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- (71) Applicant:** ALTAVIZ, LLC [US/US]; 13766 Alton Parkway, #143, Irvine, CA 92618 (US).

- (72) Inventors:** **AULD, Jack, R.**; 28282 El Sur, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (US). **FLOWERS, Matthew**; 25 Destiny Way, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US). **MCCAWLEY, Matthew**; 1103 Caminante, San Clemente, CA 92673 (US). **HUCULAK, John, C.**; 25551 Aria Drive, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 (US). **SCHEIBER, Andrew**; 24470 Avenida De Los Ninos, Laguna Niguel, California 92677 (US). **LESCOULIE, James**; 305 Canoe Pond, Costa Mesa, California 92677 (US).

- (74) Agent: ENGLISH, William, A.;** Vista IP Law Group LLP,  
100 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 900, Irvine, CA 92618  
(US).

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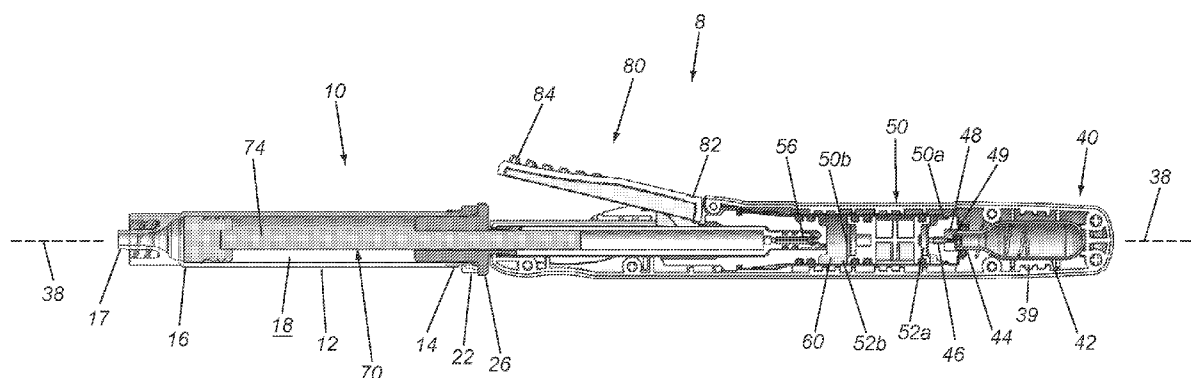


FIG. 3A

- (57) Abstract:** Devices and methods are provided for delivering fluid into a patient's body. In an exemplary embodiment, the device may include a syringe cartridge and a syringe driver that may be coupled to the cartridge. The cartridge may include a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior, the cartridge further including a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering fluid within the interior through a port in the distal end. The driver may include a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing, a source of pressurized fluid, a valve, and an actuator member coupled to the valve for selectively opening a flow path from the source to the plunger to control flow of the pressurized fluid to advance the plunger to deliver fluid from the interior of the housing at a desired rate.

## SELF-POWERED SYRINGE

### RELATED APPLICATION DATA

The present application claims benefit of co-pending U.S. provisional applications  
5 Serial Nos. 62/329,910, filed April 29, 2016, and 62/453,947, filed February 2, 2017, the  
entire disclosures of which are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The inventions described herein generally relate to devices and methods for  
10 delivering fluids and, more particularly, to self-powered syringe drivers for syringe devices,  
e.g., for delivering fluids into a patient's body, and to methods for using such devices.

### BACKGROUND

There are many applications requiring controlled delivery of a medicament or  
15 viscous fluid while maintaining precise position control of the delivery needle to deliver a  
precise volume of fluid in a precise location. In many of these cases, the desired therapeutic  
effect is completely dependent on meeting all of these objectives.

In particular, during delivery of various fluids into a patient's body using a syringe  
and needle, it is generally desirable for a clinician to accurately position the tip of the  
20 needle, apply force to the syringe's plunger to develop desired flow of the therapeutic fluid,  
and control the flow rate of the fluid. For highly viscous fluids, the forces required to  
develop the fluid flow can be very high requiring significant hand strength on the part of the  
clinician. In most cases, fine position control is also required. Typical syringes are held  
and actuated at the end completely opposite to the end that discharges the fluid, which  
25 makes it difficult to maintain positional accuracy of the tip. Typically, the clinician uses the  
same hand to position the syringe that is used to develop and control the flow. Fine motor  
skills are preferred for controlling the position and flow rate, while gross motor skills are  
required for developing flow and maintaining flow rate in viscous materials, and,  
consequently, current syringe and needle systems compromise these skills.

30 Therefore, devices and methods for delivering fluids into a patient's body with  
increased precision and/or control would be useful.

### SUMMARY

The inventions disclosed herein generally relate to devices and methods for delivering fluids and, more particularly, to self-powered syringe drivers for syringe devices, e.g., for delivering fluids into a patient's body, and to methods for using such devices.

5 In exemplary embodiments, the self-powered syringe drivers described herein may include one or more of the following characteristics: 1) provide high delivery pressures necessary to develop adequate flow rates to deliver viscous fluids, 2) provide fine, variable control of delivery flow rate with low actuation forces, 3) enable the device to be held in a manner that provides good control over the position of the delivery tip, 4) provide for  
10 limiting the peak flow rate of fluid, 5) provide a self-contained energy source to allow the device to be self-contained, 6) provide a device constructed of low cost materials to enable the device to be single use, and 7) provide options for multiple configurations.

For example, the syringe/needle systems described herein may be relatively low cost, which enable the devices to be used one time to eliminate the need for resterilization  
15 and/or reduce the risk of cross contamination between patients, and/or may provide the clinician with flexibility of configuration combination of needle and syringe size.

Generally, the syringe driver is a self-powered device that uses gas pressure to pressurize a substantially incompressible fluid. The flow of the pressurized, incompressible fluid is used to drive a downstream actuator that pushes the syringe plunger through a  
20 syringe cartridge to deliver fluid into the body. The speed of delivery may be modulated by controlling the flow of fluid through a variable flow control valve. Since the fluid is substantially incompressible, the speed of the actuator may be assumed to be directly proportional to the flow of fluid through the controller and there is no potential energy stored in the fluid as it is pressurized, providing good control of the syringe plunger without  
25 continued travel when the flow control valve is closed.

In an exemplary embodiment, the syringe driver may include one or more of a self-contained pressurized gas container or other energy storage device; an element for puncturing the gas container to charge a pressure chamber; a movable piston in an accumulator that communicates the gas pressure to a volume of fluid; a flow controller in  
30 communication with the pressurized fluid to vary the flow rate of the fluid from no flow to maximum flow; a handle, lever, or other actuator to actuate the controller; an actuation cylinder in communication with the fluid downstream of the flow controller to convert the flow of liquid to mechanical motion; a plunger mechanically connected to the actuation

cylinder to transmit the actuation force to the syringe plunger; and a receiver to accept a syringe cartridge. In one embodiment, the flow controller may be a needle valve, pressure compensated flow control valve, pressure regulator, or any other suitable element for controlling the flow.

5            Optionally, the output flow of the controller relative to the input force or position may be linear, exponential, polynomial, or any other suitable profile. In another option, the output flow may be controlled by modulating the pressure of the gas applied to the fluid.

             In accordance with another embodiment, a device is provided for delivering a medicament into a patient's body that includes a syringe cartridge comprising a housing  
10            including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior, the cartridge further comprising a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering a medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end; and a syringe driver comprising a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing, a source of pressurized fluid, a valve, and an actuator member coupled to the valve for selectively opening a flow path from  
15            the source to the plunger to control flow of the pressurized fluid to advance the plunger to deliver medicament from the interior of the housing at a desired rate.

             In accordance with still another embodiment, a device is provided for delivering medicament into a patient's body that includes a syringe cartridge and a syringe driver. The syringe cartridge may include a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining  
20            an interior; and a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end. The syringe driver may include a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing; an incompressible fluid; an accumulator for applying a predetermined pressure and/or force to the incompressible fluid; and an actuator comprising a valve for selectively opening a flow path to control flow  
25            of the incompressible fluid to advance the plunger and deliver medicament from the interior of the housing in a desired manner.

             In accordance with yet another embodiment, a device is provided for injecting fluid into a body that includes a syringe cartridge comprising a delivery piston movable within the cartridge for delivering fluid therein into a body; and a syringe driver comprising means  
30            for pressurizing an incompressible liquid, means for controlling a flow rate of the liquid, means to limit a peak flow rate of the liquid, an actuator piston that may be coupled to the delivery piston, and an actuator to provide a force to drive the actuator piston based on the flow rate of the liquid.

In accordance with another embodiment, a method is provided for preparing a syringe device that includes providing a syringe cartridge comprising a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior, and a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end;  
5 and coupling a syringe driver to the proximal end of the syringe cartridge, the syringe driver comprising a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing, an incompressible fluid, an accumulator for applying a predetermined pressure and/or force to the incompressible fluid, and an actuator comprising a valve for selectively opening a flow path to control flow of the incompressible fluid to advance the plunger and deliver  
10 medicament from the interior of the housing in a desired manner.

Other aspects and features of the present invention will become apparent from consideration of the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

#### 15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is best understood from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. It is emphasized that, according to common practice, the various features of the drawings are not to-scale. On the contrary, the dimensions of the various features are arbitrarily expanded or reduced for clarity. Included  
20 in the drawings are the following figures.

FIG. 1 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a human eye showing administration of a sub-retinal injection to the eye using a syringe device.

FIGS. 2A and 2B are perspective views of an exemplary embodiment of a syringe device before and after actuation of the device to deliver fluid into a patient's body,  
25 respectively.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are cross-sectional views of the syringe device of FIGS. 2A and 2B, taken along planes 3A-3A and 3B-3B, respectively.

FIG. 4 is a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides a simple proportional drive.

30 FIG. 5 is a schematic of another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides a simple flow limiting drive.

FIG. 6 is a schematic of yet another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides a proportional/flow limiting drive.

FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional detail of an example of a valve that may be included in the syringe driver of FIG. 6.

FIG. 7 is a schematic of still another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides an injection quantity limiting drive.

5 FIG. 8 is a schematic of another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides a volumetric flow limiting drive.

FIG. 9 is a schematic of yet another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides an injection quantity/ dose limiting drive.

10 FIG. 10 is a schematic of still another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device including a self-powered syringe driver that provides a time released delivery drive.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

The following detailed description is merely illustrative in nature and is not intended  
15 to limit the embodiments of the subject matter or the application and uses of such embodiments. As used herein, the word “exemplary” means “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any implementation described herein as exemplary is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other implementations. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented  
20 in the preceding technical field, background, brief summary, or the following detailed description.

Certain terminology may be used in the following description for the purpose of reference only, and thus are not intended to be limiting. For example, terms such as “upper,” “lower,” “above,” and “below” refer to directions in the drawings to which  
25 reference is made. Terms such as “proximal,” “distal,” “front,” “back,” “rear,” and “side” describe the orientation and/or location of portions of the component within a consistent but arbitrary frame of reference, which is made clear by reference to the text and the associated drawings describing the component under discussion. Such terminology may include the words specifically mentioned above, derivatives thereof, and words of similar import.

30 For example, as used herein, the terms “front” and “distal” refer to parts of the subject device that are located further away from the user (e.g., clinician) of the device, e.g., during an injection operation. As used herein, the terms “rear” and “proximal” refer to the

parts of the device that are located closer to the user (e.g., clinician) of the device, e.g., during an injection operation.

There are many applications where controlled delivery of a medicament is desired while maintaining precise position control of the delivery needle to deliver a precise volume of fluid in a precise location. The devices and methods described herein may facilitate  
5 precise delivery of medicaments into a patient's body, e.g., one or more viscous fluids or other flowable material for various therapeutic and/or diagnostic purposes. As used herein, "medicament" is intended to refer to any such fluids or materials, such as those described in the examples herein. For example, below is a summary of exemplary applications where  
10 the devices and methods described herein may be used to deliver fluids into a patient's body.

Ophthalmology: As shown in FIG. 1, a syringe device 8 may be used for sub-retinal injections in the treatment of several disease conditions of an eye 90. The syringe device 8 may include a syringe cartridge and a syringe driver (not shown), similar to any of the  
15 embodiments described herein.

Treatment of retinal vein occlusions: Multiple indications may be treated by the administration of therapeutic agents into the sub-retinal space in the eye. In cases of branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO) and central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), 50 to 150 $\mu$ L of tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) may be administered through relatively small  
20 hypodermic needles (e.g., not more than 41 gauge) to dissolve blood clots formed by sub-retinal hemorrhages during the course of retinal surgery. In these cases, the ophthalmic surgeon may place the tip under the surface of a patient's retina and slowly inject the TPA to create a bleb of medicament that dissolves the coagulated blood over the course of a few days.

Gene therapy for the treatment of macular degeneration: Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a leading cause of vision loss and blindness among the elderly. AMD is a progressive ocular disease of the part of the retina, called the macula, which enables people to read, visualize faces, and drive. The disease initially causes distortion in central vision, and eventually leads to legal blindness. A layer of cells at the back of the  
30 eye, called the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), provides support, protection, and nutrition to the light sensitive cells of the retina, i.e., the photoreceptors consisting of rods and cones. The dysfunction and/or loss of these RPE cells play a critical role in the loss of the photoreceptors and hence blindness in AMD. Recent advances in research show promise in

new therapies to treat AMD. Human embryonic stem cells, gene therapies, complement factors, and viral vectors are under development with early stage animal studies and/or clinical trials. Some of these treatments require administration of the cells into targeted areas of the eye including the sub-retinal space or the suprachoroidal space with exquisite control over position, volumetric delivery rate, and/or total volume.

Aesthetic Medicine: The goals in aesthetic medicine are generally to improve external perception of a person's skin and or external features. There are multiple therapies that require controlled injection of therapeutic agents to achieve their targeted effects.

Neurotoxins: For example, botulinum toxin may be used to temporarily deaden nerves to prevent a person from using muscle groups that create facial wrinkles. The two common areas are the frontalis muscles of the forehead and around the mouth. Botulinum toxin is a low viscosity fluid that requires controlled delivery over volume and precise control over the position so that treatment is limited to a target area to prevent unintended consequences to the patient.

These neurotoxins are low viscosity and are injected with small syringes and/or needles, and require fine motor and position control on the part of the clinician to prevent injection of too much fluid volume or injection into the wrong area, both of which may cause damage to a patient. Because the cross-sectional area of the small syringes are relatively small, high injection pressures may be generated with low plunger forces so control over the injection volume and rate is reduced.

Dermal fillers: Highly viscous fluids, such as hyaluronic acid, may be injected into a patient's skin to increase the volume of the skin, to push out wrinkles, fill voids left by acne scarring or surgical removal of tumors, give volume to lips, and/or fill the upper cheeks. These are typically injected using relatively large syringes that require high plunger forces that the surgeon must manually apply. Simultaneously, the clinician must maintain positional accuracy to hit the desired location and control the delivery rate to minimize patient discomfort.

Fat grafting: In some cases, fat is harvested from one portion of a patient's body, purified and concentrated, and then injected as a filler into an area targeted for cosmetic improvement. Grafted fat may be used as a filler material in the same manner as the other dermal fillers. In "micro" fat grafting, small amounts are used for facial improvements, while more general fat grafting may be used to increase the size of breasts or buttocks. The



injection of this material has the same challenges as other dermal fillers as it requires relatively high injection pressures with good control over position and delivery rate.

Turning to FIGS. 2A-3B, an exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 8 is shown that includes a syringe cartridge 10 and a syringe driver 30, which may include components and/or perform similar to any of the embodiments described herein. Generally, the syringe cartridge 10 includes a cartridge housing 12 including an open proximal end 14, a closed distal end 16, and defining an interior volume 18 within which a delivery piston 20 is slidably received. The proximal end 14 may include one or more connectors for engaging cooperating connectors on the syringe driver 30 to couple the cartridge 10 to the driver 30. For example, as shown in FIGS. 2A and 2B, the housing 12 may include a pair of flanges 22 on the proximal end 14 that may be coupled to a bracket, latch, or other cooperating connector(s) 26 on the driver 30.

In one embodiment, the connector 26 may receive and/or otherwise engage the flanges 22 such that the cartridge 10 is substantially permanently coupled to the driver 30. Alternatively, the connector 26 may allow the cartridge 10 to be removably coupled to the driver 30, e.g., to allow different combinations of cartridges and drivers to be assembled during manufacturing or immediately before use. In another alternative, the cartridge 10 may be integrated together with the driver 30 as a unitary assembly (not shown) and the flanges 22 and connector 26 may be omitted, if desired.

The cartridge 10 also includes a delivery port 17 on the distal end 16, e.g., for delivering a medicament from the interior 18 into a patient's body, e.g., during any of the procedures described elsewhere herein. For example, as shown, the delivery port 17 may include a Luer fitting or other connector for coupling a needle or cannula (not shown) to the delivery port 17. Alternatively, a needle may be permanently molded or otherwise integrated into the distal end 16 (not shown), if desired.

The piston 20 may be a cylindrical member including one or more seals that slidably engage the interior surface of the housing 12 to allow the piston to be directed axially within the interior 18 while providing a fluid-tight seal. For example, the piston 20 may be directed from a proximal or initial position adjacent the proximal end 14, e.g., as shown in FIGS. 2A and 3A, to a distal or advanced position adjacent the distal end 16 to deliver the fluid from the interior 18, as shown in FIGS. 2B and 3B, and described further elsewhere herein. In an exemplary embodiment, the piston 20 may include a cylindrical disc carrying one or more O-rings around an outer perimeter of the disc that engage an interior surface of

the housing 12. Alternatively, the piston 20 may be formed from an elastomeric or other material as an integral body, e.g., defining one or more annular ridges that may slidably and/or sealingly engage the interior surface of the housing 12. The materials for the piston 20 are generally compatible and/or inert with respect to the fluid contained within the interior 18.

Optionally, the piston 20 may include one or more connectors (not shown), e.g., on a proximal end or surface of the piston 20 for engaging with an actuator plunger 70 of the driver 30, as described further elsewhere herein. For example, in one embodiment, the piston 20 may simply include a recess 21 in its proximal end for receiving a distal end 74 of the actuator plunger 70, e.g., such that distal advancement of the plunger 70 causes distal advancement of the piston 20. Alternatively, the piston 20 and/or distal end 74 of the plunger 70 may include one or more detents, barbs, and/or other locking elements (not shown) that secure the distal end 74 to the piston 20 such that piston 20 follows all axial movement of the plunger 70.

With particular reference to FIGS. 3A and 3B, the syringe driver 30 generally includes an outer housing 32 including an enclosed proximal end 34 and a distal end 36 including the connector 26, defining a central longitudinal axis 38 therebetween, and including various cavities, recesses, and conduits for containing components of the driver 30, e.g., aligned along or offset from the axis 38, as desired. Generally, the housing 32 includes an energy storage device 40, an actuator or accumulator piston 50 movable within an accumulator chamber 52 of the housing 32, a substantially incompressible pressurized fluid 60, a plunger 70 hydraulically coupled to the pressurized fluid 60, and an actuator 80 for advancing the plunger 70 from the distal end 36 of the housing 32 in response to the pressurized fluid 60 to deliver fluid from the interior 18 of the syringe cartridge 10 in a desired manner, as described elsewhere herein.

In the exemplary embodiment shown, the energy storage device 40 includes a canister 42 of pressurized gas including an outlet 44 communicating with a flow path 46 and a proximal region 52a of the accumulator chamber 52 within which the accumulator piston 50 is slidably disposed. Optionally, the canister 42 may be provided within a cavity 39 of the housing 32 during manufacturing and/or assembly of the driver 30, e.g., such that the canister 42 is substantially permanently contained within the housing 32. Alternatively, the housing 32 may include a removable cap (not shown), e.g., at the proximal end 34, allowing the canister 40 to be inserted into the cavity 39 before use and/or allowing the canister 42 to

be removed and replaced with a new canister, if desired, by removing the cap, inserting a canister, and reattaching the cap.

In the embodiment shown, a carriage 48 may be provided within the housing 32 adjacent the chamber 39 carrying a pin 49. When the canister 40 is loaded into the cavity 5 39 (e.g., during manufacturing or before use), the pin 49 may be disposed adjacent a septum (not shown) at the outlet 44 of the canister 42, as shown in FIG. 3A. Optionally, the carriage 48 may be slidably disposed within the housing 32, e.g., such that initial activation of the actuator 80, causes the carriage 48 and pin 49 to move axially, e.g., from an original or distal position shown in FIG. 3A proximally towards the canister 42 to a proximal 10 position shown (not shown), thereby puncturing the septum with the pin 49 and allowing gas to escape from the canister 42, e.g., into flow path 46 and proximal region 52a of the accumulator chamber 52.

Optionally, a spring or other biasing mechanism (not shown) may be provided within the housing 32 for biasing the carriage 48 distally towards the distal position. Thus, 15 when the actuator 80 is released, the carriage 48 may automatically return to the distal position and the pin 49 may be withdrawn from the septum after puncturing the septum. Alternatively, the carriage 48 may remain in the proximal position and the pin 49 and septum may be configured to allow gas to escape from the canister 42 around the pin 49 into the flow path 46. In another alternative, the carriage 48 may be stationary and the canister 20 42 may be movable, e.g., during initial activation of the actuator 80 and/or during loading of the canister 42, to open the septum and deliver pressurized gas into the fluid path 46 and proximal region 52a. Once the canister 42 is opened, gas may be delivered through one or more passages of the housing 42 to pressurize an incompressible fluid to advance the plunger 70, as described further elsewhere herein.

25 In an exemplary embodiment, the canister 42 may contain a pressurized compressible fluid, e.g., a two-phase or one-phase gas, such as carbon dioxide, argon, or nitrogen, such that compressible gas from the canister 42 applies a predetermined pressure to the flow path 46 and the accumulator piston 50. Additional information regarding canisters that may be included in the syringe drivers herein may be found in U.S. 30 application Serial No. 15/ 064,464, filed March 8, 2016, the entire disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein. In alternative embodiments, instead of the canister 42, the energy storage device 40 may include a mechanical spring, e.g., configured

to apply a predetermined force profile, e.g., a substantially constant or variable force, to the accumulator piston 50 upon actuation of the syringe driver 30.

With continued reference to FIGS. 3A and 3B, the accumulator piston 50 is a generally cylindrical body slidably disposed within the accumulator chamber 52, thereby  
5 dividing the accumulator chamber 52 into a proximal region 52a communicating with the flow path 46 and a distal region 52b containing the incompressible fluid 60. The accumulator piston 50 may include one or more O-rings or other seals (not shown) to provide a substantially fluid-tight seal to isolate the proximal and distal regions 52a, 52b and the respective fluids therein, while allowing the accumulator piston 50 to move axially  
10 within the chamber 52.

The distal region 52b communicates via a valve 56 with a plunger chamber 54 (best seen in FIG. 3B) within which the proximal end 72 of the actuator plunger 70 is disposed. The actuator 80 is coupled to the valve 56 for selectively opening the valve 56, to provide a flow controller that allows incompressible fluid 60 within the distal region 52b to pass  
15 through the valve 56 into the plunger chamber 54, thereby advancing the plunger 70 distally in a desired manner. In exemplary embodiments, the fluid 60 may be an incompressible liquid, such as silicone oil, propylene glycol, glycerin, saline, water, or other substantially incompressible fluids.

The actuator 80 may include any type of actuator configured to provide controllable  
20 actuation of the output of mechanical energy from the energy storage device 40. For example, in some embodiments, the actuator 80 may include a mechanical or electronic button or lever that allows a user to control output of mechanical energy from the energy storage device 40. For example, as shown, the actuator 80 may be a lever including a first end 82 pivotally coupled to the housing 32 and a second free end 84 that may be  
25 manipulated by the user to open the valve 56. In the exemplary embodiments described further below, the actuator 80 and/or valve 56 may include one or more additional components for applying a predetermined force profile to the actuator plunger 70, e.g., for opening the valve 56 in a desired manner, e.g., similar to any of the embodiments described elsewhere herein.

30 The accumulator piston 50 is configured to move slidably along the longitudinal axis 38 of the device 8 within the accumulator chamber 52. As such, the accumulator piston 50 includes a first or proximal surface 50a exposed to pressure from the compressed gas delivered from the canister 42 into the fluid path 46 and proximal region 52a, and a second

or distal surface 50b exposed to the incompressible fluid 60 within the distal region 52b. In this manner, the actuator piston 50 and chamber 52 may provide an accumulator that may apply a predetermined pressure and/or force to the incompressible fluid 60 to cause the incompressible fluid 60 to pass through the valve 56 into the plunger chamber 54 to advance the plunger 70 in a desired manner, e.g., according to a force, pressure, and/or other profile, e.g., as described with respect to the exemplary embodiments described further herein.

In addition, the syringe driver 30 include one or more brackets, latches, and/or other connectors 26 on the distal end 36 of the driver housing 32, e.g., for permanently and/or removably coupling the driver 30 to a syringe cartridge 10, as described elsewhere herein.

During use, if the cartridge 10 and driver 30 portions are not already preassembled, a user may select an appropriate cartridge 10 and driver 30 for a given application, e.g., a cartridge 10 providing a desired therapeutic and/or diagnostic fluid and/or volume, and a driver 30 providing a desired force, pressure, and/or other performance profile for delivering the fluid from the selected cartridge 10. The flanges 22 and/or other connectors on the cartridge 10 may be engaged with the bracket 26 and/or other connectors on the distal end 36 of the driver 30, e.g., to thereby engage the distal end 74 of the actuator plunger 70 with the piston 20 within the cartridge 10. During this assembly, the distal end 74 of the actuator plunger 70 may be received within the recess 21 in the actuator piston 20 and/or may engage cooperating connectors (not shown), if desired. A needle, cannula, or other delivery device (not shown) may be coupled to the connector 17 on the cartridge 10, e.g., after assembly. The assembled device 8 may then be ready to deliver one or more agents within the interior 18 of the cartridge 10 into a patient's body, e.g., any of the agents and/or procedures described elsewhere herein.

In an exemplary procedure, when the actuator 80 is initially activated, the pin 49 may open the septum at the outlet 44 of the canister 42, and gas from the canister 42 may be released and/or expand into the fluid path 46 and proximal region 52a, thereby pressurizing the actuator piston 50 and/or incompressible fluid 60 in the distal region 52b. Further actuation of the actuator 80 causes the pressurized fluid 60 to flow through the valve 56 into the piston chamber 54, thereby advancing the actuator plunger 70, and consequently the delivery piston 20, distally to deliver fluid within the interior 18 through the delivery port 17 of the cartridge 10. In exemplary embodiments, such as those described below, the valve 56 may be a needle valve or a pressure-compensated flow control valve, and/or may include a pressure regulator and/or other suitable element for limiting and/or controlling flow of the

incompressible fluid 60. In addition or alternatively, flow of the incompressible fluid 60 may be controlled by modulating pressure of the pressurized gas applied to the fluid, e.g., by including one or more flow control elements (not shown) in the fluid path 46 and/or by modifying the resistance of the accumulator piston 50 to axial movement at different  
5 locations within the accumulator chamber 52. As a result, in exemplary embodiments, the output flow of the incompressible fluid 60 when the actuator 80 and valve 56 are activated may be linear, exponential, polynomial, or other desired profile.

Turning to FIG. 4, a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 8 is shown, generally similar to that shown in FIGS. 2A-3B, e.g., including a syringe cartridge  
10 and syringe driver 30. As shown, the cartridge 10 may include a housing 12 including a delivery piston 20 for delivering a medicament 19 (e.g., within an interior 18 of the housing 12, as described with reference to FIGS. 2A-3B) via a delivery mechanism, e.g., delivery port 17, similar to the device 8 shown in FIGS. 2A-3B.

As described elsewhere herein, the cartridge 10 and driver 30 may include one or  
15 more cooperating connectors 22, 26 that provide a mechanical coupling for permanently and/or removably coupling a desired cartridge 10 to a desired driver 30. For example, a user may select a desired driver 30 that provides a desired delivery profile, e.g., proportional delivery (or any of the other profiles described elsewhere herein), and/or a desired cartridge 10, e.g., including a desired medicament 19, volume, and the like, and couple them together  
20 before delivery of the medicament 19. The resulting device 8 may be a single-use device, i.e., where, upon delivery of the medicament 19, the entire device 8 is disposed. Alternatively, after delivery, the cartridge 10 may be removed and disposed, and the driver 30 may be sterilized and/or otherwise processed for use in a future procedure with a new cartridge.

During use, the syringe driver 30 may provide proportional control of fluid flow from the cartridge 10, e.g., such that the user may apply an actuation force to the actuator (manual controller) 80 that opens the valve 56, e.g., a needle valve, to generate correspondingly proportional speed control to the plunger 70 and, thus, flow control of the medicament 19 from the interior 18 of the cartridge 10. In this manner, the user may  
30 intuitively deliver a desired volume and/or flow rate of the medicament 19 from the cartridge 10 into a patient's body with the force applied to the actuator 80 being much less than and/or independent of the resulting force applied to the plunger 70 and piston 20, which may facilitate precise delivery of the medicament 19.

The accumulator, e.g., actuator piston 50 and chamber 52, may convert gas pressure from the canister 42, which may be substantially continuous and/or constant, to hydraulic pressure that is applied to the plunger 70. Thus, the incompressible fluid 60 may transmit a force to the plunger 70, e.g., to eliminate hysteresis and/or allow the user to increase and/or decrease the flow rate and, thus, the speed available from the driver 30 in a desired manner.

Turning to FIG. 5, a schematic of another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 108 is shown that includes a syringe cartridge 10 (e.g., similar to any of the previous embodiments) and syringe driver 130 that provides a flow limiting drive. For example, as shown, the cartridge 10 may include a housing 12 including a delivery piston 20, medicament 19 contained within an interior of the housing 12, and an outlet port or other delivery mechanism 17, similar to other embodiments.

The driver 130 may include similar components to the previous components, e.g., a canister 42 containing compressible gas communicating with an accumulator, e.g., actuator piston 50, and an actuator 80, although in this embodiment, the valve 156 is a flow limiting valve. The actuator 80 causes the flow limiting valve 156 to open to deliver incompressible fluid 60 to the actuator plunger 70, with the flow limiting valve 156 limiting the speed of the actuator 80 and, thereby, limiting flow of the medicament 19 from the cartridge 10 into a patient's body to a predetermined maximum flow rate. Thus, this driver 130 may enable volumetric flow limiting below a desired maximum flow rate, which may be useful for micro-fluidic delivery, e.g., during sub-retinal injection of gene and stem cell therapies. Such limitations on flow of the medicament may also reduce patient pain, e.g., associated with rapid volumetric expansion that may occur with relative high rate fluid delivery.

Turning to FIG. 6, a schematic of yet another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 208 is shown that includes a syringe cartridge 10 (e.g., similar to any of the previous embodiments) and syringe driver 230 that provides both a proportional and flow limiting drive. The device 208 may operate similar to a combination of the devices 8, 108, e.g., having a valve 256 that includes both a proportional flow control valve 56, i.e., that provides a flow rate proportional to the amount of activation of the actuator 280, and a flow limiting valve 156, i.e., that limits flow from the cartridge 10 to a predetermined maximum flow rate even of the actuator 280 is activated beyond a maximum position. For example, the proportional flow control valve 56 may enable proportional control during an initial stage of actuation, while the flow limiting valve 156 may limit flow of the medicament 19 to no more than a desired maximum flow rate during a final stage of actuation.

Turning to FIG. 6A, an exemplary embodiment of a flow control valve 56 that includes initial proportional control and limited flow during a final stage of actuation. As shown, the valve 56 is a needle valve including a needle or pin 56a mounted on a carriage 86 that is coupled to the actuator 80, e.g., such that activation of the actuator 80 causes the carriage 86 and, consequently, the pin 56a to move proximally. The pin 56a is received in a recess 56b that communicates with a relatively small cross-section passage 56c that communicates with the plunger chamber 54, within which the proximal end 72 of the actuator plunger 70 is received, as described elsewhere herein. In an initial or proximal position, before the actuator 80 is activated, the pin 56a engages the wall of the recess 56b, thereby preventing the fluid 60 from entering the passage 56c. As the actuator 80 is activated, the carriage 56 directs the pin 56a proximally out of the recess 56b, thereby creating an annular space around the pin 56a through which the fluid 60 may pass and enter the passage 56c and plunger chamber 54.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 6A, the pin 56a has a tapered shape, tapering from its base distally to its tip. This configuration may provide proportional control, i.e., such that fluid 60 flows at a flow rate to cause the plunger 70 to advance at a corresponding speed to deliver the medicament 19. However, the pin 56a and recess 56b are sized such that, during the final stage of actuation, the pin 56a exits the recess 56b entirely. Fluid 60 may continue to flow into the recess 56b; however, the flow rate into the passage 56c is limited given the relatively large size of the recess 56b compared to the passage 56c, thereby limiting the flow of the fluid 60 to a predetermined maximum flow rate.

Turning to FIG. 7, a schematic of another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 308 is shown that includes a syringe cartridge 310 and syringe driver 330. As shown, the cartridge 310 may include a housing 312 including a delivery piston 20, medicament 19 contained within an interior of the housing 312, and an outlet port or other delivery mechanism 17, similar to other embodiments. The driver 330 may include similar components to the previous components, e.g., a canister 42 containing compressible gas communicating with an accumulator, e.g., actuator piston 50, and an actuator 80 including a valve 56, which may be any of the embodiments herein. The cartridge 310 and driver 330 may include cooperating connectors 22, 26 for removably and/or permanently coupling the components together, as described elsewhere herein. Also similar to previous embodiments, the actuator 80 releases the compressible gas from the gas canister 42 to



apply pressure to the accumulator piston 50, and then causes the valve 56 to open to deliver incompressible fluid 60 to the actuator plunger 70, in a desired manner.

Unlike previous embodiments, the cartridge 310 (or driver 330) may include a repeating stroke limiter 328, i.e., that limits movement of the piston 20 when the driver 330 is actuated. For example, the limiter 328 may be a mechanical device coupled to or  
5 incorporated into the cartridge 310 that allows the delivery piston 20 to be advanced a preset number of times, e.g., with each advancement delivering a desired volume of the medicament 19 from the housing 12. For example, the actuator 80 may be activated to deliver a first injection, which may deliver a desired volume, e.g., set based on how long the  
10 actuator 80 is activated. Once the actuator 80 is released, the limiter 328 may reset and allow another dose to be delivered in a second activation (and, optionally, additional subsequent activations). Optionally, the limiter 328 may include an adjustment mechanism 329 that allows the user to set the maximum number activations and corresponding injections that may delivered by the device 308.

Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 8, a syringe device 308' is shown that includes a stroke limiter 328' that includes an adjustment mechanism 329' that allows a user to adjust the piston distance and volume delivered to be adjusted by the user. For example, before each activation, the user may use the adjustment mechanism 329' to set the volume for the corresponding injection. Alternatively, the adjustment mechanism 329' may only be  
20 adjusted once, e.g., such that each activation delivers the same volume of medicament 19. In a further alternative shown in FIG. 9, a syringe device 308'' may be provided with a cartridge 310'' (and/or driver 330'') that includes both a repeating stroke limiter 328a'' and an adjustable stroke limiter 328b,'' which may include corresponding adjustment mechanism 329a,'' 329b.'' Thus, in this embodiment, the device 308'' may enable the user  
25 to deliver repetitive volumetric doses, with the number of injections and/or volume of individual injections to be set by the user at the time of use. Otherwise, devices 308,' 308'' may be similar to device 308 and/or any of the other embodiments herein.

It will be appreciated that a proportional flow control valve 56 is shown in the devices 308, 308,' 308'' of FIGS. 7-9, i.e., such that activation of the actuator 80 causes the  
30 incompressible fluid 60 to flow in a manner to cause proportional movement of the delivery plunger 70 and piston 20. Alternatively, the valve 56 may be replaced with any of the other embodiments herein.

Turning to FIG. 10, still another exemplary embodiment of a syringe device 408 is shown that includes a syringe cartridge 410 and syringe driver 430. As shown, the cartridge 410 may include a housing 12 including a delivery piston 20, medicament 19 contained within an interior of the housing 312, and an outlet port or other delivery mechanism 17, similar to other embodiments. The driver 430 may include similar components to the previous components, e.g., a canister 42 containing compressible gas communicating with an accumulator, e.g., actuator piston 50, and an actuator 480.

Unlike the previous embodiments, the actuator 480 is not coupled to a valve. Instead, the driver 430 includes a flow limiter 456 that controls flow of the incompressible fluid 60 to advance the actuator plunger 70 in a desired manner once the actuator 480 is activated. For example, when the actuator 480 is activated, compressible gas is released from the gas canister 42 to apply pressure to the accumulator piston 50, which forces the incompressible fluid 60 to flow through the flow limiter 456 to advance the plunger 70 without further action from the user. Thus, the accumulator piston 50 converts gas pressure from the canister 42 to fluid/hydraulic pressure, and the flow limiter 456 transmits forces to the plunger 70, thereby automatically advancing the delivery piston 20 and delivering medicament 19 from the housing 12 through the delivery mechanism 17 when the actuator 480 is initially activated.

The flow limiter 456, e.g., a venturi, orifice, or other element, may be fixed such that the speed of the plunger 70 and the resulting flow rate of the medicament 19 may be fixed when the actuator 480 is activated. For a plunger 70 having a preset stroke distance, a fixed flow limiter 456 may fix the time of delivery of the medicament 19 into the patient's body. Alternatively, the flow limiter 456 may be adjustable such that the user may set the flow limiter 456, e.g., between minimum and maximum speeds and/or between fixed intervals, to provide a desired flow rate and corresponding time of delivery of the medicament 19. In a further alternative, the flow rate of the incompressible fluid 60 may be adjusted by changing the viscosity of the fluid 60.

Similar to the previous embodiments, the cartridge 410 and driver 430 may be removably and/or permanently coupled together, using cooperating connectors 22, 26. For example, the syringe cartridge 410 may be preloaded separate from the driver 430, e.g., using conventional methods, and then coupled to the driver 430 immediately before use. Alternatively, the cartridge 410 may be loaded while coupled to the driver 430.

It will be appreciated that elements or components shown with any embodiment herein are exemplary for the specific embodiment and may be used on or in combination with other embodiments disclosed herein.

5 While the invention is susceptible to various modifications, and alternative forms, specific examples thereof have been shown in the drawings and are herein described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not to be limited to the particular forms or methods disclosed, but to the contrary, the invention is to cover all modifications, equivalents and alternatives falling within the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A device for delivering a medicament into a patient's body, comprising:  
a syringe cartridge comprising a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and  
defining an interior, the cartridge further comprising a piston slidably disposed within the  
5 interior for delivering a medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end; and  
a syringe driver comprising a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of  
the housing, a source of pressurized fluid, a valve, and an actuator member coupled to the  
valve for selectively opening a flow path from the source to the plunger to control flow of  
the pressurized fluid to advance the plunger to deliver medicament from the interior of the  
10 housing at a desired rate.
2. The device of claim 1, further comprising an energy storage device for  
providing pressure to the source of pressurized fluid.
- 15 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the source of pressurized fluid comprises a  
chamber containing incompressible fluid, a source of pressurized gas, and a piston disposed  
between the chamber and the source to apply a predetermined pressure to the  
incompressible fluid within chamber when the pressurized gas is released from the source.
- 20 4. The device of claim 3, wherein the source comprises a canister of  
compressible gas.
5. The device of claim 3, wherein the incompressible fluid is a viscous fluid.
- 25 6. The device of any one of claims 1-5, further comprising one or more  
connectors for coupling the syringe driver to the proximal end of the syringe cartridge.
7. The device of claim 6, wherein the one or more connectors comprise one or  
more flanges on the proximal end of the housing and a latch or bracket on the syringe driver  
30 for receiving the one or more flanges.
8. The device of claim 6, wherein the one or more connectors comprise a  
receiver on the syringe driver for receiving the proximal end of the syringe cartridge.

9. The device of claim 6, wherein the one or more connectors removably couple the syringe driver to the syringe cartridge.

5 10. The device of claim 6, wherein the one or more connectors permanently couple the syringe driver to the syringe cartridge.

11. The device of any one of claims 1-5, further comprising a repeating stroke limiter that limits a number of doses of the medicament that may be delivered from the  
10 syringe cartridge.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein the repeating stroke limiter comprises an adjustment mechanism that is adjustable by a user to set the number of doses.

13. The device of any one of claims 1-5, further comprising a volumetric stroke limiter that limits a distance the delivery piston can travel when the actuator is activated to limit a volume of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein the volumetric stroke limiter comprises an  
20 adjustment mechanism that is adjustable by a user to set the volume of the medicament delivered when the actuator is activated.

15. The device of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the source of pressurized fluid comprises a substantially incompressible liquid.

25 16. The device of claim 15, wherein the liquid comprises silicone, glycerin, saline, or water.

17. The device of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the valve is configured to  
30 control flow along the flow path to provide proportional control of a speed at which the plunger advances and the corresponding flow rate of the medicament.

18. The device of any one of claims 2-5, wherein the actuator and valve provide a flow controller that provides an output to the plunger that is one of linear, exponential, and polynomial relative to the pressure applied by the pressurized gas.

5 19. The device of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the valve comprises a pin received within a recess communicating with the flow path, the pin and recess configured to provide proportional control during initial activation of the actuator and to limit flow of the fluid along the flow path during a final stage of activation to limit advancement of the plunger, thereby limiting flow of the medicament to a maximum flow rate during the final  
10 stage.

20. A device for delivering medicament into a patient's body, comprising:  
a syringe cartridge comprising:  
a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior;  
15 and  
a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end; and  
a syringe driver comprising:  
a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing;  
20 an incompressible fluid;  
an accumulator for applying a predetermined pressure and/or force to the incompressible fluid; and  
an actuator comprising a valve for selectively opening a flow path to control  
flow of the incompressible fluid to advance the plunger and deliver medicament  
25 from the interior of the housing in a desired manner.

21. The device of claim 20, further comprising an energy storage device for providing pressure to the accumulator.

30 22. The device of claim 21, wherein the energy storage device comprises a canister of compressible gas.

23. The device of claim 21, wherein the accumulator comprises an accumulator piston within the syringe driver between the energy storage device and the incompressible fluid for converting pressure from the energy storage device to hydraulic pressure applied to the incompressible fluid.

5

24. The device of any one of claims 20-23, further comprising one or more connectors for coupling the syringe driver to the proximal end of the syringe cartridge.

25. The device of any one of claims 20-23, further comprising a repeating stroke  
10 limiter that limits a number of doses of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the repeating stroke limiter comprises an adjustment mechanism that is adjustable by a user to set the number of doses.

15

27. The device of any one of claims 20-23, further comprising a volumetric stroke limiter that limits a distance the delivery piston can travel when the actuator is activated to limit a volume of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

20

28. The device of claim 27, wherein the volumetric stroke limiter comprises an adjustment mechanism that is adjustable by a user to set the volume of the medicament delivered when the actuator is activated.

29. The device of any one of claims 20-23, wherein the valve is configured to control flow along the flow path to provide proportional control of a speed at which the plunger advances and the corresponding flow rate of the medicament.

25

30. The device of any one of claims 20-23, wherein the actuator and valve  
30 provide a flow controller that provides an output to the plunger that is one of linear, exponential, and polynomial relative to the pressure applied by the accumulator.

31. The device of any one of claims 20-23, wherein the valve comprises a pin received within a recess communicating with the flow path, the pin and recess configured to provide proportional control during initial activation of the actuator and to limit flow of the fluid along the flow path during a final stage of activation to limit advancement of the plunger, thereby limiting flow of the medicament to a maximum flow rate during the final stage.

32. A device for injecting fluid into a body, comprising:  
a syringe cartridge comprising a delivery piston movable within the cartridge for delivering fluid therein into a body; and  
a syringe driver comprising:  
means for pressurizing an incompressible liquid;  
means for controlling a flow rate of the liquid;  
means to limit a peak flow rate of the liquid;  
an actuator piston that may be coupled to the delivery piston; and  
an actuator to provide a force to drive the actuator piston based on the flow rate of the liquid.

33. The device of claim 32, further comprising a receiver mechanism on the syringe driver to accept a portion of the syringe cartridge to couple the syringe cartridge to the syringe driver.

34. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for pressurizing the fluid comprises one of a pressurized gas and a mechanical device.

35. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for pressurizing the fluid comprises a canister containing a pressurized gas.

36. The device of claim 34 or 35, wherein the pressurized gas comprises an inert gas, a two-phase gas, or a propellant.

37. The device of claim 32, wherein the incompressible liquid comprises silicone, glycerin, saline, or water.



38. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for controlling a flow rate is continuously variable.

5           39. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for controlling the flow rate is linear relative to the pressure applied by the means for pressurizing the incompressible liquid.

10           40. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for controlling the flow rate is non-linear relative to the pressure applied by the means for pressurizing the incompressible liquid.

15           41. The device of claim 32, wherein the means for controlling the flow rate comprises a gas pressure controller for varying the pressure applied by the means for pressurizing the incompressible liquid.

            42. The device of claim 41, wherein the gas pressure controller is a single stage pressure regulator.

20           43. The device of claim 41, wherein the gas pressure controller is a multiple stage pressure regulator.

            44. The device of claim 32, wherein the actuator is one of a manual actuator and an electrical actuator.

25

            45. The device of claim 32, wherein the syringe cartridge is integral with the syringe driver.

30           46. The device of claim 32, wherein the syringe cartridge comprises a controller that allows the user selectably control a volume of the medicament delivered when the actuator is activated.

47. The device of claim 32, wherein the syringe cartridge comprises a controller that allows the user selectably control a number of doses of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

5           48. A device for delivering medicament into a patient's body, comprising:  
a syringe cartridge comprising:  
a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior;  
and  
a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering medicament  
10 within the interior through a port in the distal end; and  
a syringe driver comprising:  
a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing;  
an accumulator comprising an accumulator piston adjacent an  
incompressible fluid;  
15 a source of pressurized gas; and  
an actuator that releases pressurized gas from the source, when activated,  
thereby applying pressure to the accumulator to cause the incompressible fluid to  
advance the plunger and deliver medicament from the interior of the housing in a  
desired manner.

20           49. The device of claim 48, wherein the pressurized gas applies a continuous pressure to the accumulator such that the plunger advances automatically to deliver a predetermined volume of the medicament in a predetermined time.

25           50. The device of claim 48, wherein the actuator comprises a flow limiter that limits flow of the incompressible fluid in response to the pressure applied to the accumulator to advance the plunger at a predetermined speed to deliver the medicament in a predetermined time.

30           51. A method for preparing a syringe device, comprising:  
providing a syringe cartridge comprising a housing including a proximal end, a distal end, and defining an interior, and a piston slidably disposed within the interior for delivering medicament within the interior through a port in the distal end; and

coupling a syringe driver to the proximal end of the syringe cartridge, the syringe driver comprising a plunger for advancing the piston within the interior of the housing, an incompressible fluid, an accumulator for applying a predetermined pressure and/or force to the incompressible fluid, and an actuator comprising a valve for selectively opening a flow path to control flow of the incompressible fluid to advance the plunger and deliver medicament from the interior of the housing in a desired manner.

52. The method of claim 51, further comprising coupling a needle or cannula to the distal end of the syringe cartridge.

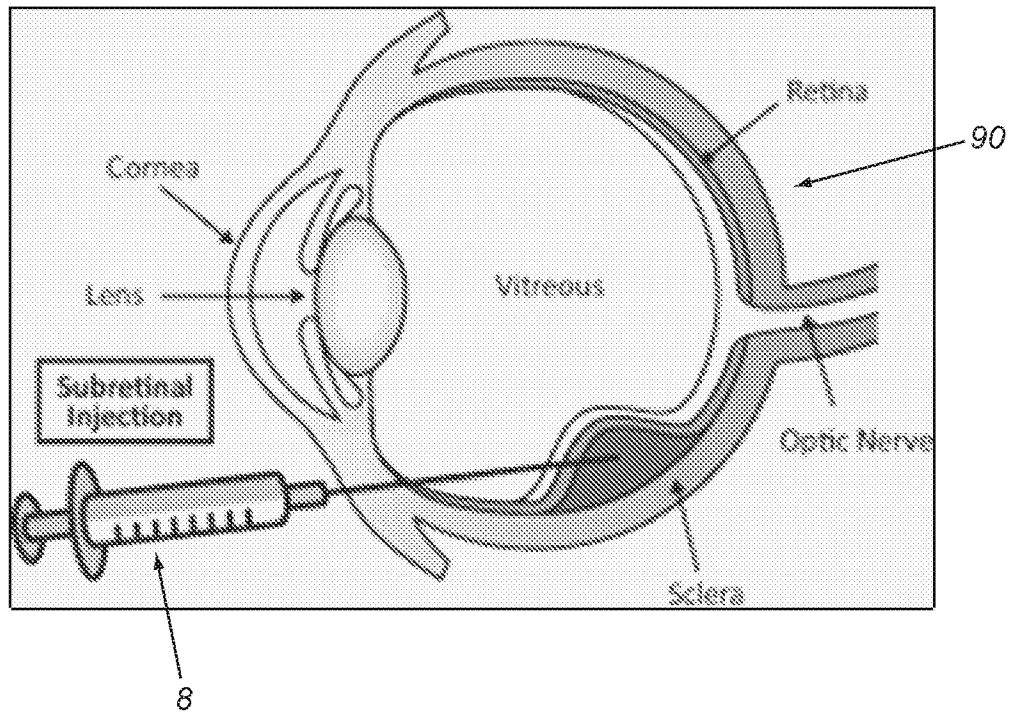
10

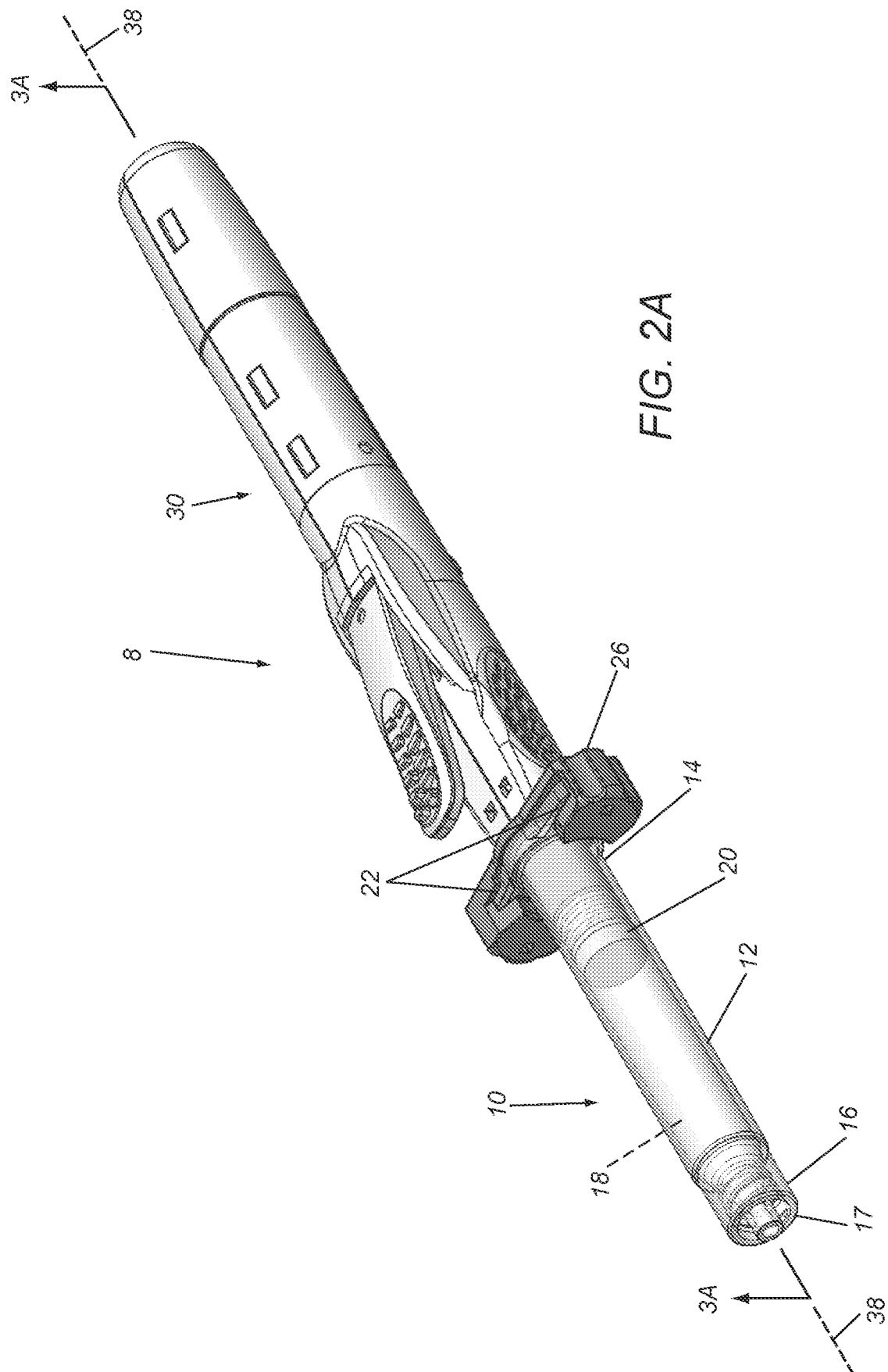
53. The method of claim 51, further comprising adjusting a repeating stroke limiter to limit a number of doses of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

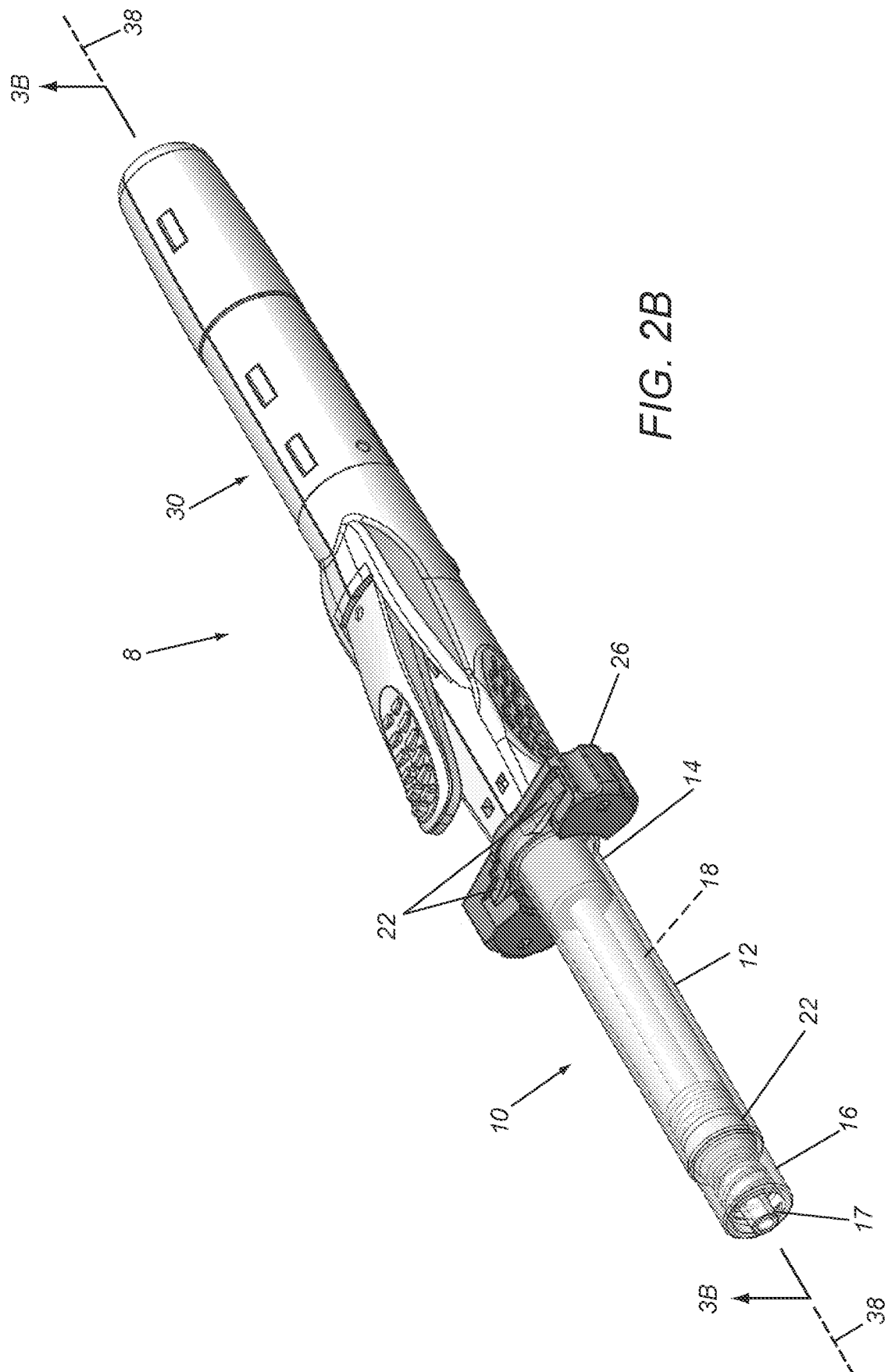
54. The method of claim 51, further comprising adjusting a volumetric stroke limiter to limit a distance the delivery piston can travel when the actuator is activated to limit a volume of the medicament that may be delivered from the syringe cartridge.

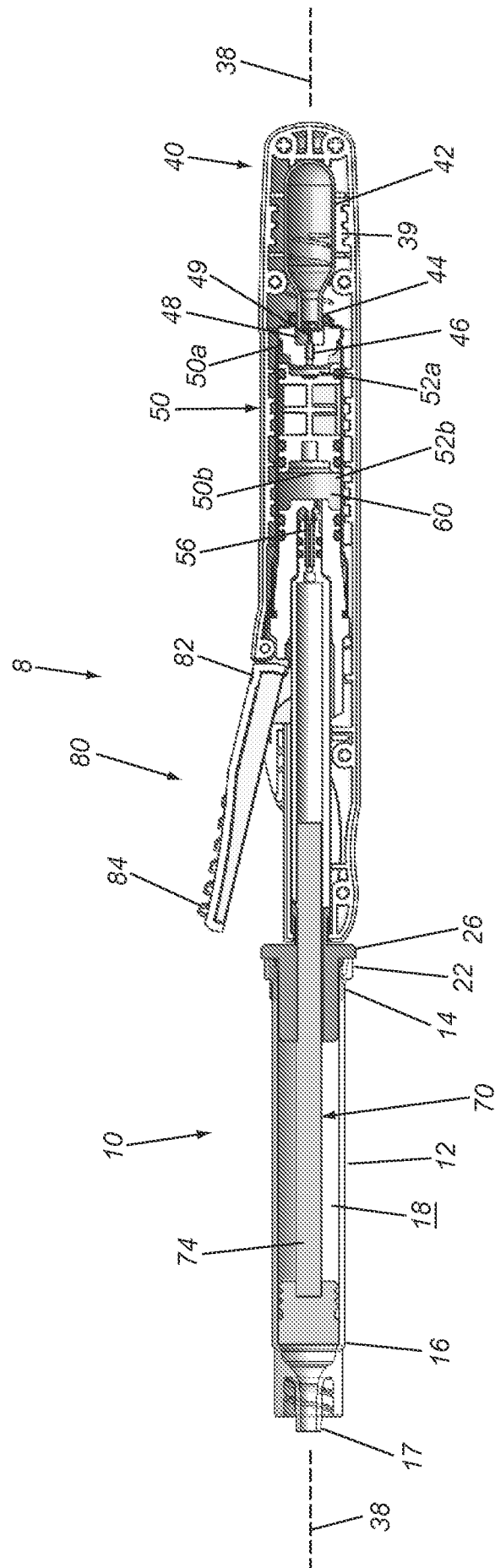
55. A method of delivering fluid into a patient's body, comprising:  
providing a syringe device according to any one of the preceding claims including a syringe driver coupled to a syringe cartridge;  
inserting a needle on a distal end of the syringe cartridge into a desired location in the patient's body; and  
activating an actuator of the syringe driver to deliver medicament within the syringe cartridge into the desired location.

25

*FIG. 1*







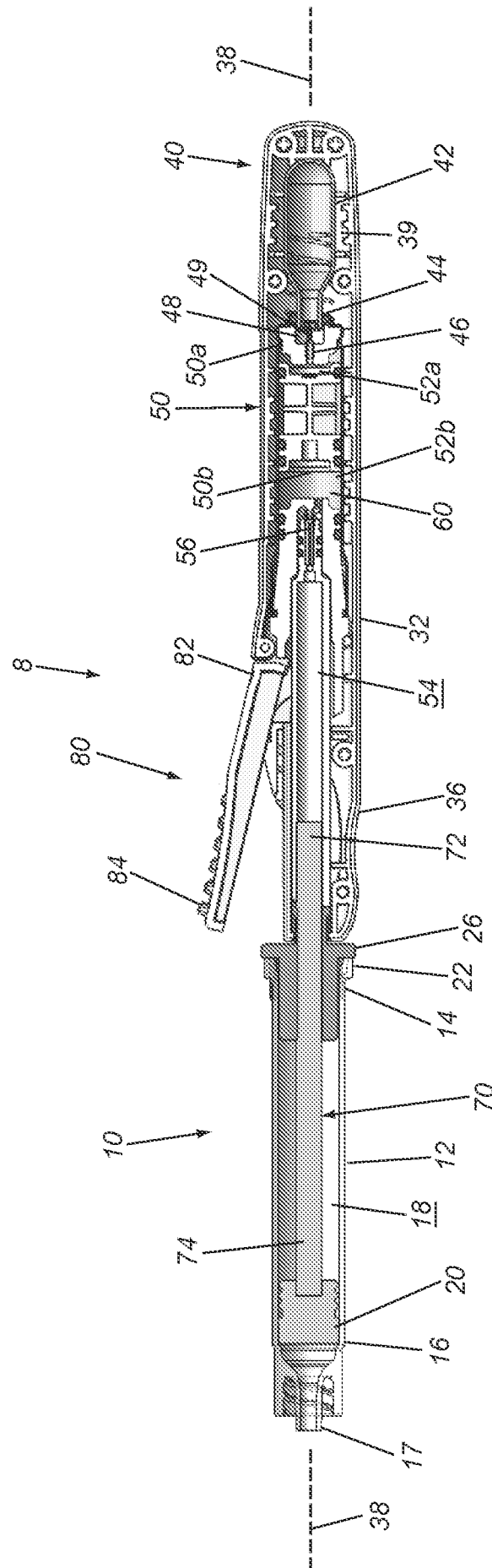


FIG. 3B



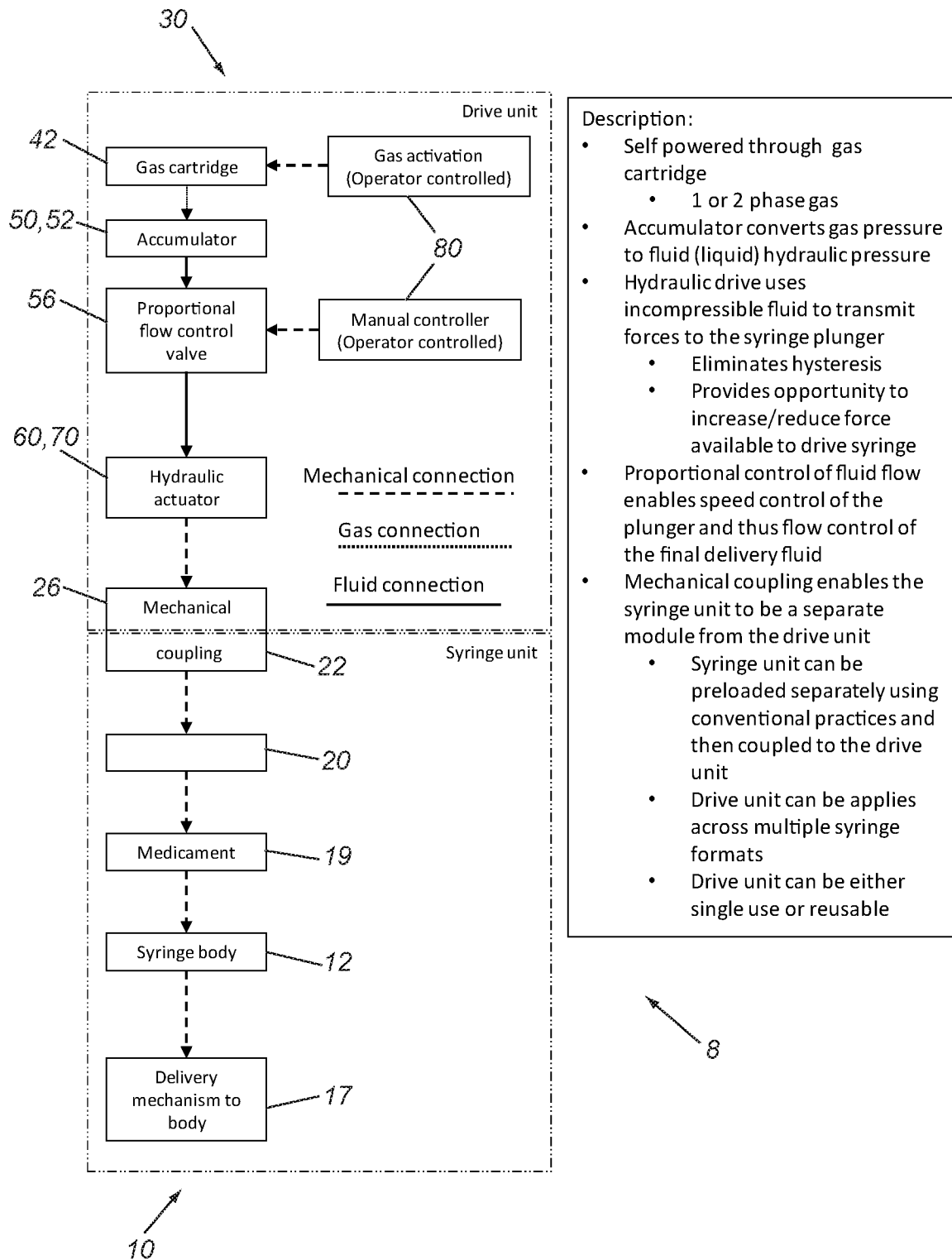


FIG. 4

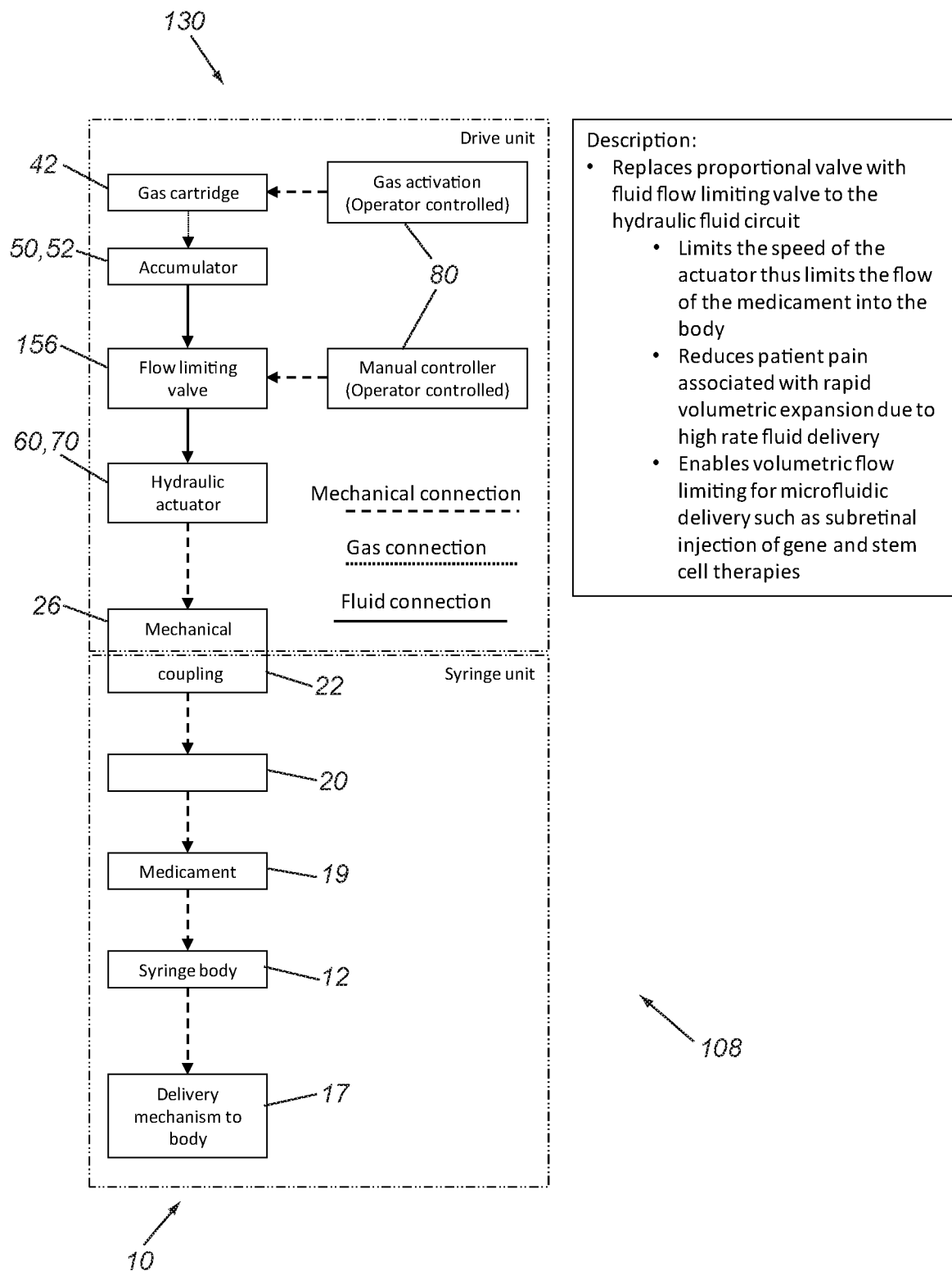


FIG. 5

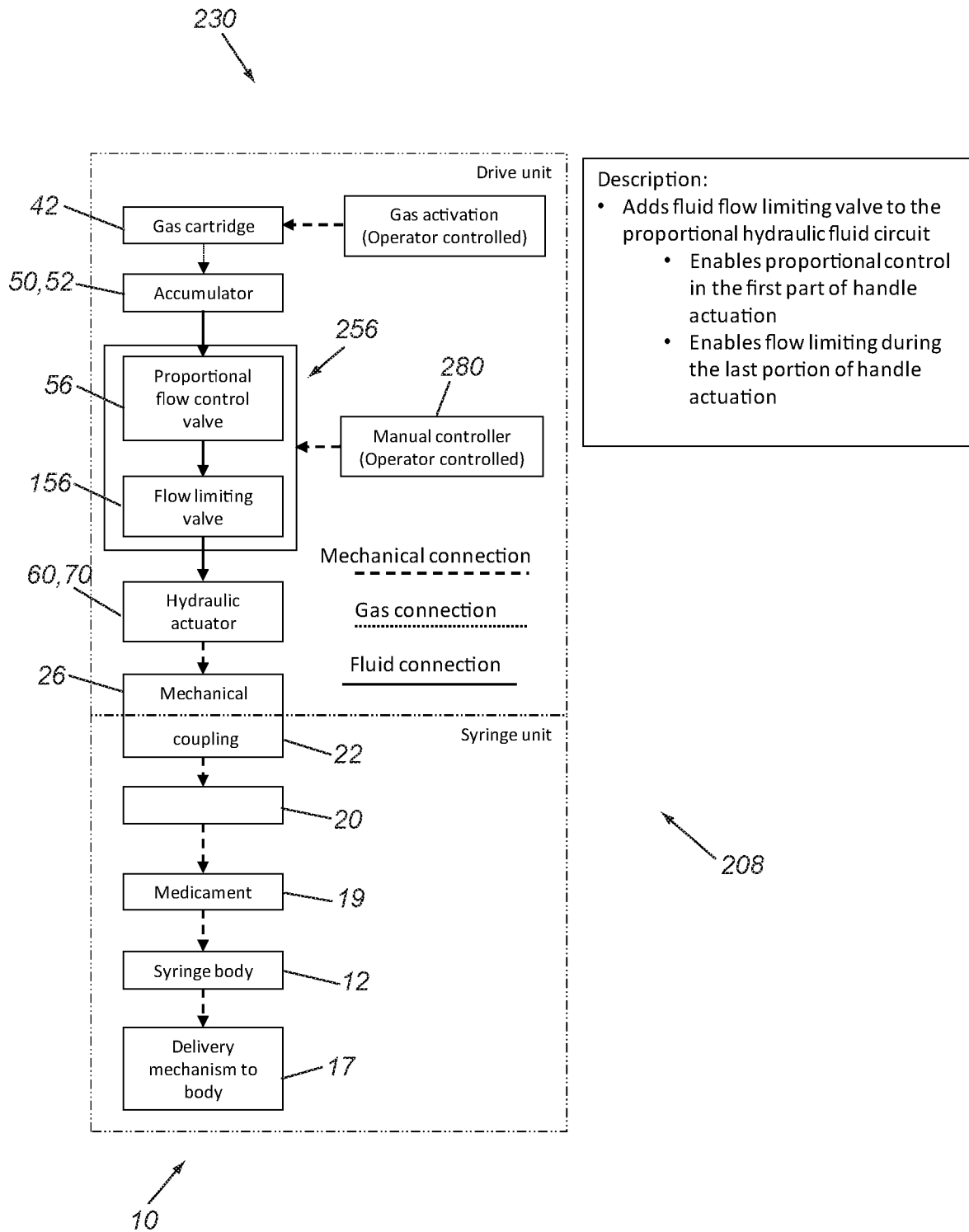


FIG. 6

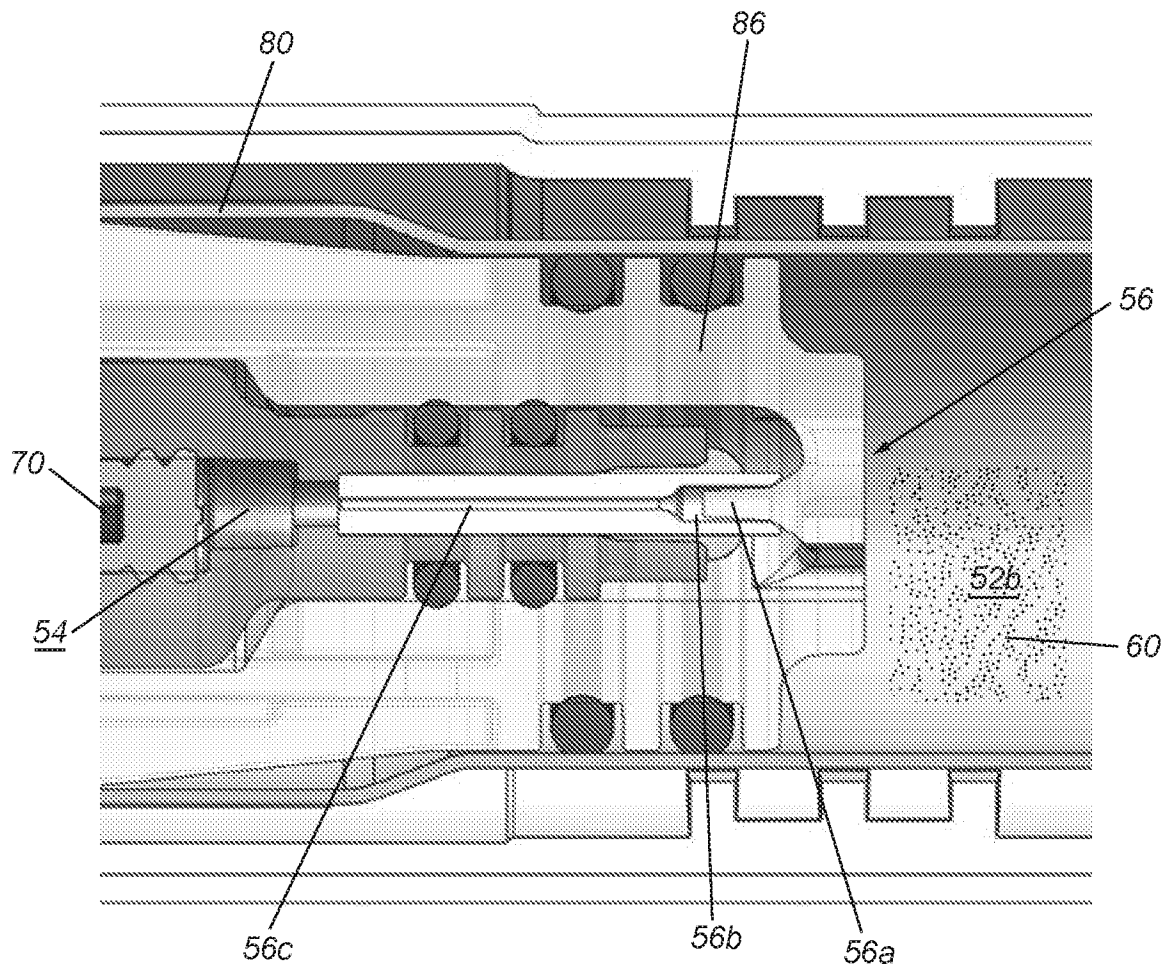


FIG. 6A

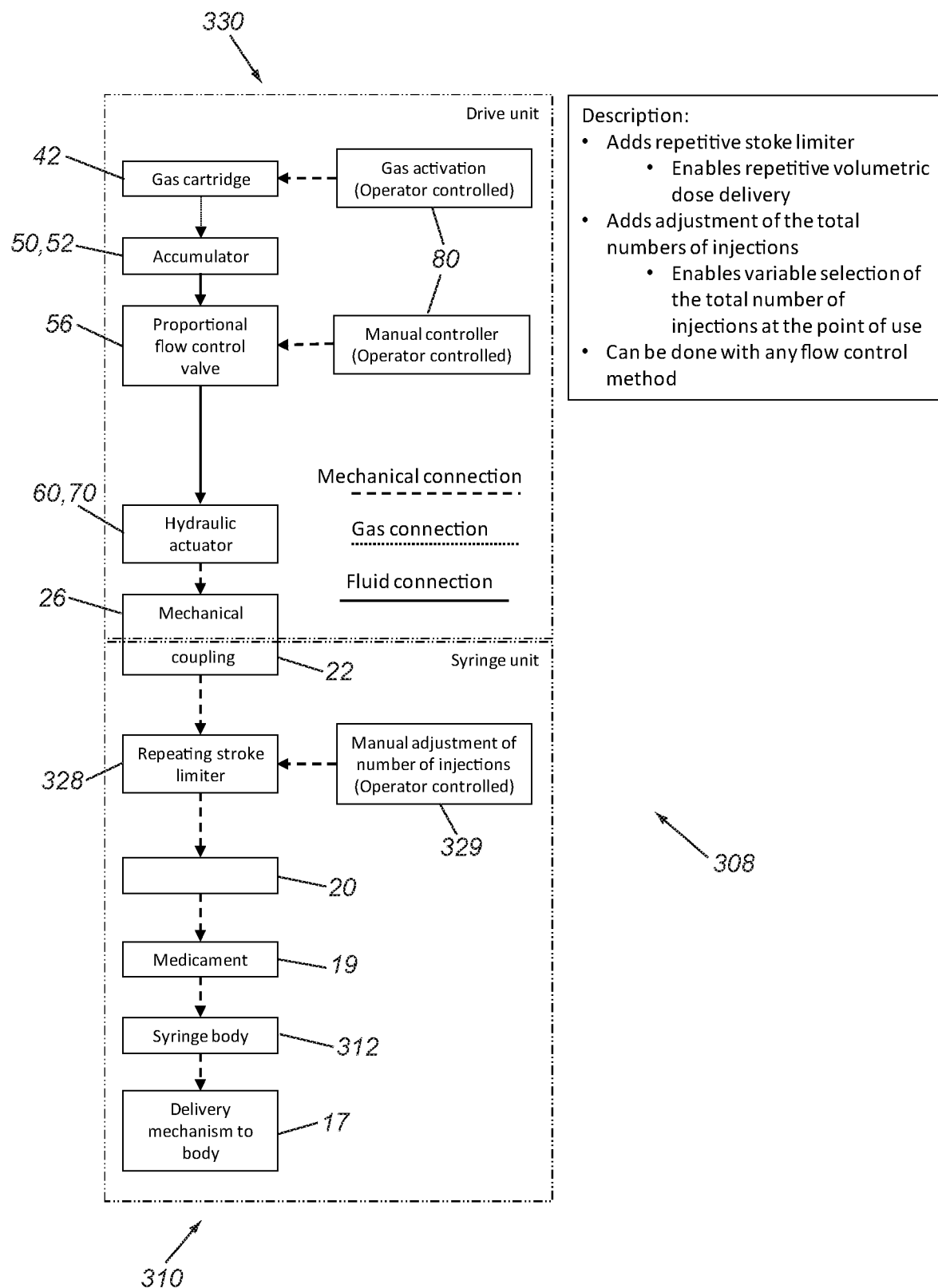


FIG. 7

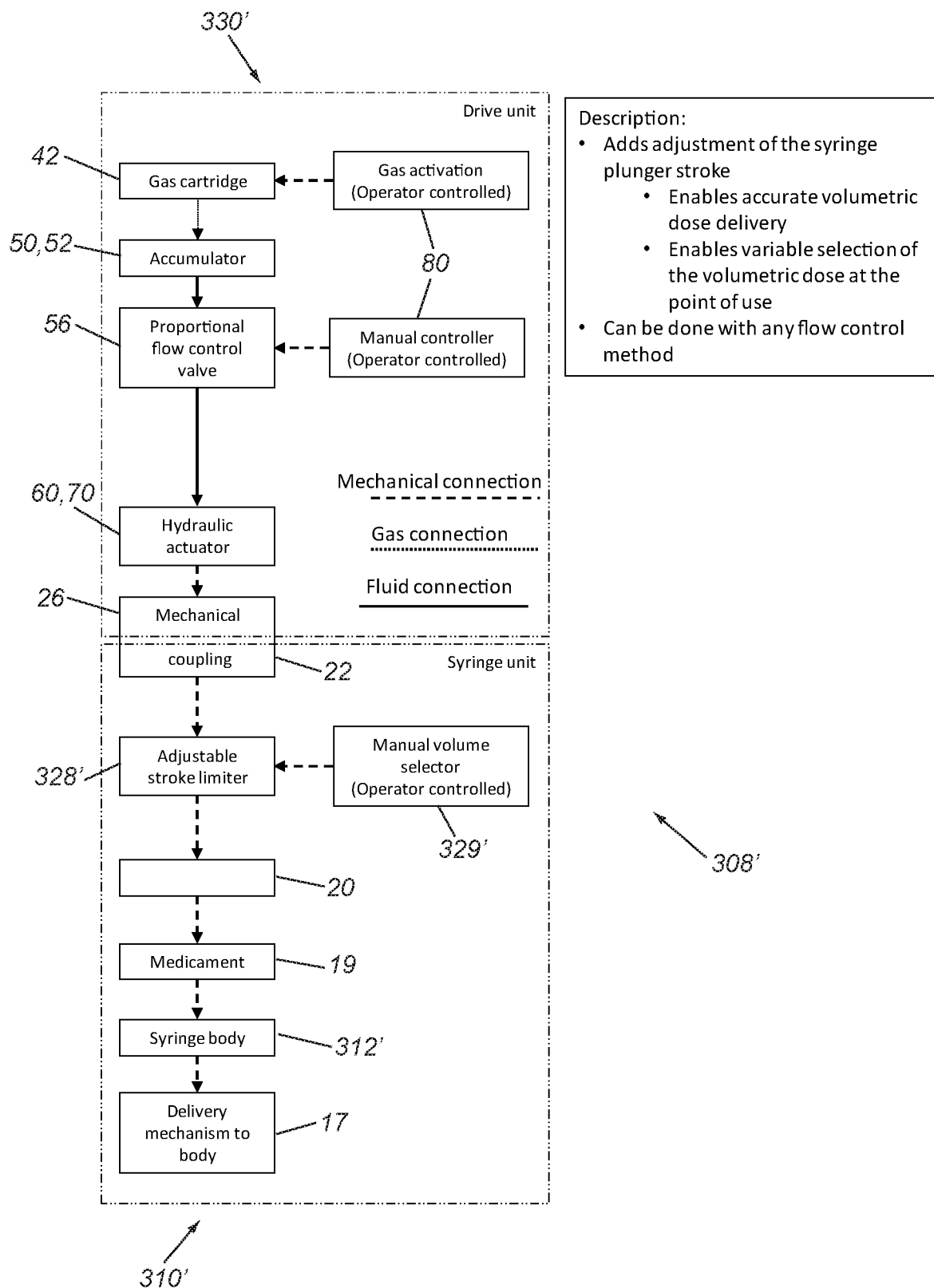


FIG. 8

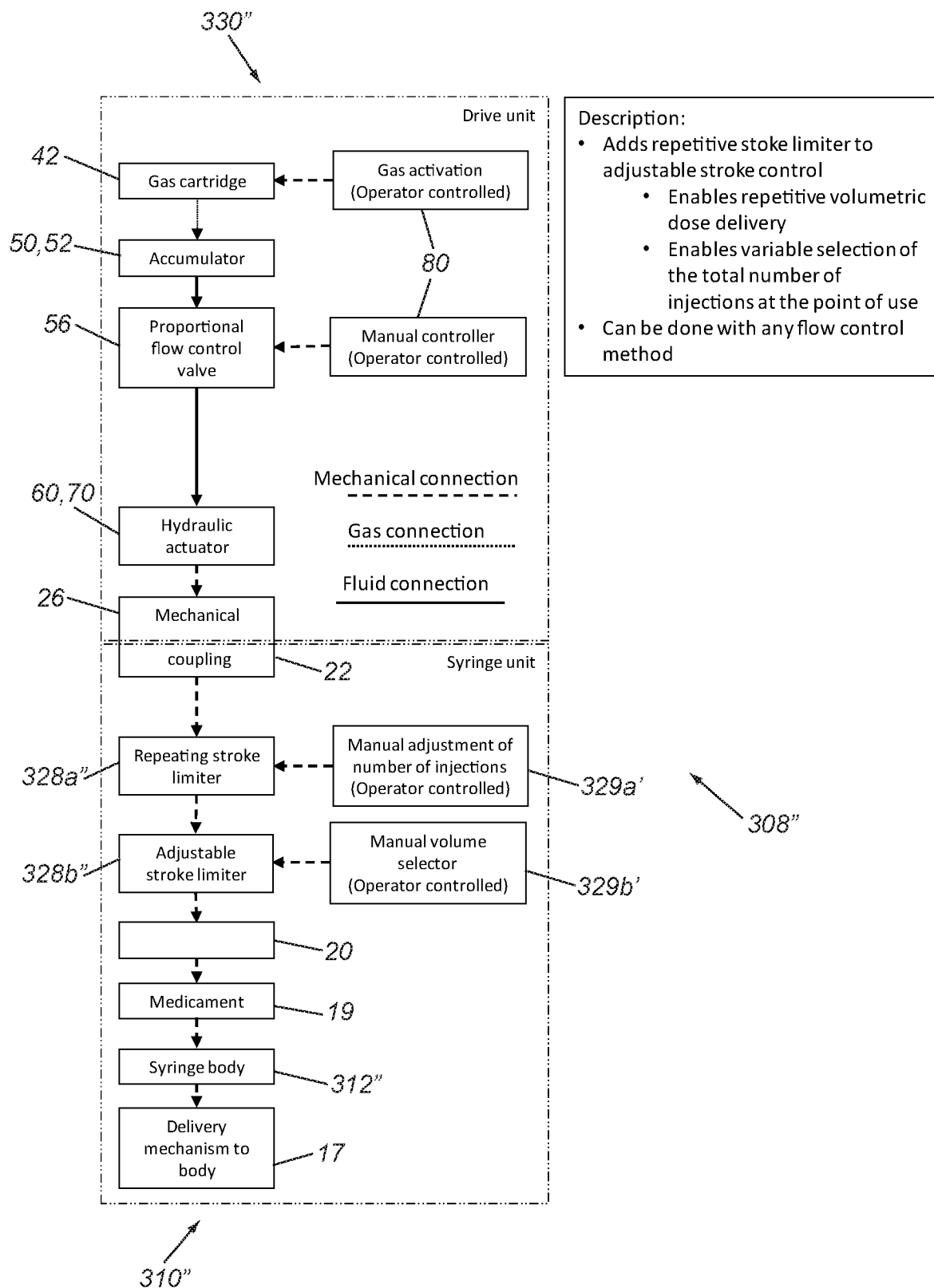


FIG. 9

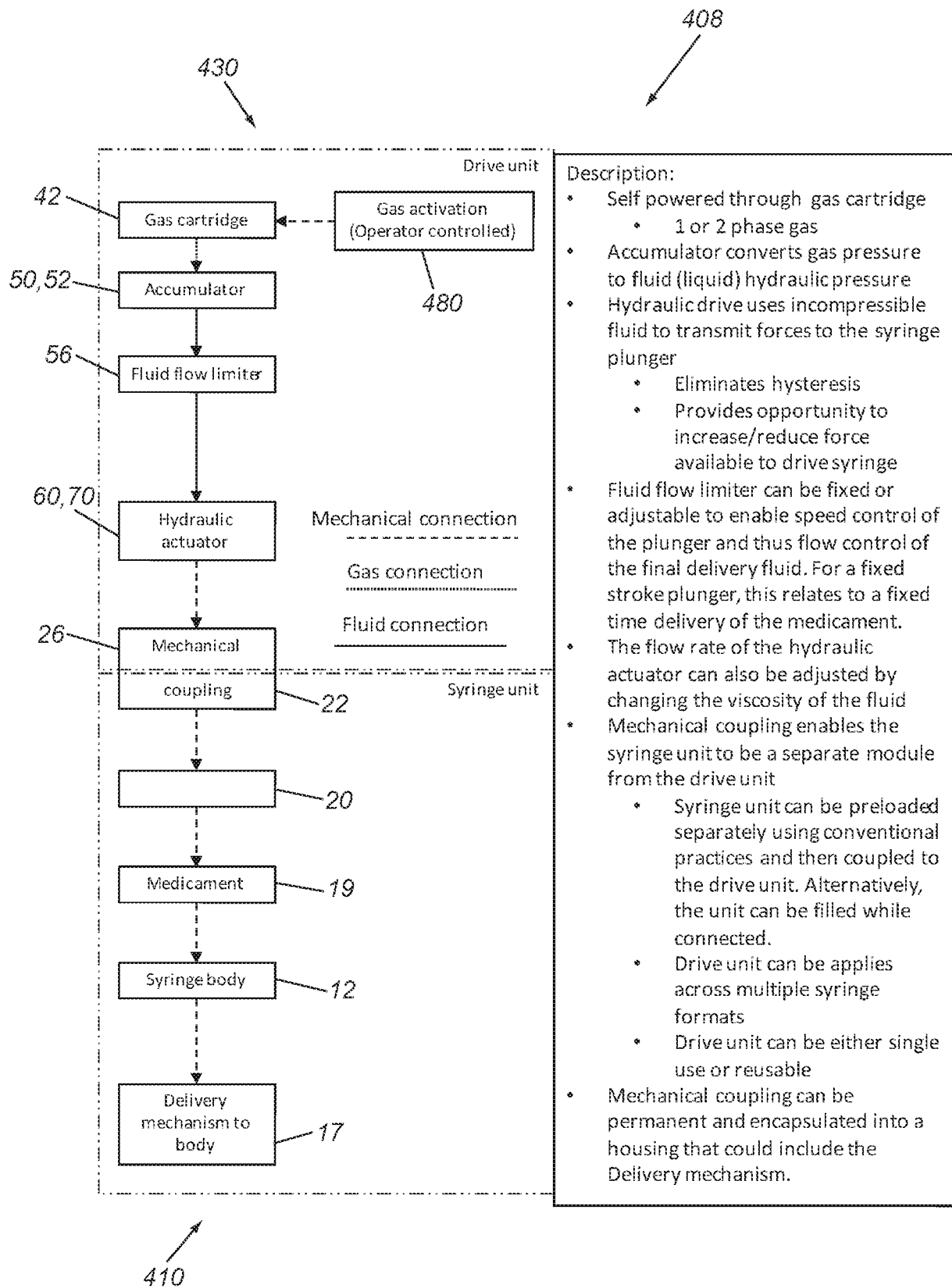


FIG. 10



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2017/030310

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61M5/20

ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EP0-Internal, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2005/075009 A1 (SMJM INJECT GMBH [DE]; MANSOURI SAID [DE]) 18 August 2005 (2005-08-18) page 11, line 17 - page 17, line 14; figure 1	1-54
A	----- EP 2 520 318 A1 (NORDSON CORP [US]) 7 November 2012 (2012-11-07)	1-54
A	----- US 2002/188251 A1 (STAYLOR JOHN LAWRENCE [US] ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12)	1-54
A	----- US 2016/015511 A1 (AULD JACK R [US] ET AL) 21 January 2016 (2016-01-21) figure 7	1-54
A	----- US 2013/317478 A1 (AULD JACK R [US] ET AL) 28 November 2013 (2013-11-28) figure 5A -----	1-54

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 August 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report

14/08/2017

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Knychalla, Verena

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2017/030310

### Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 55  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2017/030310

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**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 55

Claim 55 defines a method of delivering fluid into a patient's body which itself implies the step of medicament delivery. Additionally, claim 55 defines the steps of inserting a needle in the patient's body and activating the syringe driver to deliver medicament to the desired location an therewith into a patient's body. Thus, the subject-matter of claim 55 is a method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy (R. 39.1 (iv) PCT).