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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **WILSON-COOK MEDICAL INC.** [US/US]; P.O. BOX 27115-4191, 4900 Bethania Station Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105-4191 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CARTER, Matthew, P.** [US/US]; 127 Smith Farm Trail, Dobson, NC 27017 (US). **CLARK, Victor, D.** [US/US]; 4145 Holly Hill Lane, Winston-salem, NC 27106 (US). **KARPIEL, John, A.** [US/US]; 4880 Fleetwood Circle, Winston-salem, NC 27106 (US). **SKERVEN, Gregory, J.** [US/US]; 1950 Glenridge Drive, Kernersville, NC 27284 (US).

(74) Agent: **MILZ, Michael, E.**; BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE, P.O. Box 10087, Chicago, IL 60610 (US).

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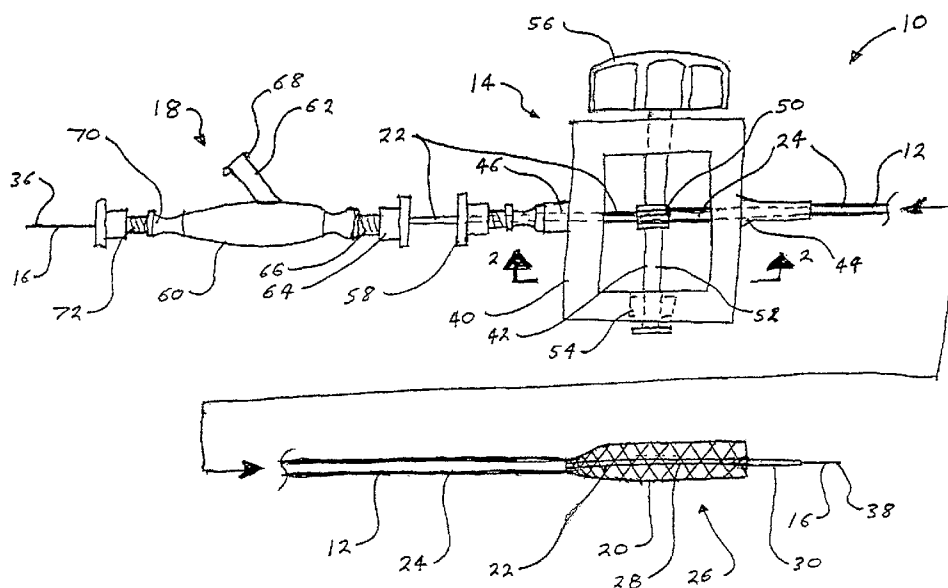
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(54) Title: SINGLE PEEL STENT INTRODUCER APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A stent introducer apparatus (10) includes a handle (14) having a housing (40) and a rotatable reel (42). An inner stent carrier (22) having a proximal end and a distal end is provided, with the proximal end being connected to the housing of the handle. An outer sheath (24) movably disposed about the inner stent carrier and having a proximal end and a distal end is provided, with the proximal end being connected to the reel of the handle. Rotation of the reel relative to the housing peels the outer sheath away from the inner stent carrier so as to move the outer sheath proximally relative to the inner stent carrier, thereby exposing the distal end of the inner stent carrier. The inner stent carrier has a stent carrying portion at its distal end to carry a stent (20) that is deployed when the distal end of the inner stent carrier is exposed.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/84

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 A61M

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

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

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2004/066809 A2 (GORE ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS INC [US]; BRUUN STEVEN R [US]; CULLY EDWARD H) 12 August 2004 (2004-08-12)	1,3-7, 11-16
A	page 4, line 19 - line 28 page 5, line 6 - line 20 page 9, line 3 - line 7 page 9, line 34 - page 10, line 1 figures 2,7A-7C	2,8
Y	US 2005/080476 A1 (GUNDERSON RICHARD C [US] ET AL) 14 April 2005 (2005-04-14) paragraph [0048] - paragraph [0049] figure 1	1,3-7, 11-16
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 December 2006

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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

Amaro, Henrique

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2005/032420 A2 (ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM [US]) 14 April 2005 (2005-04-14) page 8, line 10 - line 17 figures 12A-12C -----	1
A	WO 98/20812 A (COOK INC [US]) 22 May 1998 (1998-05-22) page 12, line 21 - line 30 figures 11A,11B -----	1
A	WO 2004/080504 A2 (WILSON COOK MEDICAL INC [US]) 23 September 2004 (2004-09-23) paragraph [0022] - paragraph [0029] figure 1 -----	11,12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/023321

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.: 17, 18
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:

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.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/023321

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