is indeed moving (a “Yes” result from the decision box numbered **249**), then the process proceeds to the operation represented by the flow diagram box numbered **257**. In this operation, the processor **93** causes the penetrating member **83** to continue to accelerate and launch toward the skin target **133**, as indicated by the arrow **135** in FIG. 7. The processor **93** can achieve acceleration of the penetrating member **83** by sending an electrical current to an appropriate coil **114-117** such that the coil **114-117** exerts an attractive magnetic launching force on the magnetic member **102** and causes the magnetic member **102** and the penetrating member **83** coupled thereto to move in a desired direction. For example, the processor **93** can cause an electrical current to be sent to the third coil **116** so that the third coil **116** attracts the magnetic member **102** and causes the magnetic member **102** to move from a position adjacent the fourth coil **117** toward the third coil **116**. The processor preferably determines which coil **114-117** should be used to attract the magnetic member **102** based on the position of the magnetic member **102** relative to the coils **114-117**. In this manner, the processor **93** provides a controlled force to the penetrating member that controls the movement of the penetrating member.

During this operation, the processor **93** periodically or continually monitors the position and/or velocity of the penetrating member **83**. In keeping track of the velocity and position of the penetrating member **83** as the penetrating member **83** moves towards the patient’s skin **133** or other tissue, the processor **93** also monitors and adjusts the electrical current to the coils **114-117**. In some embodiments, the processor **93** applies current to an appropriate coil **114-117** such that the penetrating member **83** continues to move according to a desired direction and acceleration. In the instant case, the processor **93** applies current to the appropriate coil **114-117** that will cause the penetrating member **83** to continue to move in the direction of the patient’s skin **133** or other tissue to be penetrated.

The processor **93** may successively transition the current between coils **114-117** so that as the magnetic member **102** moves past a particular coil **114-117**, the processor **93** then shuts off current to that coil **114-117** and then applies current to another coil **114-117** that will attract the magnetic member **102** and cause the magnetic member **102** to continue to move in the desired direction. In transitioning current between the coils **114-117**, the processor **93** can take into account various factors, including the speed of the penetrating member **83**, the position of the penetrating member **83** relative to the coils **114-117**, the number of coils **114-117**, and the level of current to be applied to the coils **114-117** to achieve a desired speed or acceleration.

In the next operation, the processor **93** determines whether the cutting or distal end tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** has contacted the patient’s skin **133**, as shown in FIG. 8 and as represented by the decision box numbered **165** in FIG. 6B.

18

The processor **93** may determine whether the penetrating member **83** has made contact with the target tissue **133** by a variety of methods, including some that rely on parameters which are measured prior to initiation of a lancing cycle and other methods that are adaptable to use during a lancing cycle without any predetermined parameters.

In one embodiment, the processor **93** determines that the skin has been contacted when the end tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** has moved a predetermined distance with respect to its initial position. If the distance from the tip **261** of the penetrating member **83** to the target tissue **133** is known prior to initiation of penetrating member **83** movement, the initial position of the penetrating member **83** is fixed and known, and the movement and position of the penetrating member **83** can be accurately measured during a lancing cycle, then the position and time of penetrating member contact can be determined.

This method requires an accurate measurement of the distance between the penetrating member tip **96** and the patient’s skin **133** when the penetrating member **83** is in the zero time or initial position. This can be accomplished in a number of ways. One way is to control all of the mechanical parameters that influence the distance from the penetrating member tip **96** to the patient’s tissue or a surface of the lancing device **80** that will contact the patient’s skin **133**. This could include the start position of the magnetic member **102**, magnetic path tolerance, magnetic member **102** dimensions, driver coil pack **88** location within the lancing device **80** as a whole, length of the elongate coupling shaft **84**, placement of the magnetic member **102** on the elongate coupling shaft **84**, length of the penetrating member **83** etc.

If all these parameters, as well as others can be suitably controlled in manufacturing with a tolerance stack-up that is acceptable, then the distance from the penetrating member tip **96** to the target tissue **133** can be determined at the time of manufacture of the lancing device **80**. The distance could then be programmed into the memory of the processor **93**. If an adjustable feature is added to the lancing device **80**, such as an adjustable length elongate coupling shaft **84**, this can accommodate variations in all of the parameters noted above, except length of the penetrating member **83**. An electronic alternative to this mechanical approach would be to calibrate a stored memory contact point into the memory of the processor **93** during manufacture based on the mechanical parameters described above.

In another embodiment, moving the penetrating member tip **96** to the target tissue **133** very slowly and gently touching the skin **133** prior to actuation can accomplish the distance from the penetrating member tip **96** to the tissue **133**. The position sensor can accurately measure the distance from the initialization point to the point of contact, where the resistance to advancement of the penetrating member **83** stops the penetrating member movement. The penetrating member **83** is then retracted to the initialization point having measured the distance to the target tissue **133** without creating any discomfort to the user.

In another embodiment, the processor **93** may use software to determine whether the penetrating member **83** has made contact with the patient’s skin **133** by measuring for a sudden reduction in velocity of the penetrating member **83** due to friction or resistance imposed on the penetrating member **83** by the patient’s skin **133**. The optical encoder **91** measures displacement of the penetrating member **83**. The position output data provides input to the interrupt input of the processor **93**. The processor **93** also has a timer capable of measuring the time between interrupts. The distance between interrupts is known for the optical encoder **91**, so the velocity

of the penetrating member **83** can be calculated by dividing the distance between interrupts by the time between the interrupts.

This method requires that velocity losses to the penetrating member **83** and elongate coupler **84** assembly due to friction are known to an acceptable level so that these velocity losses and resulting deceleration can be accounted for when establishing a deceleration threshold above which contact between penetrating member tip **96** and target tissue **133** will be presumed. This same concept can be implemented in many ways. For example, rather than monitoring the velocity of the penetrating member **83**, if the processor **93** is controlling the penetrating member driver in order to maintain a fixed velocity, the power to the driver **88** could be monitored. If an amount of power above a predetermined threshold is required in order to maintain a constant velocity, then contact between the tip of the penetrating member **96** and the skin **133** could be presumed.

In yet another embodiment, the processor **93** determines skin **133** contact by the penetrating member **83** by detection of an acoustic signal produced by the tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** as it strikes the patient's skin **133**. Detection of the acoustic signal can be measured by an acoustic detector **136** placed in contact with the patient's skin **133** adjacent a penetrating member penetration site **137**, as shown in FIG. **8**. Suitable acoustic detectors **136** include piezo electric transducers, microphones and the like. The acoustic detector **136** transmits an electrical signal generated by the acoustic signal to the processor **93** via electrical conductors **138**. In another embodiment, contact of the penetrating member **83** with the patient's skin **133** can be determined by measurement of electrical continuity in a circuit that includes the penetrating member **83**, the patient's finger **134** and an electrical contact pad **240** that is disposed on the patient's skin **133** adjacent the contact site **137** of the penetrating member **83**, as shown in FIG. **8**. In this embodiment, as soon as the penetrating member **83** contacts the patient's skin **133**, the circuit **139** is completed and current flows through the circuit **139**. Completion of the circuit **139** can then be detected by the processor **93** to confirm skin **133** contact by the penetrating member **83**.

If the penetrating member **83** has not contacted the target skin **133**, then the process proceeds to a timeout operation in FIG. **6B**. In the timeout operation, the processor **93** waits a predetermined time period. If the timeout period has not yet elapsed then the processor continues to monitor whether the penetrating member has contacted the target skin **133**. The processor **93** preferably continues to monitor the position and speed of the penetrating member **83**, as well as the electrical current to the appropriate coil **114-117** to maintain the desired penetrating member **83** movement.

If the timeout period elapses without the penetrating member **83** contacting the skin then it is deemed that the penetrating member **83** will not contact the skin and the process proceeds to a withdraw phase, where the penetrating member is withdrawn away from the skin **133**, as discussed more fully below. The penetrating member **83** may not have contacted the target skin **133** for a variety of reasons, such as if the patient removed the skin **133** from the lancing device or if something obstructed the penetrating member **83** prior to it contacting the skin.

The processor **93** may also proceed to the withdraw phase prior to skin contact for other reasons. For example, at some point after initiation of movement of the penetrating member **83**, the processor **93** may determine that the forward acceleration of the penetrating member **83** towards the patient's skin **133** should be stopped or that current to all coils **114-117** should be shut down. This can occur, for example, if it is

determined that the penetrating member **83** has achieved sufficient forward velocity, but has not yet contacted the skin **133**. In one embodiment, the average penetration velocity of the penetrating member **83** from the point of contact with the skin to the point of maximum penetration may be about 2.0 to about 10.0 m/s, specifically, about 3.8 to about 4.2 m/s. In another embodiment, the average penetration velocity of the penetrating member may be from about 2 to about 8 meters per second, specifically, about 2 to about 4 m/s.

The processor **93** can also proceed to the withdraw phase if it is determined that the penetrating member **83** has fully extended to the end of the power stroke of the operation cycle of lancing procedure. In other words, the process may proceed to withdraw phase when an axial center **141** of the magnetic member **102** has moved distal of an axial center **142** of the first coil **114** as shown in FIG. **5**. In this situation, any continued power to any of the coils **114-117** of the driver coil pack **88** serves to decelerate the magnetic member **102** and thus the penetrating member **83**. In this regard, the processor **93** considers the length of the penetrating member **83** (which can be stored in memory) the position of the penetrating member **83** relative to the magnetic member **102**, as well as the distance that the penetrating member **83** has traveled.

With reference again FIG. **6B**, if the processor **93** determines that the penetrating member **83** has contacted the skin **133** then the processor **93** can adjust the speed of the penetrating member **83** or the power delivered to the penetrating member **83** for skin penetration to overcome any frictional forces on the penetrating member **83** in order to maintain a desired penetration velocity of the penetrating member.

As the velocity of the penetrating member **83** is maintained after contact with the skin **133**, the distal tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** will first begin to depress or tent the contacted skin **137** and the skin **133** adjacent the penetrating member **83** to form a tented portion **243** as shown in FIG. **9** and further shown in FIG. **10**. As the penetrating member **83** continues to move in a distal direction or be driven in a distal direction against the patient's skin **133**, the penetrating member **83** will eventually begin to penetrate the skin **133**, as shown in FIG. **11**. Once penetration of the skin **133** begins, the static force at the distal tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** from the skin **133** will become a dynamic cutting force, which is generally less than the static tip force. As a result in the reduction of force on the distal tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** upon initiation of cutting, the tented portion **243** of the skin **133** adjacent the distal tip **96** of the penetrating member **83** which had been depressed as shown in FIGS. **32** and **24** will spring back as shown in FIG. **11**.

In the next operation, represented by the decision box numbered **171** in FIG. **6B**, the processor **93** determines whether the distal end **96** of the penetrating member **83** has reached a brake depth. The brake depth is the skin penetration depth for which the processor **93** determines that deceleration of the penetrating member **83** is to be initiated in order to achieve a desired final penetration depth **144** of the penetrating member **83** as shown in FIG. **12**. The brake depth may be pre-determined and programmed into the processor's memory, or the processor **93** may dynamically determine the brake depth during the actuation. The amount of penetration of the penetrating member **83** in the skin **133** of the patient may be measured during the operation cycle of the penetrating member device **80**. In addition, as discussed above, the penetration depth suitable for successfully obtaining a useable sample can depend on the amount of tenting of the skin **133** during the lancing cycle. The amount of tenting of the patient's skin **133** can in turn depend on the tissue characteristics of the patient such as elasticity, hydration etc. A method

for determining these characteristics is discussed below with regard to skin 133 tenting measurements during the lancing cycle and illustrated in FIGS. 37-41.

Penetration measurement can be carried out by a variety of methods that are not dependent on measurement of tenting of the patient's skin. In one embodiment, the penetration depth of the penetrating member 83 in the patient's skin 133 is measured by monitoring the amount of capacitance between the penetrating member 83 and the patient's skin 133. In this embodiment, a circuit includes the penetrating member 83, the patient's finger 134, the processor 93 and electrical conductors connecting these elements. As the penetrating member 83 penetrates the patient's skin 133, the greater the amount of penetration, the greater the surface contact area between the penetrating member 83 and the patient's skin 133. As the contact area increases, so does the capacitance between the skin 133 and the penetrating member 83. The increased capacitance can be easily measured by the processor 93 using methods known in the art and penetration depth can then be correlated to the amount of capacitance. The same method can be used by measuring the electrical resistance between the penetrating member 83 and the patient's skin.

If the brake depth has not yet been reached, then a "No" results from the decision box 171 and the process proceeds to the timeout operation represented by the flow diagram box numbered 173. In the timeout operation, the processor 93 waits a predetermined time period. If the timeout period has not yet elapsed (a "No" outcome from the decision box 173), then the processor continues to monitor whether the brake depth has been reached. If the timeout period elapses without the penetrating member 83 achieving the brake depth (a "Yes" output from the decision box 173), then the processor 93 deems that the penetrating member 83 will not reach the brake depth and the process proceeds to the withdraw phase, which is discussed more fully below. This may occur, for example, if the penetrating member 83 is stuck at a certain depth.

With reference again to the decision box numbered 171 in FIG. 6B, if the penetrating member does reach the brake depth (a "Yes" result), then the process proceeds to the operation represented by the flow diagram box numbered 275. In this operation, the processor 93 causes a braking force to be applied to the penetrating member to thereby reduce the speed of the penetrating member 83 to achieve a desired amount of final skin penetration depth 144, as shown in FIG. 26. Note that FIGS. 32 and 33 illustrate the penetrating member making contact with the patient's skin and deforming or depressing the skin prior to any substantial penetration of the skin. The speed of the penetrating member 83 is preferably reduced to a value below a desired threshold and is ultimately reduced to zero. The processor 93 can reduce the speed of the penetrating member 83 by causing a current to be sent to a 114-117 coil that will exert an attractive braking force on the magnetic member 102 in a proximal direction away from the patient's tissue or skin 133, as indicated by the arrow 190 in FIG. 13. Such a negative force reduces the forward or distally oriented speed of the penetrating member 83. The processor 93 can determine which coil 114-117 to energize based upon the position of the magnetic member 102 with respect to the coils 114-117 of the driver coil pack 88, as indicated by the position sensor 91.

In the next operation, the process proceeds to the withdraw phase, as represented by the flow diagram box numbered 177. The withdraw phase begins with the operation represented by the flow diagram box numbered 178 in FIG. 6C. Here, the processor 93 allows the penetrating member 83 to settle at a position of maximum skin penetration 144, as shown in FIG. 12. In this regard, the processor 93 waits until any motion in

the penetrating member 83 (due to vibration from impact and spring energy stored in the skin, etc.) has stopped by monitoring changes in position of the penetrating member 83. The processor 93 preferably waits until several milliseconds (ms), such as on the order of about 8 ms, have passed with no changes in position of the penetrating member 83. This is an indication that movement of the penetrating member 83 has ceased entirely. In some embodiments, the penetrating member may be allowed to settle for about 1 to about 2000 milliseconds, specifically, about 50 to about 200 milliseconds. For other embodiments, the settling time may be about 1 to about 200 milliseconds.

It is at this stage of the lancing cycle that a software method can be used to measure the amount of tenting of the patient's skin 133 and thus determine the skin 133 characteristics such as elasticity, hydration and others. Referring to FIGS. 37-41, a penetrating member 83 is illustrated in various phases of a lancing cycle with target tissue 133. FIG. 14 shows tip 96 of penetrating member 83 making initial contact with the skin 133 at the point of initial impact.

FIG. 15 illustrates an enlarged view of the penetrating member 83 making initial contact with the tissue 133 shown in FIG. 14. In FIG. 16, the penetrating member tip 96 has depressed or tented the skin 133 prior to penetration over a distance of X, as indicated by the arrow labeled X in FIG. 16. In FIG. 17, the penetrating member 83 has reached the full length of the cutting power stroke and is at maximum displacement. In this position, the penetrating member tip 96 has penetrated the tissue 133 a distance of Y, as indicated by the arrow labeled Y in FIG. 16. As can be seen from comparing FIG. 15 with FIG. 17, the penetrating member tip 96 was displaced a total distance of X plus Y from the time initial contact with the skin 133 was made to the time the penetrating member tip 96 reached its maximum extension as shown in FIG. 17. However, the penetrating member tip 96 has only penetrated the skin 133 a distance Y because of the tenting phenomenon.

At the end of the power stroke of the penetrating member 83, as discussed above with regard to box 179 of FIG. 6C, the processor 93 allows the penetrating member to settle for about 8 msec. It is during this settling time that the skin 133 rebounds or relaxes back to approximately its original configuration prior to contact by the penetrating member 83 as shown in FIG. 18. The penetrating member tip 96 is still buried in the skin to a depth of Y, as shown in FIG. 18, however the elastic recoil of the tissue has displaced the penetrating member rearward or retrograde to the point of inelastic tenting that is indicated by the arrows Z in FIG. 18. During the rearward displacement of the penetrating member 83 due to the elastic tenting of the tissue 133, the processor reads and stores the position data generated by the position sensor 91 and thus measures the amount of elastic tenting, which is the difference between X and Z.

Referring to FIG. 19, a tissue penetration sampling device 80 is shown with the controllable driver 179 of FIG. 4 coupled to a sampling module cartridge 205 and disposed within a driver housing 206. A ratchet drive mechanism 207 is secured to the driver housing 206, coupled to the sampling module cartridge 205 and configured to advance a sampling module belt 208 within the sampling module cartridge 205 so as to allow sequential use of each sampling module 209 in the sampling module belt 208. The ratchet drive mechanism 207 has a drive wheel 211 configured to engage the sampling modules 209 of the sampling module belt 208. The drive wheel 211 is coupled to an actuation lever 212 that advances the drive wheel 211 in increments of the width of a single

23

sampling module 209. A T-slot drive coupler 213 is secured to the elongated coupler shaft 84.

A sampling module 209 is loaded and ready for use with the drive head 98 of the penetrating member 83 of the sampling module 209 loaded in the T-slot 214 of the drive coupler 213. A sampling site 215 is disposed at the distal end 216 of the sampling module 209 disposed about a penetrating member exit port 217. The distal end 216 of the sampling module 209 is exposed in a module window 218, which is an opening in a cartridge cover 221 of the sampling module cartridge 205. This allows the distal end 216 of the sampling module 209 loaded for use to be exposed to avoid contamination of the cartridge cover 221 with blood from the lancing process.

A reader module 222 is disposed over a distal portion of the sampling module 209 that is loaded in the drive coupler 213 for use and has two contact brushes 224 that are configured to align and make electrical contact with analyte detecting member contacts 225 of the sampling module 209 as shown in FIG. 19. With electrical contact between the analyte detecting member contacts 225 and contact brushes 224, the processor 93 of the controllable driver 179 can read a signal from an analytical region 226 of the sampling module 209 after a lancing cycle is complete and a blood sample enters the analytical region 226 of the sampling module 209. The contact brushes 224 can have any suitable configuration that will allow the sampling module belt 208 to pass laterally beneath the contact brushes 224 and reliably make electrical contact with the sampling module 209 loaded in the drive coupler 213 and ready for use. A spring loaded conductive ball bearing is one example of a contact brush 224 that could be used. A resilient conductive strip shaped to press against the inside surface of the flexible polymer sheet 227 along the analyte detecting member region 228 of the sampling module 209 is another embodiment of a contact brush 224.

The sampling module cartridge 205 has a supply canister 229 and a receptacle canister 230. The unused sampling modules of the sampling module belt 208 are disposed within the supply canister 229 and the sampling modules of the sampling module belt 208 that have been used are advanced serially after use into the receptacle canister 230.

FIG. 20 illustrates a further embodiment of sampling module cartridges. FIG. 20 shows a sampling module cartridge 202 in a carousel configuration with adjacent sampling modules 204 connected rigidly and with analyte detecting members 206 from the analytical regions of the various sampling modules 204 disposed near an inner radius 208 of the carousel. The sampling modules 204 of the sampling module cartridge 202 are advanced through a drive coupler 213 but in a circular as opposed to a linear fashion.

FIG. 21 shows an exploded view in perspective of the cartridge 245, which has a proximal end portion 254 and a distal end portion 255. The penetrating member cartridge body 246 is disposed at the proximal end portion 254 of the cartridge 245 and has a plurality of penetrating member module portions 250, such as the penetrating member module portion 250. Each penetrating member module portion 250 has a penetrating member channel 251 with a penetrating member 83 slidably disposed within the penetrating member channel 251. The penetrating member channels 251 are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis 252 of the penetrating member cartridge body 246. The penetrating members 83 shown have a drive head 98, shaft portion 201 and sharpened tip 96. The drive head 98 of the penetrating members are configured to couple to a drive coupler (not shown), such as the drive coupler 85 discussed above.

The penetrating members 83 are free to slide in the respective penetrating member channels 251 and are nominally

24

disposed with the sharpened tip 96 withdrawn into the penetrating member channel 251 to protect the tip 96 and allow relative rotational motion between the penetrating member cartridge body 246 and the sampling cartridge body 247 as shown by arrow 256 and arrow 257 in FIG. 21. The radial center of each penetrating member channel 251 is disposed a fixed, known radial distance from the longitudinal axis 252 of the penetrating member cartridge body 246 and a longitudinal axis 258 of the cartridge 245. By disposing each penetrating member channel 251 a fixed known radial distance from the longitudinal axes 252 and 258 of the penetrating member cartridge body 246 and cartridge 245, the penetrating member channels 251 can then be readily and repeatably aligned in a functional arrangement with penetrating member channels 253 of the sampling cartridge body 247. The penetrating member cartridge body 246 rotates about a removable pivot shaft 259 which has a longitudinal axis 260 that is coaxial with the longitudinal axes 252 and 258 of the penetrating member cartridge body 246 and cartridge 245.

The sampling cartridge body 247 is disposed at the distal end portion 255 of the cartridge and has a plurality of sampling module portions 248 disposed radially about the longitudinal axis 249 of the sampling cartridge body 247. The longitudinal axis 249 of the sampling cartridge body 247 is coaxial with the longitudinal axes 252, 258 and 260 of the penetrating member cartridge body 246, cartridge 245 and pivot shaft 259. The sampling cartridge body 247 may also rotate about the pivot shaft 259. In order to achieve precise relative motion between the penetrating member cartridge body 246 and the sampling cartridge body 247, one or both of the cartridge bodies 246 and 247 may be rotatable about the pivot shaft 259, however, it is not necessary for both to be rotatable about the pivot shaft 259, that is, one of the cartridge bodies 246 and 247 may be secured, permanently or removably, to the pivot shaft 259.

The sampling cartridge body 247 includes a base 261 and a cover sheet 262 that covers a proximal surface 263 of the base forming a fluid tight seal. Each sampling module portion 248 of the sampling cartridge body 247, such as the sampling module portion 248, has a sample reservoir 264 and a penetrating member channel 253. The sample reservoir 264 has a vent 965 at an outward radial end that allows the sample reservoir 264 to readily fill with a fluid sample. The sample reservoir 264 is in fluid communication with the respective penetrating member channel 253 which extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis 249 of the sampling cartridge body 247. The penetrating member channel 253 is disposed at the inward radial end of the sample reservoir 264. Still further description of the device of FIG. 21 may be found in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 (Attorney Docket No. 38187-2551) filed Apr. 19, 2002.

Referring to FIG. 22A, one embodiment of the present invention is a tissue penetrating system 310 with a plurality of penetrating members 312 that each have a tissue penetrating tip 314. The number of penetrating members 310 can vary, but numbers in the ranges of 10, 15, 25, 50, 75, 100, 500 or any other number, are suitable. Each penetrating member 312 can be a lancet, a traditional lancet with a molded body, a needle with a lumen, a knife like element, an elongate member without molded attachments, and the like, and may have a size in the range of 20 mm to 10 mm in length and between 0.012-0.040 mm in diameter. It should be understood of course that penetrating members of a variety of different sizes useful for lancing such as those of conventional lancets may be used in other embodiments. As seen in FIG. 22A, the

25

penetrating member may have an elongate portion with a bend near a proximal end of the member.

Each penetrating member 312 is coupled to a penetrating member driver 316. Suitable penetrating member drivers 316 include but are not limited to, an electric drive force member, a voice coil drive force generator, a linear voice coil device, a rotary voice coil device, and the like. Suitable drive force generators can be found in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 (Attorney Docket No. 38187-2551) filed Apr. 19, 2002. In one embodiment, the penetrating member driver or drive force generator 316 may be a single actuator used to advance the penetrating member and to withdraw the member. The driver 316 may also be used to stop the penetrating member in the tissue site. Penetrating member driver 316 can be a non-spring actuator for drawing penetrating member 312 in a direction back towards penetrating member driver 316. A coupler 318 on penetrating member driver 316 is configured to engage at least a portion of an elongate portion of a penetrating member 312 in order to drive the penetrating member 312 along a path into and through target tissue 320, and then withdrawn from target tissue 320.

Referring now to FIG. 22B, the tips of the penetrating members 312 can be uncovered when they are launched into a selected target tissue 320. In one embodiment, sterility enclosures 322 are provided for covering at least the tip of each penetrating member 312. FIG. 22B shows that the enclosure may also cover the entire lancet. In one embodiment, each sterility enclosure 322 is removed from the penetrating member 312 prior to actuation, launch, of penetrating member 312 and positioned so that penetrating member 312 does not contact the associated sterility enclosure 322 during actuation. As seen in FIG. 22B, the enclosure 322 may be peel away to reveal the penetrating member 312 prior to coupling of the member 312 to the drive force generator 316. In another embodiment, each penetrating member 312 breaches its associated sterility enclosure 322 during launch.

Tissue penetrating system 310 can also include one or more penetrating member sensors 324 that are coupled to penetrating members 312. Examples of suitable penetrating member sensors 324 include but are not limited to, a capacitive incremental encoder, an incremental encoder, an optical encoder, an interference encoder, and the like. Each penetrating member sensor 324 is configured to provide information relative to a depth of penetration of a penetrating member 312 through a target tissue 320 surface, including but not limited to a skin surface, and the like. The penetrating member sensor 324 may be positioned as shown in FIG. 22B. The penetrating member sensor 324 may also be positioned in a variety of location such as but not limited to being closer to the distal end of the penetrating member, in a position as shown in FIG. 5, or in any other location useful for providing an indication of the position of a penetrating member 312 being driven by the force generator 316.

In various embodiments, the penetration depth of a penetrating member 312 through the surface of a target tissue 320 can be, 100 to 2500 microns, 500 to 750 microns, and the like. Each penetrating member sensor 324 can also provide an indication of velocity of a penetrating member 312. Referring to FIG. 22C, a damper 326 can be coupled to penetrating member driver 316. Damper 326 prevents multiple oscillations of penetrating member 312 in target tissue 320, particularly after penetrating member 312 has reached a desired depth of penetration. The damper 326 may be placed in a variety of positions such as but not limited to being coupled to the penetrating member, being coupled to the coupler 318,

26

being coupled to a core or shaft in the drive force generator 316, or at any other position useful for slowing the motion of the penetrating member 312.

A feedback loop 328 can also be included that is coupled to penetrating member sensor 324. Each penetrating member 312 sensor can be coupled to a processor 330 that has control instructions for penetrating member driver 316. By way of illustration, and without limitation, processor 330 can include a memory for storage and retrieval of a set of penetrating member 312 profiles utilized with penetrating member driver 316. Processor 330 can also be utilized to monitor position and speed of a penetrating member 312 as it moves in first direction 332 to and through the target tissue 320.

Processor 330 can adjust an application of force to a penetrating member 312 in order to achieve a desired speed of a penetrating member 312. Additionally, processor 330 can also be used to adjust an application of force applied to a penetrating member 312 when penetrating member 312 contacts target tissue 320 so that penetrating member 312 penetrates target tissue 320 within a desired range of speed. Further, processor 330 can also monitor position and speed of a penetrating member 312 as penetrating member 312 moves in first direction 332 toward the target tissue 320. Application of a launching force to penetrating member 312 can be controlled based on position and speed of penetrating member 312. Processor 330 can control a withdraw force, from target tissue 320, to penetrating member 312 so that penetrating member 312 moves in second direction 334 away from target tissue 320.

Processor 330 can produce a signal that is indicative of a change in direction and magnitude of force exerted on penetrating member 312. Additionally, processor 330 can cause a braking force to be applied to penetrating member 312.

In one embodiment, in first direction 332 penetrating member 312 moves toward target tissue 320 at a speed that is different than a speed at which penetrating member 312 moves away from target tissue 320 in second direction 334. In one embodiment, the speed of penetrating member 312 in first direction 332 is greater than the speed of penetrating member 312 in second direction 334. The speed of penetrating member 312 in first direction 332 can be a variety of different ranges including but not limited to, 0.05 to 60 m/sec, 0.1 to 20.0 m/sec, 1.0 to 10.0 m/sec, 3.0 to 8.0 m/sec, and the like. Additionally, the dwell time of penetrating member 312 in target tissue 320, below a surface of the skin or other structure, can be in the range of, 1 microsecond to 2 seconds, 500 milliseconds to 1.5 second, 100 milliseconds to 1 second, and the like.

As seen in FIGS. 22A and 22B, tissue penetrating system 310 can include a penetrating member transport device 336 for moving each of penetrating member 312 into a position for alignment with penetrating member driver 316. Penetrating members 312 can be arranged in an array configuration by a number of different devices and structures defining support 338, including but not limited to, a belt, a flexible or non-flexible tape device, support channel, cog, a plurality of connectors, and the like. Support 338 can have a plurality of openings each receiving a penetrating member 312. Suitable supports 338 may also include but are not limited to, a bandolier, drum, disc and the like. A description of supports 338 can be found in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 filed Apr. 19, 2002; commonly assigned, copending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/437,359 filed Dec. 31, 2002; and commonly assigned, copending U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser.

No. 60/437,205 filed Dec. 31, 2002. All applications listed above are fully incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

As illustrated in FIG. 22(a), tissue penetrating system 310 can include a single penetrating member driver 316 and a plurality of penetrating members 312. Penetrating member driver 316 moves each penetrating member 312 along a path out of a housing that has a penetrating member exit and then into target tissue 320, stopping in target tissue 320, and then withdrawing out of the target tissue 320. Support 338 couples the penetrating members 312 to define a linear array. Support 338 is movable and configured to move each penetrating member 312 to a launch position associated with penetrating member driver 316. Penetrating member driver 316 can be controlled to follow a predetermined velocity trajectory into and out of target tissue 320.

Tissue penetrating system 310 can include a user interface 340 configured to relay different information, including but not limited to, skin penetrating performance, a skin penetrating setting, and the like. User interface 340 can provide a user with a variety of different outputs, including but not limited to, penetration depth of a penetrating member 312, velocity of a penetrating member 312, a desired velocity profile, a velocity of penetrating member 312 into target tissue 320, velocity of the penetrating member 312 out of target tissue 320, dwell time of penetrating member 312 in target tissue 320, a target tissue relaxation parameter, and the like. User interface 340 can include a variety of components including but not limited to, a real time clock 342, one or more alarms 344 to provide a user with a reminder of a next target penetrating event is needed, a user interface processor 346, and the like.

User interface 340 can provide a variety of different outputs to a user including but not limited to, number of penetrating members 312 available, number of penetrating members 312 used, actual depth of penetrating member 312 penetration on target tissue 320, stratum corneum thickness in the case where the target tissue 320 is the skin and an area below the skin, force delivered on target tissue 320, energy used by penetrating member driver 316 to drive penetrating member 312 into target tissue 320, dwell time of penetrating member 312, battery status of tissue penetrating system 310, status of tissue penetrating system 310, the amount of energy consumed by tissue penetrating system 310, or any component of tissue penetrating system 310, speed profile of penetrating member 312, information relative to contact of penetrating member 312 with target tissue 320 before penetration by penetrating member 312, information relative to a change of speed of penetrating member 312 as in travels in target tissue 320, and the like.

User interface 340 can include a data interface 348 that couples tissue penetrating system 310 to support equipment 350 with an interface, the internet, and the like. The data interface 348 may also be coupled to the processor 93. Suitable support equipment 350 includes but is not limited to, a base station, home computer, central server, main processing equipment for storing analyte, such as glucose, level information, and the like.

Data interface 348 can be a variety of interfaces including but not limited to, Serial RS-232, modem-interface, USB, HPNA, Ethernet, optical interface, IRDA, RF interface, Bluetooth interface, cellular telephone interface, two-way pager interface, parallel port interface standard, near field magnetic coupling, RF transceiver, telephone system, and the like.

User interface 340 be coupled to a memory 352 that stores, a target tissue parameter, target tissue 320 penetrating performance, and the like. The memory 352 may also be connected to processor 93 and store data from the user interface 340.

In one embodiment, memory 352 can store, the number of target tissue penetrating events, time and date of the last selected number of target tissue penetrating events, time interval between alarm and target tissue penetrating event, stratum corneum thickness, time of day, energy consumed by penetrating member driver 316 to drive penetrating member 312 into target tissue 320, depth of penetrating member 312 penetration, velocity of penetrating member 312, a desired velocity profile, velocity of penetrating member 312 into target tissue 320, velocity of penetrating member 312 out of target tissue 320, dwell time of penetrating member 312 in target tissue 320, a target tissue relaxation parameter, force delivered on target tissue 320 by any component of tissue penetrating device, dwell time of penetrating member 312, battery status of tissue penetrating system 310, tissue penetrating system 310 status, consumed energy by tissue penetrating system 310 or any of its components, speed profile of penetrating member 312 as it penetrates and advances through target tissue 320, a tissue target tissue relaxation parameter, information relative to contact of penetrating member 312 with target tissue 320 before penetration by penetrating member 312, information relative to a change of speed of penetrating member 312 as in travels in and through target tissue 320, information relative to consumed analyte detecting members, and information relative to consumed penetrating members 312.

In one embodiment, processor 330 is coupled to and receives any of a different type of signals from user interface 340. User interface 340 can respond to a variety of different commands, including but not limited to audio commands, and the like. User interface 340 can include a sensor for detecting audio commands. Information can be relayed to a user of tissue penetrating system 310 by way of an audio device, wireless device 329, and the like.

In another embodiment as seen in FIG. 23B, tissue penetrating device includes a human interface 354 with at least one output. The human interface 354 is specific for use by humans while a user interface 340 may be for any type of user, with user defined generically. Human interface 354 can be coupled to processor 330 and penetrating member sensor 324. Human interface 354 can be a variety of different varieties including but not limited to, LED, LED digital display, LCD display, sound generator, buzzer, vibrating device, and the like.

The output of human interface 354 can be a variety of outputs including but not limited to, a penetration event by penetrating member 312, number of penetrating members 312 remaining, time of day, alarm, penetrating member 312 trajectory waveform profile information, force of last penetration event, last penetration event, battery status of tissue penetrating system 310, analyte status, time to change cassette status, jamming malfunction, tissue penetrating system 310 status, and the like.

Human interface 354 is coupled to a housing 356. Suitable housings 356 include but are not limited to a, telephone, watch, PDA, electronic device, medical device, point of care device, decentralized diagnostic device and the like. An input device 358 is coupled to housing. Suitable input devices 358 include but are not limited to, one or more pushbuttons, a touch pad independent of the display device, a touch sensitive screen on a visual display, and the like.

A data exchange device 360 can be utilized for coupling tissue penetrating system 310 to support equipment 350 including but not limited to, personal computer, modem, PDA, computer network, and the like. Human interface 354 can include a real time clock 362, and one or more alarms 364 that enable a user to set and use for reminders for the next

target tissue penetration event. Human interface **354** can be coupled to a human interface processor **366** which is distinct from processor **330**. Human interface processor **366** can include a sleep mode and can run intermittently to conserve power. Human interface processor **366** includes logic that can provide an alarm time set for a first subset of days, and a second alarm time set for a second subset of days. By way of example, and without limitation, the first subset of days can be Monday through Friday, and the second subset of days can be Saturday and Sunday.

Human interface **354** can be coupled to a memory **368** for storing a variety of information, including but not limited to, the number of target tissue penetrating events, time and date of the last selected number of target tissue penetrating events, time interval between alarm and target tissue penetrating event, stratum corneum thickness when target tissue **320** is below the skin surface and underlying tissue, time of day, energy consumed by penetrating member driver **316** to drive penetrating member **312** into target tissue **320**, depth of penetrating member **312** penetration, velocity of penetrating member **312**, a desired velocity profile, velocity of penetrating member **312** into target tissue **320**, velocity of penetrating member **312** out of target tissue **320**, dwell time of penetrating member **312** in target tissue **320**, a target tissue relaxation parameter, force delivered on target tissue **320**, dwell time of penetrating member **312**, battery status of tissue penetrating system **310** and its components, tissue penetrating system **310** status, consumed energy, speed profile of penetrating member **312** as it advances through target tissue **320**, a target tissue relaxation parameter, information relative to contact of a penetrating member **312** with target tissue **320** before penetration by penetrating member **312**, information relative to a change of speed of penetrating member **312** as it travels in target tissue **320**, information relative to consumed sensors, information relative to consumed penetrating members **312**.

As illustrated in FIG. 24, tissue penetrating system **310** can include a penetrating member driver **316** and a plurality of cartridges **370**. Each cartridge **370** contains a penetrating member **312**. The cartridges **370** can be coupled together in an array, which can be a flexible array. A cartridge transport device **372** moves cartridges **370** into a launch position that operatively couples a penetrating member **312** to penetrating member driver **316**. A support couples cartridges **370** to define an array. A plurality of sterility enclosures **322** can be provided to at least cover tips of penetrating members **312**. Sterility enclosure **322** (shown in phantom) is removed from their associated penetrating members **312** prior to launch of the penetrating member **312**. The enclosure may be peeled away (not shown) in a manner similar to that as seen in FIG. 22B, with the enclosure **322** on one tape surface being peeled away. The enclosure **322** may be a blister sack, a sack tightly formed about each cartridge **370**, or other enclosure useful for maintaining a sterile environment about the cartridge **370** prior to actuation or launch. The enclosure **322** may contain the entire cartridge **370** or some portion of the cartridge **370** which may need to remain sterile prior to launch. During launch, enclosure or sterility barrier **322** can be breached by a device other than penetrating member **312**, or can be breached by penetrating member **312** itself. An analyte detection member, sensor, may be positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by the penetrating member **312**. The member may be on the cartridge **370** or may be on the device **80**.

Referring to FIGS. 24 and 25, one embodiment of tissue penetrating system **310** includes cartridge transport device **372** and a plurality of cartridges **370**. Each cartridge **370** is associated with a penetrating member **312**. Cartridge transport device **372** moves each cartridge **370** to a position to

align the associated penetrating member **312** with penetrating member driver **316** to drive penetrating member **312** along a path into target tissue **320**. In one embodiment as seen in FIG. 25, each cartridge **370** has at least one of a distal port **374** and a proximal port **376**. A first seal **378** is positioned at distal or proximal ports. As seen in FIG. 25, the seal **378** may be placed at the distal port. First seal **378** is formed of a material that is fractured by penetrating member **312** before it is launched. A second seal **380** can be positioned at the other port. It will be appreciated that only one or both of distal and proximal ports **374** and **376** can be sealed, and that each cartridge **370** can include only one port **374** and **376**. For ease of illustration, the penetrating member **312** extending longitudinally through the lumen in the cartridge **370** is not shown. The seals **380** and **378** may be fractureable seals formed between the penetrating member and the cartridge **370**. During actuation, the seals **378** and **380** are broken. Seal **378** may be also be positioned to cover the distal port or exit port **374** without being sealed against the penetrating member (i.e. covering the port without touching the penetrating member). A third seal **381** may be positioned to cover an entrance to sample chamber **384**. The seal **381** may be configured to be broken when the penetrating member **312** is actuated. A still further seal **381A** may be placed in the lumen. The tip of a penetrating member may be located at any position along the lumen, and may also be at or surrounded by one of the seals **378**, **381**, **381A**, or **376**.

Referring still to FIG. 25, a cover sheet **383** may be a flexible polymer sheet as described in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 filed Apr. 19, 2002. It should be understood of course that the sheet may be made of a variety of materials useful for coupling an analyte detecting member **390**. This allows the analyte detecting member **390** to be sterilized separately from the cartridge **370** and assembled together with the cartridge at a later time. This process may be used on certain analyte detecting members **390** that may be damaged if exposed to the sterilization process used on the cartridge **370**. Of course, some embodiments may also have the analyte detecting member **390** coupled to the cartridge **370** during sterilization. The cover sheet **383** may also form part of the seal to maintain a sterile environment about portions of the penetrating member. In other embodiments, the lumen housing penetrating member may be enclosed and not use a sheet **383** to help form a sterile environment. In still further embodiments, the sheet **383** may be sized to focus on covering sample chamber **384**.

As illustrated in FIG. 26, cartridge **370** has at least one port **374**. A plurality of penetrating members **312** are in cartridge **370**. Although cartridge **370** is shown in FIG. 26 to have a linear design, the cartridge **370** may also have a curved, round, circular, triangular, or other configuration useful for positioning a penetrating member for use with a drive force generator. A seal **382** is associated with each penetrating member **312** in order to maintain each penetrating member **312** in a sterile environment in cartridge **370** prior to launch. Prior to launch, seal **382** associated with the penetrating member **312** to be launched is broken. In one embodiment, a punch (not shown) is used to push down on the seal **382** covering the port **376** of the cartridge **370**. This breaks the seal **382** and also pushes it downward, allowing the penetrating member to exit the cartridge without contacting the seal **382**. The timing of the breaking of the seal **382** may be varied so long as the penetrating member remains substantially sterile when being launched towards the tissue site **320**. In other embodiments, the port **376** may have a seal **383** that protrudes outward and is broken off by the downward motion of the punch. One or more sample chambers **384** are included in cartridge **370**. In one embodiment, each penetrating member

31

312 has an associated sample chamber 384. In one embodiment, illustrated in FIG. 27, penetrating member 312 is extendable through an opening 386 of its associated sample chamber 384. In some embodiments, a seal 387 may be included in the sample chamber 384. Seals 382 and 387 may be made from a variety of materials such as but not limited to metallic foil, aluminum foil, paper, polymeric material, or laminates combining any of the above. The seals may also be made of a fracturable material. The seals may be made of a material that can easily be broken when a device applies a force thereto. The seals alone or in combination with other barriers may be used to create a sterile environment about at least the tip of the penetrating member prior to lancing or actuation.

With reference now to the embodiment of FIG. 28, each sample chamber 384 may have an opening 388 for transport of a body fluid into the sample chamber 384. The size of sample chambers 384 in FIGS. 26 through 28 can vary. In various embodiments, sample chambers 384 are sized to receive, no more than 1.0 μ L of the body fluid, no more than 0.75 μ L of the body fluid, no more than 0.5 μ L, of the body fluid, no more than 0.25 μ L of the body fluid, no more than 0.1 μ L of the body fluid, and the like. It will be appreciated that sample chambers 384 can have larger or smaller sizes.

An analyte detecting member 390 may be associated with each sample chamber 384. The analyte detecting member 390 may be designed for use with a variety of different sensing techniques as described in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 (Attorney Docket No. 38187-2551) filed Apr. 19, 2002. Analyte detecting member 390 can be positioned in sample chamber 384, at an exterior of sample chamber 384, or at other locations useful for obtaining an analyte. Analyte detecting member 390 can be in a well 392, or merely be placed on a support.

In one embodiment, analyte detecting member 390 includes chemistries that are utilized to measure and detect glucose, and other analytes. In another embodiment, analyte detecting member 390 is utilized to detect and measure the amount of different analytes in a body fluid or sample. In various embodiments, analyte detecting member 390 determines a concentration of an analyte in a body fluid using a sample that does not exceed a volume of, 1 μ L of a body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.75 μ L of a body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.5 μ L of a body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.25 μ L of a body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.1 μ L, of a body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, and the like. For example and not by way of limitation, the sample chamber 384 may be of a size larger than the volumes above, but the analyte detecting member 390 can obtain an analyte reading using the amounts of fluid described above.

As illustrated in FIG. 29, tissue penetrating system 310 can include a housing member 394, a penetrating member 312 positioned in housing member 394, and analyte detecting member 390 coupled to a sample chamber 384. Analyte detecting member 390 is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in a body fluid using with a variety of different body fluid, sample, volumes. In various embodiments, the volume is less than 1 μ L, of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.75 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.5 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.25 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.1 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384 and the like. Each tip of a penetrating member 312 is configured to extend through an opening of sample chamber 384. A plurality of penetrating members 312 can be positioned in housing member 394. Housing member 394 can be the same as cartridge

32

370. Cartridge 370 can have distal and proximal ports 374 and 376, respectively. Additionally, in this embodiment, a plurality of cartridges 370 can be provided, each associated with a penetrating member 312.

As illustrated in FIG. 29, tissue penetrating system 310 can include a housing member 394, a penetrating member 312 positioned in housing member 394, and analyte detecting member 390 coupled to a sample chamber 384. Analyte detecting member 390 is configured to determine a concentration of an analyte in a body fluid using with a variety of different body fluid, sample, volumes. In various embodiments, the volume is less than 1 mL of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.75 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.5 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.25 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384, 0.1 of body fluid disposed in sample chamber 384 and the like. Each tip of a penetrating member 312 is configured to extend through an opening of sample chamber 384. A plurality of penetrating members 312 can be positioned in housing member 394. Housing member 394 can be the same as cartridge 370. Cartridge 370 can have distal and proximal ports 374 and 376, respectively. Additionally, in this embodiment, a plurality of cartridges 370 can be provided, each associated with a penetrating member 312.

Referring to FIG. 30, each penetrating member 312 has a packing density, or occupied volume, in cartridge 370. In various embodiments, the packing density of each penetrating member 312 in cartridge 370 can be no more than, 5.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 4.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 3.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 2.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 1.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.75 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.5 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.25 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.1 cm³/penetrating member 312, and the like. In other words, the volume required for each penetrating member does not exceed 5.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 4.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 3.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 2.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 1.0 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.75 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.5 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.25 cm³/penetrating member 312, 0.1 cm³/penetrating member 312, and the like. So, as seen in FIG. 30, if the total package volume of the cartridge is defined as X and the cartridge includes Y number of penetrating members 312, penetrating members 312 and test area, or other unit 395, the volume for each unit does not exceed 5.0 cm³/unit, 4.0 cm³/unit, 3.0 cm³/unit, 2.0 cm³/unit, 1.0 cm³/unit, 0.75 cm³/unit, 0.5 cm³/unit, 0.25 cm³/unit, 0.1 cm³/unit, and the like.

In various embodiments, each penetrating member 312 and its associated sample chamber 384 have a combined packing density of no more than about 5.0 cm³, 4.0 cm³, 3.0 cm³, 2.0 cm³, 1.0 cm³, 0.75 cm³, 0.5 cm³, 0.25 cm³, 0.1 cm³, and the like.

With reference now to FIG. 31, tissue penetrating system 310 can have a first seal 378 formed at distal port 374 and a second seal 380 formed at proximal port 376 of cartridge 370. Prior to launching of penetrating member 312, distal seal 378 and second seal 380 maintain a distal tip of penetrating member 312 and sample chamber 384 in a sterile environment. Second seal 380 is breached, and penetrating member 312 is then launched.

As illustrated in FIG. 32, a plurality of lumens 396 can be positioned between distal port 374 and proximal port 376 of cartridge 370 for slidably receiving a penetrating member 312. Sample chamber 384 is defined by cartridge 370, has an opening 398 and is associated with penetrating member 312. First seal 378 covers distal port 374, and a second seal 380 covers proximal port 376.

33

In another embodiment as shown in FIG. 33, tissue penetrating system 310 includes a plurality of cartridges 370, penetrating member driver 316, and a plurality of penetrating members 312 coupled to penetrating member driver 316. Each penetrating member 312 is associated with a cartridge 370. A plurality of gas-tightly sealed enclosures 400 are coupled in an array. Each enclosure 400 fully contains at least one of cartridge 370. Enclosures 400 are configured to be advanceable on cartridge transport device 372 that individually releases cartridges 370 from sacks or enclosures 400 and loads them individually onto penetrating member driver 316. The enclosures 400 may be removed by peeling back a top portion of the tape as shown in FIG. 22B.

In another embodiment, a plurality of penetrating members 312 each have a sharpened distal tip. A penetrating member driver 316 is coupled to each penetrating member 312. A plurality of cartridges 370 are coupled in an array. Each cartridge 370 houses a penetrating member 312 and is configured to permit penetrating member driver 316 to engage each of penetrating members 312 sequentially. Each cartridge 370 has a plurality of seals positioned to provide that the sharpened distal tips remain in a sterile environment before penetrating target tissue 320. Penetrating members 312 are launched without breaking a seal using the penetrating member.

Referring now to FIG. 34, a plurality of cartridges 370 are provided, each having distal and proximal ports 374 and 376, respectively. A plurality of penetrating members 312 are each associated with a cartridge 370. Each penetrating member 312 has a sharpened distal tip and a shaft portion slidably disposed within cartridge 370. As seen in FIG. 34, the cartridges 370 may be coupled together by a connector or flexible support 403. A seal 404 is formed by a fracturable material between the penetrating member 312 and each cartridge 370. Seal 404 is positioned in at least one of distal or proximal ports 374 and 376, respectively, of cartridge 370. Cartridge transport device 372 moves each cartridge 370 to a position 405 that aligns penetrating member 312 with penetrating member driver 316 so that penetrating member 312 can be driven along a path into target tissue 320.

In another embodiment of the present invention as seen in FIG. 35, tissue penetrating system 310 includes a housing member 406, the plurality of penetrating members 312 positioned in housing member 406, and a tissue stabilizing member 408, which can also be a pressure applicator, stimulating member, stimulating vibratory member that imparts motion to a tissue surface, and the like. Tissue stabilizing member 408 can be positioned to at least partially surround an impact location of the penetrating member 312 on the target tissue 320 site. Tissue stabilizing member 408 can, enhance fluid flow from target tissue 320, stretch a target tissue 320 surface, apply a vacuum to target tissue 320, apply a force to target tissue 320 and cause target tissue 320 to press in an inward direction relative to housing member 406, apply a stimulation to target tissue 320, and the like. Tissue stabilizing member 408 can have a variety of different configurations. In one embodiment, tissue stabilizer member 408 includes a plurality of protrusions 410. In some further embodiments, a vacuum source 412 may be provided to assist the creation of a low pressure environment in the tissue stabilizing member 408 or along the fluid path to a sample chamber associated with the system 310. In some embodiments, the tissue stabilizing member 408 is mounted on the cartridge 370. In other embodiments, the member 408 may be mounted on the housing 406. The member 408 may also be pressed against the tissue site 320 and act as a pressure applicator. The member

34

408 may also be used against a variety of tissue including but not limited to skin or other body tissue.

Referring now to FIGS. 36 and 37, a cartridge 370 is shown with a penetrating member 312 creating a wound W in the tissue site 320. In FIG. 36, a movable capillary member 420 is extended towards the wound W as indicated by arrow 422 to gather body fluid being expressed from the wound. The fluid may be drawn to a sample chamber 384 (not shown). In FIG. 37, the wound W is created and then the entire cartridge is moved to the tissue site 320 to gather body fluid from the wound W. In some embodiments, the cartridge 370 moves towards the wound W relative to the housing 406.

In a still further embodiment, penetrating member 312 may be moved and positioned to be in engagement with penetrating member driver 316. Penetrating member 312 is in a sterile environment, and prior to launch, the sterilizing covering, which can be a seal is removed. Tissue stabilizing member can apply a stimulation to a surface of the target tissue 320 prior to, and during penetration by penetration member. Penetrating member 312 is engaged with penetrating driving member and controllably pierces a target tissue 320 site. Penetrating member sensor 324 is utilized to control penetration depth and velocity of penetrating member 312. Penetrating member 312 is stopped at a desired depth below a surface of target tissue 320 in order to reduce or eliminate without multiple oscillations against the surface of target tissue 320. A wound is created, causing blood to flow into sample chamber 384. In various embodiments, no more than 1 μ L of a body fluid is collected in sample chamber 384.

Tissue penetrating systems 310 of FIGS. 22 through 37, can be utilized in a variety of different applications to detect any number of different analytes, including but not limited to glucose. The systems 310 may be used to measure potassium, other ions, or analytes associated with the process of glucose monitoring. The analyte detecting member 390 may further be adapted to measure other analytes found in body fluid.

In a still further embodiment, penetrating member 312 may be moved and positioned to be in engagement with penetrating member driver 316. Penetrating member 312 is in a sterile environment, and prior to launch, the sterilizing covering, which can be a seal is removed. Tissue stabilizing member can apply a stimulation to a surface of the target tissue 320 prior to, and during penetration by penetration member. Penetrating member 312 is engaged with penetrating driving member and controllably pierces a target tissue 320 site. Penetrating member sensor 324 is utilized to control penetration depth and velocity of penetrating member 312. Penetrating member 312 is stopped at a desired depth below a surface of target tissue 320 in order to reduce or eliminate without multiple oscillations against the surface of target tissue 320. A wound is created, causing blood to flow into sample chamber 384. In various embodiments, no more than 1 mL of a body fluid is collected in sample chamber 384.

A number of different preferences, options, embodiment, and features have been given above, and following any one of these may results in an embodiment of this invention that is more presently preferred than an embodiment in which that particular preference is not followed. These preferences, options, embodiment, and features may be generally independent, and additive; and following more than one of these preferences may result in a more presently preferred embodiment than one in which fewer of the preferences are followed.

While the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to certain particular embodiments thereof, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various adaptations, changes, modifications, substitutions, deletions, or additions of procedures and protocols may be made without departing

from the spirit and scope of the invention. Any of the embodiments of the invention may be modified to include any of the features described above or feature incorporated by reference herein. For example, the cartridge of FIG. 26 may be adapted to include a distal portion with a tissue stabilizing member. The cartridge of FIG. 26 may be adapted for use with a vacuum device. The cartridge may include indexing features such as notches on the distal portion or outer radial periphery for those cartridges with a radial configuration. The notches will facilitate positioning, among other things, and may be used for movement. Other cartridges or tapes herein may be modified with notches or tractor holes to facilitate movement. User interfaces, human interfaces, and other interfaces may be added to any of the embodiments of the present invention.

With any of the above embodiments, the location of the penetrating member drive device may be varied, relative to the penetrating members or the cartridge. With any of the above embodiments, the penetrating member tips may be uncovered during actuation (i.e. penetrating members do not pierce the penetrating member enclosure or protective foil during launch). With any of the above embodiments, the penetrating members may be a bare penetrating member during launch. With any of the above embodiments, the penetrating members may be bare penetrating members prior to launch as this may allow for significantly tighter densities of penetrating members. In some embodiments, the penetrating members may be bent, curved, textured, shaped, or otherwise treated at a proximal end or area to facilitate handling by an actuator. The penetrating member may be configured to have a notch or groove to facilitate coupling to a gripper or coupler. The notch or groove may be formed along an elongate portion of the penetrating member. The coupler may be designed to create a frictional only type grip on the penetrating member.

With any of the above embodiments, any open cavity housing the penetrating member may be on the bottom or the top of the cartridge, with the gripper on the other side. In some embodiments, sensors may be printed on the top, bottom, or side of the cavities. The front end of the cartridge may be in contact with a user during lancing. The same driver may be used for advancing and retraction of the penetrating member. The penetrating member may have a diameter and length suitable for obtaining the blood volumes described herein. The penetrating member driver may also be in substantially the same plane as the cartridge. The driver may use a through hole or other opening to engage a proximal end of a penetrating member to actuate the penetrating member along a path into and out of the tissue.

Any of the features described in this application or any reference disclosed herein may be adapted for use with any embodiment of the present invention. For example, the devices of the present invention may also be combined for use with injection penetrating members or needles as described in commonly assigned, copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/127,395 filed Apr. 19, 2002. A sensor to detect the presence of foil may also be included in the lancing apparatus. For example, if a cavity has been used before, the foil or sterility barrier will be punched. The sensor can detect if the cavity is fresh or not based on the status of the barrier. It should be understood that in optional embodiments, the sterility barrier may be designed to pierce a sterility barrier of thickness that does not dull a tip of the penetrating member. The lancing apparatus may also use improved drive mechanisms. For example, a solenoid force generator may be improved to try to increase the amount of force the solenoid can generate for a given current. A solenoid for use with the present invention may have five coils and in the present embodiment the slug is roughly the size of two coils. One

change is to increase the thickness of the outer metal shell or windings surround the coils. By increasing the thickness, the flux will also be increased. The slug may be split; two smaller slugs may also be used and offset by $\frac{1}{2}$ of a coil pitch. This allows more slugs to be approaching a coil where it could be accelerated. This creates more events where a slug is approaching a coil, creating a more efficient system.

In another optional alternative embodiment, a gripper in the inner end of the protective cavity may hold the penetrating member during shipment and after use, eliminating the feature of using the foil, protective end, or other part to retain the used penetrating member. Some other advantages of the disclosed embodiments and features of additional embodiments include: same mechanism for transferring the used penetrating members to a storage area; a high number of penetrating members such as 25, 50, 75, 100, 500, or more penetrating members may be put on a disk or cartridge; molded body about a penetrating member becomes unnecessary; manufacturing of multiple penetrating member devices is simplified through the use of cartridges; handling is possible of bare rods metal wires, without any additional structural features, to actuate them into tissue; maintaining extreme (better than 50 micron-lateral- and better than 20 micron vertical) precision in guiding; and storage system for new and used penetrating members, with individual cavities/slots is provided. The housing of the lancing device may also be sized to be ergonomically pleasing. In one embodiment, the device has a width of about 56 mm, a length of about 105 mm and a thickness of about 15 mm. Additionally, some embodiments of the present invention may be used with non-electrical force generators or drive mechanism. For example, the punch device and methods for releasing the penetrating members from sterile enclosures could be adapted for use with spring based launchers. The gripper using a frictional coupling may also be adapted for use with other drive technologies.

Still further optional features may be included with the present invention. For example, with any of the above embodiments, the location of the penetrating member drive device may be varied, relative to the penetrating members or the cartridge. With any of the above embodiments, the penetrating member tips may be uncovered during actuation (i.e. penetrating members do not pierce the penetrating member enclosure or protective foil during launch). The penetrating members may be a bare penetrating member during launch. The same driver may be used for advancing and retraction of the penetrating member. Different analyte detecting members detecting different ranges of glucose concentration, different analytes, or the like may be combined for use with each penetrating member. Non-potentiometric measurement techniques may also be used for analyte detection. For example, direct electron transfer of glucose oxidase molecules adsorbed onto carbon nanotube powder microelectrode may be used to measure glucose levels. In all methods, nanoscopic wire growth can be carried out via chemical vapor deposition (CVD). In all of the embodiments of the invention, preferred nanoscopic wires may be nanotubes. Any method useful for depositing a glucose oxidase or other analyte detection material on a nanowire or nanotube may be used with the present invention. Expected variations or differences in the results are contemplated in accordance with the objects and practices of the present invention. It is intended, therefore, that the invention be defined by the scope of the claims which follow and that such claims be interpreted as broadly as is reasonable.

37

What is claimed is:

1. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

an electrically powered drive force generator;

a penetrating member operatively coupled to said drive force generator, said drive force generator moving said penetrating member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;

a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber including an analyte detecting member and having a volume no greater than 1 μ L, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³; and

a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting,

a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having control a algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to provide a user with at least one input selected from, depth of a penetrating member penetration, velocity of a penetrating member, a desired velocity profile, a velocity of a penetrating member into the target tissue site, velocity of the penetrating member out of the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member in a target tissue site, and a target tissue site relaxation parameter.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface provides at least one output to the user selected from, number of penetrating members available, number of penetrating members used, actual depth of penetrating member penetration on a target tissue site, stratum corneum thickness, force delivered on a target tissue site, energy used by a penetrating member driver to drive a penetrating member into the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member, battery status, system status, consumed energy, speed profile of a penetrating member, information relative to contact of a penetrating member with target tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of speed of a penetrating member as in travels in the target tissue site.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a data interface configured to couple the tissue site penetrating system to at least one of, support equipment with a data interface and the internet.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface is coupled to a support equipment selected from at least one of,

38

a base station, home computer, central server, and main processing equipment for storing glucose level information.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the data interface is selected from at least one of, Serial RS-232, modem interface, USB, HPNA, Ethernet, optical interface, IRDA, RF interface, BLUETOOTH interface, cellular telephone interface, 2 way pager interlace, parallel port interlace standard, near field magnetic coupling, RF transceiver and a telephone systems.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interlace includes a real time clock and one or more alarms to provide a user with a reminder of a next target penetrating event is needed.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a processor coupled to the penetrating member driver and configured to receive signals from the user interface.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is configured to assist in an adjustment of force applied to the penetrating member driver in response to a target tissue site parameter.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a user interlace processor coupled to the user interface.

11. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a memory for storing a target tissue site parameter.

12. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a memory for storing data on target tissue site penetrating performance.

13. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a memory for storing at least one of, a number of penetrating members used, number of target tissue site penetrating events, time and date of the last selected number of target tissue site penetrating events, time interval between alarm and target tissue site penetrating event, stratum corneum thickness, time of day, energy consumed by a penetrating member driver to drive a penetrating member into the target tissue site, depth of penetrating member penetration, velocity of the penetrating member, a desired velocity profile, velocity of the penetrating member into the target tissue site, velocity of the penetrating member out of the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member in the target tissue site, a target tissue site relaxation parameter, force delivered on the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member, battery status, system status, consumed energy, speed profile of the penetrating member as the penetrating member penetrates and advances through the target tissue site, a tissue site target tissue site relaxation parameter, information relative to contact of a penetrating member with target tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, information relative to a change of speed of a penetrating member as in travels in the target tissue site, information relative to consumed sensors and information relative to consumed penetrating members.

14. The system of claim 1, the user interface responds to audio commands.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the user interface includes a sensor for detecting audio commands.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface relays information to a user via an audio device.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the user interface relays information to a user via a wireless device.

18. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

an electrically powered drive force generator;

a penetrating member operatively coupled to said drive force generator, said drive force generator moving said penetrating member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;

39

a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;

a human interface providing at least one output, and

a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a processor coupled to the penetrating member driver and configured to change a direction and magnitude of force exerted on a penetrating member as it penetrates or advances through a target tissue site.

20. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a penetrating member sensor configured to detect a penetrating member position during target tissue site penetration.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the at least one output is selected from, a penetration event of a penetrating member, number of penetrating members remaining, time of day, alarm, penetrating member trajectory waveform profile information, force for last penetration event, the last penetration event, high or low battery status, analyte status, time to change cassette status, jamming malfunction, and system status.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the human interface is selected from an LED, an LED digital display, an LCD display, a sound generator, a buzzer, and a vibrating device.

23. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a housing selected from at least one of, a telephone, a watch, a PDA, electronic device, medical device, point of care device and a decentralized diagnostic device.

24. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

an input device coupled to the housing, the input device selected from one or more pushbuttons, a touch pad independent of a display device, or a touch sensitive screen on a visual display.

25. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a data exchange device for coupling the tissue site penetrating system to support equipment.

26. The system of claim 25, further comprising:

a data interface configured to couple the tissue site penetrating system to support equipment with a data interface.

40

27. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a data exchange device for coupling the tissue site penetrating system to support equipment selected from one of the following: personal computer, modem, PDA and a computer network.

28. The system of claim 18, wherein the human interface includes a real time clock and one or more alarms a user can set for reminders of when a next target tissue site penetration event is needed.

29. The system of claim 18, wherein the human interface is coupled to receive signals from a human interface processor separate from a processor coupled to the penetrating member driver.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the human interface processor has a sleep mode and runs intermittently to conserve power.

31. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a memory for storing at least one of, a number of penetrating members used, number of target tissue site penetrating events, time and date of the last selected number of target tissue site penetrating events, time interval between alarm and target tissue site penetrating event, stratum corneum thickness, time of day, energy consumed by a penetrating member driver to drive a penetrating member into the target tissue site, depth of penetrating member penetration, velocity of the penetrating member, a desired velocity profile, velocity of the penetrating member into the target tissue site, velocity of the penetrating member out of the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member in the target tissue site, a target tissue site relaxation parameter, force delivered on the target tissue site, dwell time of the penetrating member, battery status, system status, consumed energy, speed profile of the penetrating member as the penetrating member penetrates and advances through the target tissue site, a tissue site target tissue site relaxation parameter, information relative to contact of a penetrating member with target tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, information relative to a change of speed of a penetrating member as in travels in the target tissue site, information relative to consumed sensors and information relative to consumed penetrating members.

32. The system of claim 25, wherein the human interface processor has logic that provides an alarm time set for a first subset of days and a second alarm time set for a second subset of days.

33. The system of claim 32, wherein the first subset of days is Monday thru Friday and the second subset of days is Saturday and Sunday.

34. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

a drive force generator;

a penetrating member operatively coupled to said drive force generator, said drive force generator moving said penetrating member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site; said drive force generator configured to be controlled to follow a predetermined velocity trajectory into the tissue site and out of said tissue site;

a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including electrodes, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being inte-

grated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;

a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting, and

a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

35. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- said drive force generator configured to be controlled to follow a predetermined velocity trajectory into the tissue site and out of said tissue site;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber including electrodes and having a volume no greater than 1 μ L, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;
- a human interface providing at least one output, and
- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

36. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- a position sensor positioned to provide an indication of a position of the penetrating member during actuation;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;
- a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting; and
- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

37. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- a position sensor positioned to provide an indication of a position of the penetrating member during actuation;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;
- a human interface providing at least one output; and
- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site,

43

wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

38. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;

wherein said penetrating member is an elongate member without a molded attachment;

- a coupler on said force generator configured to engage at least a portion of said elongate portion of the penetrating member and drive said member along a path into a tissue site and withdrawn from a tissue site;

- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;

- a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting; and

- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

39. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;

44

wherein said penetrating member is an elongate member without a molded attachment;

- a coupler on said force generator configured to engage at least a portion of said elongate portion of the penetrating member and drive said member along a path into a tissue site and withdrawn from a tissue site;

- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;

- a human interface providing at least one output; and

- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

40. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having said a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;

- a skin stabilizer device suitable for stretching a surface of a tissue site, said skin stabilizer at least partially surrounding the penetrating member exit;

- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μ L and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μ L of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm³;

- a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting; and

- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrat-

45

ing member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

41. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having said a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- a skin stabilizer device suitable for stretching a surface of a tissue site, said skin stabilizer at least partially surrounding the penetrating member exit;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μL and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm^3 ;
- a human interface providing at least one output; and
- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

42. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having said a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μL and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an

46

analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm^3 ;

a user interface configured to relay at least one of, penetrating member performance or a penetrating member setting and

a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drives force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement is used to drive the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

43. A body fluid sampling system for use on a tissue site, the system comprising:

- a drive force generator;
- a penetrating member operatively coupled to said force generator, said force generator moving said member along a path out of a housing having said a penetrating member exit, into said tissue site, stopping in said tissue site, and withdrawing out of said tissue site;
- a sample chamber positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member, the sample chamber having a volume no greater than 1 μL and including an analyte detecting member, the sample chamber being positioned to receive fluid from a wound created by said penetrating member and determine a concentration of an analyte in the fluid using a sample of less than 1 μL of the fluid, the penetrating member and sample chamber being integrated in a single device, the penetrating member and sample chamber having a combined packing density of no more than 5.0 cm^3 ;
- a human interface providing at least one output; and
- a position sensor coupled to a processor and the electrically powered drive force generator, the processor having a control algorithm that provides an input to the drive force generator of a real time measurement of a penetrating member depth of penetration in the tissue site, wherein the real time measurement drives the penetrating member to a numerical depth that has been set through a feedback control system in response to a tissue site cutting parameter selected from at least one of, velocity of the penetrating member into or out of the tissue site, a desired velocity profile of the penetrating, dwell time of the penetrating member into tissue site, a force delivered on the tissue site by the penetrating member, information relative to contact of the penetrating member with the tissue site before penetration by the penetrating member, and information relative to a change of velocity of the penetrating member as in travels in and through the tissue site.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,563,232 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 10/335215
DATED : July 21, 2009
INVENTOR(S) : Dominique M. Freeman

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

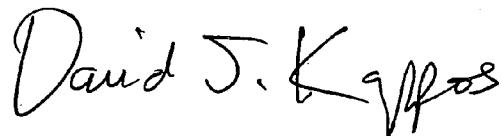
On the Title Page:

The first or sole Notice should read --

Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)
by 836 days.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-eighth Day of September, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Kappos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'K'.

David J. Kappos
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office