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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: COLLAPSIBLE PROSTHETIC HEART VALVES

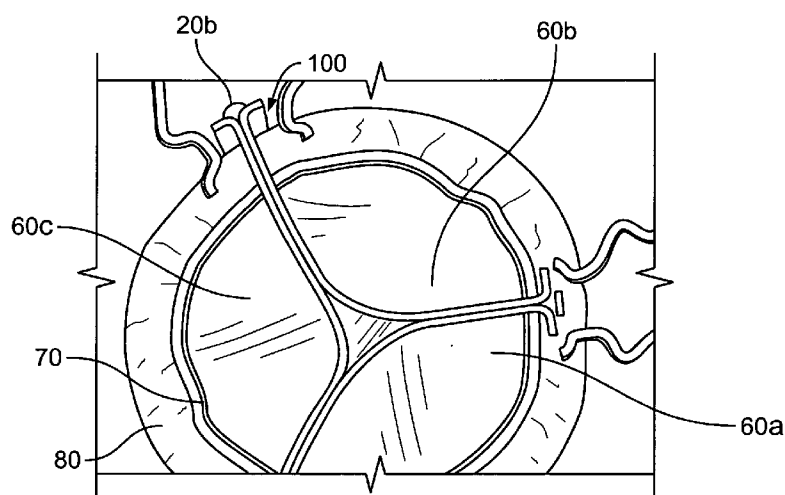


FIG. 13

(57) Abstract: Prosthetic heart valves, which are collapsible to a relatively small circumferential size for less invasive delivery into a patient and which then re-expand to operating size at an implant site in the patient, include a collapsible/expandable stent-like supporting structure and various components of flexible, sheet-like material that are attached to the supporting structure. For example, these sheet-like other components may include prosthetic valve leaflets, layers of buffering material, cuff material, etc. Improved structures and techniques are provided for securing such other components to the stent-like supporting structure of the valve.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2008/011153

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/24

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)
A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-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	US 2006/259136 A1 (NGUYEN THAN [US] ET AL) 16 November 2006 (2006-11-16) paragraphs [0037] - [0040], [0046], [0050] - [0056]; figures 1A-6	1-12
X	US 2004/186565 A1 (SCHRECK STEFAN [US]) 23 September 2004 (2004-09-23) paragraphs [0044] - [0050], [0055], [0056], [0063] - [0076]; figures 1-15	1-12, 15-19
X	US 2004/039436 A1 (SPENSER BENJAMIN [IL] ET AL) 26 February 2004 (2004-02-26) paragraphs [0105], [0160] - [0165], [0170], [0171], [0181], [0182], [0212], [0215], [0216], [0219], [0222]; figures 1, 9-9I, 21, 24A-25D, 28	1-7, 13-19

☐ 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 document 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)
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- *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.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 January 2009

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2008/011153

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.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
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:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable 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 reportcovers 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.:

see annex

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-19

A prosthetic heart valve with a supporting structure and leaflet members with flaps

2. claims: 20-33

A leaflet structure with a sheet of flexible leaflet material having a central opening with three sides

3. claims: 34-39

A prosthetic heart valve with a supporting structure, a sheet of flexible material secured to the supporting structure and flexible leaflets at least partly secured to the sheet

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/011153

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