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(54) **IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH LUBRICIOUS MATERIAL**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An implantable medical device with lubricious material permits implantable medical devices to have a reduced friction between the device and at least a portion of the surrounding tissue. The implantable medical device may have a housing or it may have a housing and a member for providing a smooth interface between the device and the tissue. The lubricious material may be provided on or impregnated in the housing or the member. In some embodiments, the device is configured for implantation in the head of a human body. In other embodiments, the device is configured for implantation between the cranium and the scalp. In some embodiments, the device includes a single module while in other embodiments a plurality of modules are coupled together to provide a smaller profile.

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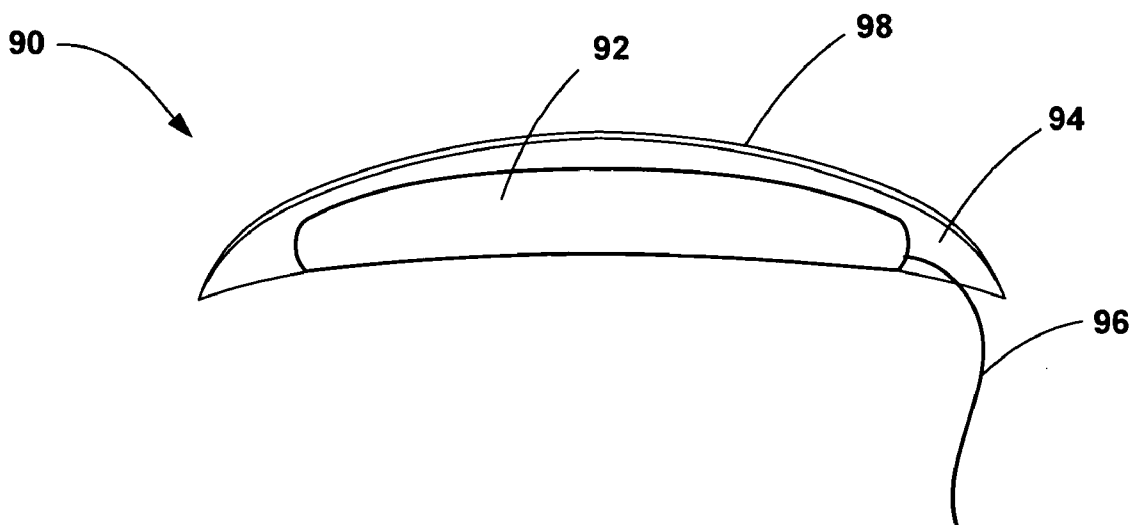
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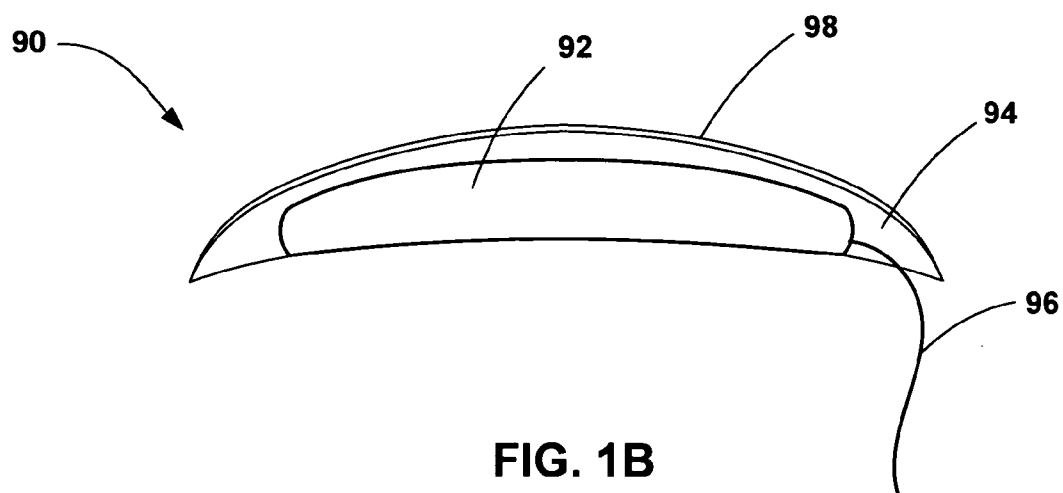
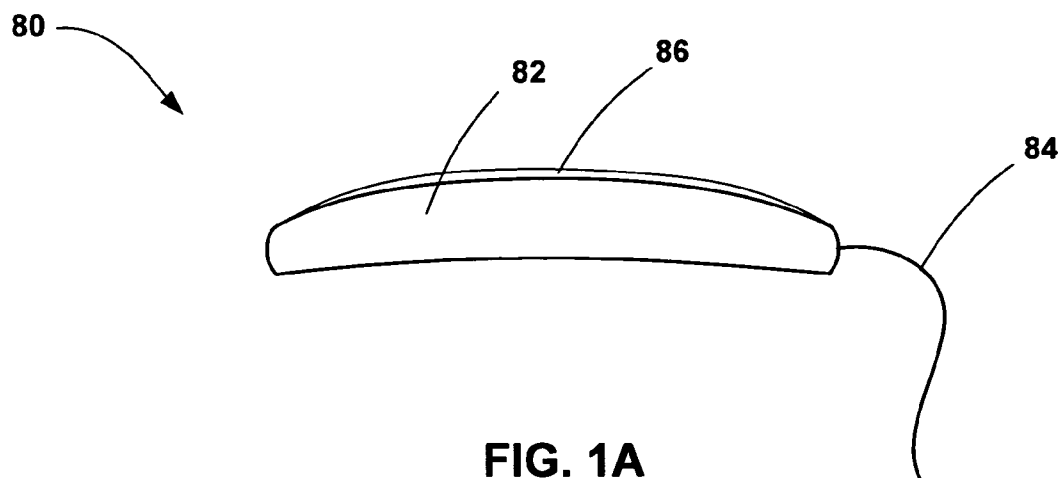
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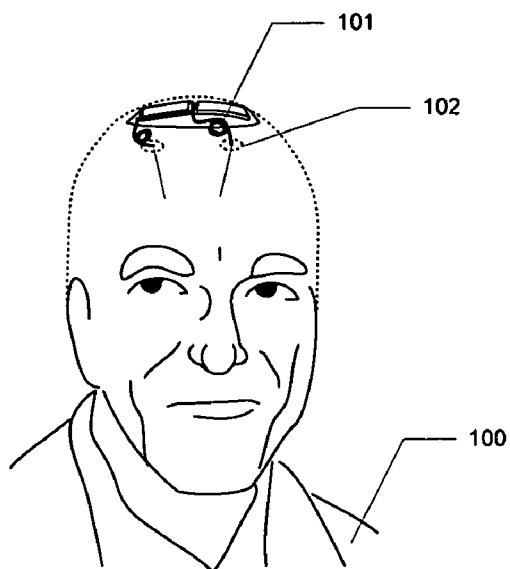
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(21) Appl. No.: **10/837,276**

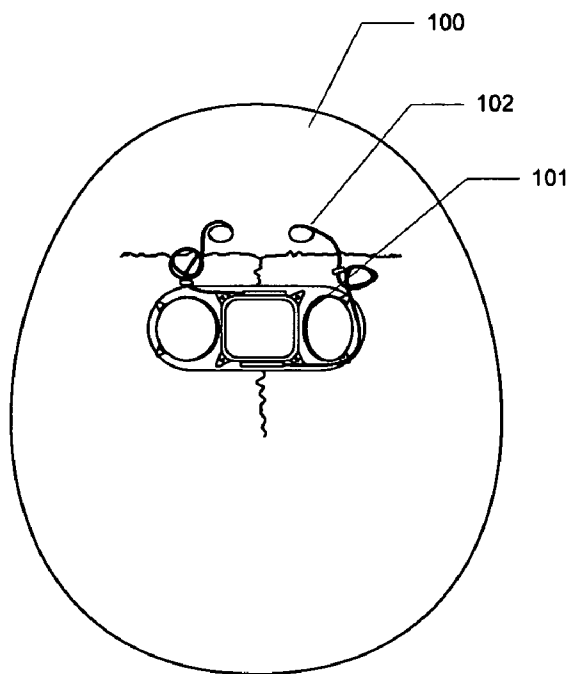
(22) Filed: **Apr. 30, 2004**



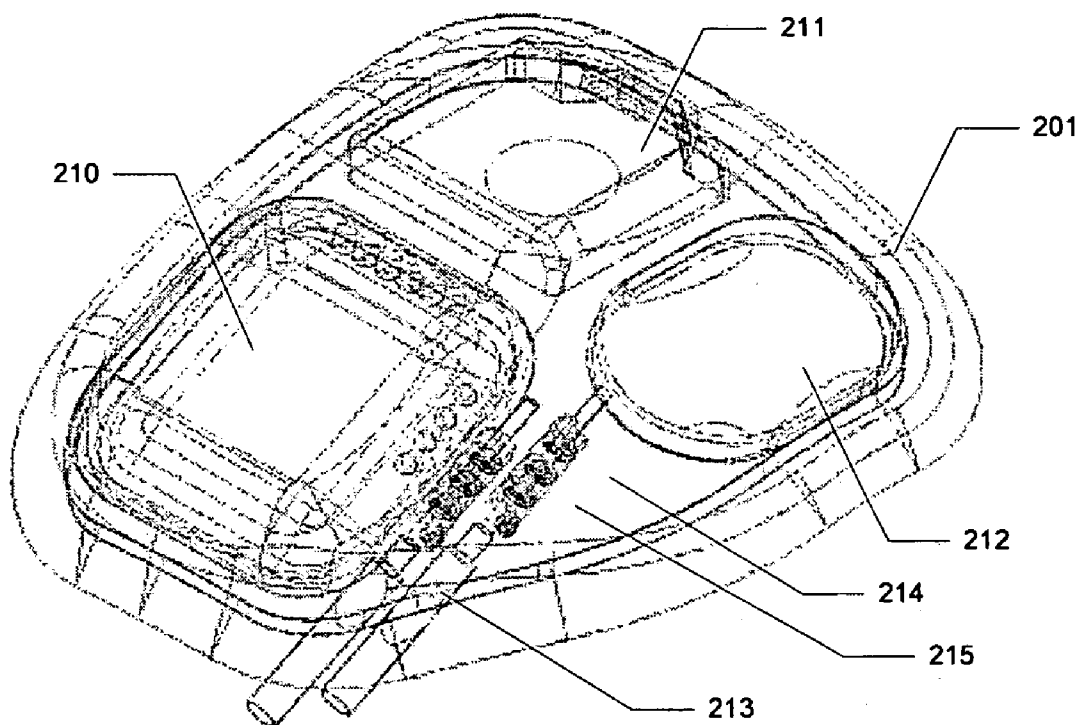




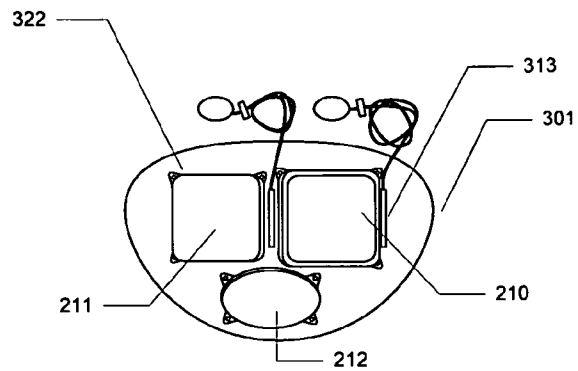
**FIG. 1C**



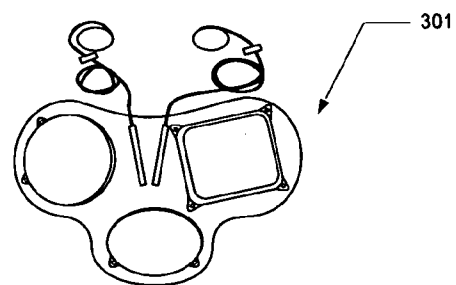
**FIG. 1D**



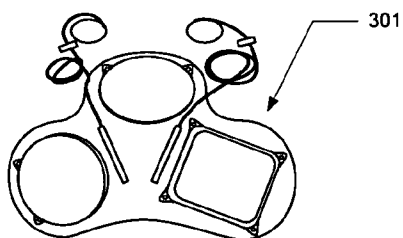
**FIG. 2**



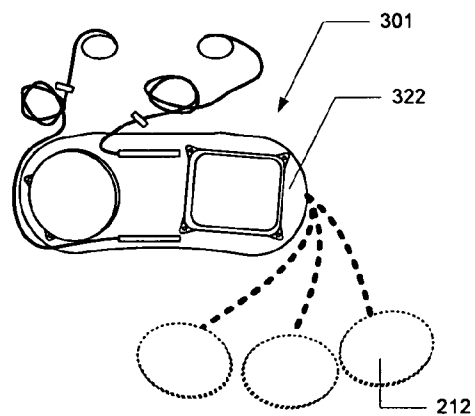
**FIG. 3A**



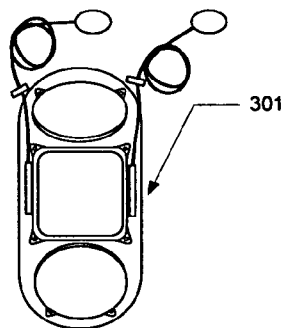
**FIG. 3B**



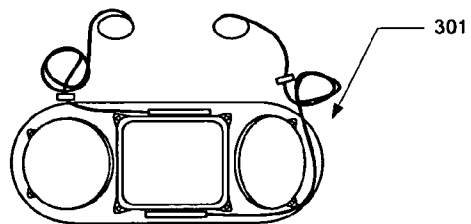
**FIG. 3C**



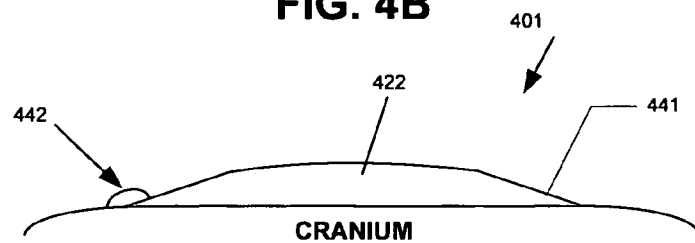
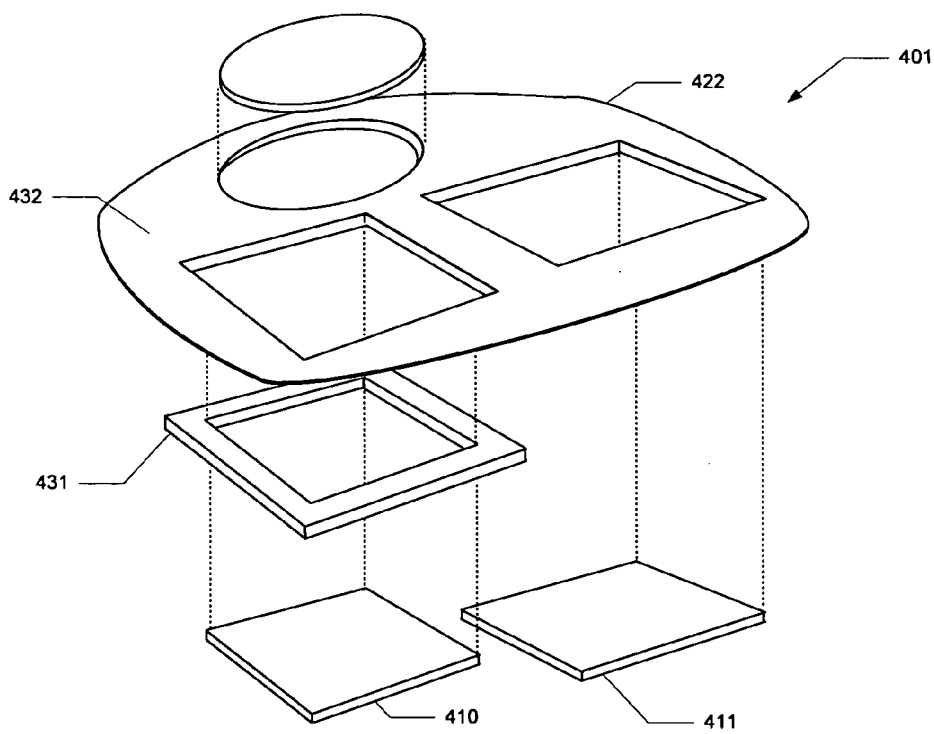
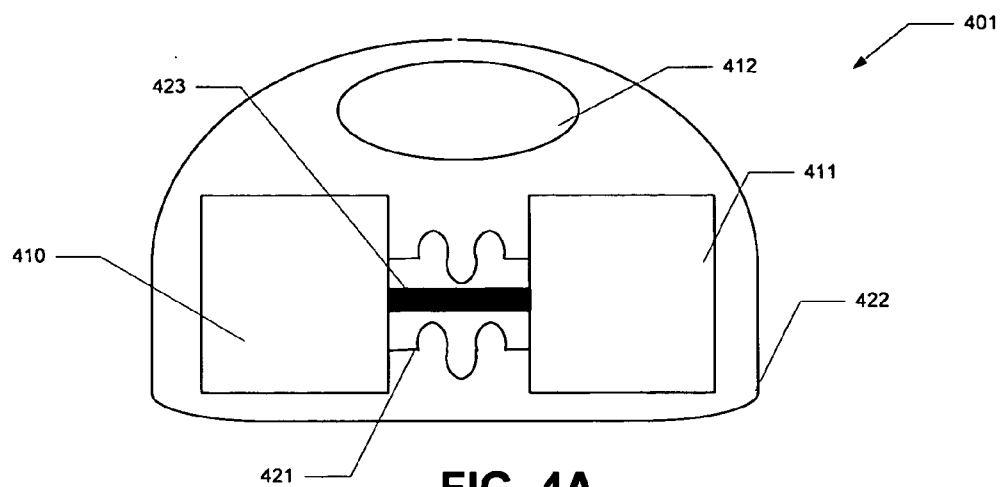
**FIG. 3D**

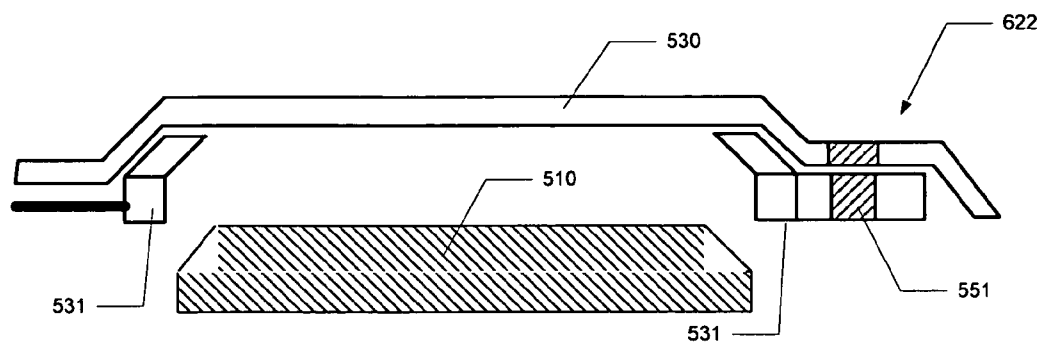


**FIG. 3E**

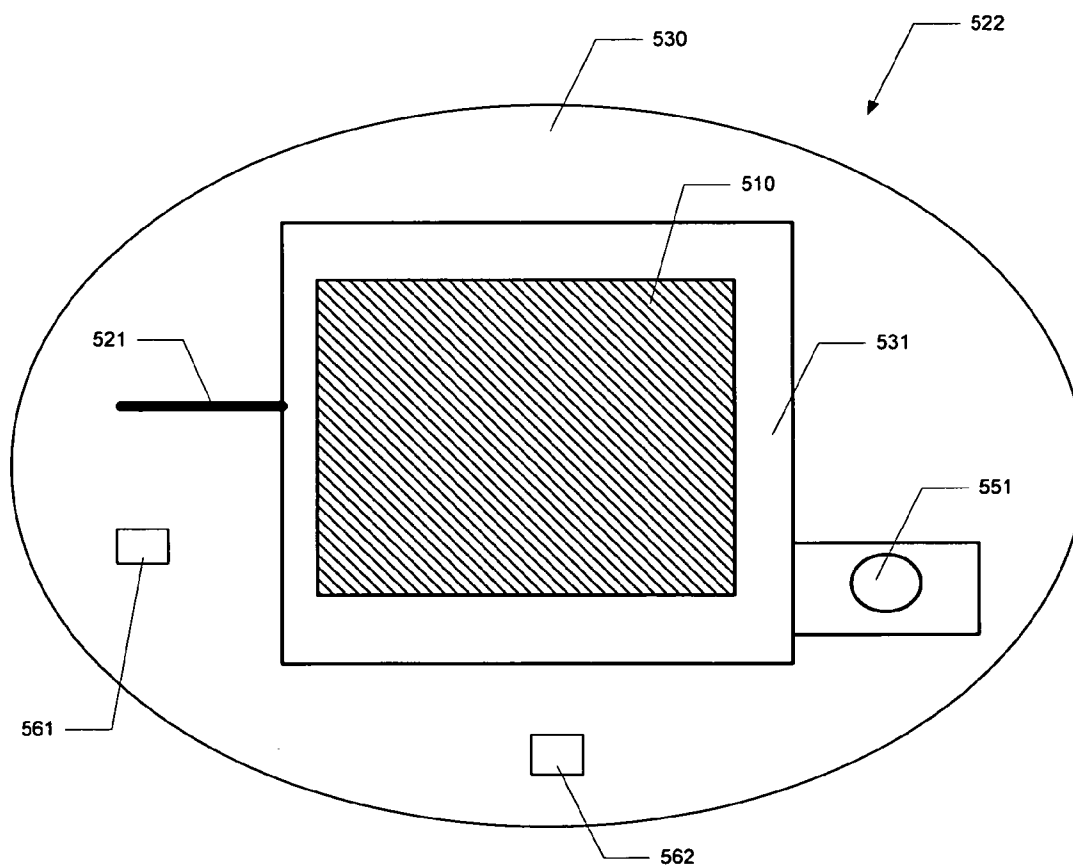


**FIG. 3F**

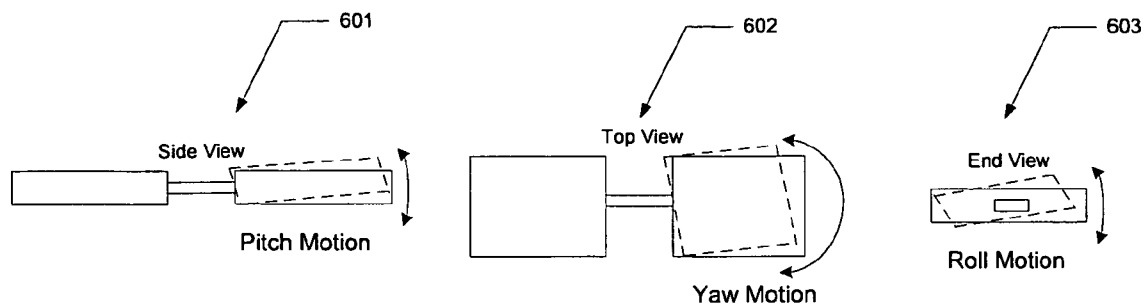




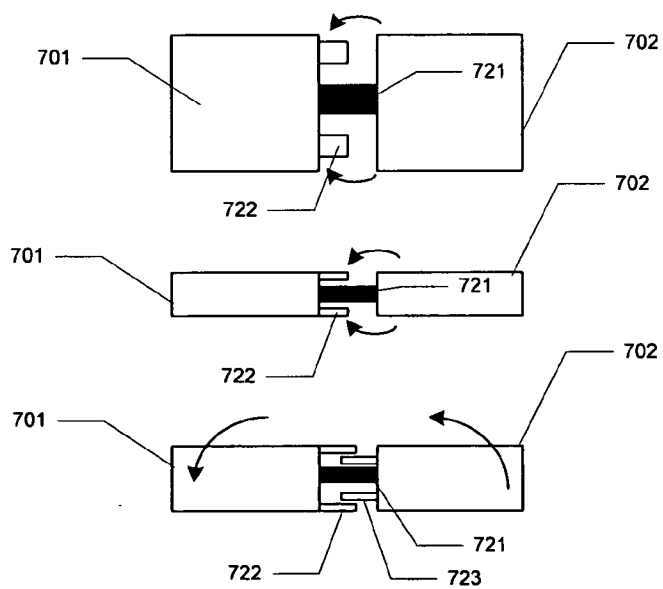
**FIG. 5A**



**FIG. 5B**

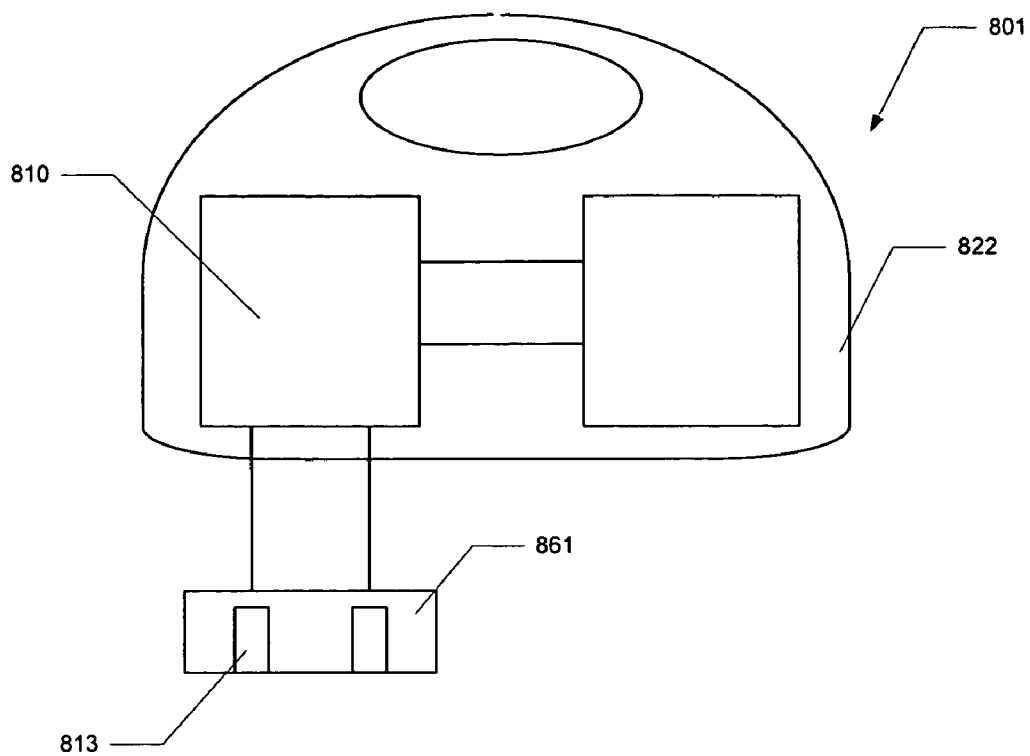


**FIG. 6**

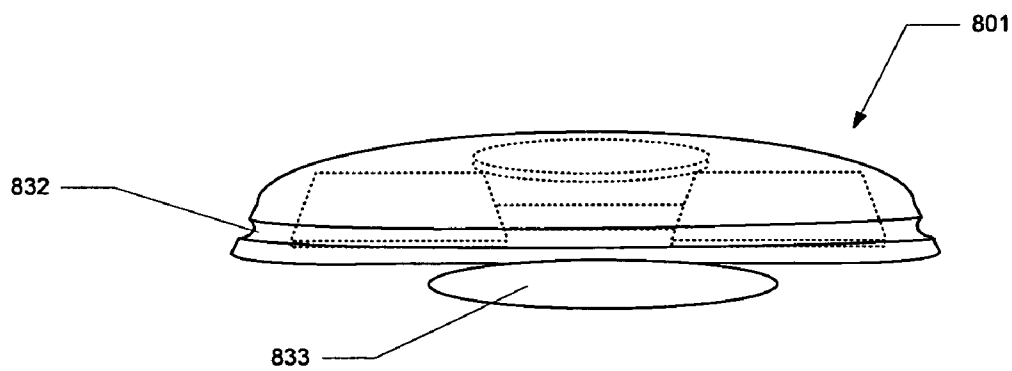


**FIG. 7**

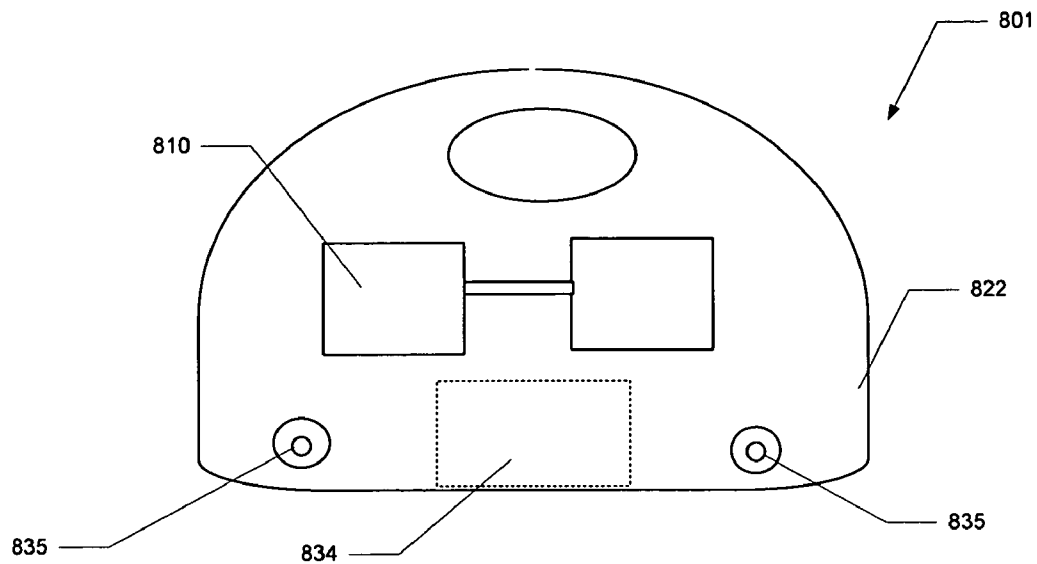




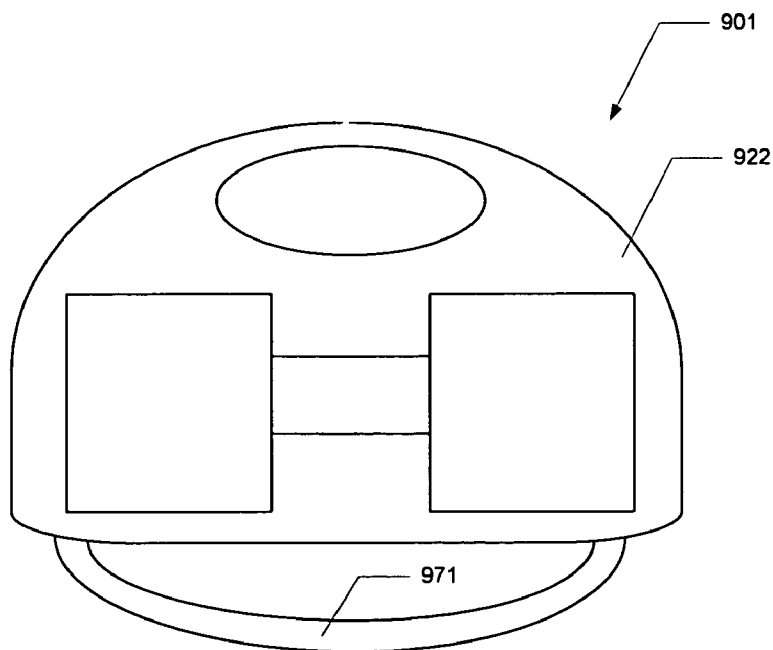
**FIG. 8A**



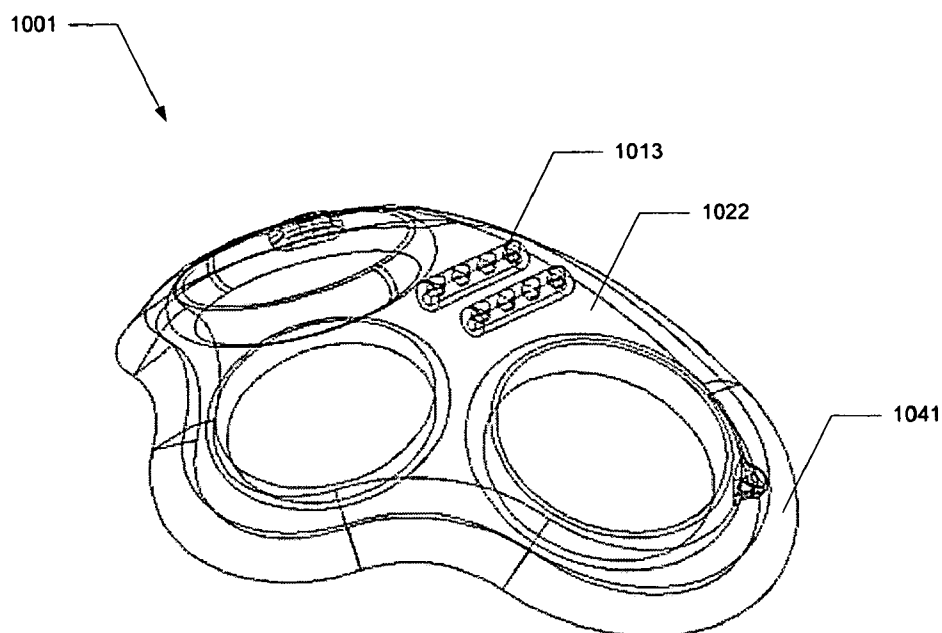
**FIG. 8B**



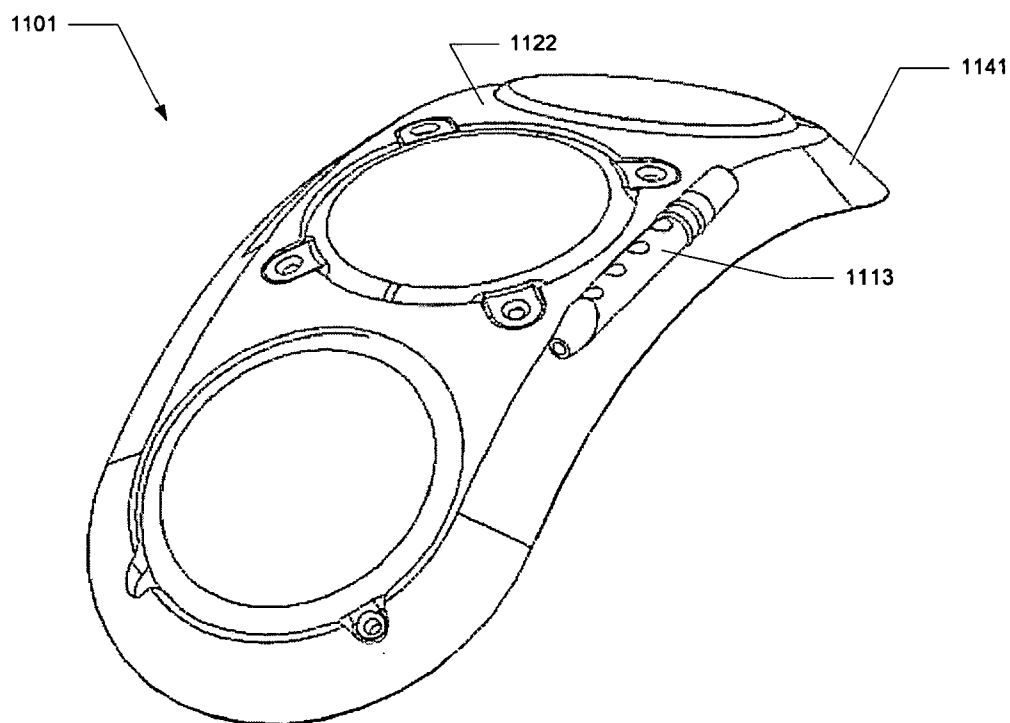
**FIG. 8C**



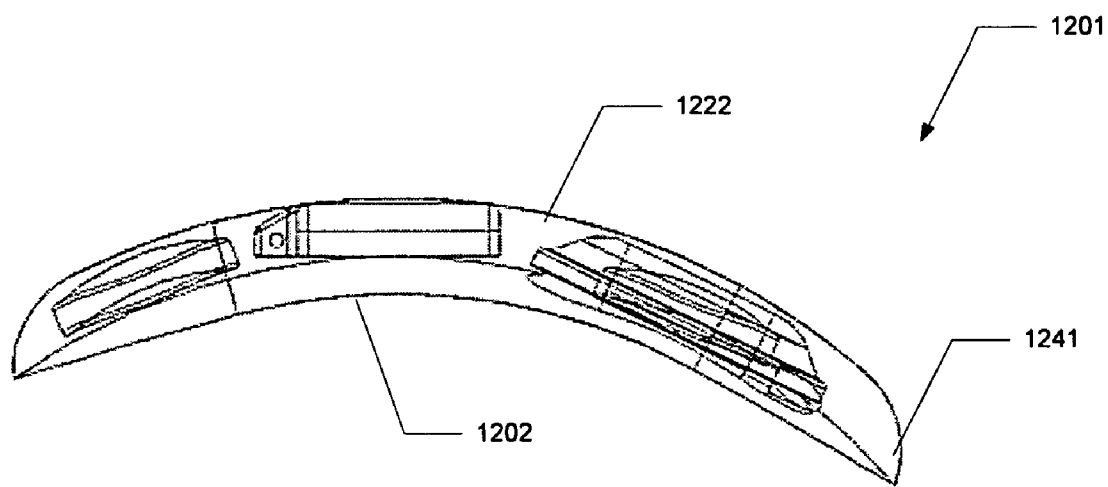
**FIG. 9**



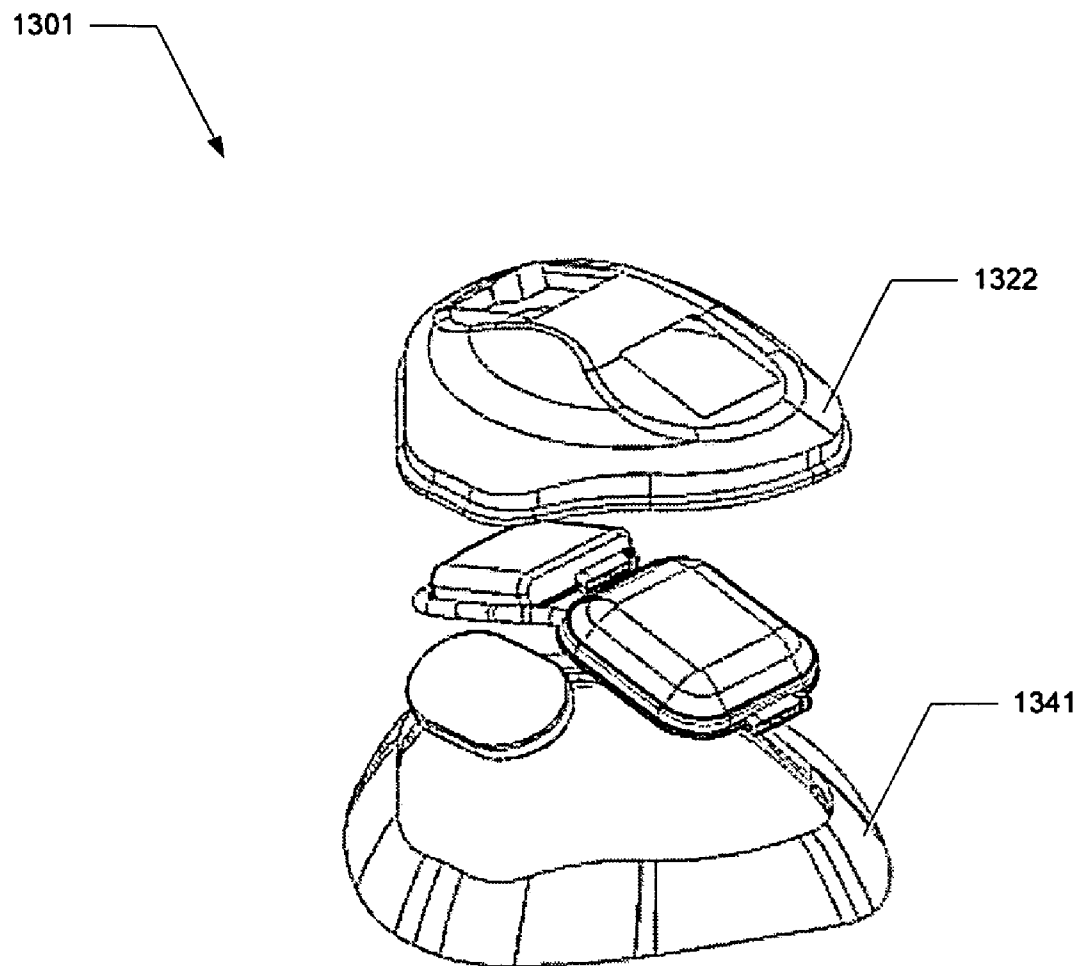
**FIG. 10**



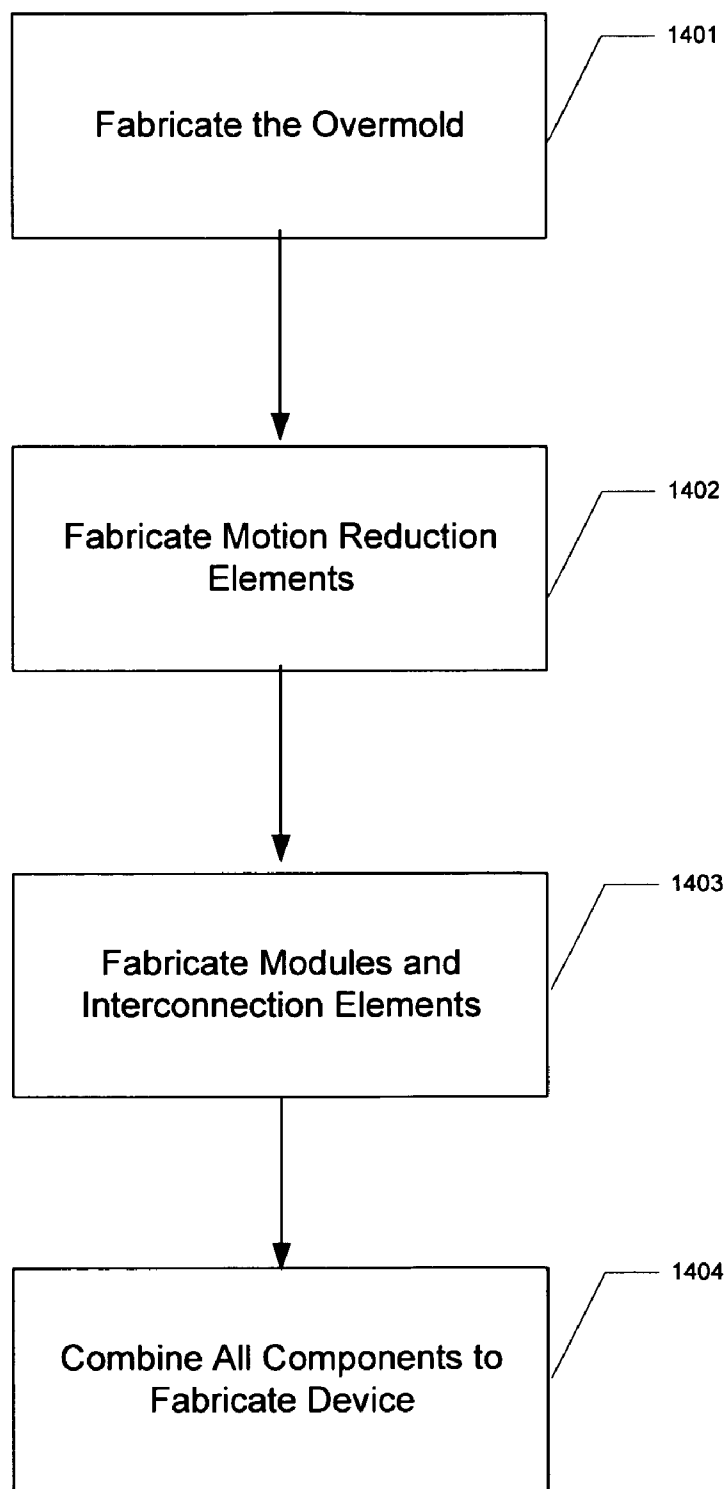
**FIG. 11**



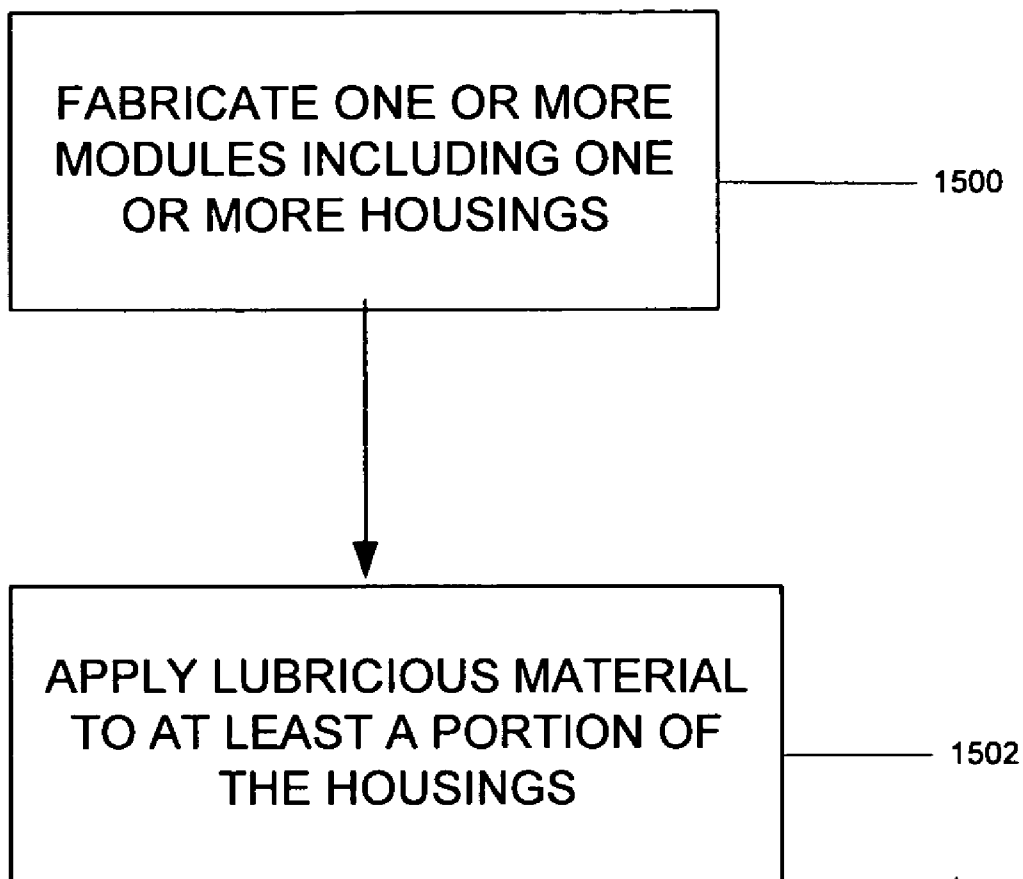
**FIG. 12**



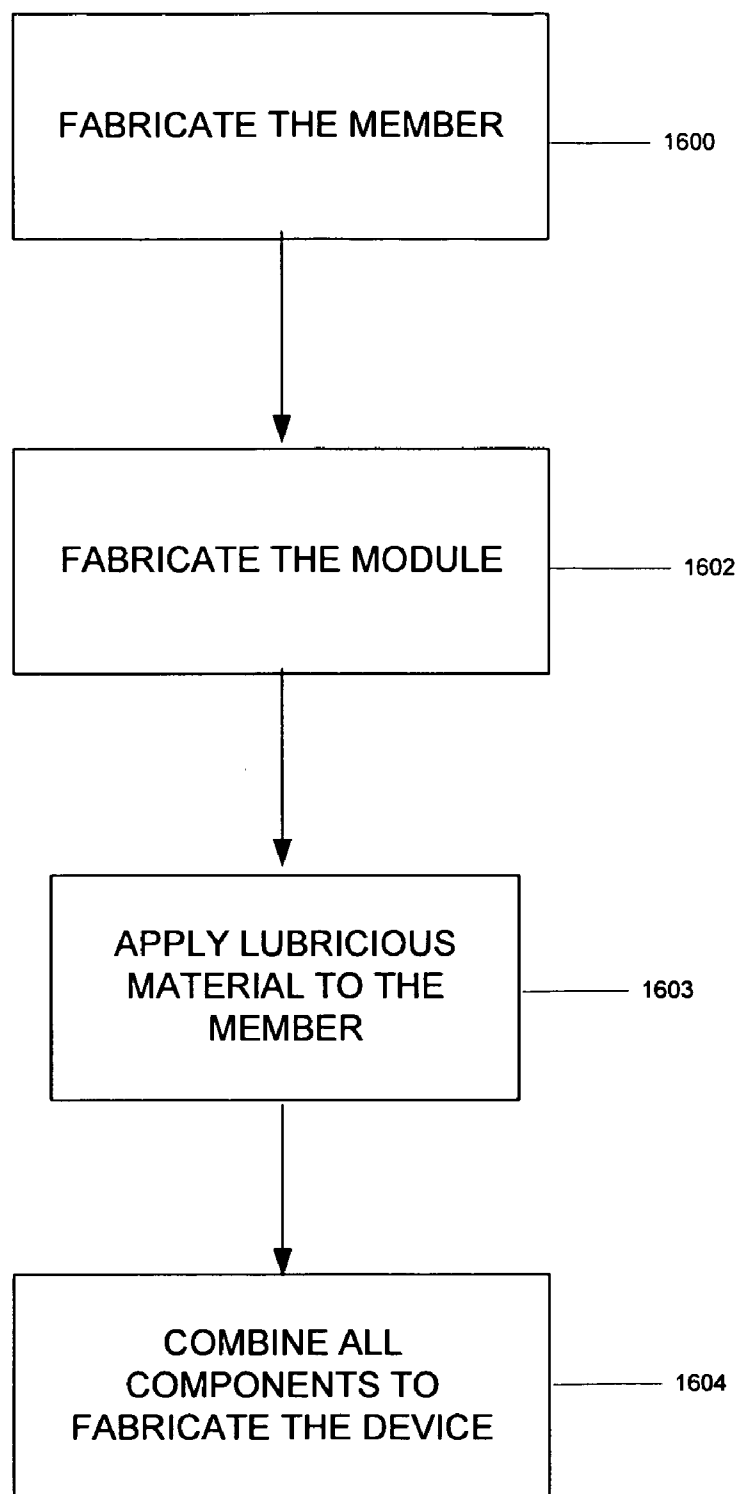
**FIG. 13**



**FIG. 14**



**FIG. 15**



**FIG. 16**



# IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH LUBRICIOUS MATERIAL

## RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The following co-pending and commonly-assigned U.S. patent applications are incorporated herein by reference:

[0002] 1. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,869, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-318US01/P-10891.00US;

[0003] 2. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,868, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "IMPLANTATION OF LOW-PROFILE IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Singhal et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-330US01/P-11795.00US;

[0004] 3. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,881, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "REDUCING RELATIVE INTERMODULE MOTION IN A DISTRIBUTED MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-331US01/P-11797.00US;

[0005] 4. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,699, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "COUPLING MODULES OF A DISTRIBUTED MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Janzig et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-333US01/P-11796.00US;

[0006] 5. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/730,877, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "LOW-PROFILE IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Singhal et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-335US01/P-11801.00US;

[0007] 6. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,867, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "CONCAVITY OF AN IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-336US01/P-11800.00US;

[0008] 7. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/730,878, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "LEAD INTERCONNECT MODULE OF A MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Singhal et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-334US01/P-11799.00US;

[0009] 8. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/731,638, filed on Dec. 9, 2003, entitled "MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-120542.00US;

[0010] 9. U.S. patent application entitled "IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH A NON-HERMETIC BATTERY" to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-11421.00US, filed Apr. 29, 2004;

[0011] 10. U.S. patent application entitled "EXPLANATION OF IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE", to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-20670.00US, filed Apr. 29, 2004;

[0012] 11. U.S. patent application entitled "IMPLANTATION OF IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE"

to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-20727.00US, filed Apr. 29, 2004;

[0013] 12. U.S. patent application entitled "HEADSET RECHARGER FOR CRANIALLY IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE" to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-20729.00US, filed Apr. 29, 2004;

[0014] 13. U.S. patent application entitled "BATTERY HOUSING CONFIGURATION" to Wahlstrand et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-20875.00US, filed Apr. 29, 2004; and

[0015] 14. U.S. patent application entitled "IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE WITH ANTI-INFECTION AGENT" to Singhal et al., assigned Attorney Docket No.: P-11798.02US.

## TECHNICAL FIELD

[0016] The invention relates to medical devices, and more particularly, to implantable medical devices that deliver therapy to and/or monitor a patient.

## BACKGROUND

[0017] Depending on the application for which they are implanted in a patient, implantable medical devices (IMDs) may include a variety of electrical and/or mechanical components. Typically, an IMD includes a rigid housing that houses all of its components, which are generally fragile, to protect the components from forces to which they would otherwise be exposed when implanted within the human body. In order to avoid potentially harmful interactions between the components and bodily fluids, e.g., corrosion, IMD housings are typically hermetically sealed. Many IMD housings are fabricated from Titanium because of its desirable rigidity and biocompatibility.

[0018] The size and shape of an IMD housing is dependant on the sizes and shapes of the components of the IMD. Large components common to most IMDs include a battery, a telemetry coil, and a hybrid circuit that includes digital circuits, e.g., integrated circuit chips and/or a microprocessor, and analog circuit components. Attempts have been made to reduce the size of the IMD housing by reducing the size of these components, changing the shape of these components, and organizing these components within the IMD housing to avoid empty space within the housing. Despite these efforts to reduce the size of IMD housings, the size, shape and rigidity of IMD housings still greatly limits the locations within the human body where an IMD can be practically implanted.

[0019] Due to these limitations, an IMD is typically implanted within the abdomen, upper pectoral region, or subclavicular region of a patient. Leads or catheters must be used in order to deliver therapy or monitor a physiological parameter at a location of the body other than where the IMD is implanted. Implantation and positioning of leads and catheters can be difficult and time-consuming from the perspective of a surgeon, particularly where the IMD is located a significant distance from the treatment or monitoring site. Moreover, the increased surgical time, increased surgical trauma, and increased amount of implanted material associated with the use of leads and catheters can increase the risk to the patient of complications associated with the implantation of an IMD.

[0020] For example, IMDs that are used to treat or monitor the brain, e.g., to deliver deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapy, are implanted some distance away from the brain, e.g., within the subclavicular region of patients. The long leads that connect the implantable medical device to electrodes implanted within the brain require tunneling under the scalp and the skin of the neck, thereby requiring increased surgery and a prolonged amount of time under general anesthesia during the implant procedure. In some cases, tunneling the leads under the scalp and skin of the neck requires an additional surgical procedure under general anesthesia. The lengthy tract along the leads is more susceptible to infection, and the leads can erode the overlying scalp, forcing removal so that the scalp can heal. Further, the long leads running under the scalp and through the neck are more susceptible to fracture due to torsional and other forces caused by normal head and neck movements.

[0021] Placement of an IMD nearer to the point of application of the therapy or monitoring (for example, in the head of a human body) often results in implanting the device into small spaces or spaces having somewhat inflexible shapes or surroundings. Such small spaces may result in a tighter fit for the IMD within the surrounding tissue. The tightness of the fit of the IMD into such small spaces or spaces with shape requirements results in increased friction both as the device is inserted and after implantation. In the case of an implant in the head such friction results in erosion of the skin and other tissue associated with the scalp.

#### SUMMARY

[0022] In general, the invention relates to an implantable medical device including a lubricious material on the external surface or impregnated in the external surface for reducing friction between the implantable medical device and the tissue in which it is implanted.

[0023] Various embodiments of the invention are presented including a device for implantation in the head of a patient. Some more specific embodiments configure the device for implantation between the cranium and the scalp.

[0024] Various embodiments of the invention also include a member coupled to the module or modules for providing a smooth interface between the device and the scalp or the tissue near the scalp. These embodiments include a lubricious material on or impregnated in the member. The member may be any material capable of providing a smooth interface with the tissue. The member can include elastomeric materials, such as silicone, and/or non-elastomeric materials such as polysulfone and polyurethane.

[0025] Various embodiments of the invention include a single module while other embodiments include a plurality of interconnected modules. These embodiments include a lubricious material on or impregnated in the housing or member.

[0026] Methods of fabricating an implantable medical device including a lubricious material are also presented.

[0027] The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0028] FIG. 1A is a conceptual diagram illustrating one embodiment of an implantable medical device of the present invention.

[0029] FIG. 1B is a conceptual diagram illustrating another embodiment of an implantable medical device of the present invention.

[0030] FIGS. 1C and 1D are conceptual diagrams illustrating a modular implantable medical device implanted in a patient according to an example embodiment of the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a modular implantable medical device according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0032] FIGS. 3A-3F are schematic diagrams illustrating various arrangements of modules within a modular implantable medical device according to various embodiments of the present invention.

[0033] FIGS. 4A-4C are schematic diagrams illustrating the construction of a member of a modular implantable medical device according to the present invention.

[0034] FIGS. 5A-5B are schematic diagrams illustrating the interaction of components of a member according to the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating the degrees of motion present in a modular implantable medical device.

[0036] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating motion reduction within various degrees of motion within a modular implantable medical device.

[0037] FIG. 8A-C are schematic diagrams illustrating example embodiments of modular implantable medical devices having lead management features.

[0038] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device having an access loop for removal.

[0039] FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating a perspective view of an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device having a triangular module arrangement.

[0040] FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram illustrating a perspective view of an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device having an inline module arrangement.

[0041] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram illustrating side view of a modular implantable medical device having an inline module arrangement.

[0042] FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram illustrating an exploded view of a modular implantable medical device having a triangular module arrangement.

[0043] FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating a method of constructing an implantable medical device with a member according to the present invention.

[0044] FIG. 15 is a flowchart illustrating a method of fabricating an implantable medical device including a lubri-

cious material on or impregnated in the housing according to one embodiment of the present invention.

[0045] FIG. 16 is a flowchart illustrating a method of fabricating an implantable medical device including a lubricious material on a member according to one embodiment of the present invention.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0046] FIG. 1A is a conceptual diagram of an implantable medical device 80 including housing 82 and therapy delivery element 84. A lubricious material as described herein, may be disposed on or impregnated in at least a portion of the implantable medical device 80. A lubricious material is any material that when applied to an implantable medical device reduces the friction between the implantable medical device and the adjacent tissue. In one embodiment the lubricious material may be placed on the housing 82 in the form of a coating 86. Disposing a lubricious material on or impregnated in the device 80 may facilitate insertion of the device 80 into the implantable location within a human body. The lubricious material also reduces friction between the device 80 and the tissue near the device 80. In cases where the implantable medical device is implanted in a tight space such as between the cranium and the scalp, the lubricious material may reduce the likelihood of skin erosion by decreasing the friction forces between the device and the scalp. A lubricious material may also minimize fibrous capsule growth around the device by lowering the friction between the device and the scalp. This would have the additional benefit of reducing the likelihood of infection.

[0047] For many therapies such as brain stimulation for movement disorders it may be desirable for the device to provide unipolar stimulation whereby the housing is used as an electrode. Therefore, in some embodiments it may be desirable to use a lubricious material that is electrically conductive or to apply the lubricious material to less than the entire housing.

[0048] In one embodiment, housing 82 includes at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient. Some examples of implantable medical devices that include at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient include implantable neurostimulators, implantable drug delivery pumps, pacemakers, defibrillators and monitoring devices that receive physiological signals from a patient and store or relay such information. Such devices that provide therapy to the patient may be open or closed loop devices (e.g., closed loop device receives sensed information and delivers therapy based on the sensed information).

[0049] Application of a lubricious material is also desirable in the case of a modular device having more than one module and housing. In such a case a preferred embodiment includes a lubricious material on at least a portion of the housings.

[0050] An implantable medical device may be implantable anywhere in the body. For example, the implantable medical device may be implanted in the abdomen, pectoral or buttock areas. An implantable medical device may also be implanted in the head of a patient such as between the cranium and the scalp. Other embodiments may include an implantable medical device for implantation partially or wholly within a groove or recess placed in the cranium.

[0051] As shown in FIG. 1B, an implantable medical device may be an implantable medical device 90 for implantation in the head of a patient. Device 90 may be placed between the cranium and the scalp. Device 90 includes housing 92, member 94 and therapy delivery element 96. Member 94 provides a substantially smooth interface between device 90 and the scalp or other tissue near the scalp. In one sub-embodiment of this embodiment, the member 94 partially encapsulates housing 92. A lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in the member 94. In one embodiment, the lubricious material is provided as a coating 98 on the member 94. In one embodiment the lubricious material 98 is only on the convex side of the member 94. Application of the lubricious material 98 to the convex side of the member 94 is desired to reduce friction between the convex side of the member 94 and the scalp or other tissue near the scalp. However, the lubricious material may also be applied to more than one side of the member 94.

[0052] In another embodiment the implantable medical device may be a modular implantable medical device. FIGS. 1C and 1D are conceptual diagrams illustrating a modular implantable medical device 101 implanted within a patient 100. By constructing modular implantable medical device 101 as a set of distributed modules connected together as described herein, modular implantable medical device 101 may be implanted at locations for which implantation of conventional implantable medical devices has been deemed undesirable, thus permitting the implantable medical device 101 to be implanted near a monitoring and/or therapy delivery location. In the example illustrated within FIGS. 1C-1D, modular implantable medical device 101 is implanted under the scalp of the patient 100 in order to locate the device 101 close to the location to which therapy is to be delivered via leads 102, i.e., the brain of patient 100. The low profile and the shape of modular implantable medical device 101 as described herein can reduce the risk of infection and skin erosion associated with implantation of matter beneath the scalp, and may provide a cosmetically acceptable profile when implanted beneath the scalp.

[0053] Modular implantable medical device 101 may deliver stimulation to the brain of patient 100 to, for example, provide deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapy, or to stimulate the cortex of the brain. Cortical stimulation may involve stimulation of the motor cortex. Modular implantable medical device 101 may be used to treat any nervous system disorder including, but not limited to, epilepsy, pain, psychological disorders including mood and anxiety disorders, movement disorders (MVD), such as, but not limited to, essential tremor, Parkinson's disease, and neurodegenerative disorders.

[0054] However, modular implantable medical device 101 is not limited to delivery of stimulation to the brain of patient 100, and may be employed with leads 102 deployed anywhere in the head or neck including, for example, leads deployed on or near the surface of the cranium, leads deployed beneath the cranium such as near or on the dura mater, leads placed adjacent cranial or other nerves in the neck or head, or leads placed directly on the surface of the brain. Moreover, modular implantable medical device 101 is not limited to implantation under the scalp of patient 100. Indeed, modular implantable medical device 101 may be implanted anywhere within patient 100. For example, modular implantable medical device 101 can be implanted within

the neck of patient **100**, and deliver stimulation to the vagus nerve or the cervical region of the spinal cord.

[0055] Modular implantable medical device **101** may alternatively be implanted within a pectoral region or the abdomen of patient **100** to act as a diaphragmatic pacer, or to provide any of the monitoring and therapy delivery functions known in the art to be associated with cardiac pacemakers. Further, modular implantable medical device **101** may be implanted in the upper buttock region and deliver spinal cord, urological or gastrological stimulation therapy, or may be configured to be implanted within the periphery, e.g., limbs, of patient **100** for delivery of stimulation to the muscles and/or peripheral nervous system of patient **100**. As is the case with cranial implantation, the modularity of implantable medical device **101** may enable implantation at some of these example locations for which implantation of conventional implantable medical devices is generally deemed undesirable.

[0056] Modular implantable medical device **101** is not limited to embodiments that deliver stimulation. For example, in some embodiments modular implantable medical device **101** may additionally or alternatively monitor one or more physiological parameters and/or the activity of patient **100**, and may include sensors for these purposes. Where a therapy is delivered, modular implantable medical device **101** may operate in an open loop mode (also referred to as non-responsive operation), or in a closed loop mode (also referred to as responsive). Modular implantable medical device **101** may also provide warnings based on the monitoring.

[0057] As discussed above, the ability of a modular implantable medical device **101** according to the invention to be implanted close to a region within patient **100** to be monitored enables the use of shorter leads **102**. Shorter leads **102** may advantageously improve the accuracy of such sensors by reducing noise attributable to leads **102**. Shorter leads **102** may also advantageously reduce the negative affects of imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging "MRI" on a person implanted with implantable medical device **101**.

[0058] Additional alternate embodiments for implantable medical devices implemented according to principles of the present invention may also include non-electrical based therapies such as targeted introduction of fluids and similar therapeutic materials using pumps and reservoirs of material. One skilled in the art will recognize that any number of implantable devices may be possible without deviating from the spirit and scope of the present invention as recited within the attached claims.

[0059] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a modular implantable medical device **201** according to another embodiment of the present invention. In this example embodiment, implantable medical device **201** is arranged in a triangular configuration. Modular implantable medical device **201** includes three modules: a control module **210**, a power source module **211**, and a recharge module **212**. Each of modules **210-212** includes a respective housing. Modular implantable medical device **201** also contains a set of lead connection modules **213** that permits external leads **102** (FIGS. 1C and 1D) to be connected to control module **210** as needed. The distribution of functional components of modular implantable medical device **201** into modules per-

mits modular implantable medical device **201** to possess a thin profile by spreading the components over a larger surface area.

[0060] Control module **210** includes control electronics for controlling the monitoring and/or therapy delivery functions of modular implantable medical device **201**, such as a microprocessor, and may include therapy delivery circuitry. Power source module **211** includes a power source that provides energy to control module **210**, which in some embodiments is a rechargeable power source such as a rechargeable battery and/or capacitor. Recharge module **212** includes a recharge coil for inductively receiving energy to recharge a rechargeable power source within power source module **211**.

[0061] In some embodiments, one or modules may be coupled by coupling modules (not shown). A coupling module may be flexible, and may include a lumen to carry a conductor or a fluid between modules of a modular implantable medical device. In some embodiments, a coupling module is made of a flexible material such as silicone or a flexible polymer. In other embodiments a coupling module is hermetic and made of substantially less flexible material, such as titanium or stainless steel, and the flexibility of a coupling module is provided by the configuration and/or construction the coupling module.

[0062] A coupling module may be flexible in a plurality of directions to provide modules of a modular implantable medical device with multiple degrees of freedom of motion with respect to each other. In exemplary embodiments, a coupling module provides at least three degrees of motion, and the degrees of motion provided include rotational motion.

[0063] Additional details regarding modules **210**, **211** and **212**, additional or alternative modules for a modular implantable medical device, the interconnection of modules within a modular implantable medical device, and lead connection modules **213** may be found in commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-318US01/P-10891.00; commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "COUPLING MODULES OF A DISTRIBUTED MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-333US01/P-11796.00; and commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "LEAD INTERCONNECT MODULE OF A MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-334US01/P-11799.00.

[0064] As illustrated in FIG. 2, modular implantable medical device **201** includes a member **214**. A member generally serves as a smooth interface between one or more modules and the body tissue.

[0065] A member may be made of any material. In one embodiment the member may be made of a metal. For example, a member may be made of titanium or of other biocompatible metals. In another embodiment, the member may be made of a soft, biocompatible material. In other embodiments the member may be made of multiple materials. A lubricious material **215** may be on or impregnated in a portion of the member **214** (for example, on the convex side of the member **214**). Alternatively, the lubricious material **215** may be on or impregnated in the entire outer surface of the member **214**.

[0066] Member 214 at least partially encapsulates modules 210-212. Further, as will be described in greater detail below, lead connection modules 213 may be formed in member 214. Member 214 may integrate modules 210-212 into a structure. Member 214 may provide a flexible structure that permits the device 501 to conform to a variety of implant locations.

[0067] In some embodiments, member 214 may be curved to match the shape of the location within a patient in which the device is being implanted. For example, implantation of modular implantable medical device 201 under the scalp of a patient may be accomplished if member 214 is concave (as viewed from the cranium) to substantially conform to the shape of the cranium of the patient and convex (as viewed from the scalp) to provide a smooth interface with the scalp or tissue near the scalp and thus reduces the likelihood of skin erosion and other problems associated with edges or protrusions pushing against the scalp. Concavity of modular implantable medical devices is described in greater detail in a commonly-assigned U.S. patent application entitled "CONCAVITY OF AN IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-336US01/-11800.00. Any number of shapes may be used to match a particular implantable medical device 201 to an implantation location for a device.

[0068] Member 214 may comprise a solid biocompatible elastomeric material that is soft and flexible such as silicone. In some embodiments, member 214 comprises two or more materials, and two or more components. For example, member may comprise one or more elastomeric components formed of an elastomeric material, such as silicone, and one or more non-elastomeric components formed of a non-elastomeric material, such as polysulfone, or a polyurethane such as Tecothane®, which is commercially available from Hermedics Polymer Products, Wilmington, Mass. The one or more elastomeric components may provide the overall shape and flexibility of modular implantable medical device 201, while the non-elastomeric components may provide structural integrity for modular implantable medical device 201, restrict intermodule motion within modular implantable medical device 201 to certain ranges, and form a part of the lead interconnection modules 213. Further detail regarding reduction of intermodule motion within modular implantable medical devices may be found in a commonly-assigned U.S. patent application entitled "REDUCING RELATIVE INTERMODULE MOTION IN A DISTRIBUTED MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-331US01/P-11797.00.

[0069] FIGS. 3A-3F are schematic diagrams illustrating various arrangements of multiple modules within a modular implantable medical device 301 according to various embodiments of the present invention. In each of these embodiments, modular implantable medical device 301 has three modules as discussed above in reference to FIG. 2: a control module 210, a power source module 211, and a recharge module 212. These modules may be arranged into a variety of configurations, including those illustrated, as long as any required interconnections needed between the modules, e.g., coupling modules, may be routed within the device. The various embodiments include triangular configurations, in such as those shown in FIGS. 3A-C, and inline configurations, such as those shown in FIGS. 3D-F.

The set of lead connection devices 313 may be located in various locations within the device as well.

[0070] In some embodiments, such as those illustrated in FIGS. 3A-C and 3E-F, a member 322 at least partially encapsulates each of modules 210, 211 and 212. In other embodiments, such as that illustrated in FIG. 3D, at least one of the modules of modular IMD 301 is located outside of member 322. Module 212 located outside of member may, as shown in FIG. 3D, be tethered to member 322, allowing module 212 to be freely positioned some significant distance from member 322. Additional details relating to configurations of modules within a modular implantable medical devices and tethering of modules of an implantable medical device may be found in a U.S. patent application entitled "MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-318US01/P-10891.00.

[0071] FIGS. 4A-4C are schematic diagrams illustrating a member 422 of a modular implantable medical device 401. FIG. 4A illustrates that the modular implantable medical device 401 comprises a set of modules 410-412, and a set of motion reduction elements 421 within member 422, such as motion reduction fibers connecting modules 410 and 411. Modules 410 and 411 are also coupled by a coupling module 423.

[0072] Because member 422 and coupling module 423 are flexible, member 422 and coupling module 423 may not provide sufficient motion reduction for the modules 410-412. Specifically, excessive relative motion between modules 410 and 411 may compromise the structural integrity of coupling module 424, which may lead to failure of modular implantable medical device 401. Motion reduction elements 421 are used to provide sufficient structural integrity to the device 401 once implanted into the patient 100 by restricting relative motion between modules 410 and 411 to certain directions or within certain ranges. Additional details regarding motion reduction elements 421 are described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "REDUCING RELATIVE INTER-MODULE MOTION IN A MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-331US01/P-11797.00.

[0073] FIG. 4B illustrates that the member 422 may include two or more components, each component made of a different material. In particular, FIG. 4B illustrates the member 422 includes an elastomeric component 430 and a non-elastomeric component 431. The non-elastomeric component 431 is typically shaped to surround at least one of modules 410-412, i.e., is located proximate to sides of at least one of modules 410-412. In some embodiments, a plurality of individual non-elastomeric components 431 surround respective modules 410-412. In other embodiments, a non-elastomeric component 431 surrounds a plurality of modules 410-412 to integrate the surrounded modules in a common, semi-rigid structure.

[0074] The one or more non-elastomeric components 431 may be used to contain one or more modules within elastomeric component 430. Specifically, the one or more non-elastomeric components 431 may be formed to hold modules 410-412 within respective positions within elastomeric component 430. Elastomeric component 430 may, as shown in FIG. 4B, at least partially encapsulate each of modules

**410-412** and provide an desired form factor for a modular implantable medical device. In some embodiments, non-elastomeric elements **431** are fitted into an elastomeric component **430** to form the member **422** before the electronic modules **410-412** are inserted into respective locations within member **422** where they will be contained by non-elastomeric elements **431**.

[0075] Generally, member **422** provides a number of functions in including attaching to modules and other elements to provide a smooth interface surface for the device as it interacts with the patient, and protecting electrical connections and feed thru wires needed to connect modules to external leads.

[0076] Member **422** may be constructed from a durometric specific material to provide a clinically desirable device. In addition, a material used to construct the member **422** may possess a thermal conductivity characteristic to either act as a heat sink if needed to dissipate heat from modules **410-412**, or a material to act as an insulator to shield the patient **100** from any excess heat from modules **410-412**. Because the implantable medical device **401** may be constructed from a large number of modules to perform a desired task, the materials selected for used in constructing the member **422** may vary as needed by each embodiment.

[0077] In embodiments in which member **422** is constructed of components **431** and **432**, the device **401** may be fabricated by integrating components **431** and **432** to form the member **422**, constructing the modules **410-412** and their respective connection modules **423**, and constructing any motion reduction elements **421**. Once all of these components are fabricated, the motion restriction elements **421** may be combined with the member **422**, and the interconnected modules **410-412** may be inserted into the member **422** into respective positions where they are contained by components **431**.

[0078] FIG. 4C illustrates that the member **422** provides sloped interface **441** between the modules within the device **401** and the patient's body components. In embodiments in which the device **401** is implanted within tight spaces, such as under the scalp, the sloped interface **441** provides a smooth transition between the body and the device modules **410-412**. Protrusions are known to cause possible stress points for tissue that is located over implanted devices, which can, for example, lead to skin erosion in the case of a device implanted under the scalp. As such, the sloped interface **441** attempts to minimize the transition from the modules **410-412** and the edge of the device **401** to eliminate these points of stress. An angle of interface **442** from the patient's body and the sloped interface **441** is greater than 90 degrees. Angle **442** may be between 120 and 150 degrees, is preferably between 130 and 140 degrees, and is most preferably approximately 135 degrees.

[0079] FIGS. 5A-5B are schematic diagrams illustrating the interaction of components of an implantable medical device that are part of a member. FIG. 5A provides a side cross-sectional view of a member **522** that includes an elastomeric component **530** and a non-elastomeric component **531** that interfaces with a control module **610**. The non-elastomeric component **531** is shaped to mate with and surround the module **510**, and may provide motion reduction for the module. Specifically, the non-elastomeric component **531** may be mechanically connected to at least one other

module of a modular implantable medical device, e.g., to non-elastomeric components that surround other modules of an implantable medical device, by a motion reduction element **521**. In other words, the member **522** encapsulates a plurality of modules in this embodiment, and each of the modules may be surrounded by a non-elastomeric component **531** that is connected to other non-elastomeric components by motion reduction elements **521**.

[0080] A through hole **551** may be located through member **522**, e.g., through elastomeric component **530** and non-elastomeric component **531**, to provide an attachment point for the implantable medical device. In some embodiments, the implantable medical device may be secured in place using bone screws or similar attachment devices that secure the device to the patient. Such through holes **551** permit the device to be mechanically attached to the patient once the device is positioned at a desired location.

[0081] In addition, elastomeric component **530** is shown as completely encapsulating the modules and components within FIG. 5. However, in some embodiments, elastomeric component **530**, like non-elastomeric component **531**, may merely surround the module **510** but not cover the top of the module. Such an arrangement may render the profile of the overall device smaller. In such an alternate embodiment, a surface across the member and the electronics module **510** may minimize transition discontinuities to minimize profile changes that may interact with a patient after implantation. In other embodiments, one or both components **530** and **531** cover a top of module **510**, or fully encapsulate module **510**.

[0082] FIG. 5B illustrates a top view of the member **522** having an elastomeric component **530** that covers a non-elastomeric component **531** that surrounds the control module **510**. The through hole **551** used as an attachment point is shown as part of the non-elastomeric component **531** that is covered by the elastomeric component **530**. The shape of the non-elastomeric component **531** and control module **510** are shown as being rectangular in this embodiment. However, one skilled in the art will recognize that any shape for the non-elastomeric component **531** and control module **510** may be used without deviating from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Further, the shape of non-elastomeric component **531** need not be the same as that the shape of the component that it surrounds. The modules may be restrained within the member **522** using many restraint mechanisms known in the arts including attachment elements, adhesives, snap rings, and similar elements.

[0083] While the member **522** described above may be constructed from two different materials, a softer, more flexible elastomeric component **530** and one or more harder, more rigid non-elastomeric components **531**, one skilled in the art may recognize that a member **522** may include a single component made of either class of material to provide the surface smoothing, module integration, and structural module restraint features described herein.

[0084] Finally, the member **522** may include several additional features unrelated to the above functions regarding the restraint and interconnection of multiple modules. In one embodiment, radio-opaque markers **561** and **562** may be imbedded within the member **522** to assist in determining an exact location of an implantable medical device within a patient. These radio-opaque markers **561** and **562** typically possess a non-symmetrical shape to permit registration and

orientation of the device **501** from imaging of the markers. These radio-opaque markers may be constructed using barium and similar materials that permit such imaging. A telemetry and/or recharge coil may be embedded directly within the member **522**.

[**0085**] It will be understood that a lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in at least a portion of an implantable medical device. In one embodiment, the lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in the housing. For example, a lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in the housing **90** in **FIG. 1A**. In another embodiment, the lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in the member. For example, the lubricious material may be disposed on or impregnated in the member **94** in **FIG. 1B**. Disposing a lubricious material on or impregnated in a medical device may facilitate insertion of the device into the implantation location. The lubricious material may also reduce post-implant friction between a portion of the medical device and the adjacent tissue.

[**0086**] It may be desirable to apply the lubricious material to less than the entire outer surface of the device. In the case of an implant between the brain and scalp, the lubricious material may be disposed on the side of the device facing the scalp and therefore provide for easier insertion of the device under the scalp as well as reduce post implantation friction between the device and the scalp or other tissue. For example, in the case of device **90** when implanted between the brain and scalp, the convex side of the member **94** may be coated with a lubricious material **98** to reduce friction between the scalp and the device **90**.

[**0087**] Any known or future developed lubricious material, or combinations thereof, may be used. Preferably, the lubricious materials are medically suitable for inserting into a patient. Examples of suitable lubricious materials that may be disposed on at least a portion of a component of an implantable medical device include fluoroethylpolymer, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE), paralene, a hydrophilic polymer, and the like. Additional examples of suitable coating that may be applied include those described in the following patents and patent publications: US 20040030159; U.S. Pat. No. 6,558,734, U.S. Pat. No. 6,278,018; U.S. Pat. No. 6,603,040; U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,994; WO0121326; WO 0144174; and WO 2003055611. In an embodiment, the lubricious material is a hydrogel. The hydrogel may be a polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) hydrogel, such as Medtronic's BIOGLIDE. In addition to facilitating insertion of a device, a lubricious material such as a hydrogel may prevent infection, thrombosis and formation of a fibrous capsule around the device. For example, BIOGLIDE technology has been shown to resist protein deposition, adherence of thrombosis, and reduce platelet and complement activation and may also inhibit tissue adherence.

[**0088**] Any known or future developed method for applying the lubricious material to either the housing or member may be utilized. In one embodiment, the lubricious material may be applied to the housing or member by being sprayed onto the surface of the housing or member. In another embodiment, the housing or member may be placed or dipped into the lubricious material allowing the lubricious material to be retained on or become impregnated in the housing or member.

[**0089**] In another embodiment the lubricious material may be the type of material that when activated by water or saline becomes slippery.

[**0090**] **FIG. 15** is a flowchart illustrating one embodiment method of fabricating an implantable medical device including a lubricious material on the housing of the module. In this method, the module or plurality of modules of the device **80** are fabricated at step **1500**. At step **1502** a lubricious material is applied to at least a portion of the housing **82** or multiple housings of the device **80**. It should be understood that the lubricious material may be applied to the housing either prior to assembly of the components within the housing or after such assembly. Moreover, when multiple modules are used, the lubricious material may be applied to the housings before or after coupling the modules to each other.

[**0091**] **FIG. 16** is a flowchart illustrating another embodiment method of fabricating an implantable medical device including a lubricious material on a member. In this method, the member is fabricated at step **1600**. The fabrication of the member can be by any known or future developed method. At step **1602**, a module is fabricated. At step **1604**, a lubricious material is applied to the member. The components including the member and module are combined at step **1604**. As described with regard to the process of **FIG. 15**, assembly and application of the lubricious material may be performed in any order.

[**0092**] **FIG. 6** is a schematic diagram illustrating degrees of intermodular motion that may be present in modular implantable medical device. For any two modules within a distributed medical device, motion between the two modules may include pitch motion **601**, yaw motion **602**, and roll motion **603**. For the set of motion reduction elements **621** discussed above, one or more of these three degrees of motion may be limited to prevent mechanical failures of interconnections between the modules during use of a modular implantable medical device. Specifically, modules of a modular implantable medical device may be connected by connector modules, which may be compromised by excessive intermodule motion. Such interconnect members are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "REDUCING RELATIVE INTER-MODULE MOTION IN A DISTRIBUTED MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-331US01/P-11797.00.

[**0093**] **FIG. 7** is a schematic diagram illustrating motion reduction within various degrees of motion within a modular implantable medical device. For any two modules **701-702** within an implantable medical device, a connector module **721** may be used between the modules **701-702** to connect elements within these modules **701-702**. Motion reduction elements **722** and **723** may be used to reduce inter-modular motion, and in some cases, to limit inter-modular motion to a range of motion.

[**0094**] Motion reduction elements **722** and **723** may be formed as part of non-elastomeric components **531** of a member **522** associated with each of modules **701** and **702**. As shown in **FIG. 7**, motion reduction elements **722** and **723** allow free inter-modular motion within one of the degrees within a range. In some embodiments, one non-elastomeric component includes one or more motion reduction elements **722**. In other embodiments, two non-elastomeric compo-

nents **531** include motion reduction elements **722** and **723**, respectively, which interact to reduce inter-modular motion.

[0095] A modular implantable medical device may include any number of motion reduction elements, which may take any of a variety of shapes. In some embodiments, motion reduction elements may be used in all axes to maximize the amount of motion reduction provided. The implantable medical device having multiple modules typically requires sufficient motion reduction to prevent undue mechanical stresses on interconnection connection member **721** between the modules **701-702** that may not be provided by a flexible member **522**.

[0096] Additional details regarding the set of motion reduction elements **521** are described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "REDUCING RELATIVE INTER-MODULE MOTION IN A MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-331US01/P-11797.00.

[0097] **FIG. 8A** is a block diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device **801** having a tethered lead interconnect site **861** according to the present invention. A member **822** of implantable medical device **801** at least partially encapsulates and connects a plurality of modules **810-812** while not encapsulating lead connection modules **813** that are part of tethered lead interconnect site **861**. In such embodiments, the implantation of device **801** would not require the insertion of external leads into the member **822**. In addition, the external leads may be located a distance away from the device **801**. Such an arrangement may assist in the management of the external leads as they are placed within the patient and routed to a device implantation location. Further, location of leads and connection site **861** away from member **822** may make it less likely that the leads will be damaged during a surgical explant procedure.

[0098] In alternate embodiments shown in **FIGS. 8B-8C**, member **822** may possess mechanical structures such as grooves **832**, an externally attached pouch **833**, or an integrated containment cavity **834** to contain and/or route the external leads away from the implantable medical device **801** in an efficient manner. In some embodiments, the external leads may possess a minimum length to provide a particular electrical characteristic for the implantable medical device **801**. This minimum length may be greater than a distance needed by a particular patient for some implantation locations. These mechanical structures that assist in external lead management may accommodate any extra lead material that needs to be part of the device **801** in some implantation embodiments. Because the member may be spread over an area surrounding the modular device, the member may cover holes in the cranium formed to allow external leads to access the brain. Additional structures, including one or more cap structures **835** that secure a lead as it passes through the hole in the cranium may be an integral part of the member connector module **822**.

[0099] Additional details regarding the lead connection modules described in co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. patent application entitled "LEAD INTERCONNECT MODULE OF A MODULAR IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE," assigned Attorney Docket No.: 1023-334US01/P-11799.00.

[0100] **FIG. 9** is a block diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device **901**

having an access loop **971** for removal according to the present invention. Access loop **971** may be mechanically coupled to, or formed as a part of member connector module **922**. This access loop **971** may be used to assist in the removal of the implantable medical device **901** at a point in time when the device **901** is no longer needed by the patient, or at a point in time when a particular device **901** needs to be replaced. The device **901** may be encapsulated within the patient **100** with scar tissue fibers such that physical effort will be required to remove the device **901** from its implantation location. This access loop **971** provides a clinician a removal assist structure to physically manipulate the implantable medical device **901** during its removal. This access loop **971** may also be useful during implantation of the device **901** as well as it provides a handle to manipulate the device **901** without handling the member **922** and its related modules. One skilled in the art will recognize that alternate embodiments for the access loop that may include removal handles, a strip cord and a reinforced opening within the member connector module to provide a mechanism to grasp the device to assist in removal.

[0101] **FIG. 10** is a schematic diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device **1001** having a triangular module arrangement according to the present invention. In this embodiment, a triangular arrangement of modules is shown with a member **1022** that at least partially encapsulates all of the modules. Lead interconnection modules **1013** are located between the modules at a common location. Member **1022** provides a slope interface **1041**.

[0102] **FIG. 11** is a schematic diagram illustrating an example embodiment of a modular implantable medical device **1101** having an inline module arrangement according to the present invention. In this embodiment, an inline arrangement of modules is shown with a member **1122** that at least partially encapsulates all of the modules. A lead interconnection module **1113** is located on one side of the member **1122**. Member **1122** provides a slope interface **1141**.

[0103] **FIG. 12** is a schematic diagram illustrating side view of a multi-module implantable medical device having an inline module arrangement according to the present invention. The side view of the device **1201** shows an underside of the device **1202** that possess a curved shape to permit implantation at a location having a curved body structure.

[0104] **FIG. 13** is a schematic diagram illustrating an exploded view of a modular implantable medical device **1301** having a triangular module arrangement according to the present invention. In this embodiment, yet another triangular arrangement of modules is shown with a member **1322** at least partially encapsulating all of the modules. A slope interface element **1341** is shown surrounding the member **1322**. In this embodiment, the slope interface element **1341** is shown as a separate physical structure, such as a flexible band, an o-ring, removable flexible flange, or a tapered outer contour element that surrounds the member **1322**, rather than a tapered portion of member **1322**. Slope interface element **1341** provides a desired sloped interface between the edge of the implantable medical device and the patient. In some embodiments, the shape and contour of slope interface element **1341** may be modified at the time of



implantation to obtain a desired shape, or slope interface elements **1341** may be selected at the time of implantation from a variety of slope interface elements to provide a desired slope interface for a particular patient.

[0105] FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating a method of constructing an implantable medical device with a member according to the present invention. An implantable medical device **401** may be fabricated by constructing the member **422 (1401)** from a first and second component. As discussed above, member **422** may comprise two or more materials, and two or more components. For example, member may comprise one or more elastomeric components formed of an elastomeric material, such as silicone, and one or more non-elastomeric components formed of a non-elastomeric material. Once the member **422** is completed, the modules **410-412** with their respective connector modules **423** are constructed (**1402**). Next, any motion reduction elements **421** included in the device **401** are constructed. Once all of these components are fabricated, the motion restriction elements **421** may be combined with the member **422 (1403)** and the interconnected modules **410-412** may be inserted (**1404**) into the member **422**. From the combination of these components, the device **401** is formed.

[0106] It should be noted that the lubricious material may be on or impregnated in any of the embodiments of implantable medical devices provided even though such is not specifically called out in every Figure and accompanying description.

[0107] The foregoing description of the exemplary embodiments of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. They are not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the invention be limited not with this detailed description, but rather by the claims appended hereto.

1. An implantable medical device for implantation within a human body, the implantable medical device comprising:

a first module comprising a first housing, wherein the first housing contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient; and

a lubricious material on or impregnated in the first housing for reducing the friction between the first housing and a tissue of the human body.

2. The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation in the head of the human body.

3. The implantable medical device of claim 2, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation between the scalp and the cranium.

4. The implantable medical device of claim 1 further comprising a second module, the second module comprising a second housing, and wherein the lubricious material is on or impregnated in the second housing.

5. The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the lubricious material is absent from at least one side of the first housing.

6. The implantable medical device of claim 5, wherein the lubricious material is only on or impregnated in one side of the first housing.

7. The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the housing is metal.

8. The implantable medical device of claim 7, wherein the housing is titanium.

9. The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein the side of the housing facing the scalp is substantially convex as viewed from the scalp and the lubricious material is on or impregnated in the substantially convex side of the housing.

10. An implantable medical device for implantation within a human body, the implantable medical device comprising:

a first module comprising a first housing, wherein the first housing contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient;

a member coupled to the first module, wherein the member provides a smooth interface between at least a portion of the first housing and a tissue of the human body; and

a lubricious material on or impregnated in at least a portion of the member for reducing the friction between the member and a tissue of the human body.

11. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the lubricious material is only on or impregnated in one side of the member.

12. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation in the head of the human body.

13. The implantable medical device of claim 12, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation between the scalp and the cranium.

14. The implantable medical device of claim 13, wherein the side of the member facing the scalp is substantially convex as viewed from the scalp.

15. The implantable medical device of claim 14, wherein the lubricious material is only on or impregnated in the substantially convex side of the member.

16. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member is flexible.

17. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member comprises an elastomeric material.

18. The implantable medical device of claim 17, wherein the elastomeric material is silicone.

19. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member comprises a non-elastomeric material.

20. The implantable medical device of claim 19, wherein the non-elastomeric material is one of a polysulfone and a polyurethane.

21. The implantable medical device of claim 10, further comprising a lead connection module within the member for connecting an external lead to electronics within the first module.

22. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein an edge of the member provides a sloped interface with a surface of a patient, and an angle between the edge and the surface of the patient is greater than 90 degrees.

23. The implantable medical device of claim 22, wherein the angle is within a range from 120 and 150 degrees.

24. The implantable medical device of claim 23, wherein the angle is approximately equal to 135 degrees.

25. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member comprises a material having a high thermal conductivity to act as a heat sink for thermal energy generated within the first module.

26. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member comprises a material having a low thermal conductivity to act as a shield of thermal energy generated within the first module.

27. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member includes a groove to hold external lead material.

28. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member includes a pouch to hold external lead material.

29. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the member includes a through-hole to receive an attachment mechanism for attaching the implantable medical device to a patient.

30. The implantable medical device of claim 10, further comprising a second module coupled to the member, the second module comprising a second housing, wherein the member provides a smooth interface between the first and second housings and a tissue of the human body.

31. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein the lubricious material is only on or impregnated in one side of the member.

32. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation in the head of the human body.

33. The implantable medical device of claim 32, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation between the scalp and the cranium.

34. The implantable medical device of claim 33, wherein the side of the member facing the scalp is substantially convex as viewed from the scalp.

35. The implantable medical device of claim 34, wherein the lubricious material is only on or impregnated in the substantially convex side of the member.

36. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein the member is flexible.

37. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein the member comprises an elastomeric material.

38. The implantable medical device of claim 37, wherein the elastomeric material is silicone.

39. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein the member comprises a non-elastomeric material.

40. The implantable medical device of claim 39, wherein the non-elastomeric material is one of a polysulfone and a polyurethane.

41. The implantable medical device of claim 30, further comprising a lead connection module within the member for connecting an external lead to electronics within the first module.

42. The implantable medical device of claim 30, wherein an edge of the member provides a sloped interface with a surface of a patient, and an angle between the edge and the surface of the patient is greater than 90 degrees.

43. The implantable medical device of claim 42, wherein the angle is within a range from 120 and 150 degrees.

44. The implantable medical device of claim 43, wherein the angle is approximately equal to 135 degrees.

45. The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the lubricious material is at least one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) hydrogel, fluoroethylpolymer, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFT), paralene, and a hydrophilic polymer.

46. The implantable medical device of claim 10, wherein the lubricious material is at least one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) hydrogel, fluoroethylpolymer, polytetrafluoro-

ethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFT), paralene, and a hydrophilic polymer.

47. An implantable medical device for implantation within a human body, the implantable medical device comprising:

- a first module comprising a first housing, wherein the first housing contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient; and

- lubricating means on or impregnated in the first housing for reducing the friction between the first housing and a tissue of the human body.

48. An implantable medical device for implantation within a human body, the implantable medical device comprising:

- a first module comprising a first housing, wherein the first housing contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient;

- a member coupled to the first module, wherein the member provides a smooth interface between at least a portion of the first housing and a tissue of the human body; and

- lubricating means on or impregnated in at least a portion of the member for reducing the friction between the member and a tissue of the human body.

49. An implantable medical device for implantation within the head of a human body, the implantable medical device comprising:

- a plurality of modules, the plurality of modules comprising a plurality of housings, wherein the plurality of housings contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient;

- means for integrating the modules into a single structure that at least partially encapsulates each of the housings, whereby the means for integrating the modules provides a smooth interface between the plurality of housings and a tissue of the human body; and

- lubricating means on or impregnated in at least a portion of the means for integrating for reducing the friction between the means for integrating and a tissue of the human body.

50. The implantable medical device of claim 49, wherein the means for integrating is flexible.

51. The implantable medical device of claim 49, wherein the means for integrating provides a sloped interface with a surface of a patient.

52. A method for fabricating an implantable medical device, the method comprising:

- fabricating a first module, the first module comprising a first housing wherein the first housing contains at least a portion of the electronics for providing monitoring of or therapy to a patient;

- applying a lubricious material to at least a portion of the housing for reducing friction between the housing and a tissue of a human body.

53. The method according to claim 52, wherein the lubricious material is at least one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) hydrogel, fluoroethylpolymer, polytetrafluoroethyl-

ene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFT), paralene, and a hydrophilic polymer.

**54.** The method according to claim 52, wherein the step of applying a lubricious material to the housing comprises spraying a lubricious material onto the housing.

**55.** The method according to claim 52, wherein the step of applying a lubricious material to the housing comprises placing the housing into the lubricious material.

**56.** The method according to claim 52 further comprising fabricating a second module, the second module comprising a second housing, and applying a lubricious material to the second housing.

**57.** The method according to claim 56 further comprising coupling the second module to the first module.

**58.** The method according to claim 52, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation within a head of a patient.

**59.** The method according to claim 53, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation between a scalp and a cranium of the patient.

**60.** A method for fabricating an implantable medical device, the method comprising:

fabricating a member configured to provide a smooth interface between the implantable medical device and a tissue of a human body;

fabricating a first module;

combining the member and the first module to construct the implantable medical device; and

applying a lubricious material to the member for reducing friction between the member and the tissue.

**61.** The method of claim 60, wherein the lubricious material is at least one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) hydrogel, fluoroethylpolymer, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyetheretherketone (PEEK), ethylene tetrafluoroethylene (ETFT), paralene, and a hydrophilic polymer.

**62.** The method according to claim 60, wherein the member comprises a solid biocompatible elastomeric material that is flexible.

**63.** The method according to claim 60, wherein the step of applying a lubricious material to the member comprises spraying a lubricious material onto the member.

**64.** The method according to claim 60, wherein the step of applying a lubricious material to the member comprises placing the member into the lubricious material.

**65.** The method according to claim 60, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation within a head of a patient.

**66.** The method according to claim 60, wherein the implantable medical device is configured for implantation between a scalp and a cranium of the patient.

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