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(71) Applicant (for MG only): **BODEN, Keith, McMurray**
[GB/GB]; 1 Highlands Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0LA
(GB).

(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: **SUNDAR, Satish** [US/US]; 1366 Terra
Alta Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035 (US). **STRUL, Bruno**
[US/US]; 485 Cervantes Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
(US).

(74) Agent: **BODEN, Keith, McMurray**; Fry Heath & Spence
LLP, Massetts Road, Horley, Surrey RH6 7DQ (GB).

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AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
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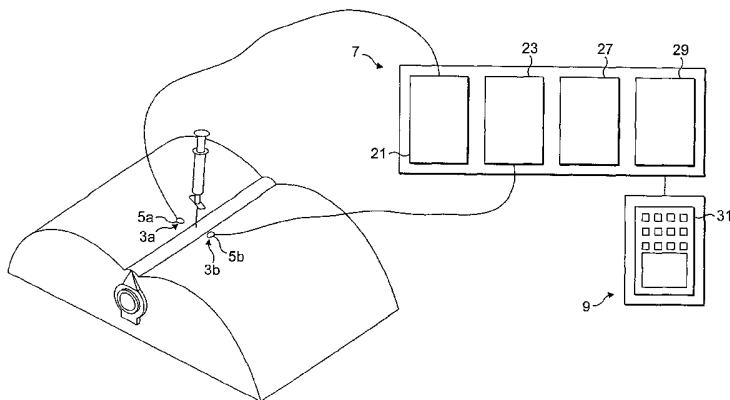
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR AND METHOD OF GUIDING AN OBJECT



(57) Abstract: A system for and a method of guiding an object, in particular an elongate object, such as a needle, into a region of interest, such as a body cavity, which is reached by maneuvering between hard structures, such as bone structures, for example, two adjacent vertebrae in epidural anesthesia.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/003453

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B8/00

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)

IPC 7 A61B

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)

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	EP 1 323 380 A (MEDISON CO LTD) 2 July 2003 (2003-07-02)	1,2,6-8, 12-16, 20-24
Y	abstract; figure 2 paragraph [0001] - paragraph [0002] paragraph [0007]	3-5, 9-11, 17-19
Y	paragraph [0011] - paragraph [0022] ----- US 5 930 329 A (NAVAB NASSIR) 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) column 1, line 20 - line 23 -----	3,4,17, 18
Y	US 4 582 061 A (FRY FRANCIS J) 15 April 1986 (1986-04-15) abstract column 2, line 43 - line 48 ----- -/--	5,19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in 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

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"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

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Beck, E

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PCT/GB2004/003453

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 98/23214 A (FENSTER AARON ; DOWNEY DONAL (CA); LIFE IMAGING SYSTEMS INC (CA); ONIK) 4 June 1998 (1998-06-04) page 21, line 19 - page 22, line 9 -----	9-11
A	US 5 943 719 A (BLUMENTHAL RAFAEL ET AL) 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) abstract column 6, line 43 - column 7, line 3 -----	1,3,15, 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational application No.
PCT/GB2004/003453

Box 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.: 59-82
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
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 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 all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:
1-24

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ 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: 1-24

A system for use in guiding an object into a region of interest comprising at least one emitter array for emitting an output, at least one receiver array for receiving an input and a drive unit configured to drive the emitter array to emit an output of varying phase.

2. claims: 25-28, 40-48

A transducer element/assembly for attachment to a surface of a body comprising at least one transducer array and a body element and a projecting element (claims 25-28) or a mounting pad with an aperture (claims 40-48).

3. claims: 29-39

A coupling assembly comprising a connector and a flexible attachment member.

4. claims: 49-58

An elongated element for insertion into a body incorporating at least one transducer array or transponder.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/003453

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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