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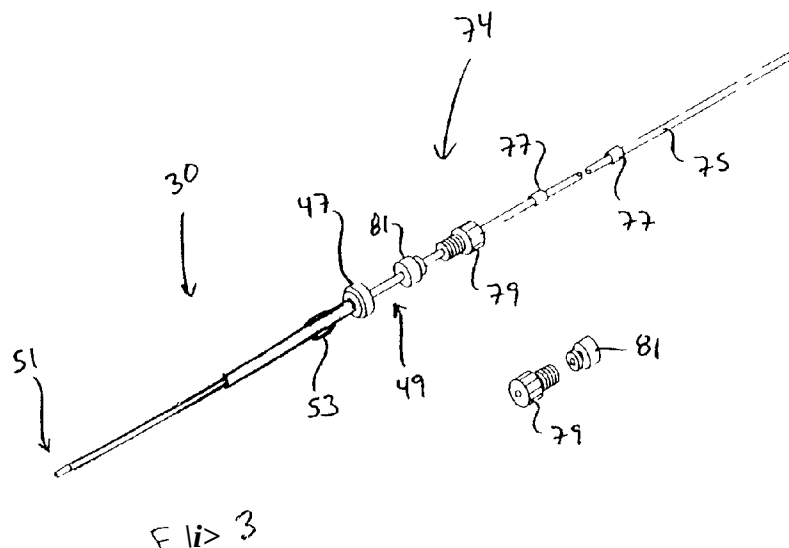
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(U))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SAMPLING NEEDLE AND METHODS OF FORMING AND USING SAME



(57) Abstract: A inert sampling needle is provided for piercing a septum of a vial containing a sample. The sampling needle includes a hollow rigid support member having an inner wall, an outer wall, and a septum-piercing end. The sampling needle also includes a sheath member affixed to the rigid support member. The sheath member covers the septum-piercing end of the support member, the inner wall, and at least a portion of the outer wall adjacent the septum-piercing end to isolate the support member from the sample. Preferably, the sheath member is formed of polyetheretherketone and is affixed to the rigid support member by heat fusing. A method of forming, and a method of using the inert sampling needle is also disclosed.

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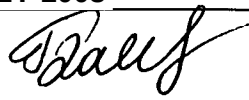
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet 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) PLUS search, Google Patent search																				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X --- Y</td> <td>US 2002/0102185 (Tatsumi), 01 Aug 2002 (01.08.2002), ¶ [0024], [0025], [0044], [0045]. Fig. 1B.</td> <td>1, 12-14 and 16 ----- 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 29-34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 4,404,862 (Harris Sr.), 20 Sep 1983 (20.09.1983), col. 1, lines 5-19, col. 2, lines 42-61, col. 3, lines 41-55, Figs. 1-3.</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 4,713,974 (Stone), 22 Dec 1987 (22.12.1987), col. 2, lines 27-40, col. 4, lines 38-42, col. 6, lines 39-46, Figs. 4, 8.</td> <td>17, 18, 29-34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>Zeus products, PEEKshrink tm - PEEK Heat Shrinkable Tubing properties. Archived copy dated 03/13/2006. Accessed 4/16/2008. http://web.archive.org/web/20060313112741/www.zeusinc.com/peekshrink.asp</td> <td>15, 36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>Online encyclopedia article, "powder coating." Accessed 4/16/2008. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powder_coating.</td> <td>35</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X --- Y	US 2002/0102185 (Tatsumi), 01 Aug 2002 (01.08.2002), ¶ [0024], [0025], [0044], [0045]. Fig. 1B.	1, 12-14 and 16 ----- 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 29-34	Y	US 4,404,862 (Harris Sr.), 20 Sep 1983 (20.09.1983), col. 1, lines 5-19, col. 2, lines 42-61, col. 3, lines 41-55, Figs. 1-3.	5	Y	US 4,713,974 (Stone), 22 Dec 1987 (22.12.1987), col. 2, lines 27-40, col. 4, lines 38-42, col. 6, lines 39-46, Figs. 4, 8.	17, 18, 29-34	Y	Zeus products, PEEKshrink tm - PEEK Heat Shrinkable Tubing properties. Archived copy dated 03/13/2006. Accessed 4/16/2008. http://web.archive.org/web/20060313112741/www.zeusinc.com/peekshrink.asp	15, 36	Y	Online encyclopedia article, "powder coating." Accessed 4/16/2008. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Powder_coating .	35
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. D See patent family annex.																				
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P O Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer Tatyana Zalukaeva  Telephone No. 571-272-1115																		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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