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(71) Applicant: **CILAG GMBH INTERNATIONAL**
[CH/CH]; Gubelstrasse 34, 6300 Zug (CH).

(72) Inventors: **SHELTON, IV, Frederick E.**; 4545 Creek Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 (US). **HARRIS, Jason L.**; 4545 Creek Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242 (US).

(74) Agent: **TUNSTALL, Christopher Stephen et al.**; Carpmaels & Ransford LLP, One Southampton Row, London Greater London WC1B 5HA (GB).

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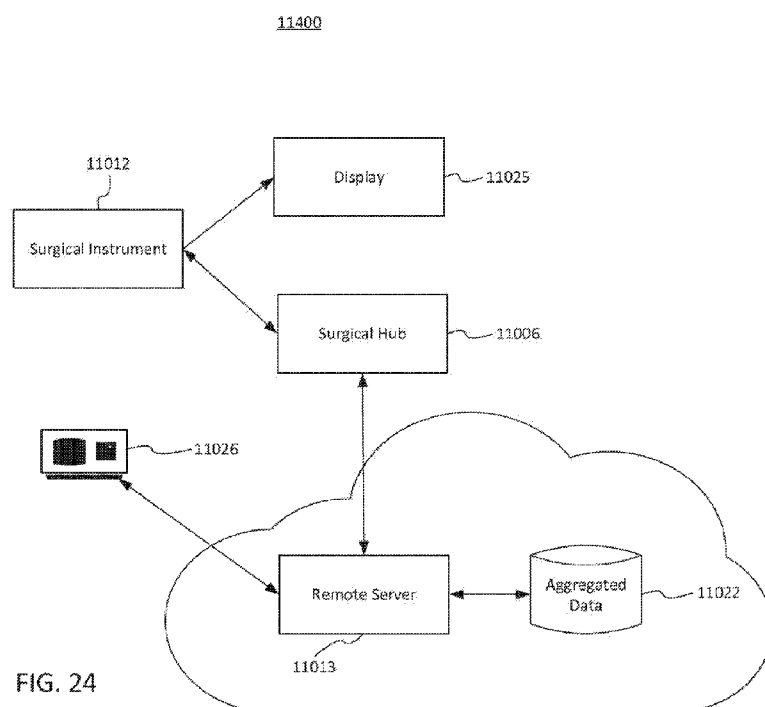


FIG. 24

(57) **Abstract:** A surgical instrument may have multiple operating modes. An instrument operation mode may be selected from multiple operation modes, which may be preconfigured, dynamically updated, semi-dynamically updated, periodically updated, or preset. Multi-modal instrument operation may control the availability, access, level of use, level of interaction and/or support for one or more capabilities available through an instrument. A multi-modal surgical instrument may be fully operational in multiple modes of operation while varying one or more capabilities based on a mode of operation, such as one or more of sensors, communications, user-instrument interaction, displays, data storage, data access, data aggregation, data analytics, surgical support, feedback, surgical recommendations, etc. An instrument may be configured to determine an operation mode based on one or more instrument operation control parameters, such as system capabilities, system capacity parameters, system condition parameters, system authorization parameters, and/or external

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control parameters.

COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY OF A SMART STAPLER

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

[001] This application is related to an application filed contemporaneously, with Attorney Docket No. END9287USNP1, entitled METHOD FOR OPERATING TIERED OPERATION MODES IN A SURGICAL SYSTEM, the contents of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Background

[002] Surgical systems often incorporate an imaging system, which can allow the clinician(s) to view the surgical site and/or one or more portions thereof on one or more displays such as a monitor, for example. The display(s) can be local and/or remote to a surgical theater. An imaging system can include a scope with a camera that views the surgical site and transmits the view to a display that is viewable by a clinician. Scopes include, but are not limited to, arthroscopes, angioscopes, bronchoscopes, choledochoscopes, colonoscopes, cystoscopes, duodenoscopes, enteroscopes, esophagogastro-duodenoscopes (gastrosopes), endoscopes, laryngoscopes, nasopharyngo-neprosopes, sigmoidoscopes, thorascopes, ureteroscopes, and exoscopes. Imaging systems can be limited by the information that they are able to recognize and/or convey to the clinician(s). For example, certain concealed structures, physical contours, and/or dimensions within a three-dimensional space may be unrecognizable intraoperatively by certain imaging systems. Additionally, certain imaging systems may be incapable of communicating and/or conveying certain information to the clinician(s) intraoperatively.

Summary

[003] According to various embodiments of the invention, the following examples are provided:

[004] Example 1. A surgical instrument, comprising: a sensor configured to provide a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; a transmitter; and a processor configured to: determine, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and

communicate with a surgical hub based on at least one of the determinations via the transmitter.

[005] A surgical instrument according to Example 1 may selectively operate under one of a number of different instrument operation modes or tiers. Instrument operation modes may variously allow or restrict instrument capabilities. Instrument capabilities that vary by mode of operation may include, for example, sensors, communications, displays, data storage, data access, data aggregation, data analyses, feedback, recommendations, etc. Modes may vary in terms of communication capabilities, such as recordkeeping, data access and recall, data analyses, surgical recommendations, and so on. Exemplary modes or tiers of operation are described in association with Figs. 22-24. The instrument operation mode may be determined by the surgical instrument according to instrument operation mode control parameter(s) which may indicate connectivity, bandwidth, interference, conductivity or a system parameter indicating compatibility, such as a subscription level of the surgical facility and authenticity. For example, a medical facility may require selected instrument capabilities to perform certain procedures, which may be grouped into one or more modes of instrument operation. According to Example 1, the surgical instrument determines, based on the operation mode, whether to obtain sensed data from one or more sensors associated with the surgical instrument, and whether to receive an instrument usage instruction from a surgical hub or remote servers. For instance, a surgical instrument (e.g. a surgical stapler) according to Example 1 may selectively receive from a surgical hub recommended instrument usage information (e.g., stapler cartridge selection) generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data (e.g., cartridge usage data associated with a surgical procedural step).

[006] By way of Example 1, a smart surgical instrument with a control system has abilities to restrict or allow different modes of communications, e.g. unidirectional communication, bi-directional communication, and interactive communication with a local hub or remote servers. The smart control system enables implementation of a tiered communication control according to instrument capabilities, system capacities, such as inner- and inter-device connectivity and bandwidth, or other control parameters, such as parameters provided by external servers. This provides a control over selective data collection at the surgical instrument, selective data and information exchange between the surgical instrument and a surgical hub or remote servers, and selective provision of data and instructional information to the user, e.g. through a display associated with the surgical instrument. Accordingly, the user may be selectively provided with data and information, such as recommended instrument usage information, best suited for the operation mode of the instrument. These may contribute to the improvement of the operational safety and

performance of the instrument, the outcome and quality of the surgical activities, and the safety of the patient.

- [007] Example 2. The surgical instrument of Example 1, wherein the processor is further configured to obtain and send the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
- [008] Example 2 relates to an instrument operation mode in which a unidirectional or bidirectional communication with a surgical hub is supported. A surgical instrument according to Example 2 is enabled to obtain and send sensed parameters to the surgical hub where the information may be stored, processed and/or aggregated for use in relation to the ongoing procedure or a future procedure.
- [009] Example 3. The surgical instrument of Example 1 or 2, further comprising: a receiver. The processor is further configured to receive the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and send the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [0010] Example 3 relates to a mode of instrument operation in which bidirectional communication with the surgical hub for receiving instrument usage instructions is supported. Under this operation mode, the surgical instrument receives the instrument usage instruction from the hub and displays the instruction, which may be used by the user to further improve the operation over the instrument and the outcome of the surgical activities.
- [0011] Example 4. The surgical instrument of Example 1 or 2, further comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge. The processor is further configured to: receive cartridge information from the end effector; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and based on a determination to combine send the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter. A surgical stapling instrument according to Example 4 can control communication with an end effector to receive cartridge information and interactively combine the cartridge information with the instrument actuator or configuration data to provide a broader understanding of the full instrument status. The surgical instrument can further control communication with the surgical hub to selectively send the combined static and usage data of the instrument to the

surgical hub where the combined data may be stored, processed, and/or aggregated to determine tissue or functional data from the system interactions with the surgical site.

[0012] Example 5. The surgical instrument of any one of Examples 1-4, wherein the processor is further configured to determine the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of: a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server. Example 5 relates to determination of the instrument operation mode. The surgical instrument is thus enabled to determine the instrument operation mode according to a control parameter relating to the condition or capacity of the system and/or a tiered communication mode indication as well as control the communication with the end effector and the surgical hub in the manner as recited in one of the above Examples.

[0013] Example 6. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, further, comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge. The processor is further configured to obtain staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector; and send the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub. A surgical instrument according to Example 6 is directed to a surgical stapler that has an end effector for removably receiving a staple cartridge and that is enabled to control communication with the end effector and communication with the surgical hub to selectively obtain and transfer cartridge information and instrument status information to the surgical hub where the combined data may be stored, processed, and/or aggregated.

[0014] Example 7. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection. A surgical instrument according to Example 7 is enabled to control communication with an external device/system to selectively receive recommended instrument usage information which may be displayed, or otherwise provided, to the user. This enables change of procedure over time.

[0015] Example 8. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, , wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step. A surgical instrument according to Example 8 is enabled to control communication with an external device/system to

selectively receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data. The recommendation may be displayed, or otherwise provided, to the user for selecting an appropriate cartridge to perform the surgical procedure, thereby further improving the outcome of the surgical procedure and/or safety of the patient.

[0016] Example 9. A remote server comprising an input/output interface configured for accessing data from a plurality of medical hub communication devices, where one or each of the medical hub communication devices is communicatively coupled to at least one surgical instrument; and a processor configured to receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and send the aggregated instrument usage information.

[0017] Example 10. A remote server of Example 9, wherein the processor is further configured to correlate the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and send the correlated information.

[0018] Example 11. A remote server of Example 9 or 10, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and send the recommended instrument usage information.

[0019] By way of Examples 9-11, a remote server may receive information from one or more surgical instruments, aggregate and/or correlate the information, or generate an instrument usage recommendation, and send the aggregated or correlated information or the recommendation to the surgical instruments where the information or recommendation may be displayed or otherwise provided to the surgeon. The remote server may communicate with the surgical instrument and surgical hub as described in the above Examples to provide useful information generated by cloud-based analysis.

[0020] Example 12. A method may comprise: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining based on an instrument operation mode whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.

- [0021] Example 13. A method of Example 12, wherein the method further comprises obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
- [0022] Example 14. A method of Example 12 or 13, wherein the method further comprises receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [0023] Example 15. A method of any one of Examples 12-14, wherein the method further comprises: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and sending, based on a determination to combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.
- [0024] Example 16. A method of any one of Examples 12-15, wherein the method further comprises determining the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.
- [0025] Example 17. A method of any one of Examples 12-16, wherein the method further comprises: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.
- [0026] Example 18. A method of any one of Examples 12-17, wherein the method further comprises: determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.
- [0027] Example 19. A method of any one of Examples 12-18, wherein the method further comprises determining based on the instrument operation mode whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.

- [0028] Example 20. A method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.
- [0029] Example 21. A method of Example 20, further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.
- [0030] Example 22. A method of Example 20 or 21, further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.
- [0031] Example 23. A computer-readable medium may store program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.
- [0032] Example 24. A computer-readable medium of Example 23, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
- [0033] Example 25. A computer-readable medium of Example 23 or 24, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver, for example, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [0034] Example 26. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-25, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and sending, based on a determination to

combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.

[0035] Example 27. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-26, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining the instrument operation mode, for example, based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

[0036] Example 28. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-27, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.

[0037] Example 29. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-28, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.

[0038] Example 30. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-29, may further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.

[0039] Example 31. A computer-readable medium storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.

[0040] Example 32. A computer-readable medium of Example 31, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.

- [0041] Example 33. A computer-readable medium of Example 31 or 32, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.
- [0042] The methods according to Examples 12-19, and the computer readable mediums as described in Examples 23-30, correspond to the apparatuses of Examples 1-8. The above discussion in relation to Examples 1-8 therefore also apply to Examples 12-19 and 23-30. Similarly, the methods according to Examples 20-22, and the computer readable mediums as described in Examples 31-33, correspond to the apparatuses of Examples 9-11. The above discussion in relation to Examples 9-11 therefore also apply to Examples 20-22 and 31-33.
- [0043] According to a further embodiment of the invention, a surgical instrument, such as a surgical stapler, may have multiple operating modes, which may provide different combinations of communication, interaction, support and/or other capabilities. An instrument operation mode may be selected from multiple operation modes, which may be preconfigured, dynamically updated, semi-dynamically updated, periodically updated, or preset. Multi-modal instrument operation may control the availability, access, level of use, level of interaction and/or support for one or more capabilities available through an instrument. Instrument operation modes may variously allow or restrict instrument capabilities. Instrument capabilities authorized by a mode of operation may be variously unlocked, configured, or downloaded and installed. Resident capabilities of a surgical instrument not authorized by a mode of operation may be unutilized, locked or otherwise blocked. Instrument capabilities that vary by mode of operation may include, for example, sensors, communications, displays, data storage, data access, data aggregation, data analyses, feedback, recommendations, etc. In some implementations, a multi-modal surgical instrument may be fully operational in multiple modes of operation. Modes may vary in terms of communication capabilities, such as recordkeeping, data access and recall, data analyses, surgical recommendations, and so on.
- [0044] An instrument may be configured to determine an instrument operation mode based on one or more instrument operation control parameters, such as one or more of the following: system capabilities (e.g., hardware capabilities, firmware capabilities and/or software capabilities), system capacity parameters (e.g., a wired and/or wireless connectivity capability); system condition parameters (e.g., bandwidth, interference, conductivity, current load level); system authorization parameters (e.g., parameters indicating compatibility, authorized (purchased or subscription) mode of instrument operation, instrument authenticity) and/or external control parameters (e.g., provided by a surgical

hub or remote/cloud server), such as software version, revision or update level, subscription level, interconnectivity with an external/outside system, region of use, user input(s), or (e.g., secure) communication with an external database system.

[0045] Instrument operation mode control parameter(s) may include a consumer-controlled parameter, such as a subscription level. For example, a medical facility may purchase a subscription for selected instrument capabilities, which may be grouped into one or more modes of instrument operation.

[0046] For example, a surgical instrument may determine whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with a sensor signal from a sensor based on the surgical instrument operation mode. A surgical instrument may determine whether to receive an instrument usage instruction based on the surgical instrument operation mode. The surgical instrument may communicate with a surgical hub based on the determination(s).

[0047] For example, a surgical instrument may determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information (e.g., stapler cartridge selection) generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. A surgical instrument may determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a surgical procedural step. The surgical instrument may communicate with a surgical hub based on the determination(s).

[0048] For example, a remote server may, based on the surgical instrument operation mode, receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon, aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon, and send the aggregated instruction usage information to the surgical instrument (e.g., directly or via a surgical hub). The remote server may, based on the surgical instrument operation mode, correlate the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and send the correlated information to the surgical instrument (e.g., directly or via a surgical hub). The remote server may, based on the surgical instrument operation mode, determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and send the recommended instrument usage information to the surgical instrument (e.g., directly or via a surgical hub).

[0049] In an example surgical instrument operation mode, a surgical instrument may engage in unidirectional communication during operation (e.g., following initialization, which may support limited bidirectional communication) by sending information (e.g., surgical procedure information, such as staple cartridge type and/or ID, errors, instrument status)

to a surgical hub. The surgical hub may send the received information to a remote server (e.g., a remote processing server and/or a remote database in the cloud).

[0050] In an example surgical instrument operation mode, a surgical instrument may engage in bidirectional communication by sending information to and receiving information from a surgical hub, which may send the received information to a remote server (e.g., a remote processing server and/or a remote database in the cloud). The surgical instrument may receive information (e.g., surgical procedure recommendations) based on the information sent to the surgical hub and/or remote server (e.g., surgical procedure, sensed parameter(s), instrument usage information). The surgical hub and/or remote server may analyze historical information to render recommendations (e.g., force to fire, wait time, display information on one or more displays).

[0051] In an example surgical instrument operation mode, a surgical instrument may engage in bidirectional communication by sending information to and receiving information from a surgical hub. The surgical hub may send the received information to a remote server (e.g., a remote processing server and/or a remote database in the cloud). The surgical instrument may receive information (e.g., surgical procedure recommendations) based on the information sent to the surgical hub and/or remote server (e.g., surgical procedure, sensed parameter(s), instrument usage information), which may analyze historical information to render recommendations (e.g., force to fire, wait time, display information on one or more displays). The surgical instrument may determine, based on a surgical instrument operation mode, whether to send various surgical information to a surgical hub and/or remote server for archiving, subsequent retrieval, data aggregation, analyses and/or recommendations. The archived surgical information may be aggregated with historical information by a particular user (e.g., surgeon) and/or information received from other surgical hub(s), and/or surgical information associated with other medical facilities. The aggregated information may be accessed to generate instructional information for one or more surgical instrument(s). In an example, information aggregated may include information received from smart surgical devices, information associated with multiple surgeries, surgical information and corresponding outcomes associated with multiple patients. The aggregated information may be stored in a remote database. In an example, the surgical information may be aggregated at a remote server. A surgical instrument may determine, for example, based on a surgical instrument operation mode, whether to receive historical data, aggregated data, recommendations based on aggregated historical data, etc.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0052] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer-implemented interactive surgical system.

- [0053] FIG. 2 shows an example surgical system being used to perform a surgical procedure in an operating room.
- [0054] FIG. 3 shows an example surgical hub paired with a visualization system, a robotic system, and an intelligent instrument, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure.
- [0055] FIG. 4 illustrates a surgical data network having a communication hub configured to connect modular devices located in one or more operating theaters of a healthcare facility, or any room in a healthcare facility specially equipped for surgical operations, to the cloud, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure.
- [0056] FIG. 5 illustrates an example computer-implemented interactive surgical system.
- [0057] FIG. 6 illustrates an example surgical hub comprising a plurality of modules coupled to the modular control tower.
- [0058] FIG. 7 shows an example surgical instrument or tool.
- [0059] FIG. 8 illustrates an example surgical instrument or tool having motors that can be activated to perform various functions.
- [0060] FIG. 9 is a diagram of an example situationally aware surgical system.
- [0061] FIG. 10 illustrates an example timeline of an illustrative surgical procedure and the inferences that the surgical hub can make from the data detected at each step in the surgical procedure.
- [0062] FIG. 11 is a block diagram of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system.
- [0063] FIG. 12 illustrates the functional architecture of an example computer-implemented interactive surgical system.
- [0064] FIG. 13 illustrates an example computer-implemented interactive surgical system that is configured to adaptively generate control program updates for modular devices.
- [0065] FIG. 14 illustrates an example surgical system that includes a handle having a controller and a motor, an adapter releasably coupled to the handle, and a loading unit releasably coupled to the adapter.
- [0066] FIG. 15A illustrates an example flow for determining a mode of operation and operating in the determined mode.
- [0067] FIG. 15B illustrates an example flow for changing a mode of operation.
- [0068] FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a powered surgical stapling system.

- [0069] FIG. 17 is a perspective view of an interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of the powered surgical stapling system of FIG. 16.
- [0070] FIG. 18 is an exploded assembly view of portions of a handle assembly of the powered surgical stapling system of FIG. 16.
- [0071] FIG. 19 is an exploded assembly view of the interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of FIG. 17.
- [0072] FIG. 20 is another partial exploded assembly view of a portion of the interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of FIG. 19.
- [0073] FIG. 21 is a perspective view of another powered surgical stapling system.
- [0074] FIG. 22 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode.
- [0075] FIG. 23 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode.
- [0076] FIG. 24 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode.
- [0077] FIG. 25 is a diagram of an illustrative analytics system updating a surgical instrument control program, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure.
- [0078] FIG. 26 is a block diagram of a computer-implemented interactive surgical system, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure.
- [0079] FIG. 27 illustrates an example flow for operating in accordance with surgical instrument operation mode(s).

Detailed Description

- [0080] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications, each of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety:
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,656, entitled “SURGICAL HUB COORDINATION OF CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION OF OPERATING ROOM DEVICES,” filed on March 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201141;
 - U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/361,793, entitled “SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ADAPTIVE CONTROL SYSTEM,” filed March 22, 2019, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20190314015;

- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/803,086, entitled “ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK,” now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541;
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/800,067, entitled “STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM,” filed on March 13, 2013, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263552;
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/024,075, entitled “SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR SMART POWERED SURGICAL STAPLING,” filed on June 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201146;
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/182,246, entitled “ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON AIRBORNE PARTICLE PROPERTIES,” filed on November 6, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0204201;
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,679, entitled “CLOUD-BASED MEDICAL ANALYTICS FOR LINKING OF LOCAL USAGE TRENDS WITH THE RESOURCE ACQUISITION BEHAVIORS OF LARGER DATA SET,” filed on March 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201144;
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,668, entitled “AGGREGATION AND REPORTING OF SURGICAL HUB DATA,” filed on March 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201115; and
- U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/209,416, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20190206562.

[0081]

Referring to FIG. 1, a computer-implemented interactive surgical system 100 may include one or more surgical systems 102 and a cloud-based system (e.g., the cloud 104 that may include a remote server 113 coupled to a storage device 105). Each surgical system 102 may include at least one surgical hub 106 in communication with the cloud 104 that may include a remote server 113. In one example, as illustrated in FIG. 1, the surgical system 102 includes a visualization system 108, a robotic system 110, and a handheld intelligent surgical instrument 112, which are configured to communicate with one another and/or the hub 106. In some aspects, a surgical system 102 may include an M number of hubs 106, an N number of visualization systems 108, an O number of robotic systems 110, and a P number of handheld intelligent surgical instruments 112, where M, N, O, and P may be integers greater than or equal to one.

[0082]

In various aspects, the visualization system 108 may include one or more imaging sensors, one or more image-processing units, one or more storage arrays, and one or more displays

that are strategically arranged with respect to the sterile field, as illustrated in FIG. 2. In one aspect, the visualization system 108 may include an interface for HL7, PACS, and EMR. Various components of the visualization system 108 are described under the heading “Advanced Imaging Acquisition Module” in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0200844 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,385), titled METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING, STORAGE AND DISPLAY, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0083] As illustrated in FIG. 2, a primary display 119 is positioned in the sterile field to be visible to an operator at the operating table 114. In addition, a visualization tower 111 is positioned outside the sterile field. The visualization tower 111 may include a first non-sterile display 107 and a second non-sterile display 109, which face away from each other. The visualization system 108, guided by the hub 106, is configured to utilize the displays 107, 109, and 119 to coordinate information flow to operators inside and outside the sterile field. For example, the hub 106 may cause the visualization system 108 to display a snapshot of a surgical site, as recorded by an imaging device 124, on a non-sterile display 107 or 109, while maintaining a live feed of the surgical site on the primary display 119. The snapshot on the non-sterile display 107 or 109 can permit a non-sterile operator to perform a diagnostic step relevant to the surgical procedure, for example.

[0084] In one aspect, the hub 106 may also be configured to route a diagnostic input or feedback entered by a non-sterile operator at the visualization tower 111 to the primary display 119 within the sterile field, where it can be viewed by a sterile operator at the operating table. In one example, the input can be in the form of a modification to the snapshot displayed on the non-sterile display 107 or 109, which can be routed to the primary display 119 by the hub 106.

[0085] Referring to FIG. 2, a surgical instrument 112 is being used in the surgical procedure as part of the surgical system 102. The hub 106 may also be configured to coordinate information flow to a display of the surgical instrument 112. For example, in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0200844 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,385), titled METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING, STORAGE AND DISPLAY, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. A diagnostic input or feedback entered by a non-sterile operator at the visualization tower 111 can be routed by the hub 106 to the surgical instrument display 115 within the sterile field, where it can be viewed by the operator of the surgical instrument 112. Example surgical instruments that are suitable for use with the surgical system 102 are described under the heading “Surgical Instrument Hardware” and in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0200844 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,385), titled METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING,

STORAGE AND DISPLAY, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety, for example.

[0086] FIG. 2 depicts an example of a surgical system 102 being used to perform a surgical procedure on a patient who is lying down on an operating table 114 in a surgical operating room 116. A robotic system 110 may be used in the surgical procedure as a part of the surgical system 102. The robotic system 110 may include a surgeon's console 118, a patient side cart 120 (surgical robot), and a surgical robotic hub 122. The patient side cart 120 can manipulate at least one removably coupled surgical tool 117 through a minimally invasive incision in the body of the patient while the surgeon views the surgical site through the surgeon's console 118. An image of the surgical site can be obtained by a medical imaging device 124, which can be manipulated by the patient side cart 120 to orient the imaging device 124. The robotic hub 122 can be used to process the images of the surgical site for subsequent display to the surgeon through the surgeon's console 118.

[0087] Other types of robotic systems can be readily adapted for use with the surgical system 102. Various examples of robotic systems and surgical tools that are suitable for use with the present disclosure are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0201137 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,407), titled METHOD OF ROBOTIC HUB COMMUNICATION, DETECTION, AND CONTROL, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0088] Various examples of cloud-based analytics that are performed by the cloud 104, and are suitable for use with the present disclosure, are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0206569 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,403), titled METHOD OF CLOUD BASED DATA ANALYTICS FOR USE WITH THE HUB, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0089] In various aspects, the imaging device 124 may include at least one image sensor and one or more optical components. Suitable image sensors may include, but are not limited to, Charge-Coupled Device (CCD) sensors and Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) sensors.

[0090] The optical components of the imaging device 124 may include one or more illumination sources and/or one or more lenses. The one or more illumination sources may be directed to illuminate portions of the surgical field. The one or more image sensors may receive light reflected or refracted from the surgical field, including light reflected or refracted from tissue and/or surgical instruments.

[0091] The one or more illumination sources may be configured to radiate electromagnetic energy in the visible spectrum as well as the invisible spectrum. The visible spectrum, sometimes referred to as the optical spectrum or luminous spectrum, is that portion of the electromagnetic spectrum that is visible to (i.e., can be detected by) the human eye and may be referred to as visible light or simply light. A typical human eye will respond to wavelengths in air that are from about 380 nm to about 750 nm.

[0092] The invisible spectrum (e.g., the non-luminous spectrum) is that portion of the electromagnetic spectrum that lies below and above the visible spectrum (i.e., wavelengths below about 380 nm and above about 750 nm). The invisible spectrum is not detectable by the human eye. Wavelengths greater than about 750 nm are longer than the red visible spectrum, and they become invisible infrared (IR), microwave, and radio electromagnetic radiation. Wavelengths less than about 380 nm are shorter than the violet spectrum, and they become invisible ultraviolet, x-ray, and gamma ray electromagnetic radiation.

[0093] In various aspects, the imaging device 124 is configured for use in a minimally invasive procedure. Examples of imaging devices suitable for use with the present disclosure include, but not limited to, an arthroscope, angioscope, bronchoscope, choledochoscope, colonoscope, cytoscope, duodenoscope, enteroscope, esophagogastric-duodenoscope (gastroscope), endoscope, laryngoscope, nasopharyngo-neproscope, sigmoidoscope, thoracoscope, and ureterscope.

[0094] The imaging device may employ multi-spectrum monitoring to discriminate topography and underlying structures. A multi-spectral image is one that captures image data within specific wavelength ranges across the electromagnetic spectrum. The wavelengths may be separated by filters or by the use of instruments that are sensitive to particular wavelengths, including light from frequencies beyond the visible light range, e.g., IR and ultraviolet. Spectral imaging can allow extraction of additional information the human eye fails to capture with its receptors for red, green, and blue. The use of multi-spectral imaging is described in greater detail under the heading “Advanced Imaging Acquisition Module” in .S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0200844 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,385), titled METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING, STORAGE AND DISPLAY, filed December 4, 2018, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Multi-spectrum monitoring can be a useful tool in relocating a surgical field after a surgical task is completed to perform one or more of the previously described tests on the treated tissue. It is axiomatic that strict sterilization of the operating room and surgical equipment is required during any surgery. The strict hygiene and sterilization conditions required in a “surgical theater,” i.e., an operating or treatment room, necessitate the highest possible sterility of all medical devices and equipment. Part of that sterilization process is the need to sterilize anything that comes in contact with the

patient or penetrates the sterile field, including the imaging device 124 and its attachments and components. It will be appreciated that the sterile field may be considered a specified area, such as within a tray or on a sterile towel, that is considered free of microorganisms, or the sterile field may be considered an area, immediately around a patient, who has been prepared for a surgical procedure. The sterile field may include the scrubbed team members, who are properly attired, and all furniture and fixtures in the area.

[0095]

Referring now to FIG. 3, a hub 106 is depicted in communication with a visualization system 108, a robotic system 110, and a handheld intelligent surgical instrument 112. The hub 106 includes a hub display 135, an imaging module 138, a generator module 140, a communication module 130, a processor module 132, a storage array 134, and an operating-room mapping module 133. In certain aspects, as illustrated in FIG. 3, the hub 106 further includes a smoke evacuation module 126 and/or a suction/irrigation module 128. During a surgical procedure, energy application to tissue, for sealing and/or cutting, is generally associated with smoke evacuation, suction of excess fluid, and/or irrigation of the tissue. Fluid, power, and/or data lines from different sources are often entangled during the surgical procedure. Valuable time can be lost addressing this issue during a surgical procedure. Detangling the lines may necessitate disconnecting the lines from their respective modules, which may require resetting the modules. The hub modular enclosure 136 offers a unified environment for managing the power, data, and fluid lines, which reduces the frequency of entanglement between such lines. Aspects of the present disclosure present a surgical hub for use in a surgical procedure that involves energy application to tissue at a surgical site. The surgical hub includes a hub enclosure and a combo generator module slidably receivable in a docking station of the hub enclosure. The docking station includes data and power contacts. The combo generator module includes two or more of an ultrasonic energy generator component, a bipolar RF energy generator component, and a monopolar RF energy generator component that are housed in a single unit. In one aspect, the combo generator module also includes a smoke evacuation component, at least one energy delivery cable for connecting the combo generator module to a surgical instrument, at least one smoke evacuation component configured to evacuate smoke, fluid, and/or particulates generated by the application of therapeutic energy to the tissue, and a fluid line extending from the remote surgical site to the smoke evacuation component. In one aspect, the fluid line is a first fluid line and a second fluid line extends from the remote surgical site to a suction and irrigation module slidably received in the hub enclosure. In one aspect, the hub enclosure comprises a fluid interface. Certain surgical procedures may require the application of more than one energy type to the tissue. One energy type may be more beneficial for cutting the tissue, while another different energy type may be more beneficial for sealing the tissue. For example, a bipolar generator can be used to seal the tissue while an ultrasonic generator can be used to cut the sealed tissue.

Aspects of the present disclosure present a solution where a hub modular enclosure 136 is configured to accommodate different generators, and facilitate an interactive communication therebetween. One of the advantages of the hub modular enclosure 136 is enabling the quick removal and/or replacement of various modules. Aspects of the present disclosure present a modular surgical enclosure for use in a surgical procedure that involves energy application to tissue. The modular surgical enclosure includes a first energy-generator module, configured to generate a first energy for application to the tissue, and a first docking station comprising a first docking port that includes first data and power contacts, wherein the first energy-generator module is slidably movable into an electrical engagement with the power and data contacts and wherein the first energy-generator module is slidably movable out of the electrical engagement with the first power and data contacts. Further to the above, the modular surgical enclosure also includes a second energy-generator module configured to generate a second energy, different than the first energy, for application to the tissue, and a second docking station comprising a second docking port that includes second data and power contacts, wherein the second energy-generator module is slidably movable into an electrical engagement with the power and data contacts, and wherein the second energy-generator module is slidably movable out of the electrical engagement with the second power and data contacts. In addition, the modular surgical enclosure also includes a communication bus between the first docking port and the second docking port, configured to facilitate communication between the first energy-generator module and the second energy-generator module. Referring to FIG. 3, aspects of the present disclosure are presented for a hub modular enclosure 136 that allows the modular integration of a generator module 140, a smoke evacuation module 126, and a suction/irrigation module 128. The hub modular enclosure 136 further facilitates interactive communication between the modules 140, 126, 128. The generator module 140 can be a generator module with integrated monopolar, bipolar, and ultrasonic components supported in a single housing unit slidably insertable into the hub modular enclosure 136. The generator module 140 can be configured to connect to a monopolar device 142, a bipolar device 144, and an ultrasonic device 146. Alternatively, the generator module 140 may comprise a series of monopolar, bipolar, and/or ultrasonic generator modules that interact through the hub modular enclosure 136. The hub modular enclosure 136 can be configured to facilitate the insertion of multiple generators and interactive communication between the generators docked into the hub modular enclosure 136 so that the generators would act as a single generator.

[0096]

FIG. 4 illustrates a surgical data network 201 comprising a modular communication hub 203 configured to connect modular devices located in one or more operating theaters of a healthcare facility, or any room in a healthcare facility specially equipped for surgical operations, to a cloud-based system (e.g., the cloud 204 that may include a remote server

213 coupled to a storage device 205). In one aspect, the modular communication hub 203 comprises a network hub 207 and/or a network switch 209 in communication with a network router. The modular communication hub 203 also can be coupled to a local computer system 210 to provide local computer processing and data manipulation. The surgical data network 201 may be configured as passive, intelligent, or switching. A passive surgical data network serves as a conduit for the data, enabling it to go from one device (or segment) to another and to the cloud computing resources. An intelligent surgical data network includes additional features to enable the traffic passing through the surgical data network to be monitored and to configure each port in the network hub 207 or network switch 209. An intelligent surgical data network may be referred to as a manageable hub or switch. A switching hub reads the destination address of each packet and then forwards the packet to the correct port.

[0097] Modular devices 1a-1n located in the operating theater may be coupled to the modular communication hub 203. The network hub 207 and/or the network switch 209 may be coupled to a network router 211 to connect the devices 1a-1n to the cloud 204 or the local computer system 210. Data associated with the devices 1a-1n may be transferred to cloud-based computers via the router for remote data processing and manipulation. Data associated with the devices 1a-1n may also be transferred to the local computer system 210 for local data processing and manipulation. Modular devices 2a-2m located in the same operating theater also may be coupled to a network switch 209. The network switch 209 may be coupled to the network hub 207 and/or the network router 211 to connect to the devices 2a-2m to the cloud 204. Data associated with the devices 2a-2n may be transferred to the cloud 204 via the network router 211 for data processing and manipulation. Data associated with the devices 2a-2m may also be transferred to the local computer system 210 for local data processing and manipulation.

[0098] It will be appreciated that the surgical data network 201 may be expanded by interconnecting multiple network hubs 207 and/or multiple network switches 209 with multiple network routers 211. The modular communication hub 203 may be contained in a modular control tower configured to receive multiple devices 1a-1n/2a-2m. The local computer system 210 also may be contained in a modular control tower. The modular communication hub 203 is connected to a display 212 to display images obtained by some of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m, for example during surgical procedures. In various aspects, the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may include, for example, various modules such as an imaging module 138 coupled to an endoscope, a generator module 140 coupled to an energy-based surgical device, a smoke evacuation module 126, a suction/irrigation module 128, a communication module 130, a processor module 132, a storage array 134, a surgical device coupled to a display, and/or a non-contact sensor module, among other modular devices

that may be connected to the modular communication hub 203 of the surgical data network 201.

[0099]

In one aspect, the surgical data network 201 may comprise a combination of network hub(s), network switch(es), and network router(s) connecting the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m to the cloud. Any one of or all of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m coupled to the network hub or network switch may collect data in real time and transfer the data to cloud computers for data processing and manipulation. It will be appreciated that cloud computing relies on sharing computing resources rather than having local servers or personal devices to handle software applications. The word “cloud” may be used as a metaphor for “the Internet,” although the term is not limited as such. Accordingly, the term “cloud computing” may be used herein to refer to “a type of Internet-based computing,” where different services—such as servers, storage, and applications—are delivered to the modular communication hub 203 and/or computer system 210 located in the surgical theater (e.g., a fixed, mobile, temporary, or field operating room or space) and to devices connected to the modular communication hub 203 and/or computer system 210 through the Internet. The cloud infrastructure may be maintained by a cloud service provider. In this context, the cloud service provider may be the entity that coordinates the usage and control of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m located in one or more operating theaters. The cloud computing services can perform a large number of calculations based on the data gathered by smart surgical instruments, robots, and other computerized devices located in the operating theater. The hub hardware enables multiple devices or connections to be connected to a computer that communicates with the cloud computing resources and storage.

[00100]

Applying cloud computer data processing techniques on the data collected by the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m, the surgical data network can provide improved surgical outcomes, reduced costs, and improved patient satisfaction. At least some of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may be employed to view tissue states to assess leaks or perfusion of sealed tissue after a tissue sealing and cutting procedure. At least some of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may be employed to identify pathology, such as the effects of diseases, using the cloud-based computing to examine data including images of samples of body tissue for diagnostic purposes. This may include localization and margin confirmation of tissue and phenotypes. At least some of the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may be employed to identify anatomical structures of the body using a variety of sensors integrated with imaging devices and techniques such as overlaying images captured by multiple imaging devices. The data gathered by the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m, including image data, may be transferred to the cloud 204 or the local computer system 210 or both for data processing and manipulation including image processing and manipulation. The data may be analyzed to improve surgical procedure outcomes by determining if further treatment, such as the application of endoscopic

intervention, emerging technologies, a targeted radiation, targeted intervention, and precise robotics to tissue-specific sites and conditions, may be pursued. Such data analysis may further employ outcome analytics processing, and using standardized approaches may provide beneficial feedback to either confirm surgical treatments and the behavior of the surgeon or suggest modifications to surgical treatments and the behavior of the surgeon.

[00101] The operating theater devices 1a-1n may be connected to the modular communication hub 203 over a wired channel or a wireless channel depending on the configuration of the devices 1a-1n to a network hub. The network hub 207 may be implemented, in one aspect, as a local network broadcast device that works on the physical layer of the Open System Interconnection (OSI) model. The network hub may provide connectivity to the devices 1a-1n located in the same operating theater network. The network hub 207 may collect data in the form of packets and sends them to the router in half duplex mode. The network hub 207 may not store any media access control/Internet Protocol (MAC/IP) to transfer the device data. Only one of the devices 1a-1n can send data at a time through the network hub 207. The network hub 207 may not have routing tables or intelligence regarding where to send information and broadcasts all network data across each connection and to a remote server 213 (FIG. 4) over the cloud 204. The network hub 207 can detect basic network errors such as collisions, but having all information broadcast to multiple ports can be a security risk and cause bottlenecks.

[00102] The operating theater devices 2a-2m may be connected to a network switch 209 over a wired channel or a wireless channel. The network switch 209 works in the data link layer of the OSI model. The network switch 209 may be a multicast device for connecting the devices 2a-2m located in the same operating theater to the network. The network switch 209 may send data in the form of frames to the network router 211 and works in full duplex mode. Multiple devices 2a-2m can send data at the same time through the network switch 209. The network switch 209 stores and uses MAC addresses of the devices 2a-2m to transfer data.

[00103] The network hub 207 and/or the network switch 209 may be coupled to the network router 211 for connection to the cloud 204. The network router 211 works in the network layer of the OSI model. The network router 211 creates a route for transmitting data packets received from the network hub 207 and/or network switch 211 to cloud-based computer resources for further processing and manipulation of the data collected by any one of or all the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m. The network router 211 may be employed to connect two or more different networks located in different locations, such as, for example, different operating theaters of the same healthcare facility or different networks located in different operating theaters of different healthcare facilities. The network router 211 may send data in the form of packets to the cloud 204 and works in full duplex mode. Multiple

devices can send data at the same time. The network router 211 uses IP addresses to transfer data.

[00104] In an example, the network hub 207 may be implemented as a USB hub, which allows multiple USB devices to be connected to a host computer. The USB hub may expand a single USB port into several tiers so that there are more ports available to connect devices to the host system computer. The network hub 207 may include wired or wireless capabilities to receive information over a wired channel or a wireless channel. In one aspect, a wireless USB short-range, high-bandwidth wireless radio communication protocol may be employed for communication between the devices 1a-1n and devices 2a-2m located in the operating theater.

[00105] In examples, the operating theater devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may communicate to the modular communication hub 203 via Bluetooth wireless technology standard for exchanging data over short distances (using short-wavelength UHF radio waves in the ISM band from 2.4 to 2.485 GHz) from fixed and mobile devices and building personal area networks (PANs). The operating theater devices 1a-1n/2a-2m may communicate to the modular communication hub 203 via a number of wireless or wired communication standards or protocols, including but not limited to Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11 family), WiMAX (IEEE 802.16 family), IEEE 802.20, new radio (NR), long-term evolution (LTE), and Ev-DO, HSPA+, HSDPA+, HSUPA+, EDGE, GSM, GPRS, CDMA, TDMA, DECT, and Ethernet derivatives thereof, as well as any other wireless and wired protocols that are designated as 3G, 4G, 5G, and beyond. The computing module may include a plurality of communication modules. For instance, a first communication module may be dedicated to shorter-range wireless communications such as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, and a second communication module may be dedicated to longer-range wireless communications such as GPS, EDGE, GPRS, CDMA, WiMAX, LTE, Ev-DO, and others.

[00106] The modular communication hub 203 may serve as a central connection for one or all of the operating theater devices 1a-1n/2a-2m and may handle a data type known as frames. Frames may carry the data generated by the devices 1a-1n/2a-2m. When a frame is received by the modular communication hub 203, it is amplified and transmitted to the network router 211, which transfers the data to the cloud computing resources by using a number of wireless or wired communication standards or protocols, as described herein.

[00107] The modular communication hub 203 can be used as a standalone device or be connected to compatible network hubs and network switches to form a larger network. The modular communication hub 203 can be generally easy to install, configure, and maintain, making it a good option for networking the operating theater devices 1a-1n/2a-2m.

[00108] FIG. 5 illustrates a computer-implemented interactive surgical system 200. The computer-implemented interactive surgical system 200 is similar in many respects to the computer-implemented interactive surgical system 100. For example, the computer-implemented interactive surgical system 200 includes one or more surgical systems 202, which are similar in many respects to the surgical systems 102. Each surgical system 202 includes at least one surgical hub 206 in communication with a cloud 204 that may include a remote server 213. In one aspect, the computer-implemented interactive surgical system 200 comprises a modular control tower 236 connected to multiple operating theater devices such as, for example, intelligent surgical instruments, robots, and other computerized devices located in the operating theater. As shown in FIG. 6, the modular control tower 236 comprises a modular communication hub 203 coupled to a computer system 210.

[00109] As illustrated in the example of FIG. 5, the modular control tower 236 may be coupled to an imaging module 238 that may be coupled to an endoscope 239, a generator module 240 that may be coupled to an energy device 241, a smoke evacuator module 226, a suction/irrigation module 228, a communication module 230, a processor module 232, a storage array 234, a smart device/instrument 235 optionally coupled to a display 237, and a non-contact sensor module 242. The operating theater devices may be coupled to cloud computing resources and data storage via the modular control tower 236. A robot hub 222 also may be connected to the modular control tower 236 and to the cloud computing resources. The devices/instruments 235, visualization systems 208, among others, may be coupled to the modular control tower 236 via wired or wireless communication standards or protocols, as described herein. The modular control tower 236 may be coupled to a hub display 215 (e.g., monitor, screen) to display and overlay images received from the imaging module, device/instrument display, and/or other visualization systems 208. The hub display also may display data received from devices connected to the modular control tower in conjunction with images and overlaid images.

[00110] FIG. 6 illustrates a surgical hub 206 comprising a plurality of modules coupled to the modular control tower 236. The modular control tower 236 may comprise a modular communication hub 203, e.g., a network connectivity device, and a computer system 210 to provide local processing, visualization, and imaging, for example. As shown in FIG. 6, the modular communication hub 203 may be connected in a tiered configuration to expand the number of modules (e.g., devices) that may be connected to the modular communication hub 203 and transfer data associated with the modules to the computer system 210, cloud computing resources, or both. As shown in FIG. 6, each of the network hubs/switches in the modular communication hub 203 may include three downstream ports and one upstream port. The upstream network hub/switch may be connected to a processor to provide a communication connection to the cloud computing resources and a local display

217. Communication to the cloud 204 may be made either through a wired or a wireless communication channel.

[00111] The surgical hub 206 may employ a non-contact sensor module 242 to measure the dimensions of the operating theater and generate a map of the surgical theater using either ultrasonic or laser-type non-contact measurement devices. An ultrasound-based non-contact sensor module may scan the operating theater by transmitting a burst of ultrasound and receiving the echo when it bounces off the perimeter walls of an operating theater as described under the heading “Surgical Hub Spatial Awareness Within an Operating Room” in .S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2019-0200844 A1 (U.S. Patent Application No. 16/209,385), titled METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING, STORAGE AND DISPLAY, filed December 4, 2018, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety, in which the sensor module is configured to determine the size of the operating theater and to adjust Bluetooth-pairing distance limits. A laser-based non-contact sensor module may scan the operating theater by transmitting laser light pulses, receiving laser light pulses that bounce off the perimeter walls of the operating theater, and comparing the phase of the transmitted pulse to the received pulse to determine the size of the operating theater and to adjust Bluetooth pairing distance limits, for example.

[00112] The computer system 210 may comprise a processor 244 and a network interface 245. The processor 244 can be coupled to a communication module 247, storage 248, memory 249, non-volatile memory 250, and input/output interface 251 via a system bus. The system bus can be any of several types of bus structure(s) including the memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus or external bus, and/or a local bus using any variety of available bus architectures including, but not limited to, 9-bit bus, Industrial Standard Architecture (ISA), Micro-Charmel Architecture (MSA), Extended ISA (EISA), Intelligent Drive Electronics (IDE), VESA Local Bus (VLB), Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI), USB, Advanced Graphics Port (AGP), Personal Computer Memory Card International Association bus (PCMCIA), Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI), or any other proprietary bus.

[00113] The processor 244 may be any single-core or multicore processor such as those known under the trade name ARM Cortex by Texas Instruments. In one aspect, the processor may be an LM4F230H5QR ARM Cortex-M4F Processor Core, available from Texas Instruments, for example, comprising an on-chip memory of 256 KB single-cycle flash memory, or other non-volatile memory, up to 40 MHz, a prefetch buffer to improve performance above 40 MHz, a 32 KB single-cycle serial random access memory (SRAM), an internal read-only memory (ROM) loaded with StellarisWare® software, a 2 KB electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), and/or one or more

pulse width modulation (PWM) modules, one or more quadrature encoder inputs (QEI) analogs, one or more 12-bit analog-to-digital converters (ADCs) with 12 analog input channels, details of which are available for the product datasheet.

- [00114] In one aspect, the processor 244 may comprise a safety controller comprising two controller-based families such as TMS570 and RM4x, known under the trade name Hercules ARM Cortex R4, also by Texas Instruments. The safety controller may be configured specifically for IEC 61508 and ISO 26262 safety critical applications, among others, to provide advanced integrated safety features while delivering scalable performance, connectivity, and memory options.
- [00115] The system memory may include volatile memory and non-volatile memory. The basic input/output system (BIOS), containing the basic routines to transfer information between elements within the computer system, such as during start-up, is stored in non-volatile memory. For example, the non-volatile memory can include ROM, programmable ROM (PROM), electrically programmable ROM (EPROM), EEPROM, or flash memory. Volatile memory includes random-access memory (RAM), which acts as external cache memory. Moreover, RAM is available in many forms such as SRAM, dynamic RAM (DRAM), synchronous DRAM (SDRAM), double data rate SDRAM (DDR SDRAM), enhanced SDRAM (ESDRAM), Synchlink DRAM (SLDRAM), and direct Rambus RAM (DRRAM).
- [00116] The computer system 210 also may include removable/non-removable, volatile/non-volatile computer storage media, such as for example disk storage. The disk storage can include, but is not limited to, devices like a magnetic disk drive, floppy disk drive, tape drive, Jaz drive, Zip drive, LS-60 drive, flash memory card, or memory stick. In addition, the disk storage can include storage media separately or in combination with other storage media including, but not limited to, an optical disc drive such as a compact disc ROM device (CD-ROM), compact disc recordable drive (CD-R Drive), compact disc rewritable drive (CD-RW Drive), or a digital versatile disc ROM drive (DVD-ROM). To facilitate the connection of the disk storage devices to the system bus, a removable or non-removable interface may be employed.
- [00117] It is to be appreciated that the computer system 210 may include software that acts as an intermediary between users and the basic computer resources described in a suitable operating environment. Such software may include an operating system. The operating system, which can be stored on the disk storage, may act to control and allocate resources of the computer system. System applications may take advantage of the management of resources by the operating system through program modules and program data stored either in the system memory or on the disk storage. It is to be appreciated that various

components described herein can be implemented with various operating systems or combinations of operating systems.

[00118] A user may enter commands or information into the computer system 210 through input device(s) coupled to the I/O interface 251. The input devices may include, but are not limited to, a pointing device such as a mouse, trackball, stylus, touch pad, keyboard, microphone, joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, TV tuner card, digital camera, digital video camera, web camera, and the like. These and other input devices connect to the processor through the system bus via interface port(s). The interface port(s) include, for example, a serial port, a parallel port, a game port, and a USB. The output device(s) use some of the same types of ports as input device(s). Thus, for example, a USB port may be used to provide input to the computer system and to output information from the computer system to an output device. An output adapter may be provided to illustrate that there can be some output devices like monitors, displays, speakers, and printers, among other output devices that may require special adapters. The output adapters may include, by way of illustration and not limitation, video and sound cards that provide a means of connection between the output device and the system bus. It should be noted that other devices and/or systems of devices, such as remote computer(s), may provide both input and output capabilities.

[00119] The computer system 210 can operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as cloud computer(s), or local computers. The remote cloud computer(s) can be a personal computer, server, router, network PC, workstation, microprocessor-based appliance, peer device, or other common network node, and the like, and typically includes many or all of the elements described relative to the computer system. For purposes of brevity, only a memory storage device is illustrated with the remote computer(s). The remote computer(s) may be logically connected to the computer system through a network interface and then physically connected via a communication connection. The network interface may encompass communication networks such as local area networks (LANs) and wide area networks (WANs). LAN technologies may include Fiber Distributed Data Interface (FDDI), Copper Distributed Data Interface (CDDI), Ethernet/IEEE 802.3, Token Ring/IEEE 802.5 and the like. WAN technologies may include, but are not limited to, point-to-point links, circuit-switching networks like Integrated Services Digital Networks (ISDN) and variations thereon, packet-switching networks, and Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL).

[00120] In various aspects, the computer system 210 of FIG. 6, the imaging module 238 and/or visualization system 208, and/or the processor module 232 of FIGS. 5-6, may comprise an image processor, image-processing engine, media processor, or any specialized digital signal processor (DSP) used for the processing of digital images. The image processor may

employ parallel computing with single instruction, multiple data (SIMD) or multiple instruction, multiple data (MIMD) technologies to increase speed and efficiency. The digital image-processing engine can perform a range of tasks. The image processor may be a system on a chip with multicore processor architecture.

[00121] The communication connection(s) may refer to the hardware/software employed to connect the network interface to the bus. While the communication connection is shown for illustrative clarity inside the computer system, it can also be external to the computer system 210. The hardware/software necessary for connection to the network interface may include, for illustrative purposes only, internal and external technologies such as modems, including regular telephone-grade modems, cable modems, and DSL modems, ISDN adapters, and Ethernet cards.

[00122] FIG. 7 illustrates a logic diagram of a control system 470 of a surgical instrument or tool in accordance with one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The system 470 may comprise a control circuit. The control circuit may include a microcontroller 461 comprising a processor 462 and a memory 468. One or more of sensors 472, 474, 476, for example, provide real-time feedback to the processor 462. A motor 482, driven by a motor driver 492, operably couples a longitudinally movable displacement member to drive the I-beam knife element. A tracking system 480 may be configured to determine the position of the longitudinally movable displacement member. The position information may be provided to the processor 462, which can be programmed or configured to determine the position of the longitudinally movable drive member as well as the position of a firing member, firing bar, and I-beam knife element. Additional motors may be provided at the tool driver interface to control I-beam firing, closure tube travel, shaft rotation, and articulation. A display 473 may display a variety of operating conditions of the instruments and may include touch screen functionality for data input. Information displayed on the display 473 may be overlaid with images acquired via endoscopic imaging modules.

[00123] In one aspect, the microcontroller 461 may be any single-core or multicore processor such as those known under the trade name ARM Cortex by Texas Instruments. In one aspect, the main microcontroller 461 may be an LM4F230H5QR ARM Cortex-M4F Processor Core, available from Texas Instruments, for example, comprising an on-chip memory of 256 KB single-cycle flash memory, or other non-volatile memory, up to 40 MHz, a prefetch buffer to improve performance above 40 MHz, a 32 KB single-cycle SRAM, and internal ROM loaded with StellarisWare® software, a 2 KB EEPROM, one or more PWM modules, one or more QEI analogs, and/or one or more 12-bit ADCs with 12 analog input channels, details of which are available for the product datasheet.

- [00124] In one aspect, the microcontroller 461 may comprise a safety controller comprising two controller-based families such as TMS570 and RM4x, known under the trade name Hercules ARM Cortex R4, also by Texas Instruments. The safety controller may be configured specifically for IEC 61508 and ISO 26262 safety critical applications, among others, to provide advanced integrated safety features while delivering scalable performance, connectivity, and memory options.
- [00125] The microcontroller 461 may be programmed to perform various functions such as precise control over the speed and position of the knife and articulation systems. In one aspect, the microcontroller 461 may include a processor 462 and a memory 468. The electric motor 482 may be a brushed direct current (DC) motor with a gearbox and mechanical links to an articulation or knife system. In one aspect, a motor driver 492 may be an A3941 available from Allegro Microsystems, Inc. Other motor drivers may be readily substituted for use in the tracking system 480 comprising an absolute positioning system. A detailed description of an absolute positioning system is described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0296213, titled SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CONTROLLING A SURGICAL STAPLING AND CUTTING INSTRUMENT, which published on October 19, 2017, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.
- [00126] The microcontroller 461 may be programmed to provide precise control over the speed and position of displacement members and articulation systems. The microcontroller 461 may be configured to compute a response in the software of the microcontroller 461. The computed response may be compared to a measured response of the actual system to obtain an “observed” response, which is used for actual feedback decisions. The observed response may be a favorable, tuned value that balances the smooth, continuous nature of the simulated response with the measured response, which can detect outside influences on the system.
- [00127] In some examples, the motor 482 may be controlled by the motor driver 492 and can be employed by the firing system of the surgical instrument or tool. In various forms, the motor 482 may be a brushed DC driving motor having a maximum rotational speed of approximately 25,000 RPM. In some examples, the motor 482 may include a brushless motor, a cordless motor, a synchronous motor, a stepper motor, or any other suitable electric motor. The motor driver 492 may comprise an H-bridge driver comprising field-effect transistors (FETs), for example. The motor 482 can be powered by a power assembly releasably mounted to the handle assembly or tool housing for supplying control power to the surgical instrument or tool. The power assembly may comprise a battery which may include a number of battery cells connected in series that can be used as the power source to power the surgical instrument or tool. In certain circumstances, the battery cells of the power assembly may be replaceable and/or rechargeable. In at least one

example, the battery cells can be lithium-ion batteries which can be couplable to and separable from the power assembly.

[00128] The motor driver 492 may be an A3941 available from Allegro Microsystems, Inc. The A3941 492 may be a full-bridge controller for use with external N-channel power metal-oxide semiconductor field-effect transistors (MOSFETs) specifically designed for inductive loads, such as brush DC motors. The driver 492 may comprise a unique charge pump regulator that can provide full (>10 V) gate drive for battery voltages down to 7 V and can allow the A3941 to operate with a reduced gate drive, down to 5.5 V. A bootstrap capacitor may be employed to provide the above battery supply voltage required for N-channel MOSFETs. An internal charge pump for the high-side drive may allow DC (100% duty cycle) operation. The full bridge can be driven in fast or slow decay modes using diode or synchronous rectification. In the slow decay mode, current recirculation can be through the high-side or the lowside FETs. The power FETs may be protected from shoot-through by resistor-adjustable dead time. Integrated diagnostics provide indications of undervoltage, overtemperature, and power bridge faults and can be configured to protect the power MOSFETs under most short circuit conditions. Other motor drivers may be readily substituted for use in the tracking system 480 comprising an absolute positioning system.

[00129] The tracking system 480 may comprise a controlled motor drive circuit arrangement comprising a position sensor 472 according to one aspect of this disclosure. The position sensor 472 for an absolute positioning system may provide a unique position signal corresponding to the location of a displacement member. In some examples, the displacement member may represent a longitudinally movable drive member comprising a rack of drive teeth for meshing engagement with a corresponding drive gear of a gear reducer assembly. In some examples, the displacement member may represent the firing member, which could be adapted and configured to include a rack of drive teeth. In some examples, the displacement member may represent a firing bar or the I-beam, each of which can be adapted and configured to include a rack of drive teeth. Accordingly, as used herein, the term displacement member can be used generically to refer to any movable member of the surgical instrument or tool such as the drive member, the firing member, the firing bar, the I-beam, or any element that can be displaced. In one aspect, the longitudinally movable drive member can be coupled to the firing member, the firing bar, and the I-beam. Accordingly, the absolute positioning system can, in effect, track the linear displacement of the I-beam by tracking the linear displacement of the longitudinally movable drive member. In various aspects, the displacement member may be coupled to any position sensor 472 suitable for measuring linear displacement. Thus, the longitudinally movable drive member, the firing member, the firing bar, or the I-beam, or combinations thereof, may be coupled to any suitable linear displacement sensor. Linear displacement

sensors may include contact or non-contact displacement sensors. Linear displacement sensors may comprise linear variable differential transformers (LVDT), differential variable reluctance transducers (DVRT), a slide potentiometer, a magnetic sensing system comprising a movable magnet and a series of linearly arranged Hall effect sensors, a magnetic sensing system comprising a fixed magnet and a series of movable, linearly arranged Hall effect sensors, an optical sensing system comprising a movable light source and a series of linearly arranged photo diodes or photo detectors, an optical sensing system comprising a fixed light source and a series of movable linearly, arranged photo diodes or photo detectors, or any combination thereof.

[00130] The electric motor 482 can include a rotatable shaft that operably interfaces with a gear assembly that is mounted in meshing engagement with a set, or rack, of drive teeth on the displacement member. A sensor element may be operably coupled to a gear assembly such that a single revolution of the position sensor 472 element corresponds to some linear longitudinal translation of the displacement member. An arrangement of gearing and sensors can be connected to the linear actuator, via a rack and pinion arrangement, or a rotary actuator, via a spur gear or other connection. A power source may supply power to the absolute positioning system and an output indicator may display the output of the absolute positioning system. The displacement member may represent the longitudinally movable drive member comprising a rack of drive teeth formed thereon for meshing engagement with a corresponding drive gear of the gear reducer assembly. The displacement member may represent the longitudinally movable firing member, firing bar, I-beam, or combinations thereof.

[00131] A single revolution of the sensor element associated with the position sensor 472 may be equivalent to a longitudinal linear displacement d_1 of the of the displacement member, where d_1 is the longitudinal linear distance that the displacement member moves from point “a” to point “b” after a single revolution of the sensor element coupled to the displacement member. The sensor arrangement may be connected via a gear reduction that results in the position sensor 472 completing one or more revolutions for the full stroke of the displacement member. The position sensor 472 may complete multiple revolutions for the full stroke of the displacement member.

[00132] A series of switches, where n is an integer greater than one, may be employed alone or in combination with a gear reduction to provide a unique position signal for more than one revolution of the position sensor 472. The state of the switches may be fed back to the microcontroller 461 that applies logic to determine a unique position signal corresponding to the longitudinal linear displacement $d_1 + d_2 + \dots d_n$ of the displacement member. The output of the position sensor 472 is provided to the microcontroller 461. The position sensor 472 of the sensor arrangement may comprise a magnetic sensor, an analog rotary

sensor like a potentiometer, or an array of analog Hall-effect elements, which output a unique combination of position signals or values.

[00133] The position sensor 472 may comprise any number of magnetic sensing elements, such as, for example, magnetic sensors classified according to whether they measure the total magnetic field or the vector components of the magnetic field. The techniques used to produce both types of magnetic sensors may encompass many aspects of physics and electronics. The technologies used for magnetic field sensing may include search coil, fluxgate, optically pumped, nuclear precession, SQUID, Hall-effect, anisotropic magnetoresistance, giant magnetoresistance, magnetic tunnel junctions, giant magnetoimpedance, magnetostrictive/piezoelectric composites, magnetodiode, magnetotransistor, fiber-optic, magneto-optic, and microelectromechanical systems-based magnetic sensors, among others.

[00134] In one aspect, the position sensor 472 for the tracking system 480 comprising an absolute positioning system may comprise a magnetic rotary absolute positioning system. The position sensor 472 may be implemented as an AS5055EQFT single-chip magnetic rotary position sensor available from Austria Microsystems, AG. The position sensor 472 is interfaced with the microcontroller 461 to provide an absolute positioning system. The position sensor 472 may be a low-voltage and low-power component and includes four Hall-effect elements in an area of the position sensor 472 that may be located above a magnet. A high-resolution ADC and a smart power management controller may also be provided on the chip. A coordinate rotation digital computer (CORDIC) processor, also known as the digit-by-digit method and Volder's algorithm, may be provided to implement a simple and efficient algorithm to calculate hyperbolic and trigonometric functions that require only addition, subtraction, bitshift, and table lookup operations. The angle position, alarm bits, and magnetic field information may be transmitted over a standard serial communication interface, such as a serial peripheral interface (SPI) interface, to the microcontroller 461. The position sensor 472 may provide 12 or 14 bits of resolution. The position sensor 472 may be an AS5055 chip provided in a small QFN 16-pin 4x4x0.85mm package.

[00135] The tracking system 480 comprising an absolute positioning system may comprise and/or be programmed to implement a feedback controller, such as a PID, state feedback, and adaptive controller. A power source converts the signal from the feedback controller into a physical input to the system: in this case the voltage. Other examples include a PWM of the voltage, current, and force. Other sensor(s) may be provided to measure physical parameters of the physical system in addition to the position measured by the position sensor 472. In some aspects, the other sensor(s) can include sensor arrangements such as those described in U.S. Patent No. 9,345,481, titled STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE

THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM, which issued on May 24, 2016, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263552, titled STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM, which published on September 18, 2014, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety; and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/628,175, titled TECHNIQUES FOR ADAPTIVE CONTROL OF MOTOR VELOCITY OF A SURGICAL STAPLING AND CUTTING INSTRUMENT, filed June 20, 2017, which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In a digital signal processing system, an absolute positioning system is coupled to a digital data acquisition system where the output of the absolute positioning system will have a finite resolution and sampling frequency. The absolute positioning system may comprise a compare-and-combine circuit to combine a computed response with a measured response using algorithms, such as a weighted average and a theoretical control loop, that drive the computed response towards the measured response. The computed response of the physical system may take into account properties like mass, inertial, viscous friction, inductance resistance, etc., to predict what the states and outputs of the physical system will be by knowing the input.

[00136] The absolute positioning system may provide an absolute position of the displacement member upon power-up of the instrument, without retracting or advancing the displacement member to a reset (zero or home) position as may be required with conventional rotary encoders that merely count the number of steps forwards or backwards that the motor 482 has taken to infer the position of a device actuator, drive bar, knife, or the like.

[00137] A sensor 474, such as, for example, a strain gauge or a micro-strain gauge, may be configured to measure one or more parameters of the end effector, such as, for example, the amplitude of the strain exerted on the anvil during a clamping operation, which can be indicative of the closure forces applied to the anvil. The measured strain may be converted to a digital signal and provided to the processor 462. Alternatively, or in addition to the sensor 474, a sensor 476, such as, for example, a load sensor, can measure the closure force applied by the closure drive system to the anvil. The sensor 476, such as, for example, a load sensor, can measure the firing force applied to an I-beam in a firing stroke of the surgical instrument or tool. The I-beam is configured to engage a wedge sled, which is configured to upwardly cam staple drivers to force out staples into deforming contact with an anvil. The I-beam also may include a sharpened cutting edge that can be used to sever tissue as the I-beam is advanced distally by the firing bar. Alternatively, a current sensor 478 can be employed to measure the current drawn by the motor 482. The force required to advance the firing member can correspond to the current drawn by the motor 482, for

example. The measured force may be converted to a digital signal and provided to the processor 462.

[00138] In one form, the strain gauge sensor 474 can be used to measure the force applied to the tissue by the end effector. A strain gauge can be coupled to the end effector to measure the force on the tissue being treated by the end effector. A system for measuring forces applied to the tissue grasped by the end effector may comprise a strain gauge sensor 474, such as, for example, a micro-strain gauge, that can be configured to measure one or more parameters of the end effector, for example. In one aspect, the strain gauge sensor 474 can measure the amplitude or magnitude of the strain exerted on a jaw member of an end effector during a clamping operation, which can be indicative of the tissue compression. The measured strain can be converted to a digital signal and provided to a processor 462 of the microcontroller 461. A load sensor 476 can measure the force used to operate the knife element, for example, to cut the tissue captured between the anvil and the staple cartridge. A magnetic field sensor can be employed to measure the thickness of the captured tissue. The measurement of the magnetic field sensor also may be converted to a digital signal and provided to the processor 462.

[00139] The measurements of the tissue compression, the tissue thickness, and/or the force required to close the end effector on the tissue, as respectively measured by the sensors 474, 476, can be used by the microcontroller 461 to characterize the selected position of the firing member and/or the corresponding value of the speed of the firing member. In one instance, a memory 468 may store a technique, an equation, and/or a lookup table which can be employed by the microcontroller 461 in the assessment.

[00140] The control system 470 of the surgical instrument or tool also may comprise wired or wireless communication circuits to communicate with the modular communication hub 203 as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6.

[00141] FIG. 8 illustrates a surgical instrument or tool comprising a plurality of motors which can be activated to perform various functions. In certain instances, a first motor can be activated to perform a first function, a second motor can be activated to perform a second function, a third motor can be activated to perform a third function, a fourth motor can be activated to perform a fourth function, and so on. In certain instances, the plurality of motors of robotic surgical instrument 600 can be individually activated to cause firing, closure, and/or articulation motions in the end effector. The firing, closure, and/or articulation motions can be transmitted to the end effector through a shaft assembly, for example.

[00142] In certain instances, the surgical instrument system or tool may include a firing motor 602. The firing motor 602 may be operably coupled to a firing motor drive assembly 604 which

can be configured to transmit firing motions, generated by the motor 602 to the end effector, in particular to displace the I-beam element. In certain instances, the firing motions generated by the motor 602 may cause the staples to be deployed from the staple cartridge into tissue captured by the end effector and/or the cutting edge of the I-beam element to be advanced to cut the captured tissue, for example. The I-beam element may be retracted by reversing the direction of the motor 602.

[00143] In certain instances, the surgical instrument or tool may include a closure motor 603. The closure motor 603 may be operably coupled to a closure motor drive assembly 605 which can be configured to transmit closure motions, generated by the motor 603 to the end effector, in particular to displace a closure tube to close the anvil and compress tissue between the anvil and the staple cartridge. The closure motions may cause the end effector to transition from an open configuration to an approximated configuration to capture tissue, for example. The end effector may be transitioned to an open position by reversing the direction of the motor 603.

[00144] In certain instances, the surgical instrument or tool may include one or more articulation motors 606a, 606b, for example. The motors 606a, 606b may be operably coupled to respective articulation motor drive assemblies 608a, 608b, which can be configured to transmit articulation motions generated by the motors 606a, 606b to the end effector. In certain instances, the articulation motions may cause the end effector to articulate relative to the shaft, for example.

[00145] As described herein, the surgical instrument or tool may include a plurality of motors which may be configured to perform various independent functions. In certain instances, the plurality of motors of the surgical instrument or tool can be individually or separately activated to perform one or more functions while the other motors remain inactive. For example, the articulation motors 606a, 606b can be activated to cause the end effector to be articulated while the firing motor 602 remains inactive. Alternatively, the firing motor 602 can be activated to fire the plurality of staples, and/or to advance the cutting edge, while the articulation motor 606 remains inactive. Furthermore, the closure motor 603 may be activated simultaneously with the firing motor 602 to cause the closure tube and the I-beam element to advance distally as described in more detail hereinbelow.

[00146] In certain instances, the surgical instrument or tool may include a common control module 610 which can be employed with a plurality of motors of the surgical instrument or tool. In certain instances, the common control module 610 may accommodate one of the plurality of motors at a time. For example, the common control module 610 can be couplable to and separable from the plurality of motors of the robotic surgical instrument individually. In certain instances, a plurality of the motors of the surgical instrument or

tool may share one or more common control modules such as the common control module 610. In certain instances, a plurality of motors of the surgical instrument or tool can be individually and selectively engaged with the common control module 610. In certain instances, the common control module 610 can be selectively switched from interfacing with one of a plurality of motors of the surgical instrument or tool to interfacing with another one of the plurality of motors of the surgical instrument or tool.

[00147] In at least one example, the common control module 610 can be selectively switched between operable engagement with the articulation motors 606a, 606b and operable engagement with either the firing motor 602 or the closure motor 603. In at least one example, as illustrated in FIG. 8, a switch 614 can be moved or transitioned between a plurality of positions and/or states. In a first position 616, the switch 614 may electrically couple the common control module 610 to the firing motor 602; in a second position 617, the switch 614 may electrically couple the common control module 610 to the closure motor 603; in a third position 618a, the switch 614 may electrically couple the common control module 610 to the first articulation motor 606a; and in a fourth position 618b, the switch 614 may electrically couple the common control module 610 to the second articulation motor 606b, for example. In certain instances, separate common control modules 610 can be electrically coupled to the firing motor 602, the closure motor 603, and the articulations motor 606a, 606b at the same time. In certain instances, the switch 614 may be a mechanical switch, an electromechanical switch, a solid-state switch, or any suitable switching mechanism.

[00148] Each of the motors 602, 603, 606a, 606b may comprise a torque sensor to measure the output torque on the shaft of the motor. The force on an end effector may be sensed in any conventional manner, such as by force sensors on the outer sides of the jaws or by a torque sensor for the motor actuating the jaws.

[00149] In various instances, as illustrated in FIG. 8, the common control module 610 may comprise a motor driver 626 which may comprise one or more H-Bridge FETs. The motor driver 626 may modulate the power transmitted from a power source 628 to a motor coupled to the common control module 610 based on input from a microcontroller 620 (the “controller”), for example. In certain instances, the microcontroller 620 can be employed to determine the current drawn by the motor, for example, while the motor is coupled to the common control module 610, as described herein.

[00150] In certain instances, the microcontroller 620 may include a microprocessor 622 (the “processor”) and one or more non-transitory computer-readable mediums or memory units 624 (the “memory”). In certain instances, the memory 624 may store various program instructions, which when executed may cause the processor 622 to perform a

plurality of functions and/or calculations described herein. In certain instances, one or more of the memory units 624 may be coupled to the processor 622, for example.

[00151] In certain instances, the power source 628 can be employed to supply power to the microcontroller 620, for example. In certain instances, the power source 628 may comprise a battery (or “battery pack” or “power pack”), such as a lithium-ion battery, for example. In certain instances, the battery pack may be configured to be releasably mounted to a handle for supplying power to the surgical instrument 600. A number of battery cells connected in series may be used as the power source 628. In certain instances, the power source 628 may be replaceable and/or rechargeable, for example.

[00152] In various instances, the processor 622 may control the motor driver 626 to control the position, direction of rotation, and/or velocity of a motor that is coupled to the common control module 610. In certain instances, the processor 622 can signal the motor driver 626 to stop and/or disable a motor that is coupled to the common control module 610. It should be understood that the term “processor” as used herein includes any suitable microprocessor, microcontroller, or other basic computing device that incorporates the functions of a computer’s central processing unit (CPU) on an integrated circuit or, at most, a few integrated circuits. The processor can be a multipurpose, programmable device that accepts digital data as input, processes it according to instructions stored in its memory, and provides results as output. It can be an example of sequential digital logic, as it may have internal memory. Processors may operate on numbers and symbols represented in the binary numeral system.

[00153] The processor 622 may be any single-core or multicore processor such as those known under the trade name ARM Cortex by Texas Instruments. In certain instances, the microcontroller 620 may be an LM 4F230H5QR, available from Texas Instruments, for example. In at least one example, the Texas Instruments LM4F230H5QR is an ARM Cortex-M4F Processor Core comprising an on-chip memory of 256 KB single-cycle flash memory, or other non-volatile memory, up to 40 MHz, a prefetch buffer to improve performance above 40 MHz, a 32 KB single-cycle SRAM, an internal ROM loaded with StellarisWare® software, a 2 KB EEPROM, one or more PWM modules, one or more QEI analogs, one or more 12-bit ADCs with 12 analog input channels, among other features that are readily available for the product datasheet. Other microcontrollers may be readily substituted for use with the module 4410. Accordingly, the present disclosure should not be limited in this context.

[00154] The memory 624 may include program instructions for controlling each of the motors of the surgical instrument 600 that are couplable to the common control module 610. For example, the memory 624 may include program instructions for controlling the firing

motor 602, the closure motor 603, and the articulation motors 606a, 606b. Such program instructions may cause the processor 622 to control the firing, closure, and articulation functions in accordance with inputs from algorithms or control programs of the surgical instrument or tool.

[00155] One or more mechanisms and/or sensors such as, for example, sensors 630 can be employed to alert the processor 622 to the program instructions that should be used in a particular setting. For example, the sensors 630 may alert the processor 622 to use the program instructions associated with firing, closing, and articulating the end effector. In certain instances, the sensors 630 may comprise position sensors which can be employed to sense the position of the switch 614, for example. Accordingly, the processor 622 may use the program instructions associated with firing the I-beam of the end effector upon detecting, through the sensors 630 for example, that the switch 614 is in the first position 616; the processor 622 may use the program instructions associated with closing the anvil upon detecting, through the sensors 630 for example, that the switch 614 is in the second position 617; and the processor 622 may use the program instructions associated with articulating the end effector upon detecting, through the sensors 630 for example, that the switch 614 is in the third or fourth position 618a, 618b.

[00156] FIG. 9 illustrates a diagram of a situationally aware surgical system 5100, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure. In some exemplifications, the data sources 5126 may include, for example, the modular devices 5102 (which can include sensors configured to detect parameters associated with the patient and/or the modular device itself), databases 5122 (e.g., an EMR database containing patient records), and patient monitoring devices 5124 (e.g., a blood pressure (BP) monitor and an electrocardiography (EKG) monitor). The surgical hub 5104 can be configured to derive the contextual information pertaining to the surgical procedure from the data based upon, for example, the particular combination(s) of received data or the particular order in which the data is received from the data sources 5126. The contextual information inferred from the received data can include, for example, the type of surgical procedure being performed, the particular step of the surgical procedure that the surgeon is performing, the type of tissue being operated on, or the body cavity that is the subject of the procedure. This ability by some aspects of the surgical hub 5104 to derive or infer information related to the surgical procedure from received data can be referred to as “situational awareness.” In an exemplification, the surgical hub 5104 can incorporate a situational awareness system, which is the hardware and/or programming associated with the surgical hub 5104 that derives contextual information pertaining to the surgical procedure from the received data.

[00157] The situational awareness system of the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to derive the contextual information from the data received from the data sources 5126 in a variety of

different ways. In an exemplification, the situational awareness system can include a pattern recognition system, or machine learning system (e.g., an artificial neural network), that has been trained on training data to correlate various inputs (e.g., data from databases 5122, patient monitoring devices 5124, and/or modular devices 5102) to corresponding contextual information regarding a surgical procedure. In other words, a machine learning system can be trained to accurately derive contextual information regarding a surgical procedure from the provided inputs. In examples, the situational awareness system can include a lookup table storing pre-characterized contextual information regarding a surgical procedure in association with one or more inputs (or ranges of inputs) corresponding to the contextual information. In response to a query with one or more inputs, the lookup table can return the corresponding contextual information for the situational awareness system for controlling the modular devices 5102. In examples, the contextual information received by the situational awareness system of the surgical hub 5104 can be associated with a particular control adjustment or set of control adjustments for one or more modular devices 5102. In examples, the situational awareness system can include a further machine learning system, lookup table, or other such system, which generates or retrieves one or more control adjustments for one or more modular devices 5102 when provided the contextual information as input.

[00158] A surgical hub 5104 incorporating a situational awareness system can provide a number of benefits for the surgical system 5100. One benefit may include improving the interpretation of sensed and collected data, which would in turn improve the processing accuracy and/or the usage of the data during the course of a surgical procedure. To return to a previous example, a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine what type of tissue was being operated on; therefore, when an unexpectedly high force to close the surgical instrument's end effector is detected, the situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could correctly ramp up or ramp down the motor of the surgical instrument for the type of tissue.

[00159] The type of tissue being operated can affect the adjustments that are made to the compression rate and load thresholds of a surgical stapling and cutting instrument for a particular tissue gap measurement. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could infer whether a surgical procedure being performed is a thoracic or an abdominal procedure, allowing the surgical hub 5104 to determine whether the tissue clamped by an end effector of the surgical stapling and cutting instrument is lung (for a thoracic procedure) or stomach (for an abdominal procedure) tissue. The surgical hub 5104 could then adjust the compression rate and load thresholds of the surgical stapling and cutting instrument appropriately for the type of tissue.

- [00160] The type of body cavity being operated in during an insufflation procedure can affect the function of a smoke evacuator. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine whether the surgical site is under pressure (by determining that the surgical procedure is utilizing insufflation) and determine the procedure type. As a procedure type can be generally performed in a specific body cavity, the surgical hub 5104 could then control the motor rate of the smoke evacuator appropriately for the body cavity being operated in. Thus, a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could provide a consistent amount of smoke evacuation for both thoracic and abdominal procedures.
- [00161] The type of procedure being performed can affect the optimal energy level for an ultrasonic surgical instrument or radio frequency (RF) electrosurgical instrument to operate at. Arthroscopic procedures, for example, may require higher energy levels because the end effector of the ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument is immersed in fluid. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine whether the surgical procedure is an arthroscopic procedure. The surgical hub 5104 could then adjust the RF power level or the ultrasonic amplitude of the generator (i.e., “energy level”) to compensate for the fluid filled environment. Relatedly, the type of tissue being operated on can affect the optimal energy level for an ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument to operate at. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine what type of surgical procedure is being performed and then customize the energy level for the ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument, respectively, according to the expected tissue profile for the surgical procedure. Furthermore, a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 can be configured to adjust the energy level for the ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument throughout the course of a surgical procedure, rather than just on a procedure-by-procedure basis. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine what step of the surgical procedure is being performed or will subsequently be performed and then update the control algorithms for the generator and/or ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument to set the energy level at a value appropriate for the expected tissue type according to the surgical procedure step.
- [00162] In examples, data can be drawn from additional data sources 5126 to improve the conclusions that the surgical hub 5104 draws from one data source 5126. A situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could augment data that it receives from the modular devices 5102 with contextual information that it has built up regarding the surgical procedure from other data sources 5126. For example, a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 can be configured to determine whether hemostasis has occurred (i.e., whether bleeding at a surgical site has stopped) according to video or image data received from a medical imaging device. However, in some cases the video or image data can be inconclusive. Therefore, in

an exemplification, the surgical hub 5104 can be further configured to compare a physiologic measurement (e.g., blood pressure sensed by a BP monitor communicably connected to the surgical hub 5104) with the visual or image data of hemostasis (e.g., from a medical imaging device 124 (FIG. 2) communicably coupled to the surgical hub 5104) to make a determination on the integrity of the staple line or tissue weld. In other words, the situational awareness system of the surgical hub 5104 can consider the physiological measurement data to provide additional context in analyzing the visualization data. The additional context can be useful when the visualization data may be inconclusive or incomplete on its own.

[00163] For example, a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could proactively activate the generator to which an RF electrosurgical instrument is connected if it determines that a subsequent step of the procedure requires the use of the instrument. Proactively activating the energy source can allow the instrument to be ready for use as soon as the preceding step of the procedure is completed.

[00164] The situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine whether the current or subsequent step of the surgical procedure requires a different view or degree of magnification on the display according to the feature(s) at the surgical site that the surgeon is expected to need to view. The surgical hub 5104 could then proactively change the displayed view (supplied by, e.g., a medical imaging device for the visualization system 108) accordingly so that the display automatically adjusts throughout the surgical procedure.

[00165] The situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine which step of the surgical procedure is being performed or will subsequently be performed and whether particular data or comparisons between data will be required for that step of the surgical procedure. The surgical hub 5104 can be configured to automatically call up data screens based upon the step of the surgical procedure being performed, without waiting for the surgeon to ask for the particular information.

[00166] Errors may be checked during the setup of the surgical procedure or during the course of the surgical procedure. For example, the situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine whether the operating theater is setup properly or optimally for the surgical procedure to be performed. The surgical hub 5104 can be configured to determine the type of surgical procedure being performed, retrieve the corresponding checklists, product location, or setup needs (e.g., from a memory), and then compare the current operating theater layout to the standard layout for the type of surgical procedure that the surgical hub 5104 determines is being performed. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to compare the list of items for the procedure and/or a list of devices paired with the surgical hub 5104 to a recommended or anticipated manifest of items

and/or devices for the given surgical procedure. If there are any discontinuities between the lists, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to provide an alert indicating that a particular modular device 5102, patient monitoring device 5124, and/or other surgical item is missing. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to determine the relative distance or position of the modular devices 5102 and patient monitoring devices 5124 via proximity sensors, for example. The surgical hub 5104 can compare the relative positions of the devices to a recommended or anticipated layout for the particular surgical procedure. If there are any discontinuities between the layouts, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to provide an alert indicating that the current layout for the surgical procedure deviates from the recommended layout.

[00167] The situationally aware surgical hub 5104 could determine whether the surgeon (or other medical personnel) was making an error or otherwise deviating from the expected course of action during the course of a surgical procedure. For example, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to determine the type of surgical procedure being performed, retrieve the corresponding list of steps or order of equipment usage (e.g., from a memory), and then compare the steps being performed or the equipment being used during the course of the surgical procedure to the expected steps or equipment for the type of surgical procedure that the surgical hub 5104 determined is being performed. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 5104 can be configured to provide an alert indicating that an unexpected action is being performed or an unexpected device is being utilized at the particular step in the surgical procedure.

[00168] The surgical instruments (and other modular devices 5102) may be adjusted for the particular context of each surgical procedure (such as adjusting to different tissue types) and validating actions during a surgical procedure. Next steps, data, and display adjustments may be provided to surgical instruments (and other modular devices 5102) in the surgical theater according to the specific context of the procedure.

[00169] FIG.10 illustrates a timeline 5200 of an illustrative surgical procedure and the contextual information that a surgical hub 5104 can derive from the data received from the data sources 5126 at each step in the surgical procedure. In the following description of the timeline 5200 illustrated in FIG.9, reference should also be made to FIG. 9. The timeline 5200 may depict the typical steps that would be taken by the nurses, surgeons, and other medical personnel during the course of a lung segmentectomy procedure, beginning with setting up the operating theater and ending with transferring the patient to a post-operative recovery room. The situationally aware surgical hub 5104 may receive data from the data sources 5126 throughout the course of the surgical procedure, including data generated each time medical personnel utilize a modular device 5102 that is paired with the surgical hub 5104. The surgical hub 5104 can receive this data from the paired modular devices

5102 and other data sources 5126 and continually derive inferences (i.e., contextual information) about the ongoing procedure as new data is received, such as which step of the procedure is being performed at any given time. The situational awareness system of the surgical hub 5104 can be able to, for example, record data pertaining to the procedure for generating reports, verify the steps being taken by the medical personnel, provide data or prompts (e.g., via a display screen) that may be pertinent for the particular procedural step, adjust modular devices 5102 based on the context (e.g., activate monitors, adjust the FOV of the medical imaging device, or change the energy level of an ultrasonic surgical instrument or RF electrosurgical instrument), and take any other such action described herein.

[00170] As the first step 5202 in this illustrative procedure, the hospital staff members may retrieve the patient's EMR from the hospital's EMR database. Based on select patient data in the EMR, the surgical hub 5104 determines that the procedure to be performed is a thoracic procedure. Second 5204, the staff members may scan the incoming medical supplies for the procedure. The surgical hub 5104 cross-references the scanned supplies with a list of supplies that can be utilized in various types of procedures and confirms that the mix of supplies corresponds to a thoracic procedure. Further, the surgical hub 5104 may also be able to determine that the procedure is not a wedge procedure (because the incoming supplies either lack certain supplies that are necessary for a thoracic wedge procedure or do not otherwise correspond to a thoracic wedge procedure). Third 5206, the medical personnel may scan the patient band via a scanner 5128 that is communicably connected to the surgical hub 5104. The surgical hub 5104 can then confirm the patient's identity based on the scanned data. Fourth 5208, the medical staff turns on the auxiliary equipment. The auxiliary equipment being utilized can vary according to the type of surgical procedure and the techniques to be used by the surgeon, but in this illustrative case they include a smoke evacuator, insufflator, and medical imaging device. When activated, the auxiliary equipment that are modular devices 5102 can automatically pair with the surgical hub 5104 that may be located within a particular vicinity of the modular devices 5102 as part of their initialization process. The surgical hub 5104 can then derive contextual information about the surgical procedure by detecting the types of modular devices 5102 that pair with it during this pre-operative or initialization phase. In this particular example, the surgical hub 5104 may determine that the surgical procedure is a VATS procedure based on this particular combination of paired modular devices 5102. Based on the combination of the data from the patient's EMR, the list of medical supplies to be used in the procedure, and the type of modular devices 5102 that connect to the hub, the surgical hub 5104 can generally infer the specific procedure that the surgical team will be performing. Once the surgical hub 5104 knows what specific procedure is being performed, the surgical hub 5104 can then retrieve the steps of that procedure from a memory or from the cloud and

then cross-reference the data it subsequently receives from the connected data sources 5126 (e.g., modular devices 5102 and patient monitoring devices 5124) to infer what step of the surgical procedure the surgical team is performing. Fifth 5210, the staff members attach the EKG electrodes and other patient monitoring devices 5124 to the patient. The EKG electrodes and other patient monitoring devices 5124 may pair with the surgical hub 5104. As the surgical hub 5104 begins receiving data from the patient monitoring devices 5124, the surgical hub 5104 may confirm that the patient is in the operating theater, as described in the process 5207, for example. Sixth 5212, the medical personnel may induce anesthesia in the patient. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the patient is under anesthesia based on data from the modular devices 5102 and/or patient monitoring devices 5124, including EKG data, blood pressure data, ventilator data, or combinations thereof. for example. Upon completion of the sixth step 5212, the pre-operative portion of the lung segmentectomy procedure is completed and the operative portion begins.

[00171]

Seventh 5214, the patient's lung that is being operated on may be collapsed (while ventilation is switched to the contralateral lung). The surgical hub 5104 can infer from the ventilator data that the patient's lung has been collapsed, for example. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the operative portion of the procedure has commenced as it can compare the detection of the patient's lung collapsing to the expected steps of the procedure (which can be accessed or retrieved previously) and thereby determine that collapsing the lung can be the first operative step in this particular procedure. Eighth 5216, the medical imaging device 5108 (e.g., a scope) may be inserted and video from the medical imaging device may be initiated. The surgical hub 5104 may receive the medical imaging device data (i.e., video or image data) through its connection to the medical imaging device. Upon receipt of the medical imaging device data, the surgical hub 5104 can determine that the laparoscopic portion of the surgical procedure has commenced. Further, the surgical hub 5104 can determine that the particular procedure being performed is a segmentectomy, as opposed to a lobectomy (note that a wedge procedure has already been discounted by the surgical hub 5104 based on data received at the second step 5204 of the procedure). The data from the medical imaging device 124 (FIG. 2) can be utilized to determine contextual information regarding the type of procedure being performed in a number of different ways, including by determining the angle at which the medical imaging device is oriented with respect to the visualization of the patient's anatomy, monitoring the number or medical imaging devices being utilized (i.e., that are activated and paired with the surgical hub 5104), and monitoring the types of visualization devices utilized. For example, one technique for performing a VATS lobectomy may place the camera in the lower anterior corner of the patient's chest cavity above the diaphragm, whereas one technique for performing a VATS segmentectomy places the camera in an anterior intercostal position relative to the segmental fissure. Using pattern recognition or machine

learning techniques, for example, the situational awareness system can be trained to recognize the positioning of the medical imaging device according to the visualization of the patient's anatomy. An example technique for performing a VATS lobectomy may utilize a single medical imaging device. An example technique for performing a VATS segmentectomy utilizes multiple cameras. An example technique for performing a VATS segmentectomy utilizes an infrared light source (which can be communicably coupled to the surgical hub as part of the visualization system) to visualize the segmental fissure, which is not utilized in a VATS lobectomy. By tracking any or all of this data from the medical imaging device 5108, the surgical hub 5104 can thereby determine the specific type of surgical procedure being performed and/or the technique being used for a particular type of surgical procedure.

[00172] Ninth 5218, the surgical team may begin the dissection step of the procedure. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the surgeon is in the process of dissecting to mobilize the patient's lung because it receives data from the RF or ultrasonic generator indicating that an energy instrument is being fired. The surgical hub 5104 can cross-reference the received data with the retrieved steps of the surgical procedure to determine that an energy instrument being fired at this point in the process (i.e., after the completion of the previously discussed steps of the procedure) corresponds to the dissection step. Tenth 5220, the surgical team may proceed to the ligation step of the procedure. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the surgeon is ligating arteries and veins because it may receive data from the surgical stapling and cutting instrument indicating that the instrument is being fired. Similar to the prior step, the surgical hub 5104 can derive this inference by cross-referencing the receipt of data from the surgical stapling and cutting instrument with the retrieved steps in the process. Eleventh 5222, the segmentectomy portion of the procedure can be performed. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the surgeon is transecting the parenchyma based on data from the surgical stapling and cutting instrument, including data from its cartridge. The cartridge data can correspond to the size or type of staple being fired by the instrument, for example. As different types of staples are utilized for different types of tissues, the cartridge data can thus indicate the type of tissue being stapled and/or transected. In this case, the type of staple being fired is utilized for parenchyma (or other similar tissue types), which allows the surgical hub 5104 to infer that the segmentectomy portion of the procedure is being performed. Twelfth 5224, the node dissection step is then performed. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the surgical team is dissecting the node and performing a leak test based on data received from the generator indicating that an RF or ultrasonic instrument is being fired. For this particular procedure, an RF or ultrasonic instrument being utilized after parenchyma was transected corresponds to the node dissection step, which allows the surgical hub 5104 to make this inference. It should be noted that surgeons regularly switch back and forth between surgical stapling/cutting

instruments and surgical energy (e.g., RF or ultrasonic) instruments depending upon the particular step in the procedure because different instruments are better adapted for particular tasks. Therefore, the particular sequence in which the stapling/cutting instruments and surgical energy instruments are used can indicate what step of the procedure the surgeon is performing. Upon completion of the twelfth step 5224, the incisions are closed up and the post-operative portion of the procedure may begin.

[00173] Thirteenth 5226, the patient's anesthesia can be reversed. The surgical hub 5104 can infer that the patient is emerging from the anesthesia based on the ventilator data (i.e., the patient's breathing rate begins increasing), for example. Lastly, the fourteenth step 5228 may be that the medical personnel remove the various patient monitoring devices 5124 from the patient. The surgical hub 5104 can thus infer that the patient is being transferred to a recovery room when the hub loses EKG, BP, and other data from the patient monitoring devices 5124. As can be seen from the description of this illustrative procedure, the surgical hub 5104 can determine or infer when each step of a given surgical procedure is taking place according to data received from the various data sources 5126 that are communicably coupled to the surgical hub 5104.

[00174] In addition to utilizing the patient data from EMR database(s) to infer the type of surgical procedure that is to be performed, as illustrated in the first step 5202 of the timeline 5200 depicted in FIG. 10, the patient data can also be utilized by a situationally aware surgical hub 5104 to generate control adjustments for the paired modular devices 5102.

[00175] FIG. 11 is a block diagram of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure. In one aspect, the computer-implemented interactive surgical system may be configured to monitor and analyze data related to the operation of various surgical systems that include surgical hubs, surgical instruments, robotic devices and operating theaters or healthcare facilities. The computer-implemented interactive surgical system may comprise a cloud-based analytics system. Although the cloud-based analytics system may be described as a surgical system, it may not be necessarily limited as such and could be a cloud-based medical system generally. As illustrated in FIG. 11, the cloud-based analytics system may comprise a plurality of surgical instruments 7012 (may be the same or similar to instruments 112), a plurality of surgical hubs 7006 (may be the same or similar to hubs 106), and a surgical data network 7001 (may be the same or similar to network 201) to couple the surgical hubs 7006 to the cloud 7004 (may be the same or similar to cloud 204). Each of the plurality of surgical hubs 7006 may be communicatively coupled to one or more surgical instruments 7012. The hubs 7006 may also be communicatively coupled to the cloud 7004 of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system via the network 7001. The cloud 7004 may be a remote centralized source of hardware and software for storing, manipulating, and communicating

data generated based on the operation of various surgical systems. As shown in FIG. 11, access to the cloud 7004 may be achieved via the network 7001, which may be the Internet or some other suitable computer network. Surgical hubs 7006 that may be coupled to the cloud 7004 can be considered the client side of the cloud computing system (i.e., cloud-based analytics system). Surgical instruments 7012 may be paired with the surgical hubs 7006 for control and implementation of various surgical procedures or operations as described herein.

[00176] In addition, surgical instruments 7012 may comprise transceivers for data transmission to and from their corresponding surgical hubs 7006 (which may also comprise transceivers). Combinations of surgical instruments 7012 and corresponding hubs 7006 may indicate particular locations, such as operating theaters in healthcare facilities (e.g., hospitals), for providing medical operations. For example, the memory of a surgical hub 7006 may store location data. As shown in FIG. 11, the cloud 7004 comprises central servers 7013 (may be same or similar to remote server 7013), hub application servers 7002, data analytics modules 7034, and an input/output (“I/O”) interface 7006. The central servers 7013 of the cloud 7004 collectively administer the cloud computing system, which includes monitoring requests by client surgical hubs 7006 and managing the processing capacity of the cloud 7004 for executing the requests. Each of the central servers 7013 may comprise one or more processors 7008 coupled to suitable memory devices 7010 which can include volatile memory such as random-access memory (RAM) and non-volatile memory such as magnetic storage devices. The memory devices 7010 may comprise machine executable instructions that when executed cause the processors 7008 to execute the data analytics modules 7034 for the cloud-based data analysis, operations, recommendations and other operations described below. Moreover, the processors 7008 can execute the data analytics modules 7034 independently or in conjunction with hub applications independently executed by the hubs 7006. The central servers 7013 also may comprise aggregated medical data databases 2212, which can reside in the memory 2210.

[00177] Based on connections to various surgical hubs 7006 via the network 7001, the cloud 7004 can aggregate data from specific data generated by various surgical instruments 7012 and their corresponding hubs 7006. Such aggregated data may be stored within the aggregated medical databases 7012 of the cloud 7004. In particular, the cloud 7004 may advantageously perform data analysis and operations on the aggregated data to yield insights and/or perform functions that individual hubs 7006 could not achieve on their own. To this end, as shown in FIG. 11, the cloud 7004 and the surgical hubs 7006 are communicatively coupled to transmit and receive information. The I/O interface 7006 is connected to the plurality of surgical hubs 7006 via the network 7001. In this way, the I/O interface 7006 can be configured to transfer information between the surgical hubs 7006

and the aggregated medical data databases 7011. Accordingly, the I/O interface 7006 may facilitate read/write operations of the cloud-based analytics system. Such read/write operations may be executed in response to requests from hubs 7006. These requests could be transmitted to the hubs 7006 through the hub applications. The I/O interface 7006 may include one or more high speed data ports, which may include universal serial bus (USB) ports, IEEE 1394 ports, as well as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth I/O interfaces for connecting the cloud 7004 to hubs 7006. The hub application servers 7002 of the cloud 7004 may be configured to host and supply shared capabilities to software applications (e.g., hub applications) executed by surgical hubs 7006. For example, the hub application servers 7002 may manage requests made by the hub applications through the hubs 7006, control access to the aggregated medical data databases 7011, and perform load balancing. The data analytics modules 7034 are described in further detail with reference to FIG. 12.

[00178] The particular cloud computing system configuration described in the present disclosure may be specifically designed to address various issues arising in the context of medical operations and procedures performed using medical devices, such as the surgical instruments 7012, 112. In particular, the surgical instruments 7012 may be digital surgical devices configured to interact with the cloud 7004 for implementing techniques to improve the performance of surgical operations. Various surgical instruments 7012 and/or surgical hubs 7006 may comprise touch-controlled user interfaces such that clinicians may control aspects of interaction between the surgical instruments 7012 and the cloud 7004. Other suitable user interfaces for control such as auditory controlled user interfaces can also be used.

[00179] FIG. 12 is a block diagram which illustrates the functional architecture of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure. The cloud-based analytics system may include a plurality of data analytics modules 7034 that may be executed by the processors 7008 of the cloud 7004 for providing data analytic solutions to problems specifically arising in the medical field. As shown in FIG. 12, the functions of the cloud-based data analytics modules 7034 may be assisted via hub applications 7014 hosted by the hub application servers 7002 that may be accessed on surgical hubs 7006. The cloud processors 7008 and hub applications 7014 may operate in conjunction to execute the data analytics modules 7034. Application program interfaces (APIs) 7016 may define the set of protocols and routines corresponding to the hub applications 7014. Additionally, the APIs 7016 may manage the storing and retrieval of data into and from the aggregated medical databases 7012 for the operations of the applications 7014. The caches 7018 may also store data (e.g., temporarily) and may be coupled to the APIs 7016 for more efficient retrieval of data used by the applications 7014. The data analytics modules 7034 in FIG. 12 may include modules for resource

optimization 7020, data collection and aggregation 7022, authorization and security 7024, control program updating 7026, patient outcome analysis 7028, recommendations 7030, and data sorting and prioritization 7032. Other suitable data analytics modules could also be implemented by the cloud 7004, according to some aspects. In one aspect, the data analytics modules may be used for specific recommendations based on analyzing trends, outcomes, and other data.

[00180] For example, the data collection and aggregation module 7022 could be used to generate self-describing data (e.g., metadata) including identification of notable features or configuration (e.g., trends), management of redundant data sets, and storage of the data in paired data sets which can be grouped by surgery but not necessarily keyed to actual surgical dates and surgeons. In particular, pair data sets generated from operations of surgical instruments 7012 can comprise applying a binary classification, e.g., a bleeding or a non-bleeding event. More generally, the binary classification may be characterized as either a desirable event (e.g., a successful surgical procedure) or an undesirable event (e.g., a misfired or misused surgical instrument 7012). The aggregated self-describing data may correspond to individual data received from various groups or subgroups of surgical hubs 7006. Accordingly, the data collection and aggregation module 7022 can generate aggregated metadata or other organized data based on raw data received from the surgical hubs 7006. To this end, the processors 7008 can be operationally coupled to the hub applications 7014 and aggregated medical data databases 7011 for executing the data analytics modules 7034. The data collection and aggregation module 7022 may store the aggregated organized data into the aggregated medical data databases 2212.

[00181] The resource optimization module 7020 can be configured to analyze this aggregated data to determine an optimal usage of resources for a particular or group of healthcare facilities. For example, the resource optimization module 7020 may determine an optimal order point of surgical stapling instruments 7012 for a group of healthcare facilities based on corresponding predicted demand of such instruments 7012. The resource optimization module 7020 might also assess the resource usage or other operational configurations of various healthcare facilities to determine whether resource usage could be improved. Similarly, the recommendations module 7030 can be configured to analyze aggregated organized data from the data collection and aggregation module 7022 to provide recommendations. For example, the recommendations module 7030 could recommend to healthcare facilities (e.g., medical service providers such as hospitals) that a particular surgical instrument 7012 should be upgraded to an improved version based on a higher than expected error rate, for example. Additionally, the recommendations module 7030 and/or resource optimization module 7020 could recommend better supply chain parameters such as product reorder points and provide suggestions of different surgical

instrument 7012, uses thereof, or procedure steps to improve surgical outcomes. The healthcare facilities can receive such recommendations via corresponding surgical hubs 7006. More specific recommendations regarding parameters or configurations of various surgical instruments 7012 can also be provided. Hubs 7006 and/or surgical instruments 7012 each could also have display screens that display data or recommendations provided by the cloud 7004.

[00182] The patient outcome analysis module 7028 can analyze surgical outcomes associated with currently used operational parameters of surgical instruments 7012. The patient outcome analysis module 7028 may also analyze and assess other potential operational parameters. In this connection, the recommendations module 7030 could recommend using these other potential operational parameters based on yielding better surgical outcomes, such as better sealing or less bleeding. For example, the recommendations module 7030 could transmit recommendations to a surgical 7006 regarding when to use a particular cartridge for a corresponding stapling surgical instrument 7012. Thus, the cloud-based analytics system, while controlling for common variables, may be configured to analyze the large collection of raw data and to provide centralized recommendations over multiple healthcare facilities (advantageously determined based on aggregated data). For example, the cloud-based analytics system could analyze, evaluate, and/or aggregate data based on type of medical practice, type of patient, number of patients, geographic similarity between medical providers, which medical providers/facilities use similar types of instruments, etc., in a way that no single healthcare facility alone would be able to analyze independently. The control program updating module 7026 could be configured to implement various surgical instrument 7012 recommendations when corresponding control programs are updated. For example, the patient outcome analysis module 7028 could identify correlations linking specific control parameters with successful (or unsuccessful) results. Such correlations may be addressed when updated control programs are transmitted to surgical instruments 7012 via the control program updating module 7026. Updates to instruments 7012 that may be transmitted via a corresponding hub 7006 may incorporate aggregated performance data that was gathered and analyzed by the data collection and aggregation module 7022 of the cloud 7004. Additionally, the patient outcome analysis module 7028 and recommendations module 7030 could identify improved methods of using instruments 7012 based on aggregated performance data.

[00183] The cloud-based analytics system may include security features implemented by the cloud 7004. These security features may be managed by the authorization and security module 7024. Each surgical hub 7006 can have associated unique credentials such as username, password, and other suitable security credentials. These credentials could be stored in the memory 7010 and be associated with a permitted cloud access level. For example, based on

providing accurate credentials, a surgical hub 7006 may be granted access to communicate with the cloud to a predetermined extent (e.g., may only engage in transmitting or receiving certain defined types of information). To this end, the aggregated medical data databases 7011 of the cloud 7004 may comprise a database of authorized credentials for verifying the accuracy of provided credentials. Different credentials may be associated with varying levels of permission for interaction with the cloud 7004, such as a predetermined access level for receiving the data analytics generated by the cloud 7004. Furthermore, for security purposes, the cloud could maintain a database of hubs 7006, instruments 7012, and other devices that may comprise a “black list” of prohibited devices. In particular, a surgical hubs 7006 listed on the black list may not be permitted to interact with the cloud, while surgical instruments 7012 listed on the black list may not have functional access to a corresponding hub 7006 and/or may be prevented from fully functioning when paired to its corresponding hub 7006. Additionally, or alternatively, the cloud 7004 may flag instruments 7012 based on incompatibility or other specified criteria. In this manner, counterfeit medical devices and improper reuse of such devices throughout the cloud-based analytics system can be identified and addressed.

[00184] The surgical instruments 7012 may use wireless transceivers to transmit wireless signals that may represent, for example, authorization credentials for access to corresponding hubs 7006 and the cloud 7004. Wired transceivers may also be used to transmit signals. Such authorization credentials can be stored in the respective memory devices of the surgical instruments 7012. The authorization and security module 7024 can determine whether the authorization credentials are accurate or counterfeit. The authorization and security module 7024 may also dynamically generate authorization credentials for enhanced security. The credentials could also be encrypted, such as by using hash-based encryption. Upon transmitting proper authorization, the surgical instruments 7012 may transmit a signal to the corresponding hubs 7006 and ultimately the cloud 7004 to indicate that the instruments 7012 are ready to obtain and transmit medical data. In response, the cloud 7004 may transition into a state enabled for receiving medical data for storage into the aggregated medical data databases 7011. This data transmission readiness could be indicated by a light indicator on the instruments 7012, for example. The cloud 7004 can also transmit signals to surgical instruments 7012 for updating their associated control programs. The cloud 7004 can transmit signals that are directed to a particular class of surgical instruments 7012 (e.g., electrosurgical instruments) so that software updates to control programs are only transmitted to the appropriate surgical instruments 7012. Moreover, the cloud 7004 could be used to implement system wide solutions to address local or global problems based on selective data transmission and authorization credentials. For example, if a group of surgical instruments 7012 are identified as having a common

manufacturing defect, the cloud 7004 may change the authorization credentials corresponding to this group to implement an operational lockout of the group.

[00185] The cloud-based analytics system may allow for monitoring multiple healthcare facilities (e.g., medical facilities like hospitals) to determine improved practices and recommend changes (via the recommendations module 2030, for example) accordingly. Thus, the processors 7008 of the cloud 7004 can analyze data associated with an individual healthcare facility to identify the facility and aggregate the data with other data associated with other healthcare facilities in a group. Groups could be defined based on similar operating practices or geographical location, for example. In this way, the cloud 7004 may provide healthcare facility group wide analysis and recommendations. The cloud-based analytics system could also be used for enhanced situational awareness. For example, the processors 7008 may predictively model the effects of recommendations on the cost and effectiveness for a particular facility (relative to overall operations and/or various medical procedures). The cost and effectiveness associated with that particular facility can also be compared to a corresponding local region of other facilities or any other comparable facilities.

[00186] The data sorting and prioritization module 7032 may prioritize and sort data based on criticality (e.g., the severity of a medical event associated with the data, unexpectedness, suspiciousness). This sorting and prioritization may be used in conjunction with the functions of the other data analytics modules 7034 described herein to improve the cloud-based analytics and operations described herein. For example, the data sorting and prioritization module 7032 can assign a priority to the data analysis performed by the data collection and aggregation module 7022 and patient outcome analysis modules 7028. Different prioritization levels can result in particular responses from the cloud 7004 (corresponding to a level of urgency) such as escalation for an expedited response, special processing, exclusion from the aggregated medical data databases 7011, or other suitable responses. Moreover, if necessary, the cloud 7004 can transmit a request (e.g., a push message) through the hub application servers for additional data from corresponding surgical instruments 7012. The push message can result in a notification displayed on the corresponding hubs 7006 for requesting supporting or additional data. This push message may be required in situations in which the cloud detects a significant irregularity or outlier and the cloud cannot determine the cause of the irregularity. The central servers 7013 may be programmed to trigger this push message in certain significant circumstances, such as when data is determined to be different from an expected value beyond a predetermined threshold or when it appears security has been compromised, for example.

- [00187] Additional example details for the various functions described are provided in the ensuing descriptions below. Each of the various descriptions may utilize the cloud architecture as described in FIGS. 11 and 12 as one example of hardware and software implementation.
- [00188] FIG. 13 illustrates a block diagram of a computer-implemented adaptive surgical system 9060 that is configured to adaptively generate control program updates for modular devices 9050, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure. In some exemplifications, the surgical system may include a surgical hub 9000, multiple modular devices 9050 communicably coupled to the surgical hub 9000, and an analytics system 9100 communicably coupled to the surgical hub 9000. Although a single surgical hub 9000 may be depicted, it should be noted that the surgical system 9060 can include any number of surgical hubs 9000, which can be connected to form a network of surgical hubs 9000 that are communicably coupled to the analytics system 9100. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 9000 may include a processor 9010 coupled to a memory 9020 for executing instructions stored thereon and a data relay interface 9030 through which data is transmitted to the analytics system 9100. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 9000 further may include a user interface 9090 having an input device 9092 (e.g., a capacitive touchscreen or a keyboard) for receiving inputs from a user and an output device 9094 (e.g., a display screen) for providing outputs to a user. Outputs can include data from a query input by the user, suggestions for products or mixes of products to use in a given procedure, and/or instructions for actions to be carried out before, during, or after surgical procedures. The surgical hub 9000 further may include an interface 9040 for communicably coupling the modular devices 9050 to the surgical hub 9000. In one aspect, the interface 9040 may include a transceiver that is communicably connectable to the modular device 9050 via a wireless communication protocol. The modular devices 9050 can include, for example, surgical stapling and cutting instruments, electrosurgical instruments, ultrasonic instruments, insufflators, respirators, and display screens. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 9000 can further be communicably coupled to one or more patient monitoring devices 9052, such as EKG monitors or BP monitors. In some exemplifications, the surgical hub 9000 can further be communicably coupled to one or more databases 9054 or external computer systems, such as an EMR database of the medical facility at which the surgical hub 9000 is located.
- [00189] When the modular devices 9050 are connected to the surgical hub 9000, the surgical hub 9000 can sense or receive perioperative data from the modular devices 9050 and then associate the received perioperative data with surgical procedural outcome data. The perioperative data may indicate how the modular devices 9050 were controlled during the course of a surgical procedure. The procedural outcome data includes data associated with a result from the surgical procedure (or a step thereof), which can include whether the

surgical procedure (or a step thereof) had a positive or negative outcome. For example, the outcome data could include whether a patient suffered from postoperative complications from a particular procedure or whether there was leakage (e.g., bleeding or air leakage) at a particular staple or incision line. The surgical hub 9000 can obtain the surgical procedural outcome data by receiving the data from an external source (e.g., from an EMR database 9054), by directly detecting the outcome (e.g., via one of the connected modular devices 9050), or inferring the occurrence of the outcomes through a situational awareness system. For example, data regarding postoperative complications could be retrieved from an EMR database 9054 and data regarding staple or incision line leakages could be directly detected or inferred by a situational awareness system. The surgical procedural outcome data can be inferred by a situational awareness system from data received from a variety of data sources, including the modular devices 9050 themselves, the patient monitoring device 9052, and the databases 9054 to which the surgical hub 9000 is connected.

[00190] The surgical hub 9000 can transmit the associated modular device 9050 data and outcome data to the analytics system 9100 for processing thereon. By transmitting both the perioperative data indicating how the modular devices 9050 are controlled and the procedural outcome data, the analytics system 9100 can correlate the different manners of controlling the modular devices 9050 with surgical outcomes for the particular procedure type. In some exemplifications, the analytics system 9100 may include a network of analytics servers 9070 that are configured to receive data from the surgical hubs 9000. Each of the analytics servers 9070 can include a memory and a processor coupled to the memory that is executing instructions stored thereon to analyze the received data. In some exemplifications, the analytics servers 9070 may be connected in a distributed computing architecture and/or utilize a cloud computing architecture. Based on this paired data, the analytics system 9100 can then learn optimal or preferred operating parameters for the various types of modular devices 9050, generate adjustments to the control programs of the modular devices 9050 in the field, and then transmit (or “push”) updates to the modular devices’ 9050 control programs.

[00191] Additional detail regarding the computer-implemented interactive surgical system 9060, including the surgical hub 9000 and various modular devices 9050 connectable thereto, are described in connection with FIGS. 5-6.

[00192] FIG. 14 provides a surgical system 6500 in accordance with the present disclosure and may include a surgical instrument 6502 that can be in communication with a console 6522 or a portable device 6526 through a local area network 6518 or a cloud network 6520 via a wired or wireless connection. In various aspects, the console 6522 and the portable device 6526 may be any suitable computing device. The surgical instrument 6502 may include a handle 6504, an adapter 6508, and a loading unit 6514. The adapter 6508 releasably couples

to the handle 6504 and the loading unit 6514 releasably couples to the adapter 6508 such that the adapter 6508 transmits a force from a drive shaft to the loading unit 6514. The adapter 6508 or the loading unit 6514 may include a force gauge (not explicitly shown) disposed therein to measure a force exerted on the loading unit 6514. The loading unit 6514 may include an end effector 6530 having a first jaw 6532 and a second jaw 6534. The loading unit 6514 may be an in-situ loaded or multi-firing loading unit (MFLU) that allows a clinician to fire a plurality of fasteners multiple times without requiring the loading unit 6514 to be removed from a surgical site to reload the loading unit 6514.

[00193] The first and second jaws 6532, 6534 may be configured to clamp tissue therebetween, fire fasteners through the clamped tissue, and sever the clamped tissue. The first jaw 6532 may be configured to fire at least one fastener a plurality of times, or may be configured to include a replaceable multi-fire fastener cartridge including a plurality of fasteners (e.g., staples, clips, etc.) that may be fired more than one time prior to being replaced. The second jaw 6534 may include an anvil that deforms or otherwise secures the fasteners about tissue as the fasteners are ejected from the multi-fire fastener cartridge.

[00194] The handle 6504 may include a motor that is coupled to the drive shaft to affect rotation of the drive shaft. The handle 6504 may include a control interface to selectively activate the motor. The control interface may include buttons, switches, levers, sliders, touchscreen, and any other suitable input mechanisms or user interfaces, which can be engaged by a clinician to activate the motor.

[00195] The control interface of the handle 6504 may be in communication with a controller 6528 of the handle 6504 to selectively activate the motor to affect rotation of the drive shafts. The controller 6528 may be disposed within the handle 6504 and is configured to receive input from the control interface and adapter data from the adapter 6508 or loading unit data from the loading unit 6514. The controller 6528 may analyze the input from the control interface and the data received from the adapter 6508 and/or loading unit 6514 to selectively activate the motor. The handle 6504 may also include a display that is viewable by a clinician during use of the handle 6504. The display may be configured to display portions of the adapter or loading unit data before, during, or after firing of the instrument 6502.

[00196] The adapter 6508 may include an adapter identification device 6510 disposed therein and the loading unit 6514 includes a loading unit identification device 6516 disposed therein. The adapter identification device 6510 may be in communication with the controller 6528, and the loading unit identification device 6516 may be in communication with the controller 6528. It will be appreciated that the loading unit identification device 6516 may

be in communication with the adapter identification device 6510, which relays or passes communication from the loading unit identification device 6516 to the controller 6528.

[00197] The adapter 6508 may also include a plurality of sensors 6512 (one shown) disposed thereabout to detect various conditions of the adapter 6508 or of the environment (e.g., if the adapter 6508 is connected to a loading unit, if the adapter 6508 is connected to a handle, if the drive shafts are rotating, the torque of the drive shafts, the strain of the drive shafts, the temperature within the adapter 6508, a number of firings of the adapter 6508, a peak force of the adapter 6508 during firing, a total amount of force applied to the adapter 6508, a peak retraction force of the adapter 6508, a number of pauses of the adapter 6508 during firing, etc.). The plurality of sensors 6512 may provide an input to the adapter identification device 6510 in the form of data signals. The data signals of the plurality of sensors 6512 may be stored within, or be used to update the adapter data stored within, the adapter identification device 6510. The data signals of the plurality of sensors 6512 may be analog or digital. The plurality of sensors 6512 may include a force gauge to measure a force exerted on the loading unit 6514 during firing.

[00198] The handle 6504 and the adapter 6508 can be configured to interconnect the adapter identification device 6510 and the loading unit identification device 6516 with the controller 6528 via an electrical interface. The electrical interface may be a direct electrical interface (i.e., include electrical contacts that engage one another to transmit energy and signals therebetween). Additionally or alternatively, the electrical interface may be a non-contact electrical interface to wirelessly transmit energy and signals therebetween (e.g., inductively transfer). It is also contemplated that the adapter identification device 6510 and the controller 6528 may be in wireless communication with one another via a wireless connection separate from the electrical interface.

[00199] The handle 6504 may include a transmitter 6506 that is configured to transmit instrument data from the controller 6528 to other components of the system 6500 (e.g., the LAN 6518, the cloud 6520, the console 6522, or the portable device 6526). The transmitter 6506 also may receive data (e.g., cartridge data, loading unit data, or adapter data) from the other components of the system 6500. For example, the controller 6528 may transmit instrument data including a serial number of an attached adapter (e.g., adapter 6508) attached to the handle 6504, a serial number of a loading unit (e.g., loading unit 6514) attached to the adapter, and a serial number of a multi-fire fastener cartridge (e.g., multi-fire fastener cartridge), loaded into the loading unit, to the console 6522. Thereafter, the console 6522 may transmit data (e.g., cartridge data, loading unit data, or adapter data) associated with the attached cartridge, loading unit, and adapter, respectively, back to the controller 6528. The controller 6528 can display messages on the local instrument display

or transmit the message, via transmitter 6506, to the console 6522 or the portable device 6526 to display the message on the display 6524 or portable device screen, respectively.

[00200] FIG. 15A illustrates an example flow for determining a mode of operation and operating in the determined mode. The computer-implemented interactive surgical system and/or components and/or subsystems of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system may be configured to be updated. Such updates may include the inclusions of features and benefits that were not available to the user before the update. These updates may be established by any method of hardware, firmware, and software updates suitable for introducing the feature to the user. For example, replaceable/swappable (e.g., hot swappable) hardware components, flashable firmware devices, and updatable software systems may be used to update computer-implemented interactive surgical system and/or components and/or subsystems of the computer-implemented interactive surgical system.

[00201] The updates may be conditioned on any suitable criterion or set of criteria. For example, an update may be conditioned on one or more hardware capabilities of the system, such as processing capability, bandwidth, resolution, and the like. For example, the update may be conditioned on one or more software aspects, such as a purchase of certain software code. For example, the update may be conditioned on a purchased service tier. The service tier may represent a feature and/or a set of features the user is entitled to use in connection with the computer-implemented interactive surgical system. The service tier may be determined by a license code, an e-commerce server authentication interaction, a hardware key, a username/password combination, a biometric authentication interaction, a public/private key exchange interaction, or the like.

[00202] At 10704, a system/device parameter may be identified. The system/device parameter may be any element or set of elements on which an update is conditioned. For example, the computer-implemented interactive surgical system may detect a certain bandwidth of communication between a modular device and a surgical hub. For example, the computer-implemented interactive surgical system may detect an indication of the purchase of certain service tier.

[00203] At 10708, a mode of operation may be determined based on the identified system/device parameter. This determination may be made by a process that maps system/device parameters to modes of operation. The process may be a manual and/or an automated process. The process may be the result of local computation and/or remote computation. For example, a client/server interaction may be used to determine the mode of operation based on the identified system/device parameter. For example, local software and/or locally embedded firmware may be used to determine the mode of operation based on the identified system/device parameter. For example, a hardware key, such as a secure

microprocessor for example, may be used to determine the mode of operation based on the identified system/device parameter.

[00204] At 10710, operation may proceed in accordance with the determined mode of operation. For example, a system or device may proceed to operate in a default mode of operation. For example, a system or device may proceed to operate in an alternate mode of operation. The mode of operation may be directed by control hardware, firmware, and/or software already resident in the system or device. The mode of operation may be directed by control hardware, firmware, and/or software newly installed/updated.

[00205] FIG. 15B illustrates an example functional block diagram for changing a mode of operation. An upgradeable element 10714 may include an initialization component 10716. The initialization component 10716 may include any hardware, firmware, and/or software suitable determining a mode of operation. For example, the initialization component 10716 may be portion of a system or device start-up procedure. The initialization component 10716 may engage in an interaction to determine a mode of operation for the upgradeable element 10714. For example, the initialization component 10716 may interact with a user 10730, an external resource 10732, and/or a local resource 10718 for example. For example, the initialization component 10716 may receive a licensing key from the user 10730 to determine a mode of operation. The initialization component 10716 may query an external resource 10732, such as a server for example, with a serial number of the upgradable device 10714 to determine a mode of operation. For example, the initialization component 10716 may query a local resource 10718, such as a local query to determine an amount of available bandwidth and/or a local query of a hardware key for example, to determine a mode of operation.

[00206] The upgradeable element 10714 may include one or more operation components 10720, 10722, 10726, 10728 and an operational pointer 10724. The initialization component 10716 may direct the operational pointer 10724 to direct the operation of the upgradable element 10741 to the operation component 10720, 10722, 10726, 10728 that corresponds with the determined mode of operation. The initialization component 10716 may direct the operational pointer 10724 to direct the operation of the upgradable element to a default operation component 10720. For example, the default operation component 10720 may be selected on the condition of no other alternate mode of operation being determined. For example, the default operation component 10720 may be selected on the condition of a failure of the initialization component and/or interaction failure. The initialization component 10716 may direct the operational pointer 10724 to direct the operation of the upgradable element 10714 to a resident operation component 10722. For example, certain features may be resident in the upgradable component 10714 but require activation to be put into operation. The initialization component 10716 may direct the

operational pointer 10724 to direct the operation of the upgradable element 10714 to install a new operation component 10728 and/or a new installed operation component 10726. For example, new software and/or firmware may be downloaded. The new software and or firmware may contain code to enable the features represented by the selected mode of operation. For example, a new hardware component may be installed to enable the selected mode of operation.

[00207]

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a powered surgical stapling system. FIG. 16 illustrates the surgical instrument 1010 (e.g., an endocutter) that includes an interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 operably coupled to a housing 1012. FIG. 17 is a perspective view of an interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of the powered surgical stapling system of FIG. 16. FIG. 17 illustrates the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 detached from the housing 1012 or handle 1014. FIG. 18 is an exploded assembly view of portions of a handle assembly of the powered surgical stapling system of FIG. 16. As can be seen in FIG. 18, the handle 1014 may comprise a pair of interconnectable handle housing segments 1016 and 1018 that may be interconnected by screws, snap features, adhesive, etc. In the illustrated arrangement, the handle housing segments 1016, 1018 cooperate to form a pistol grip portion 1019. FIGS. 16 and 18 depict a motor-driven surgical cutting and fastening instrument 1010 that may or may not be reused. In the illustrated embodiment, the instrument 1010 includes a previous housing 1012 that comprises a handle 1014 that is configured to be grasped, manipulated and actuated by the clinician. The housing 1012 can be configured for operable attachment to an interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 that has a surgical end effector 1300 operably coupled thereto that can be configured to perform one or more surgical tasks or procedures. As the present Detailed Description proceeds, it will be understood that the various forms of interchangeable shaft assemblies disclosed herein may also be effectively employed in connection with robotically-controlled surgical systems. Thus, the term “housing” may also encompass a housing or similar portion of a robotic system that houses or otherwise operably supports at least one drive system that is configured to generate and apply at least one control motion which could be used to actuate the interchangeable shaft assemblies disclosed herein and their respective equivalents. In addition, various components may be “housed” or contained in the housing or various components may be “associated with” a housing. In such instances, the components may not be contained within the housing or supported directly by the housing. The term “frame” may refer to a portion of a handheld surgical instrument. The term “frame” may also represent a portion of a robotically controlled surgical instrument and/or a portion of the robotic system that may be used to operably control a surgical instrument. For example, the interchangeable shaft assemblies disclosed herein may be employed with various robotic systems, instruments, components and methods disclosed in which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[00208] The previous housing 1012 depicted in FIG. 16 is shown in connection with an interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 (FIGS. 17, 19 and 20) that includes an end effector 1300 that comprises a surgical cutting and fastening device that is configured to operably support a surgical staple cartridge 4000 therein. The housing 1012 may be configured for use in connection with interchangeable shaft assemblies that include end effectors that are adapted to support different sizes and types of staple cartridges, have different shaft lengths, sizes, and types, etc. In addition, the housing 1012 may also be effectively employed with a variety of other interchangeable shaft assemblies including those assemblies that are configured to apply other motions and forms of energy such as, for example, radio frequency (RF) energy, ultrasonic energy and/or motion to end effector arrangements adapted for use in connection with various surgical applications and procedures. Furthermore, the end effectors, shaft assemblies, handles, surgical instruments, and/or surgical instrument systems can utilize any suitable fastener that can be gripped and manipulated by the clinician. As will be discussed in further detail below, the handle 1014 operably supports a plurality of drive systems therein that are configured to generate and apply various control motions to corresponding portions of the interchangeable shaft assembly that is operably attached thereto.

[00209] Referring now to FIG. 18, the handle 1014 may further include a frame 1020 that operably supports a plurality of drive systems. For example, the frame 1020 can operably support a “first” or closure drive system, generally designated as 1030, which may be employed to apply closing and opening motions to the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 that is operably attached or coupled thereto. In at least one form, the closure drive system 1030 may include an actuator in the form of a closure trigger 1032 that is pivotally supported by the frame 1020. More specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 18, the closure trigger 1032 can be pivotally coupled to the handle 1014 by a pin 1033. Such arrangement enables the closure trigger 1032 to be manipulated by a clinician such that when the clinician grips the pistol grip portion 1019 of the handle 1014, the closure trigger 1032 may be easily pivoted from a starting or “unactuated” position to an “actuated” position and more particularly to a fully compressed or fully actuated position. The closure trigger 1032 may be biased into the unactuated position by spring or other biasing arrangement (not shown). In various forms, the closure drive system 1030 further includes a closure linkage assembly 1034 that can be pivotally coupled to the closure trigger 1032. As can be seen in FIG. 18, the closure linkage assembly 1034 may include a first closure link 1036 and a second closure link 1038 that are pivotally coupled to the closure trigger 1032 by a pin 1035. The second closure link 1038 may also be referred to herein as an “attachment member” and include a transverse attachment pin 1037.

[00210] Still referring to FIG. 18, it can be observed that the first closure link 1036 may have a locking wall or end 1039 thereon that is configured to cooperate with a closure release assembly 1060 that is pivotally coupled to the frame 1020. In at least one form, the closure release assembly 1060 may comprise a release button assembly 1062 that has a distally protruding locking pawl 1064 formed thereon. The release button assembly 1062 may be pivoted in a counterclockwise direction by a release spring (not shown). As the clinician depresses the closure trigger 1032 from its unactuated position towards the pistol grip portion 1019 of the handle 1014, the first closure link 1036 pivots upward to a point wherein the locking pawl 1064 drops into retaining engagement with the locking wall 1039 on the first closure link 1036 thereby preventing the closure trigger 1032 from returning to the unactuated position. Thus, the closure release assembly 1060 may serve to lock the closure trigger 1032 in the fully actuated position. When the clinician desires to unlock the closure trigger 1032 to permit it to be biased to the unactuated position, the clinician may simply pivot the closure release button assembly 1062 such that the locking pawl 1064 is moved out of engagement with the locking wall 1039 on the first closure link 1036. When the locking pawl 1064 has been moved out of engagement with the first closure link 1036, the closure trigger 1032 may pivot back to the unactuated position. Other closure trigger locking and release arrangements may also be employed.

[00211] An arm 1061 may extend from the closure release button 1062. A magnetic element 1063, such as a permanent magnet, for example, may be mounted to the arm 1061. When the closure release button 1062 is rotated from its first position to its second position, the magnetic element 1063 can move toward a circuit board 1100. The circuit board 1100 can include at least one sensor that is configured to detect the movement of the magnetic element 1063. In at least one embodiment, for example, a “Hall Effect” sensor (not shown) can be mounted to the bottom surface of the circuit board 1100. The Hall Effect sensor can be configured to detect changes in a magnetic field surrounding the Hall Effect sensor caused by the movement of the magnetic element 1063. The Hall Effect sensor can be in signal communication with a microcontroller, for example, which can determine whether the closure release button 1062 is in its first position, which is associated with the unactuated position of the closure trigger 1032 and the open configuration of the end effector, its second position, which is associated with the actuated position of the closure trigger 1032 and the closed configuration of the end effector, and/or any position between the first position and the second position.

[00212] In at least one form, the handle 1014 and the frame 1020 may operably support another drive system referred to herein as a firing drive system 1080 that is configured to apply firing motions to corresponding portions of the interchangeable shaft assembly attached thereto. The firing drive system 1080 may also be referred to herein as a “second drive

system”. The firing drive system 1080 may employ an electric motor 1082 that may be located in the pistol grip portion 1019 of the handle 1014. In various forms, the motor 1082 may be a DC brushed driving motor having a maximum rotation of, approximately, 25,000 RPM, for example. In other arrangements, the motor may include a brushless motor, a cordless motor, a synchronous motor, a stepper motor, or any other suitable electric motor. The motor 1082 may be powered by a power source 1090 that in one form may comprise a removable power pack 1092. As can be seen in FIG. 3, for example, the power pack 1092 may comprise a proximal housing portion 1094 that is configured for attachment to a distal housing portion 1096. The proximal housing portion 1094 and the distal housing portion 1096 may be configured to operably support a plurality of batteries 1098 therein. Batteries 1098 may each comprise, for example, a Lithium Ion (“LI”) or other suitable battery. The distal housing portion 1096 may be configured for removable operable attachment to the circuit board 1100 which may also be operably coupled to the motor 1082. A number of batteries 1098 may be connected in series may be used as the power source for the surgical instrument 1010. In addition, the power source 1090 may be replaceable and/or rechargeable.

[00213] As outlined above with respect to other various forms, the electric motor 1082 can include a rotatable shaft (not shown) that operably interfaces with a gear reducer assembly 1084 that is mounted in meshing engagement with a with a set, or rack, of drive teeth 1122 on a longitudinally-movable drive member 1120. In use, a voltage polarity provided by the power source 1090 can operate the electric motor 1082 in a clockwise direction wherein the voltage polarity applied to the electric motor by the battery can be reversed in order to operate the electric motor 1082 in a counter-clockwise direction. When the electric motor 1082 is rotated in one direction, the drive member 1120 will be axially driven in the distal direction “DD”. When the motor 82 is driven in the opposite rotary direction, the drive member 1120 will be axially driven in a proximal direction “PD”. The handle 1014 can include a switch which can be configured to reverse the polarity applied to the electric motor 1082 by the power source 1090. As with the other forms described herein, the handle 1014 can also include a sensor that is configured to detect the position of the drive member 1120 and/or the direction in which the drive member 1120 is being moved.

[00214] Actuation of the motor 1082 can be controlled by a firing trigger 1130 that is pivotally supported on the handle 1014. The firing trigger 1130 may be pivoted between an unactuated position and an actuated position. The firing trigger 1130 may be biased into the unactuated position by a spring 1132 or other biasing arrangement such that when the clinician releases the firing trigger 1130, it may be pivoted or otherwise returned to the unactuated position by the spring 1132 or biasing arrangement. In at least one form, the firing trigger 1130 can be positioned “outboard” of the closure trigger 1032 as was

discussed above. In at least one form, a firing trigger safety button 1134 may be pivotally mounted to the closure trigger 1032 by the pin 1035. The safety button 1134 may be positioned between the firing trigger 1130 and the closure trigger 1032 and have a pivot arm 1136 protruding therefrom. When the closure trigger 1032 is in the unactuated position, the safety button 1134 can be contained in the handle 1014 where the clinician cannot readily access it and move it between a safety position preventing actuation of the firing trigger 1130 and a firing position wherein the firing trigger 1130 may be fired. As the clinician depresses the closure trigger 1032, the safety button 1134 and the firing trigger 1130 pivot down wherein they can then be manipulated by the clinician.

[00215] As indicated above, in at least one form, the longitudinally movable drive member 1120 has a rack of teeth 1122 formed thereon for meshing engagement with a corresponding drive gear 1086 of the gear reducer assembly 1084. At least one form also includes a manually-actuatable “bailout” assembly 1140 that may be configured to enable the clinician to manually retract the longitudinally movable drive member 1120 should the motor 1082 become disabled. The bailout assembly 1140 may include a lever or bailout handle assembly 1142 that is configured to be manually pivoted into ratcheting engagement with teeth 1124 also provided in the drive member 1120. Thus, the clinician can manually retract the drive member 1120 by using the bailout handle assembly 1142 to ratchet the drive member 1120 in the proximal direction “PD”. U.S. Patent No. 8,608,045, entitled “POWERED SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING APPARATUS WITH MANUALLY RETRACTABLE FIRING SYSTEM,” discloses bailout arrangements and other components, arrangements and systems that may also be employed with the various instruments disclosed herein. U.S. Patent No. 8,608,045 is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[00216] Turning now to FIGS. 17 and 20, the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 may include a surgical end effector 1300 that comprises an elongate channel 1310 that can be configured to operably support a staple cartridge 4000 therein. The end effector 1300 may further include an anvil 2000 that is pivotally supported relative to the elongate channel 1310. The interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 may further include an articulation joint 3020 and an articulation lock 2140 which can be configured to releasably hold the end effector 1300 in a desired position relative to a shaft axis SA. Examples of various features of at least one form of the end effector 1300, the articulation joint 3020 and articulation locks may be found in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/803,086, filed March 14, 2013, entitled “ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK,” now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. FIG. 19 is an exploded assembly view of the interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of FIG. 17. As can be seen

in FIG. 19, the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 can further include a proximal housing or nozzle 1201 comprised of nozzle portions 1202 and 1203.

[00217] The interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 can further include a closure system or closure member assembly 3000 which can be utilized to close and/or open the anvil 2000 of the end effector 1300. The shaft assembly 1200 can include a spine 1210 that may be configured to, one, slidably support a firing member therein and, two, slidably support the closure member assembly 3000 which extends around the spine 1210. FIG. 20 shows partial exploded assembly view of a portion of the interchangeable surgical shaft assembly of FIG. 19. As can be seen in FIG. 20, a distal end 1212 of spine 1210 terminates in an upper lug mount feature 1270 and in a lower lug mount feature 1280. The upper lug mount feature 1270 can be formed with a lug slot 1272 therein that is adapted to mountingly support an upper mounting link 1274 therein. Similarly, the lower lug mount feature 1280 is formed with a lug slot 1282 therein that may be adapted to mountingly support a lower mounting link 1284 therein. The upper mounting link 1274 may include a pivot socket 1276 therein that can be adapted to rotatably receive therein a pivot pin 1292 that is formed on a channel cap or anvil retainer 1290 that is attached to a proximal end portion 1312 of the elongate channel 1310. The lower mounting link 1284 may include lower pivot pin 1286 that adapted to be received within a pivot hole 1314 formed in the proximal end portion 1312 of the elongate channel 1310. See FIG. 20. The lower pivot pin 1286 can be vertically aligned with the pivot socket 1276 to define an articulation axis AA about which the surgical end effector 1300 may articulate relative to the shaft axis SA. See FIG. 17.

[00218] In the illustrated example, the surgical end effector 1300 can be selectively articulatable about the articulation axis AA by an articulation system 2100. In one form, the articulation system 2100 may include proximal articulation driver 2102 that can be pivotally coupled to an articulation link 2120. As can be most particularly seen in FIG. 20, an offset attachment lug 2114 may be formed on a distal end 2110 of the proximal articulation driver 2102. A pivot hole 2116 can be formed in the offset attachment lug 2114 and is configured to pivotally receive therein a proximal link pin 2124 formed on the proximal end 2122 of the articulation link 2120. A distal end 2126 of the articulation link 2120 may include a pivot hole 2128 that is configured to pivotally receive therein a channel pin 1317 formed on the proximal end portion 1312 of the elongate channel 1310. Thus, axial movement of proximal articulation driver 2102 will thereby apply articulation motions to the elongate channel 1310 to thereby cause the surgical end effector 1300 to articulate about the articulation axis AA relative to the spine 1210. Further details concerning the construction and operation of the articulation system 2100 may be found in various references incorporated by reference herein including U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/635,631,

filed June 28, 2017, entitled “SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH AXIALLY MOVABLE CLOSURE MEMBER,” now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0000464, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. In various circumstances, the proximal articulation driver 2102 can be held in position by an articulation lock 2140 when the proximal articulation driver 2102 is not being moved in the proximal or distal directions. Additional details regarding an example of an articulation lock 2140 may be found in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0000464, as well as in other references incorporated by reference herein.

[00219] In various circumstances, the spine 1210 can comprise a proximal end 1211 which can be rotatably supported in a chassis 1240. In one arrangement, for example, the proximal end 1211 of the spine 1210 has a thread 1214 formed thereon for threaded attachment to a spine bearing 1216 configured to be supported within the chassis 1240. See FIG. 19. Such an arrangement facilitates rotatable attachment of the spine 1210 to the chassis 1240 such that the spine 1210 may be selectively rotated about a shaft axis SA relative to the chassis 1240.

[00220] Referring primarily to FIG. 19, the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 may include a closure shuttle 1250 that is slidably supported within the chassis 1240 such that it may be axially moved relative thereto. The closure shuttle 1250 may include a pair of proximally protruding hooks 1252 that may be configured for attachment to the attachment pin 1037 (FIG. 3) that can be attached to the second closure link 1038 as will be discussed in further detail below. In at least one example, the closure member assembly 3000 can comprise a proximal closure member segment 3010 that may have a proximal end 3012 that may be coupled to the closure shuttle 1250 for relative rotation thereto. For example, a U-shaped connector 1263 can be inserted into an annular slot 3014 in the proximal end 3012 of the proximal closure member segment 3010 and can be retained within vertical slots 1253 in the closure shuttle 1250. Such an arrangement may serve to attach the proximal closure member segment 3010 to the closure shuttle 1250 for axial travel therewith while enabling the proximal closure member segment 3010 to rotate relative to the closure shuttle 1250 about the shaft axis SA. A closure spring 1268 may be journaled on the proximal closure member segment 3010 and serves to bias the proximal closure member segment 3010 in the proximal direction “PD” which can serve to pivot the closure trigger 1032 into the unactuated position when the shaft assembly is operably coupled to the handle 1014.

[00221] In at least one form, the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 may further include an articulation joint 3020. Other interchangeable shaft assemblies, however, may not be capable of articulation. As can be seen in FIG. 20, for example, a distal closure member or distal closure tube segment 3030 may be coupled to the distal end of the proximal closure member segment 3010. The articulation joint 3020 includes a double pivot closure sleeve

assembly 3022. According to various forms, the double pivot closure sleeve assembly 3022 includes an end effector closure tube 3050 having upper and lower distally projecting tangs 3052, 3054. An upper double pivot link 3056 includes upwardly projecting distal and proximal pivot pins that engage respectively an upper distal pin hole in the upper proximally projecting tang 3052 and an upper proximal pin hole in an upper distally projecting tang 3032 on the distal closure tube segment 3030. A lower double pivot link 3058 includes upwardly projecting distal and proximal pivot pins that engage respectively a lower distal pin hole in the lower proximally projecting tang 3054 and a lower proximal pin hole in the lower distally projecting tang 3034. See FIGS. 19 and 20. As will be discussed in further detail below, the closure member assembly 3000 is translated distally (direction “DD”) to close the anvil 2000, for example, in response to the actuation of the closure trigger 1032. The anvil 2000 is opened by proximally translating the closure member assembly 3000 which causes the end effector closure sleeve to interact with the anvil 2000 and pivot it to an open position.

[00222] As was also indicated above, the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 further includes a firing member 1900 that is supported for axial travel within the spine 1210. The firing member 1900 includes an intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 that is configured for attachment to a distal cutting portion or knife bar 1910. The intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 may include a longitudinal slot 1223 in the distal end thereof which can be configured to receive a tab 1912 on the proximal end of the distal knife bar 1910. The longitudinal slot 1223 and the proximal end tab 1912 can be sized and configured to permit relative movement therebetween and can comprise a slip joint 1914. The slip joint 1914 can permit the intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 of the firing member 1900 to be moved to articulate the end effector 1300 without moving, or at least substantially moving, the knife bar 1910. Once the end effector 1300 has been suitably oriented, the intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 can be advanced distally until a proximal sidewall of the longitudinal slot 1223 comes into contact with the tab 1912 in order to advance the knife bar 1910 and fire the staple cartridge 4000 positioned within the channel 1310. The knife bar 1910 can include a knife portion 1920 that can include a blade or tissue cutting edge 1922 and includes an upper anvil engagement tab 1924 and lower channel engagement tabs 1926. Various firing member configurations and operations can be disclosed in various other references incorporated herein by reference.

[00223] As can be seen in FIG. 19, the shaft assembly 1200 further may include a switch drum 1500 that can be rotatably received on proximal closure member segment 3010. The switch drum 1500 may comprise a hollow shaft segment 1502 that may have a shaft boss formed thereon for receive an outwardly protruding actuation pin therein. In various circumstances, the actuation pin may extend through a longitudinal slot provided in the

lock sleeve to facilitate axial movement of the lock sleeve when it is engaged with the articulation driver. A rotary torsion spring 1420 can be configured to engage the boss on the switch drum 1500 and a portion of the nozzle housing 1203 to apply a biasing force to the switch drum 1500. The switch drum 1500 can further comprise at least partially circumferential openings 1506 defined therein which can be configured to receive circumferential mounts extending from the nozzle portions 1202, 1203 and permit relative rotation, but not translation, between the switch drum 1500 and the nozzle 1201. The mounts may also extend through openings 3011 in the proximal closure member segment 3010 to be seated in recesses 1219 in the spine 1210. Rotation of the switch drum 1500 about the shaft axis SA will ultimately result in the rotation of the actuation pin and the lock sleeve between its engaged and disengaged positions. In one arrangement, the rotation of the switch drum 1500 may be linked to the axial advancement of the closure tube or closure member. Thus, in essence, actuation of the closure system may operably engage and disengage the articulation drive system with the firing drive system in the various manners described in further detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/803,086, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541, and U.S. Patent No. 9,913,642, entitled “SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A SENSOR SYSTEM,” which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. For example, when the closure tube is in its proximal-most position corresponding to a “jaws open” position, the closure member segment 3010 will have positioned the switch drum 1500 so as to link the articulation system with the firing drive system. When, the closure tube has been moved to its distal position corresponding to a “jaws closed” position, the closure tube has rotated the switch drum 1500 to a position wherein the articulation system is delinked from the firing drive system.

[00224]

As also illustrated in FIG. 19, the shaft assembly 1200 can comprise a slip ring assembly 1600 which can be configured to conduct electrical power to and/or from the end effector 1300 and/or communicate signals to and/or from the end effector 1300, for example. The slip ring assembly 1600 can comprise a proximal connector flange 1604 that can be mounted to a chassis flange 1242 that extends from the chassis 1240 and a distal connector flange that is positioned within a slot defined in the shaft housings. The proximal connector flange 1604 can comprise a first face and the distal connector flange can comprise a second face which is positioned adjacent to and movable relative to the first face. The distal connector flange can rotate relative to the proximal connector flange 1604 about the shaft axis SA. The proximal connector flange 1604 can comprise a plurality of concentric, or at least substantially concentric, conductors defined in the first face thereof. A connector can be mounted on the proximal side of the connector flange and may have a plurality of contacts wherein each contact corresponds to and is in electrical contact with

one of the conductors. Such an arrangement may permit relative rotation between the proximal connector flange 1604 and the distal connector flange while maintaining electrical contact therebetween. The proximal connector flange 1604 can include an electrical connector 1606 which can place the conductors in signal communication with a shaft circuit board 1610 mounted to the shaft chassis 1240, for example. In at least one instance, a wiring harness comprising a plurality of conductors can extend between the electrical connector 1606 and the shaft circuit board 1610. The electrical connector 1606 may extend proximally through a connector opening 1243 defined in the chassis flange 1242. See FIG. 19. Further details regarding slip ring assembly 1600 may be found, for example, in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/803,086, entitled “ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK,” now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/800,067, entitled “STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM,” filed on March 13, 2013, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263552, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety, and U.S. Patent No. 9,345,481, entitled “STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM,” which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[00225]

As discussed above, the shaft assembly 1200 can include a proximal portion which is fixably mounted to the handle 1014 and a distal portion which is rotatable about a longitudinal axis. The rotatable distal shaft portion can be rotated relative to the proximal portion about the slip ring assembly 1600, as discussed above. The distal connector flange of the slip ring assembly 1600 can be positioned within the rotatable distal shaft portion. Moreover, further to the above, the switch drum 1500 can also be positioned within the rotatable distal shaft portion. When the rotatable distal shaft portion is rotated, the distal connector flange and the switch drum 1500 can be rotated synchronously with one another. In addition, the switch drum 1500 can be rotated between a first position and a second position relative to the distal connector flange. When the switch drum 1500 is in its first position, the articulation drive system may be operably disengaged from the firing drive system and, thus, the operation of the firing drive system may not articulate the end effector 1300 of the shaft assembly 1200. When the switch drum 1500 is in its second position, the articulation drive system may be operably engaged with the firing drive system and, thus, the operation of the firing drive system may articulate the end effector 1300 of the shaft assembly 1200. When the switch drum 1500 is moved between its first position and its second position, the switch drum 1500 is moved relative to distal connector flange. In various instances, the shaft assembly 1200 can comprise at least one sensor configured to detect the position of the switch drum 1500.

[00226] Referring again to FIG. 19, the chassis 1240 may include at least one, and preferably two, tapered attachment portions 1244 formed thereon that are adapted to be received within corresponding dovetail slots 1702 formed within a distal attachment flange portion 1700 of the frame 1020. See FIG. 18. Each dovetail slot 1702 may be tapered or, stated another way, be somewhat V-shaped to seatingly receive the attachment portions 1244 therein. As can be further seen in FIG. 19, a shaft attachment lug 1226 is formed on the proximal end of the intermediate firing shaft portion 1222. As will be discussed in further detail below, when the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 can be coupled to the handle 1014, the shaft attachment lug 1226 can be received in a firing shaft attachment cradle 1126 formed in a distal end 1125 of the longitudinal drive member 1120. See FIG. 18.

[00227] Various shaft assembly embodiments can employ a latch system 1710 for removably coupling the shaft assembly 1200 to the housing 1012 and more specifically to the frame 1020. As can be seen in FIG. 4, for example, in at least one form, the latch system 1710 includes a lock member or lock yoke 1712 that is movably coupled to the chassis 1240. In the illustrated embodiment, for example, the lock yoke 1712 has a U-shape with two spaced downwardly extending legs 1714. The legs 1714 each may have a pivot lug 1715 formed thereon that are adapted to be received in corresponding holes 1245 formed in the chassis 1240. Such arrangement may facilitate pivotal attachment of the lock yoke 1712 to the chassis 1240. The lock yoke 1712 may include two proximally protruding lock lugs 1716 that are configured for releasable engagement with corresponding lock detents or grooves 1704 in the distal attachment flange portion 1700 of the frame 1020. See FIG. 18. In various forms, the lock yoke 1712 may be biased in the proximal direction by spring or biasing member (not shown). Actuation of the lock yoke 1712 may be accomplished by a latch button 1722 that is slidably mounted on a latch actuator assembly 1720 that is mounted to the chassis 1240. The latch button 1722 may be biased in a proximal direction relative to the lock yoke 1712. As will be discussed in further detail below, the lock yoke 1712 may be moved to an unlocked position by biasing the latch button in the distal direction which also may cause the lock yoke 1712 to pivot out of retaining engagement with the distal attachment flange portion 1700 of the frame 1020. When the lock yoke 1712 is in “retaining engagement” with the distal attachment flange portion 1700 of the frame 1020, the lock lugs 1716 may be retainingly seated within the corresponding lock detents or grooves 1704 in the distal attachment flange portion 1700.

[00228] When employing an interchangeable shaft assembly that includes an end effector of the type described herein that is adapted to cut and fasten tissue, as well as other types of end effectors, it may be desirable to prevent inadvertent detachment of the interchangeable shaft assembly from the housing during actuation of the end effector. For example, in use the clinician may actuate the closure trigger 1032 to grasp and manipulate the target tissue

into a desired position. Once the target tissue may be positioned within the end effector 1300 in a desired orientation, the clinician may then fully actuate the closure trigger 1032 to close the anvil 2000 and clamp the target tissue in position for cutting and stapling. In that instance, the first drive system 1030 may have been fully actuated. After the target tissue has been clamped in the end effector 1300, it may be desirable to prevent the inadvertent detachment of the shaft assembly 1200 from the housing 1012. One form of the latch system 1710 may be configured to prevent such inadvertent detachment.

[00229] As can be most particularly seen in FIG. 19, the lock yoke 1712 may include at least one and preferably two lock hooks 1718 that are adapted to contact corresponding lock lug portions 1256 that may be formed on the closure shuttle 1250. When the closure shuttle 1250 is in an unactuated position (i.e., the first drive system 1030 is unactuated and the anvil 2000 is open), the lock yoke 1712 may be pivoted in a distal direction to unlock the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 from the housing 1012. When in that position, the lock hooks 1718 do not contact the lock lug portions 1256 on the closure shuttle 1250. However, when the closure shuttle 1250 is moved to an actuated position (i.e., the first drive system 1030 is actuated and the anvil 2000 is in the closed position), the lock yoke 1712 may be prevented from being pivoted to an unlocked position. Stated another way, if the clinician were to attempt to pivot the lock yoke 1712 to an unlocked position or, for example, the lock yoke 1712 may be inadvertently bumped or contacted in a manner that might otherwise cause it to pivot distally, the lock hooks 1718 on the lock yoke 1712 will contact the lock lug portions 1256 on the closure shuttle 1250 and prevent movement of the lock yoke 1712 to an unlocked position.

[00230] Attachment of the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 to the handle 1014 will now be described. To commence the coupling process, the clinician may position the chassis 1240 of the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 above or adjacent to the distal attachment flange 1700 of the frame 1020 such that the tapered attachment portions 1244 formed on the chassis 1240 may be aligned with the dovetail slots 1702 in the frame 1020. The clinician may then move the shaft assembly 1200 along an installation axis that may be perpendicular to the shaft axis SA to seat the attachment portions 1244 in “operable engagement” with the corresponding dovetail receiving slots 1702. In doing so, the shaft attachment lug 1226 on the intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 will also be seated in the cradle 1126 in the longitudinally movable drive member 1120 and the portions of the pin 1037 on the second closure link 1038 will be seated in the corresponding hooks 1252 in the closure shuttle 1250. As used herein, the term “operable engagement” in the context of two components may mean that the two components are sufficiently engaged with each other so that upon application of an actuation motion thereto, the components may carry out their intended action, function and/or procedure.

[00231] At least five systems of the interchangeable shaft assembly 1200 can be operably coupled with at least five corresponding systems of the handle 1014. A first system can comprise a frame system which couples and/or aligns the frame or spine of the shaft assembly 1200 with the frame 1020 of the handle 1014. Another system can comprise a closure drive system 1030 which can operably connect the closure trigger 1032 of the handle 1014 and the closure tube 1260 and the anvil 2000 of the shaft assembly 1200. As outlined above, the closure shuttle 1250 of the shaft assembly 1200 can be engaged with the pin 1037 on the second closure link 1038. Another system can comprise the firing drive system 1080 which can operably connect the firing trigger 1130 of the handle 1014 with the intermediate firing shaft portion 1222 of the shaft assembly 1200. As outlined above, the shaft attachment lug 1226 can be operably connected with the cradle 1126 of the longitudinal drive member 1120. Another system can comprise an electrical system which can signal to a controller in the handle 1014, such as microcontroller, for example, that a shaft assembly, such as shaft assembly 1200, for example, has been operably engaged with the handle 1014 and/or, two, conduct power and/or communication signals between the shaft assembly 1200 and the handle 1014. For instance, the shaft assembly 1200 can include an electrical connector 1810 that is operably mounted to the shaft circuit board 1610. The electrical connector 1810 can be configured for mating engagement with a corresponding electrical connector 1800 on the handle control board 1100. Further details pertaining to the circuitry and control systems may be found in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/803,086, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541, and U.S. Patent No. 9,913,642. The fifth system may include the latching system for releasably locking the shaft assembly 1200 to the handle 1014.

[00232] The anvil 2000 in the illustrated example may include an anvil body 2002 that terminates in an anvil mounting portion 2010. The anvil mounting portion 2010 may be movably or pivotably supported on the elongate channel 1310 for selective pivotal travel relative thereto about a fixed anvil pivot axis PA that may be transverse to the shaft axis SA. In the illustrated arrangement, a pivot member or anvil trunnion 2012 may extend laterally out of each lateral side of the anvil mounting portion 2010 to be received in a corresponding trunnion cradle 1316 formed in the upstanding walls 1315 of the proximal end portion 1312 of the elongate channel 1310. The anvil trunnions 2012 can be pivotally retained in their corresponding trunnion cradle 1316 by the channel cap or anvil retainer 1290. The channel cap or anvil retainer 1290 may include a pair of attachment lugs that are configured to be retainingly received within corresponding lug grooves or notches formed in the upstanding walls 1315 of the proximal end portion 1312 of the elongate channel 1310. See FIG. 20.

- [00233] Still referring to FIG. 20, in at least one arrangement, the distal closure member or end effector closure tube 3050 may employ two axially offset, proximal and distal positive jaw opening features 3060 and 3062. The positive jaw opening features 3060, 3062 may be configured to interact with corresponding relieved areas and stepped portions formed on the anvil mounting portion 2010 as described in further detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/635,631, now U.S. Patent No. 10,639,037. Other jaw opening arrangements may be employed.
- [00234] FIG. 21 is a perspective view of another powered surgical stapling system. FIG. 21 depicts a previous surgical cutting and fastening instrument 5010 that is configured to generate rotary drive motions for operating a surgical end effector 5012. The endoscopic surgical instrument 5010 may comprise a handle 5006, a shaft 5008, and an articulating surgical end effector 5012 pivotally connected to the shaft 5008 at an articulation pivot 5014. An articulation control 5016 may be provided adjacent to the handle 5006 to effect rotation of the end effector 5012 about the articulation pivot 5014. It will be appreciated that various embodiments may include a non-pivoting end effector, and therefore may not have an articulation pivot 5014 or articulation control 5016.
- [00235] The handle 5006 of the instrument 5010 may include a closure trigger 5018 and a firing trigger 5020 for actuating the end effector 5012. It will be appreciated that instruments having end effectors directed to different surgical tasks may have different numbers or types of triggers or other suitable controls for operating the end effector 5012. In one embodiment, a clinician or operator of the instrument 5010 may articulate the end effector 5012 relative to the shaft 5008 by utilizing the articulation control 5016, as described in more detail in pending U.S. Patent No. 7,670,334, entitled "SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HAVING AN ARTICULATING END EFFECTOR," which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The end effector 5012 may include in this example, among other things, a staple channel 5022 and a pivotally translatable clamping member, such as an anvil 5024, which can be maintained at a spacing that assures effective stapling and severing of tissue clamped in the end effector 5012. The handle 5006 may include a pistol grip 5026 toward which the closure trigger 5018 is pivotally drawn by the clinician to cause clamping or closing of the anvil 5024 towards the staple channel 5022 of the end effector 5012 to thereby clamp tissue positioned between the anvil 5024 and channel 5022.
- [00236] An example of parameters that may be gathered and communicated (e.g., as use instructions, recommendations, and/or other information) in one or more operating modes of a multi-mode surgical instrument is presented in FIG. 25. A variety of parameters that may be gathered and communicated (e.g., as use instructions, recommendations, and/or other information) in one or more operating modes of a multi-mode surgical instrument are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/209,416,

entitled, "METHOD OF HUB COMMUNICATION, PROCESSING, DISPLAY, AND CLOUD ANALYTICS," filed on December 4, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0206562, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[00237] FIG. 25 illustrates example illustrative analytics. As shown, parameters gathered by the surgical hub from their paired modular devices 9050 can include, for example, force to fire (e.g., the force required to advance a cutting member of a surgical stapling instrument through a tissue), force to close (e.g., the force required to clamp the jaws of a surgical stapling instrument on a tissue), the power algorithm (i.e., change in power over time of electrosurgical or ultrasonic instruments in response to the internal states of the instrument and/or tissue conditions), tissue properties (e.g., impedance, thickness, stiffness, etc.), tissue gap (i.e., the thickness of the tissue), and closure rate (i.e., the rate at which the jaws of the instrument clamped shut). It should be noted that the modular device 9050 data that is transmitted to the analytics system 9100 (shown in FIG. 13) is not limited to a single type of data and can include multiple different data types paired with procedural outcome data. The procedural outcome data for a surgical procedure (or step thereof) can include, for example, whether there was bleeding at the surgical site, whether there was air or fluid leakage at the surgical site, and whether the staples of a particular staple line were formed properly. The procedural outcome data can further include or be associated with a positive or negative outcome, as determined by the surgical hub 9000 or the analytics system 9100 (shown in FIG. 13), for example. The modular device 9050 data and the procedural outcome data corresponding to the modular device 9050 perioperative data can be paired together or otherwise associated with each other when they are uploaded to the analytics system 9100 so that the analytics system 9100 is able to recognize trends in procedural outcomes based on the underlying data of the modular devices 9050 that produced each particular outcome. In other words, the analytics system 9100 can aggregate the modular device 9050 data and the procedural outcome data to search for trends or patterns in the underlying device modular data 9050 that can indicate adjustments that can be made to the modular devices' 9050 control programs.

[00238] In the depicted exemplification, the analytics system 9100 may receive 9202 modular device 9050 data and procedural outcome data. When transmitted to the analytics system 9100, the procedural outcome data can be associated or paired with the modular device 9050 data corresponding to the operation of the modular device 9050 that caused the particular procedural outcome. The modular device 9050 perioperative data and corresponding procedural outcome data can be referred to as a data pair. The data is depicted as including a first group 9212 of data associated with successful procedural outcomes and a second group 9214 of data associated with negative procedural outcomes. For this

particular exemplification, a subset of the data 9212, 9214 received 9202 by the analytics system 9100 is highlighted to further elucidate the concepts discussed herein.

[00239]

For a first data pair 9212a, the modular device 9050 data can include the force to close (FTC) over time, the force to fire (FTF) over time, the tissue type (parenchyma), the tissue conditions (the tissue is from a patient suffering from emphysema and had been subject to radiation), what number firing this was for the instrument (third), an anonymized time stamp (to protect patient confidentiality while still allowing the analytics system to calculate elapsed time between firings and other such metrics), and an anonymized patient identifier (002). The procedural outcome data can include data indicating that there was no bleeding, which corresponds to a successful outcome (e.g., a successful firing of the surgical stapling instrument). For a second data pair 9212b, the modular device 9050 data can include the wait time prior the instrument being fired (which corresponds to the first firing of the instrument), the FTC over time, the FTF over time (which indicates that there was a force spike near the end of the firing stroke), the tissue type (1.1 mm vessel), the tissue conditions (the tissue had been subject to radiation), what number firing this was for the instrument (first), an anonymized time stamp, and an anonymized patient identifier (002). The procedural outcome data includes data indicating that there was a leak, which corresponds to a negative outcome (i.e., a failed firing of the surgical stapling instrument). For a third data pair 9212c, the modular device 9050 data may include the wait time prior the instrument being fired (which corresponds to the first firing of the instrument), the FTC over time, the FTF over time, the tissue type (1.8 mm vessel), the tissue conditions (no notable conditions), what number firing this was for the instrument (first), an anonymized time stamp, and an anonymized patient identifier (012). The procedural outcome data may include data indicating that there was a leak, which corresponds to a negative outcome (i.e., a failed firing of the surgical stapling instrument). It should be noted again that this data is intended solely for illustrative purposes to assist in the understanding of the concepts discussed herein and should not be interpreted to limit the data that is received and/or analyzed by the analytics system 9100 to generate control program updates.

[00240]

When the analytics system 9100 receives 9202 perioperative data from the communicably connected surgical hubs 9000, the analytics system 9100 proceeds to aggregate and/or store the data according to the procedure type (or a step thereof) associated with the data, the type of the modular device 9050 that generated the data, and other such categories. By collating the data accordingly, the analytics system 9100 can analyze the data set to identify correlations between particular ways of controlling each particular type of modular device 9050 and positive or negative procedural outcomes. Based upon whether a particular manner of controlling a modular device 9050 can correlate to positive or negative

procedural outcomes, the analytics system 9100 can determine 9204 whether the control program for the type of modular device 9050 should be updated.

[00241] For this particular exemplification, the analytics system 9100 can perform a first analysis 9216a of the data set by analyzing the peak FTF 9213 (e.g., the maximum FTF for each particular firing of a surgical stapling instrument) relative to the number of firings 9211 for each peak FTF value. In this exemplary case, the analytics system 9100 can determine that there is no particular correlation between the peak FTF 9213 and the occurrence of positive or negative outcomes for the particular data set. In other words, there are not distinct distributions for the peak FTF 9213 for positive and negative outcomes. As there is no particular correlation between peak FTF 9213 and positive or negative outcomes, the analytics system 9100 would thus determine that a control program update to address this variable is not necessary. Further, the analytics system 9100 can perform a second analysis 9216b of the data set by analyzing the wait time 9215 prior to the instrument being fired relative to the number of firings 9211. For this particular analysis 9216b, the analytics system 9100 can determine that there is a distinct negative outcome distribution 9217 and a positive outcome distribution 9219. In this exemplary case, the negative outcome distribution 9217 has a mean of 4 seconds and the positive outcome distribution has a mean of 11 seconds. Thus, the analytics system 9100 can determine that there is a correlation between the wait time 9215 and the type of outcome for this surgical procedure step. Namely, the negative outcome distribution 9217 can indicate that there is a relatively large rate of negative outcomes for wait times of 4 seconds or less. Based on this analysis 9216b demonstrating that there can be a large divergence between the negative outcome distribution 9217 and the positive outcome distribution 9219, the analytics system 9100 can then determine 9204 that a control program update should be generated 9208.

[00242] Once the analytics system 9100 analyzes the data set and determines 9204 that an adjustment to the control program of the particular module device 9050 that is the subject of the data set would improve the performance of the modular device 9050, the analytics system 9100 can then generate 9208 a control program update accordingly. In this exemplary case, the analytics system 9100 can determine based on the analysis 9216b of the data set that a control program update 9218 recommending a wait time of more than 5 seconds would prevent 90% of the distribution of the negative outcomes with a 95% confidence interval. Alternatively, the analytics system 9100 can determine based on the analysis 9216b of the data set that a control program update 9218 recommending a wait time of more than 5 seconds would result in the rate of positive outcomes being greater than the rate of negative outcomes. The analytics system 9100 could thus determine that the particular type of surgical instrument should wait more than 5 seconds before being fired under the particular tissue conditions so that negative outcomes are less common

than positive outcomes. Based on either or both of these constraints for generating 9208 a control program update that the analytics system 9100 determines are satisfied by the analysis 9216b, the analytics system 9100 can generate 9208 a control program update 9218 for the surgical instrument that causes the surgical instrument, under the given circumstances, to either impose a 5 second or longer wait time before the particular surgical instrument can be fired or causes the surgical instrument to display a warning or recommendation to the user that indicates to the user that the user should wait at least 5 seconds before firing the instrument. Various other constraints can be utilized by the analytics system 9100 in determining whether to generate 9208 a control program update, such as whether a control program update would reduce the rate of negative outcomes by a certain percentage or whether a control program update maximizes the rate of positive outcomes.

[00243] After the control program update 9218 is generated 9208, the analytics system 9100 then can transmit 9210 the control program update 9218 for the appropriate type of modular devices 9050 to the surgical hubs 9000. In one exemplification, when a modular device 9050 that corresponds to the control program update 9218 is next connected to a surgical hub 9000 that has downloaded the control program update 9218, the modular device 9050 then automatically downloads the update 9218. In another exemplification, the surgical hub 9000 controls the modular device 9050 according to the control program update 9218, rather than the control program update 9218 being transmitted directly to the modular device 9050 itself.

[00244] In one aspect, the surgical system 9060 can be configured to push down verification of software parameters and updates if modular devices 9050 are detected to be out of date in the surgical hub 9000 data stream. In one exemplification, the analytics system 9000 can be configured to transmit a generated control program update for a particular type of modular device 9050 to a surgical hub 9000. In one aspect, each time a modular device 9050 connects to a surgical hub 9000, the modular device 9050 determines whether there is an updated version of its control program on or otherwise accessible via the surgical hub 9000. If the surgical hub 9000 does have an updated control program (or the updated control program is otherwise available from the analytics system 9100) for the particular type of modular device 9050, then the modular device 9050 downloads the control program update therefrom.

[00245] In one exemplification, any data set being transmitted to the analytics systems 9100 includes a unique ID for the surgical hub 9000 and the current version of its control program or operating system. In one exemplification, any data set being sent to the analytics systems 9100 can include a unique ID for the modular device 9050 and the current version of its control program or operating system. The unique ID of the surgical

hub 9000 and/or modular device 9050 being associated with the uploaded data can allow the analytics system 9100 to determine whether the data corresponds to the most recent version of the control program. The analytics system 9100 could, for example, elect to discount (or ignore) data generated by a modular device 9050 or surgical hub 9000 being controlled by an out of date control program and/or cause the updated version of the control program to be pushed to the modular device 9050 or surgical hub 9000.

[00246] In one exemplification, the operating versions of the modular devices 9050 the surgical hub 9000 has updated control software for could also be included in a surgical hub 9000 status data block that is transmitted to the analytics system 9100 on a periodic basis. If the analytics system 9100 identifies that the operating versions of the control programs of the surgical hub 9100 and/or any of the connectable modular devices 9050 are out of date, the analytics system 9100 could push the most recent revision of the relevant control program to the surgical hub 9000.

[00247] In one exemplification, the surgical hub 9000 and/or modular devices 9050 can be configured to automatically download any software updates. In another exemplification, the surgical hub 9000 and/or modular devices 9050 can be configured to provide a prompt for the user to ask at the next setup step (e.g., between surgical procedures) if the user wants to update the out of date control program(s). In another exemplification, the surgical hub 9000 could be programmable by the user to never allow updates or only allow updates of the modular devices 9050 and not the surgical hub 9000 itself.

[00248] An example of cloud aggregation of data from hubs is presented in FIG. 26. FIG. 26 illustrates a block diagram of a computer-implemented interactive surgical system 5700, in accordance with at least one aspect of the present disclosure. The system 5700 can include a number of surgical hubs 5706 that, as described above, are able to detect and track data related to surgical procedures that the surgical hubs 5706 (and the modular devices paired to the surgical hubs 5706) can be utilized in connection with. In one exemplification, the surgical hubs 5706 can be connected to form local networks such that the data being tracked by the surgical hubs 5706 is aggregated together across the network. The networks of surgical hubs 5706 can be associated with a medical facility, for example. The data aggregated from the network of surgical hubs 5706 can be analyzed to provide reports on data trends or recommendations. For example, the surgical hubs 5706 of a first medical facility 5704a can be communicably connected to a first local database 5708a and the surgical hubs 5706 of a second medical facility 5704b can be communicably connected to a second local database 5708b. The network of surgical hubs 5706 associated with the first medical facility 5704a can be distinct from the network of surgical hubs 5706 associated with the second medical facility 5704b, such that the aggregated data from each network of surgical hubs 5706 corresponds to each medical facility 5704a, 5704b individually. A

surgical hub 5706 or another computer terminal communicably connected to the database 5708a, 5708b can be configured to provide reports or recommendations based on the aggregated data associated with the respective medical facility 5704a, 5704b. In this exemplification, the data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706 can be utilized to, for example, report whether a particular incidence of a surgical procedure deviated from the average in-network time to complete the particular procedure type.

[00249] In another exemplification, each surgical hub 5706 can be configured to upload the tracked data to the cloud 5702, which then processes and aggregates the tracked data across multiple surgical hubs 5706, networks of surgical hubs 5706, and/or medical facilities 5704a, 5704b that are connected to the cloud 5702. Each surgical hub 5706 can then be utilized to provide reports or recommendations based on the aggregated data. In this exemplification, the data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706 can be utilized to, for example, report whether a particular incidence of a surgical procedure deviated from the average global time to complete the particular procedure type.

[00250] In another exemplification, each surgical hub 5706 can further be configured to access the cloud 5702 to compare locally tracked data to global data aggregated from all of the surgical hubs 5706 that are communicably connected to the cloud 5702. Each surgical hub 5706 can be configured to provide reports or recommendations based on the comparison between the tracked local data relative to local (i.e., in-network) or global norms. In this exemplification, the data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706 can be utilized to, for example, report whether a particular incidence of a surgical procedure deviated from either the average in-network time or the average global time to complete the particular procedure type.

[00251] In one exemplification, each surgical hub 5706 or another computer system local to the surgical hub 5706 can be configured to locally aggregate the data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706, store the tracked data, and generate reports and/or recommendations according to the tracked data in response to queries. In cases where the surgical hub 5706 is connected to a medical facility network (which may include additional surgical hubs 5706), the surgical hub 5706 can be configured to compare the tracked data with the bulk medical facility data. The bulk medical facility data can include EMR data and aggregated data from the local network of surgical hubs 5706. In another exemplification, the cloud 5702 can be configured to aggregate the data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706, store the tracked data, and generate reports and/or recommendations according to the tracked data in response to queries.

[00252] Each surgical hub 5706 can provide reports regarding trends in the data and/or provide recommendations on improving the efficiency or effectiveness of the surgical procedures

being performed. In various exemplifications, the data trends and recommendations can be based on data tracked by the surgical hub 5706 itself, data tracked across a local medical facility network containing multiple surgical hubs 5706, or data tracked across a number of surgical hubs 5706 communicably connected to a cloud 5702. The recommendations provided by the surgical hub 5706 can describe, for example, particular surgical instruments or product mixes to utilize for particular surgical procedures based on correlations between the surgical instruments/product mixes and patient outcomes and procedural efficiency. The reports provided by the surgical hub 5706 can describe, for example, whether a particular surgical procedure was performed efficiently relative to local or global norms, whether a particular type of surgical procedure being performed at the medical facility is being performed efficiently relative to global norms, and the average time taken to complete a particular surgical procedure or step of a surgical procedure for a particular surgical team.

[00253] For example, the surgical hub 5706 can be utilized to perform studies of performance by instrument type or cartridge type for various procedures. For example, the surgical hub 5706 can be utilized to perform studies on the performance of individual surgeons. For example, the surgical hub 5706 can be utilized to perform studies on the effectiveness of different surgical procedures according to patients' characteristics or disease states. Examples of data aggregation and analysis are described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,668, entitled "AGGREGATION AND REPORTING OF SURGICAL HUB DATA," filed on March 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201115, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[00254] In one exemplification, each surgical hub 5706 can be configured to determine when operating theater events occur (e.g., via a situational awareness system) and then track the length of time spent on each event. An operating theater event can be an event that a surgical hub 5706 can detect or infer the occurrence of. An operating theater event can include, for example, a particular surgical procedure, a step or portion of a surgical procedure, or downtime between surgical procedures. The operating theater events can be categorized according to an event type, such as a type of surgical procedure being performed, so that the data from individual procedures can be aggregated together to form searchable data sets.

[00255] The data tracked by the surgical hubs 5706 may be parsed to provide increasingly detailed metrics related to surgical procedures or the use of the surgical hub 5706 for an example data set. In one exemplification, the surgical hub 5706 can be configured to determine whether a surgical procedure is being performed and then track both the length of time spent between procedures (e.g., downtime) and the time spent on the procedures

themselves. The surgical hub 5706 can further be configured to determine and track the time spent on each of the individual steps taken by the medical personnel (e.g., surgeons, nurses, orderlies) either between or during the surgical procedures. The surgical hub can determine when surgical procedures or different steps of surgical procedures are being performed via a situational awareness system, which is described in further detail herein. Aggregation (e.g., cloud aggregation) of data (e.g., from hubs) is further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/209,416, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20190206562.

[00256] A surgical instrument (e.g., a powered intelligent surgical stapler) may have a means for displaying instrument functional data to a surgical user. Data displayed may be based on, for example, the intercommunication capabilities of the instrument (e.g., the surgical stapler), its accessories or consumables (e.g., cartridge(s)), and the display system. Data communicated from an accessory or consumable (e.g., a cartridge) to a user through the instrument may be or may include one or more static cartridge functional aspects, or the accessory or consumable (e.g., cartridge) data may be interactively combined with other data (e.g., instrument actuator or configuration data) to provide a broader understanding (e.g., a more complete or a full context) of instrument status.

[00257] Combined data may (e.g., additionally) be aggregated, for example, to determine tissue data or functional data from system interactions with a surgical site. Some or all (e.g., aggregated) data may be transferred to remote servers or storage. A user may be allowed to review, aggregate, or use stored data to provide insights for future uses of an instrument (e.g., a stapler). Capabilities such as instrument capabilities, features and/or user interactions allowed (e.g., and/or restricted) by a system (e.g., a control system of an instrument) may be based on, for example, system capacity parameters (e.g., a connectivity capability); system condition parameters (e.g., bandwidth, interference, conductivity, current load level); system authorization parameters (e.g., parameters indicating compatibility, authorized (e.g., purchased) mode/tier level of operation, authenticity); and/or control parameters provided to an instrument by a hub or external remote server (e.g., external control parameters), such as software version, revision or update level, subscription level, interconnectivity with an external/outside system, region of use, user input(s), or (e.g., secure) communication with an external database system).

[00258] An instrument may be subject to operating mode (e.g., tiered) control, which may be controlled by a hub. In some examples, a surgical hub may control instrument authentication, mode of operation and communication. Information about surgical hub coordination and control is provided in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,656, entitled "SURGICAL HUB COORDINATION OF CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION OF OPERATING ROOM DEVICES," filed on March 29, 2018,

now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201141, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[00259] An instrument may initialize and may or may not be upgraded operationally, for example, based on mode/tier control. A surgical instrument may be initialized, for example, upon initial or subsequent power on or wake up. For example, a surgical instrument may wake up (e.g., be turned on, powered up), and be initialized, e.g., by pairing with a surgical hub. A surgical instrument may initialize, for example, in an initial mode of operation (e.g., a default or entry-level mode). For example, a surgical instrument (e.g., upon being initialized) may send initialization mode (e.g., mode 1 or tier 1) information to a hub. The surgical instrument may receive an operation mode indication from the hub, which may be the same or different than an initialization mode. The instrument may (e.g., depending on the operation mode) receive (e.g., from a hub) operational parameters, instructions to download additional software, instructions to activate one or more functions, etc. Tiered operation (e.g., tiered access) for an instrument (e.g., an endocutter) may be controlled, for example, by a surgical hub. For example, a surgical instrument may receive an indication to download a software upgrade, e.g., to change operation from an initialization tier to another (e.g., higher or lower) tier. In an example, a surgical instrument may receive an indication to downgrade a mode/tier, for example, by disabling a functionality associated with a tier (e.g., an unauthorized or unsupported tier).

[00260] A surgical device may include communication capabilities, which may be wireless. For example, an instrument may have a Bluetooth communication array (e.g., to communicate with a hub). A wireless connection may be established between an instrument and a hub, for example, during instrument initialization. An instrument may provide information describing the instrument to a hub, such as one or more of a serial number, model number, and so on. An instrument may be configured with the ability to receive information (e.g., during initialization and/or during operation). Communication bandwidth may vary among operational modes. For example, an instrument may have limited bandwidth during initialization (e.g., to download basic information). An instrument may be capable of and/or configurable for higher bandwidth communication following initialization and/or if elevated to another mode/tier of operation. A hub may provide an instrument with improved firmware and/or software (e.g., communication software) to allow/support high bandwidth high data transfers (e.g., for real time data transfer), for example, if the improved communication software is not preloaded in the device at the time of initialization. An upgrade may involve, for example, downloading and installing firmware (e.g., BIOS) and/or software. Data aggregation capability, use of internal memory, and/or other features may also vary with modes of operation.

- [00261] A processor in a surgical instrument may determine whether to allow or restrict bi-directional communication. An initialized mode of communication may be treated differently than an operational mode of communication. For example, a first mode of operation may include unidirectional communication (e.g., from an instrument to a hub), a second mode of operation may include bi-directional communication, and a third mode of operation may include interactive communication (e.g., with a local hub or other remote network portal).
- [00262] FIGS. 22-24 show examples of three modes (e.g., tiers) of operation of a surgical instrument. Other examples may implement more or fewer tiers/modes with the same or different operational characteristics. Various levels/modes/tiers of instrument operation may vary the availability, access, level of use, level of interaction and/or support for one or more features available through an instrument, such as sensors, communications, displays, storage, analyses, feedback, recommendations or advice, and so on. In examples, an instrument processor may be configured to determine an operation mode, for example, based on an instrument operation control parameter (e.g., one or more of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from a hub, and/or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server).
- [00263] FIG. 22 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode. FIG. 22 shows an example of a first mode of operation (e.g., tier I). Surgical instrument 11012 may, in an example of a first mode of operation, engage in unidirectional communication with surgical hub 11006 and provide information for display to display 11025. A processor in surgical instrument 11012, such as a surgical stapler, may obtain cartridge information (e.g., identification and/or authentication information), cartridge authentication information, status information (e.g., firing status information), error information, and so on. Cartridge information may include, for example, cartridge identification information (e.g., color, type, length, serial number, etc.), and/or cartridge authentication information (e.g., verified origin, lot information, etc.). Status information may include an instrument status (e.g., ready, fired, connected, etc.). Error information may include instrument or accessory (e.g., cartridge) errors (e.g., unable to read cartridge parameter, etc.). The surgical instrument 11012, such as a surgical stapler, may send the cartridge identification information, cartridge authentication information, status information, error information, and/or other information, for example, to surgical hub 11006 and/or to display 11025 (e.g., for display to a user). Information may be sent, for example, via a (e.g., wireless) transmitter (e.g., Bluetooth).
- [00264] In an example, first mode (e.g., tier I) information may indicate a powered endocutter was fired with a cartridge of a particular color, and the cartridge may be associated with a serial

number. Such information may be used to annotate a procedure, for example, to describe how the powered endocutter was used. For example, an instrument processor may be configured to obtain staple cartridge information and instrument status information from an end effector (e.g., for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge). The instrument processor may send the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.

- [00265] FIG. 23 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode. FIG. 23 shows an example of a second mode of operation (e.g., tier II). Surgical instrument 11012 may, in an example of a second mode of operation, engage in bidirectional communication with surgical hub 11006 and provide information to display 11025 (e.g., for display to a user). Surgical hub 11006 may communicate with remote server 11013. A second mode of operation may build on (e.g., add capabilities or functionality to) first mode operation.
- [00266] Examples of bi-directional communication may include, for example, sensed information from the end effector (e.g., sensed parameter(s), such as tissue thickness), sensed information from the handle (e.g., motor function, force to fire/close, etc.), usage information (e.g., time from clamp to fire, characterization of user controlled firing, etc.), prioritization of information to display, location to display information, compiled recommendations from database analysis, etc. Information may be communicated, for example, locally to/from (e.g., within) an operating room (OR) and/or to/from one or more systems outside the OR (e.g., cloud-based storage, etc.).
- [00267] FIG. 27 illustrates an example flow for operating in accordance with surgical instrument operation mode(s). In an example, a surgical instrument may include a processor, a transmitter and at least one sensor configured to provide a sensor signal (e.g., according to a physiological parameter of a tissue). The processor may be configured to make one or more determinations and/or take one or more actions based on an instrument operation mode.
- [00268] At 11510, a determination may be made, based on the operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter from a sensor. For example, a processor (e.g., in a surgical instrument) may determine (e.g., based on an instrument operation mode), whether to obtain (e.g., and/or send) a sensed parameter associated with a sensor signal from a sensor.
- [00269] One or more sensors may sense and provide (e.g., in sensor signals) information, for example, from one or more portions (e.g., components or subcomponents) of a surgical instrument (e.g., a handle, an end effector, a knife, and/or a clamp). For example, a multitude of sensors are shown (e.g., in FIG. 19) and described in a surgical instrument comprising an adaptive control system in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/361,793, entitled "SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ADAPTIVE CONTROL

SYSTEM,” filed March 22, 2019, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20190314015, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Sensed information from the handle may include, for example, a motor function, a force to fire/close, etc.

[00270] A sensor may be configured to sense and provide a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue. For example, a surgical instrument may have a tissue thickness sensing module with a sensor that generates a sensor signal (e.g., tissue thickness signal) according to a physiological parameter of a tissue (e.g., tissue thickness), e.g., as shown and described with respect to FIGS. 7-15 in U.S. Patent No. 9,345,481 and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/800,067, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263552. In an example, a surgical instrument (e.g., an endocutter or surgical stapler) may include a tissue thickness sensing module, which may be located, for example, adjacent to the distal end of a staple cartridge. A tissue thickness sensing module may comprise a sensor and a controller. A sensor may be configured to generate a sensor signal, for example, a tissue thickness signal indicative of a thickness of the tissue (e.g., for tissue located between the anvil and the staple cartridge of an end effector portion of a surgical instrument). A controller may be in signal communication with the sensor. The controller may comprise a means for identifying the staple cartridge type of the staple cartridge. The staple cartridge type and the thickness of the tissue may be used, for example, to determine if the thickness of the tissue located between the anvil and the staple cartridge is within the optimal tissue thickness range of the staple cartridge.

[00271] In examples, a display or analysis (e.g., at a hub or remote server) may (e.g., interactively) combine sensed information with other information. For example, cartridge data may be interactively combined with instrument actuator or configuration data, e.g., to provide a broader understating of the (e.g., full) instrument status. Cartridge data can correspond to the size or type of staple being fired by the instrument, for example. Different types of staples may be utilized for different types of tissues. Usage information (e.g., time from clamp to fire, characterization of user-controlled firing, etc.) may be displayed and/or processed, for example, in combination with sensed information and/or other information.

[00272] At 11520, a determination may be made, based on the operation mode, whether to receive information (e.g., instrument usage instruction, operational information, and/or recommendations). For example, a processor (e.g., in a surgical instrument) may determine (e.g., based on an instrument operation mode), whether to receive information (e.g., from hub 11006 or remote server 11013 via surgical hub 11006).

- [00273] Information received may include, for example, identification of the tissue to be operated on or that is being operated on (e.g., based on instrument or component position tracking information). See, for example, FIG. 19 and accompanying discussion in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/361,793, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0314015, which shows multiple sensors that may be used in a tracking system. A tracking procedure performed by the tracking system may be performed at a hub (e.g., surgical hub 11006). A processor in the instrument may receive position information from a tracking procedure at the hub.
- [00274] Information received may include, for example, recommended usage information (e.g., time from clamp to fire, characterization of user-controlled firing, etc.). Information received may include, for example, force-to-fire, wait time/period, speed, time from clamp to fire, etc. Information received may include, for example, information for display and/or information indicating whether to display on one or more displays (e.g., a display on the handle of an instrument, a display associated with a hub or other display system), prioritization of information to display, location (e.g., on one or more display screens) in which to display information, etc. Information received may include instructions determined based on, for example, sensed information, a disease state of the issue, previous firings of a surgical instrument or device (e.g., an endocutter) and associated sensed information, etc. Information received may include, for example, a cartridge selection sequence/order.
- [00275] Information received may include a recommendation to the surgeon, if another available stapler, another available energy device, and/or another stapler component (e.g., staple cartridge, shaft, etc. available for use with the selected stapler/device) is more optimal or optional. Information received may include a warning that a safety issue exists with the selected cartridge, or stapler/device. Examples of recommendations based on safety systems are described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/024,075, entitled "SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR SMART POWERED SURGICAL STAPLING," filed on June 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201146, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.
- [00276] Information received may include, for example, situation awareness information. The recommendation may be indicated with an elevated priority level based on an anticipated surgical act and the input from the situationally-aware surgical hub. For example, organ issue (e.g., stomach, lung, and so on) may be identified based on sensed information. A determination may be made based on sensed information, such as texture and/or compressibility (e.g., stomach tissue is very thick and very incompressible while lung tissue is very thick and very compressible). A clamping operation recommendation (e.g., speed

and timing) and a firing operation recommendation (e.g., speed and timing, such as a wait period) may be determined, for example, based on tissue identification.

[00277] Examples of recommendations based on situation awareness are presented with respect to FIGS. 9 and 10. FIG. 9 is a diagram of an example situationally aware surgical system. FIG. 10 illustrates an example timeline of an illustrative surgical procedure and the inferences that the surgical hub can make from the data detected at each step in the surgical procedure. Other examples of recommendations based on situation awareness are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 16/182,246, entitled “ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON AIRBORNE PARTICLE PROPERTIES,” filed on November 6, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0204201, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[00278] At 11530, communication may occur (e.g., via an instrument transmitter) with a surgical hub based on the determination at 11510 or 11520. Communications involving a surgical instrument (e.g., in second mode/tier operation) may include sending and/or receiving information (e.g., as shown by example in FIG. 23) using, respectively, a transmitter and/or a receiver. In examples, an instrument processor may be configured to obtain and send a sensed parameter to a surgical hub, for example, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter. In examples, an instrument processor may be configured to receive an instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via a receiver, for example, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction. The instrument processor may send the received instrument usage instruction to a display. In examples, an instrument processor may be configured to receive cartridge information from an end effector. The instrument processor may determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter (e.g., a time from clamp to fire and/or a characterization of a user-controlled firing). The instrument processor may, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports this capability, send the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub (e.g., via the transmitter).

[00279] FIG. 24 illustrates an example surgical instrument operation mode. FIG. 24 shows an example of a third mode of operation (e.g., tier III). Surgical instrument 11012 may, in an example of a third mode of operation, engage in bidirectional communication with surgical hub 11006 and provide information to display 11025 (e.g., for display to a user). Surgical hub 11006 may communicate with remote server 11013. Remote server 11013 may communicate with storage 11022 storing aggregated data. Remote server 11013 may communicate with a user portal 11026.

- [00280] A third mode of operation may build on (e.g., add capabilities or functionality to) first and second modes of operation described herein. In some examples, a third mode of operation may add cloud storage of instrument usage, user accessibility, data aggregation, analyses and recommendations. For example, an instrument processor may be configured to determine (e.g., based on a mode of operation) whether to send information (e.g., instrument accessory information, such as cartridge data) that may be interactively combined (e.g., by a remote/cloud server) with instrument actuator or configuration data (e.g., for aggregation). Information that may be stored and aggregated (e.g., with instrument usage information) may include, for example, one or more of the following: doctor identification information, type of surgery, patient information, or disease state. An instrument processor may be configured to send information to a hub and/or (e.g., directly) to a remote server.
- [00281] An instrument processor may be configured to determine (e.g., based on a mode of operation) whether to receive a recommendation (e.g., an instrument usage recommendation and/or an accessory selection recommendation) based on stored information (e.g., aggregated historic/typical instrument usage information). For example, a recommendation may be recommended instrument usage information (e.g., stapler cartridge selection) generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. For example, a recommendation may be a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step (e.g., of using an instrument).
- [00282] Historical information stored, aggregated, analyzed and used for recommendations may include, for example, information about previous procedures, such as procedure types, tissues, tissue conditions, accessory (e.g., cartridge) types selected and order of use in surgical instrument (e.g., surgical stapler), and so on. In various examples, historical information may include one or more of the following: compiled recommendations from database analysis (e.g., based on aggregated data); surgeon identification information (e.g., Dr. X); procedure information (e.g., bariatric procedure type); surgeon's usage information (e.g., trend, prediction, typical use), cartridge selection sequence/order; and/or display utilization (e.g., on an instrument handle or on a hub display/display system).
- [00283] A remote server may aggregate data from multiple surgeries and users (e.g., surgeons). A remote server may send aggregated data and/or usage recommendations to a surgical instrument (e.g., directly or via a hub). A remote server may allow a user to review, aggregate, or use stored data to provide insights for future uses of an instrument (e.g., a surgical stapler).

- [00284] A third mode/tier of instrument operation may provide a user (e.g., a surgeon) access to historical data (e.g., their own data). A surgeon may change a procedure over time (e.g., change cartridge selection of type(s), combination and sequence). A cartridge may be color coded, for example, to indicate staple heights (e.g., gray, white, blue, green, gold, or gold, green and black). Different staple heights may be used to staple tissue, for example, based on one or more variables, such as a type of tissue, a state of tissue, and/or a gap between tissue.
- [00285] Cartridge selection and usage information associated with a surgeon may be stored for future review. Cartridge selection and usage information associated with a surgeon may be aggregated (e.g., over time). Surgical procedure information may be correlated with post-operative data, such as post-operative leaks, secondary complications and/or reoperation information.
- [00286] Data analytics may be retrieved and viewed, for example, at a user portal 11026. Information about data collection, data aggregation, surgical data analytics, and remote (e.g., cloud) server access to data and recommendations are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 15/940,679, entitled "CLOUD-BASED MEDICAL ANALYTICS FOR LINKING OF LOCAL USAGE TRENDS WITH THE RESOURCE ACQUISITION BEHAVIORS OF LARGER DATA SET," filed on March 29, 2018, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2019/0201144, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.
- [00287] Remote (e.g., cloud) server 11013 may include an input/output interface configured for accessing data from a plurality of medical hub communication devices (e.g., including surgical hub 11006). A medical hub may be communicatively coupled to at least one surgical instrument (e.g., surgical instrument 11012). Remote server 11013 may include a processor configured to receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a user (e.g., a surgeon). The remote server processor may be configured to aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic usage information associated with the user. The processor may be configured to send the aggregated instruction usage information, for example, to a data analytics server, to a hub (e.g., surgical hub 11006), etc.
- [00288] A remote server processor (e.g., in remote server 11013) may be configured to correlate received instrument usage information to an outcome of a medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure. The remote server processor may be configured to send the correlated information, for example, to a hub (e.g., surgical hub 11006 for display to a user before, during and/or after a medical procedure using surgical instrument 11012). A remote server may send correlated information, for

example, as a reference before, during a medical procedure, and/or as a post-operative review following a medical procedure, etc.

[00289] A remote server processor (e.g., in remote server 11013) may be configured to determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming (e.g., or ongoing) medical procedure based on the correlated information. The remote server processor may be configured to send the recommended instrument usage information, for example, to a hub (e.g., surgical hub 11006 for display to a user before or during a medical procedure using surgical instrument 11012).

[00290] Examples of the Disclosure

[00291] Example 1. A surgical instrument, comprising: a sensor configured to provide a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; a transmitter; and a processor configured to: determine, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicate with a surgical hub based on at least one of the determinations via the transmitter.

[00292] A surgical instrument according to Example 1 may selectively operate under one of a number of different instrument operation modes or tiers. Instrument operation modes may variously allow or restrict instrument capabilities. Instrument capabilities that vary by mode of operation may include, for example, sensors, communications, displays, data storage, data access, data aggregation, data analyses, feedback, recommendations, etc. Modes may vary in terms of communication capabilities, such as recordkeeping, data access and recall, data analyses, surgical recommendations, and so on. Exemplary modes or tiers of operation are described in association with Figs. 22-24. The instrument operation mode may be determined by the surgical instrument according to instrument operation mode control parameter(s) which may indicate connectivity, bandwidth, interference, conductivity or a system parameter indicating compatibility, such as a subscription level of the surgical facility and authenticity. For example, a medical facility may require selected instrument capabilities to perform certain procedures, which may be grouped into one or more modes of instrument operation. According to Example 1, the surgical instrument determines, based on the operation mode, whether to obtain sensed data from one or more sensors associated with the surgical instrument, and whether to receive an instrument usage instruction from a surgical hub or remote servers. For instance, a surgical instrument (e.g. a surgical stapler) according to Example 1 may selectively receive from a surgical hub recommended instrument usage information (e.g.,

stapler cartridge selection) generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data (e.g., cartridge usage data associated with a surgical procedural step).

[00293] Thus, Example 1 provides a smart surgical instrument with a control system that has abilities to restrict or allow different modes of communications, e.g. unidirectional communication, bi-directional communication, and interactive communication with a local hub or remote servers. The smart control system enables implementation of a tiered communication control according to instrument capabilities, system capacities, such as inner- and inter- device connectivity and bandwidth, or other control parameters, such as parameters provided by external servers. This provides a control over selective data collection at the surgical instrument, selective data and information exchange between the surgical instrument and a surgical hub or remote servers, and selective provision of data and instructional information to the user, e.g. through a display associated with the surgical instrument. Accordingly, the user may be selectively provided with data and information, such as recommended instrument usage information, best suited for the operation mode of the instrument. These may contribute to the improvement of the operational safety and performance of the instrument, the outcome and quality of the surgical activities, and the safety of the patient.

[00294] Example 2. The surgical instrument of Example 1, wherein the processor is further configured to obtain and send the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.

[00295] Example 2 relates to an instrument operation mode in which a unidirectional or bidirectional communication with a surgical hub is supported. A surgical instrument according to Example 2 is enabled to obtain and send sensed parameters to the surgical hub where the information may be stored, processed and/or aggregated for use in relation to the ongoing procedure or a future procedure.

[00296] Example 3. The surgical instrument of Example 1 or 2, further comprising: a receiver. The processor is further configured to receive the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and send the instrument usage instruction to a display.

[00297] Example 3 relates to a mode of instrument operation in which bidirectional communication with the surgical hub for receiving instrument usage instructions is supported. Under this operation mode, the surgical instrument receives the instrument usage instruction from the hub and displays the instruction, which may be used by the user

to further improve the operation over the instrument and the outcome of the surgical activities.

[00298] Example 4. The surgical instrument of Example 1 or 2, further comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge. The processor is further configured to: receive cartridge information from the end effector; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and based on a determination to combine send the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter. A surgical stapling instrument according to Example 4 can control communication with an end effector to receive cartridge information and interactively combine the cartridge information with the instrument actuator or configuration data to provide a broader understanding of the full instrument status. The surgical instrument can further control communication with the surgical hub to selectively send the combined static and usage data of the instrument to the surgical hub where the combined data may be stored, processed, and/or aggregated to determine tissue or functional data from the system interactions with the surgical site.

[00299] Example 5. The surgical instrument of any one of Examples 1-4, wherein the processor is further configured to determine the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of: a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server. Example 5 relates to determination of the instrument operation mode. The surgical instrument is thus enabled to determine the instrument operation mode according to a control parameter relating to the condition or capacity of the system and/or a tiered communication mode indication as well as control the communication with the end effector and the surgical hub in the manner as recited in one of the above Examples.

[00300] Example 6. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, further, comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge. The processor is further configured to obtain staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector; and send the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub. A surgical instrument according to Example 6 is directed to a surgical stapler that has an end effector for removably receiving a staple cartridge and that is enabled to control communication with the end effector and communication with the surgical hub to selectively obtain and transfer cartridge

information and instrument status information to the surgical hub where the combined data may be stored, processed, and/or aggregated.

[00301] Example 7. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection. A surgical instrument according to Example 7 is enabled to control communication with an external device/system to selectively receive recommended instrument usage information which may be displayed, or otherwise provided, to the user. This enables change of procedure over time.

[00302] Example 8. The surgical instrument of any preceding Example, , wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step. A surgical instrument according to Example 8 is enabled to control communication with an external device/system to selectively receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data. The recommendation may be displayed, or otherwise provided, to the user for selecting an appropriate cartridge to perform the surgical procedure, thereby further improving the outcome of the surgical procedure and/or safety of the patient.

[00303] Example 9. A remote server comprising an input/output interface configured for accessing data from a plurality of medical hub communication devices, where one or each of the medical hub communication devices is communicatively coupled to at least one surgical instrument; and a processor configured to receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and send the aggregated instrument usage information.

[00304] Example 10. A remote server of Example 9, wherein the processor is further configured to correlate the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and send the correlated information.

[00305] Example 11. A remote server of Example 9 or 10, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and send the recommended instrument usage information.

- [00306] Examples 9-11 relates to a remote server which may receive information from one or more surgical instruments, aggregate and/or correlate the information, or generate an instrument usage recommendation, and send the aggregated or correlated information or the recommendation to the surgical instruments where the information or recommendation may be displayed or otherwise provided to the surgeon. The remote server may communicate with the surgical instrument and surgical hub as described in the above Examples to provide useful information generated by cloud-based analysis.
- [00307] Example 12. A method may comprise: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining based on an instrument operation mode whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.
- [00308] Example 13. A method of Example 12, wherein the method further comprises obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
- [00309] Example 14. A method of Example 12 or 13, wherein the method further comprises receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [00310] Example 15. A method of any one of Examples 12-14, wherein the method further comprises: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and sending, based on a determination to combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.
- [00311] Example 16. A method of any one of Examples 12-15, wherein the method further comprises determining the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

- [00312] Example 17. A method of any one of Examples 12-16, wherein the method further comprises: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.
- [00313] Example 18. A method of any one of Examples 12-17, wherein the method further comprises: determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.
- [00314] Example 19. A method of any one of Examples 12-18, wherein the method further comprises determining based on the instrument operation mode whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.
- [00315] Example 20. A method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.
- [00316] Example 21. A method of Example 20, further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.
- [00317] Example 22. A method of Example 20 or 21, further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.
- [00318] Example 23. A computer-readable medium may store program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.
- [00319] Example 24. A computer-readable medium of Example 23, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising:

obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.

[00320] Example 25. A computer-readable medium of Example 23 or 24, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver, for example, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.

[00321] Example 26. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-25, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and sending, based on a determination to combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.

[00322] Example 27. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-26, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining the instrument operation mode, for example, based on an instrument operation control parameter. The instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

[00323] Example 28. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-27, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.

[00324] Example 29. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-28, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.

- [00325] Example 30. A computer-readable medium of any one of Examples 23-29, may further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.
- [00326] Example 31. A computer-readable medium storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.
- [00327] Example 32. A computer-readable medium of Example 31, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.
- [00328] Example 33. A computer-readable medium of Example 31 or 32, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.
- [00329] The methods according to Examples 12-19, and the computer readable mediums as described in Examples 23-30, correspond to the apparatuses of Examples 1-8. The above discussion in relation to Examples 1-8 therefore also apply to Examples 12-19 and 23-30. Similarly, the methods according to Examples 20-22, and the computer readable mediums as described in Examples 31-33, correspond to the apparatuses of Examples 9-11. The above discussion in relation to Examples 9-11 therefore also apply to Examples 20-22 and 31-33.
- [00330] The following list of embodiments forms part of the present disclosure:
- [00331] 1. A surgical instrument, comprising: a sensor configured to provide a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; a transmitter; and a processor configured to: determine, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicate with a surgical hub based on at least one of the determinations via the transmitter.

- [00332] 2. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, wherein the processor is further configured to: based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter, obtain and send the sensed parameter to the surgical hub.
- [00333] 3. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, further comprising: a receiver, wherein the processor is further configured to: based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction, receive the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver; and send the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [00334] 4. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, further comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge, wherein the processor is further configured to: receive cartridge information from the end effector; determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of: a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and based on a determination to combine, send the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.
- [00335] 5. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, wherein the processor is further configured to determine the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter, wherein the instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of: a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.
- [00336] 6. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, further comprising: a receiver; and an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge, wherein the processor is further configured to: obtain staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector; and send the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.
- [00337] 7. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, wherein the processor is further configured to: determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data, wherein the instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.
- [00338] 8. The surgical instrument of embodiment 1, wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.

- [00339] 9. A remote server, comprising: an input/output interface configured for accessing data from a plurality of medical hub communication devices, each communicatively coupled to at least one surgical instrument; and a processor configured to: receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and send the aggregated instruction usage information.
- [00340] 10. The remote server of embodiment 9, wherein the processor is further configured to: correlate the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure; and send the correlated information.
- [00341] 11. The remote server of embodiment 10, wherein the processor is further configured to: determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and send the recommended instrument usage information.
- [00342] 12. A method, comprising: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub based on the determination via a transmitter.
- [00343] 13. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter, obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub.
- [00344] 14. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction, receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via a receiver; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.
- [00345] 15. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of: a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and based on a determination to combine, sending the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.
- [00346] 16. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: determining the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter, wherein the instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of: a system capacity

parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

- [00347] 17. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.
- [00348] 18. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data, wherein the instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.
- [00349] 19. The method of embodiment 12, further comprising: determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.

Claims

1. A surgical instrument, comprising:
 - a sensor configured to provide a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue;
 - a transmitter; and
 - a processor configured to:
 - determine, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor;
 - determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and
 - communicate with a surgical hub based on at least one of the determinations via the transmitter.
2. The surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to obtain and send the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
3. The surgical instrument of claim 1 or 2, further comprising: a receiver, wherein the processor is further configured to:
 - receive the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and
 - send the instrument usage instruction to a display.
4. The surgical instrument of claim 1 or 2, further comprising:
 - a receiver; and
 - an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge, wherein the processor is further configured to:
 - receive cartridge information from the end effector;
 - determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and
 - based on a determination to combine send the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.
5. The surgical instrument of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the processor is further configured to determine the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter, wherein the instrument operation control parameter comprises at least

one of: a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

6. The surgical instrument of any preceding claim, further comprising:
 - a receiver; and
 - an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge,wherein the processor is further configured to obtain staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector; and send the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.
7. The surgical instrument of any preceding claim, wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data, wherein the instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.
8. The surgical instrument of any preceding claim, , wherein the processor is further configured to determine, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.
9. A remote server comprising an input/output interface configured for accessing data from a plurality of medical hub communication devices, wherein one or each of the medical hub communication devices is communicatively coupled to at least one surgical instrument; and a processor configured to receive instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregate the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and send the aggregated instrument usage information.
10. A remote server of claim 9, wherein the processor is further configured to correlate the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and send the correlated information.
11. A remote server of claim 9 or 10, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and send the recommended instrument usage information.
12. A method comprising: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining based on an instrument operation mode

whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.

13. A method of claim 12, wherein the method further comprises obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub, based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.

14. A method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the method further comprises receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.

15. A method of any one of claims 12-14, wherein the method further comprises:
receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge;
determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and
sending, based on a determination to combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.

16. A method of any one of claims 12-15, wherein the method further comprises determining the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter, wherein the instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

17. A method of any one of claims 12-16, wherein the method further comprises: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.

18. A method of any one of claims 12-17, wherein the method further comprises: determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data. The instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.

19. A method of any one of claims 12-18, wherein the method further comprises determining based on the instrument operation mode whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.
20. A method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.
21. A method of claim 20, further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.
22. A method of claim 20 or 21, further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.
23. A computer-readable medium may store program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: providing, from a sensor, a sensor signal according to a physiological parameter of a tissue; determining, based on an instrument operation mode, whether to obtain a sensed parameter associated with the sensor signal from the sensor; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive an instrument usage instruction; and communicating with a surgical hub, based on at least one of the determinations, via a transmitter.
24. A computer-readable medium of claim 23, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: obtaining and sending the sensed parameter to the surgical hub based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports obtaining the sensed parameter.
25. A computer-readable medium of claim 23 or 24, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving the instrument usage instruction from the surgical hub via the receiver based on a determination that the instrument operation mode supports receiving the instrument usage instruction; and sending the instrument usage instruction to a display.
26. A computer-readable medium of any one of claims 23-25, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: receiving cartridge information from an end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to combine the cartridge information with an instrument usage parameter, wherein the instrument usage

parameter comprises at least one of a time from clamp to fire, or a characterization of a user-controlled firing; and sending, based on a determination to combine, the instrument usage parameter with the cartridge information to the surgical hub via the transmitter.

27. A computer-readable medium of any one of claims 23-26, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining the instrument operation mode based on an instrument operation control parameter, wherein the instrument operation control parameter comprises at least one of a system capacity parameter, a system condition parameter, a system authorization parameter, a tiered communication mode indication received from the hub, or a tiered communication mode indication received from a remote server.

28. A computer-readable medium of any one of claims 23-27, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: obtaining staple cartridge information and instrument status information from the end effector for removably storing a surgical staple cartridge; and sending the cartridge information and the instrument status information to the surgical hub.

29. A computer-readable medium of any one of claims 23-28, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive recommended instrument usage information generated based on aggregated historical instrument usage data, wherein the instrument usage information comprises a stapler cartridge selection.

30. A computer-readable medium of any one of claims 23-29, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising determining, based on the instrument operation mode, whether to receive a stapler cartridge selection recommendation generated based on aggregated cartridge usage data associated with a procedural step.

31. A computer-readable medium storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method comprising: receiving instrument usage information associated with a medical procedure performed by a surgeon; aggregating the received instrument usage information with historic instrument usage information associated with the surgeon; and sending the aggregated instruction usage information.

32. A computer-readable medium of claim 31, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: correlating the received instrument usage information to an outcome of the medical procedure and/or to an instrument operation status during the medical procedure; and sending the correlated information.

33. A computer-readable medium of claim 31 or 32, further storing program instructions that, when executed by a processor, perform a method further comprising: determining a recommended instrument usage information associated with an upcoming medical procedure based on the correlated information; and sending the recommended instrument usage information.

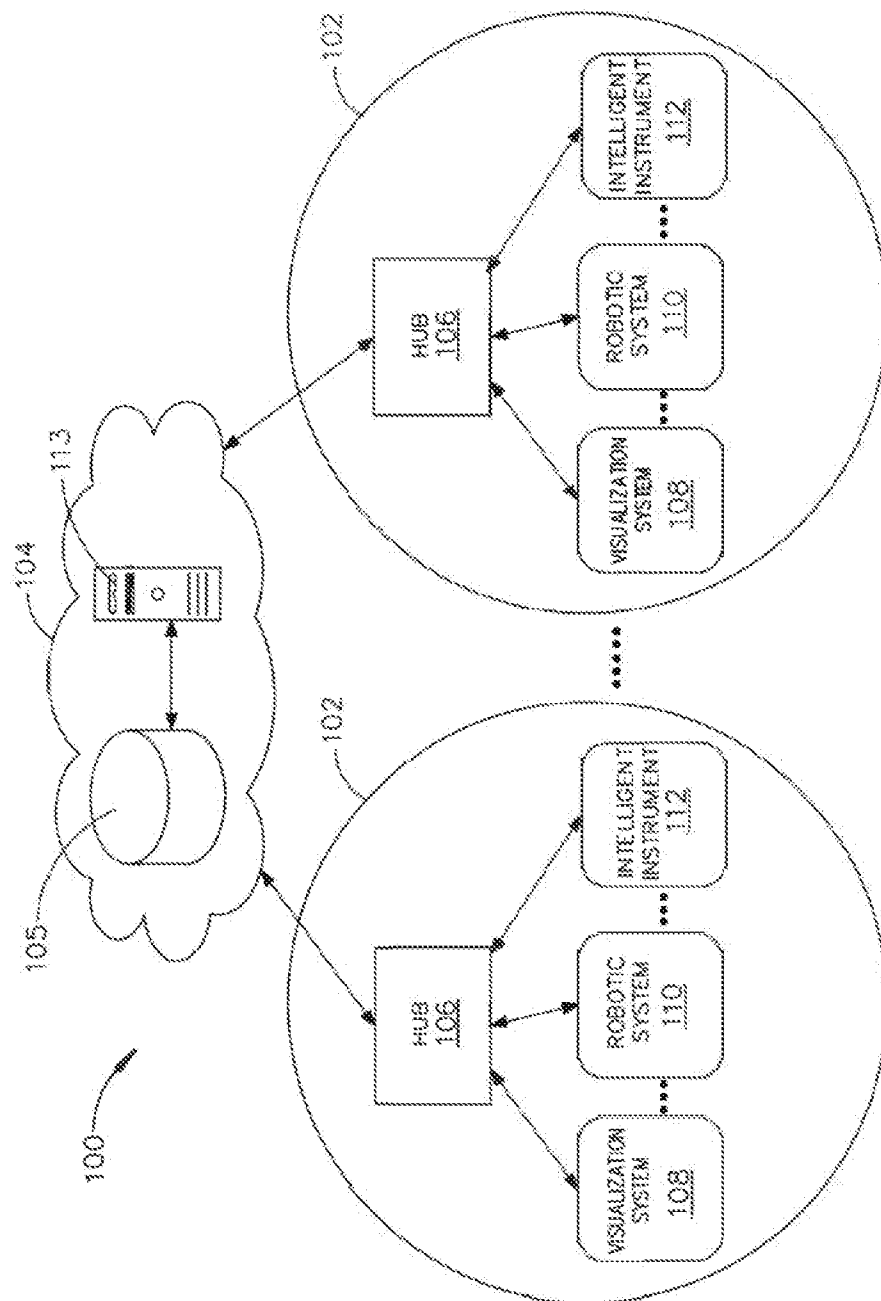
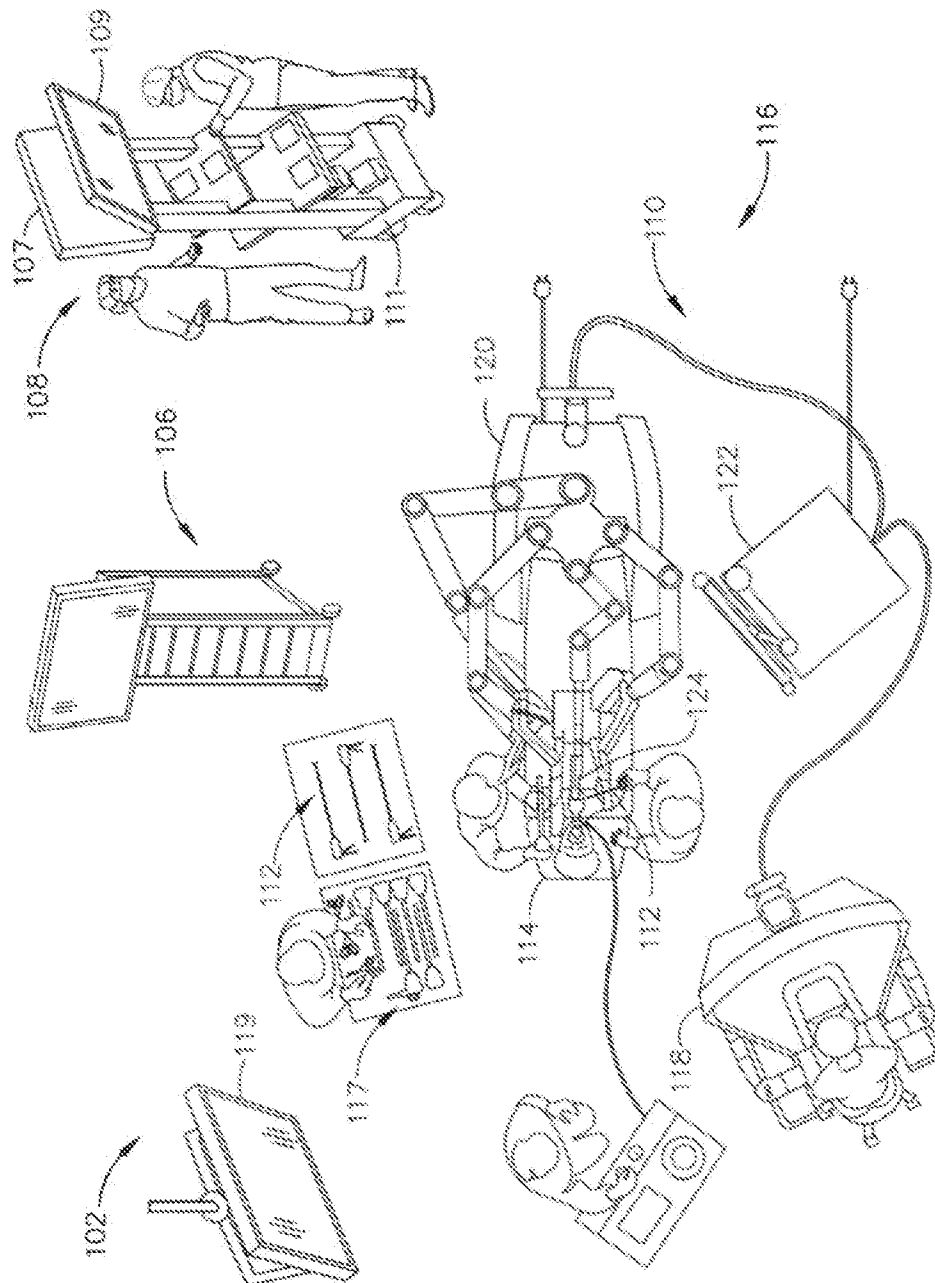


FIG. 1



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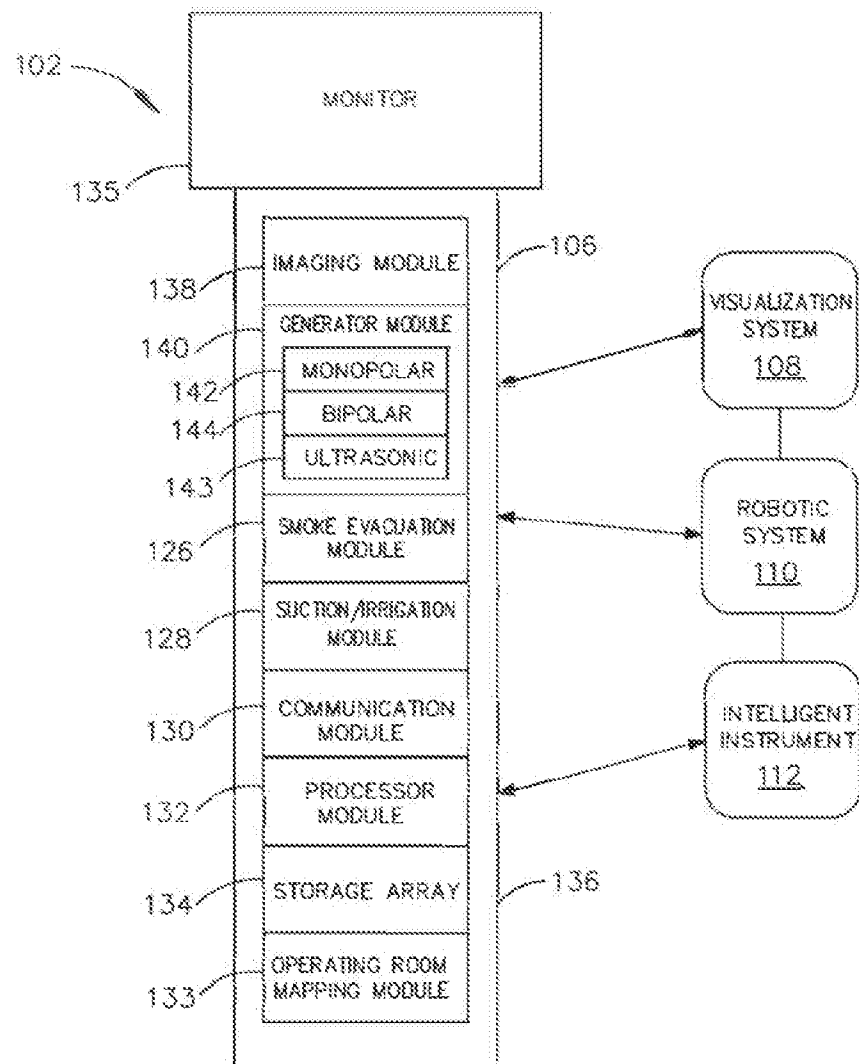


FIG. 3

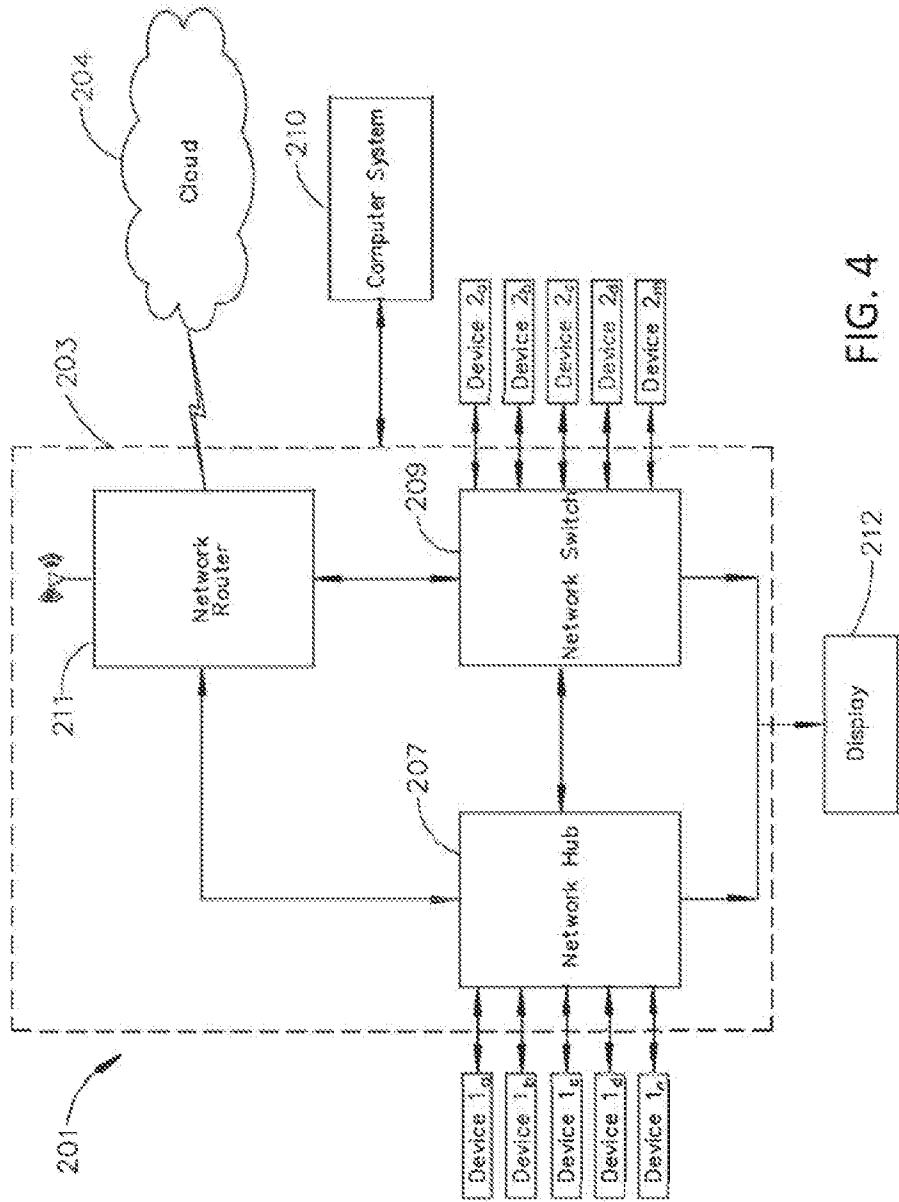


FIG. 4

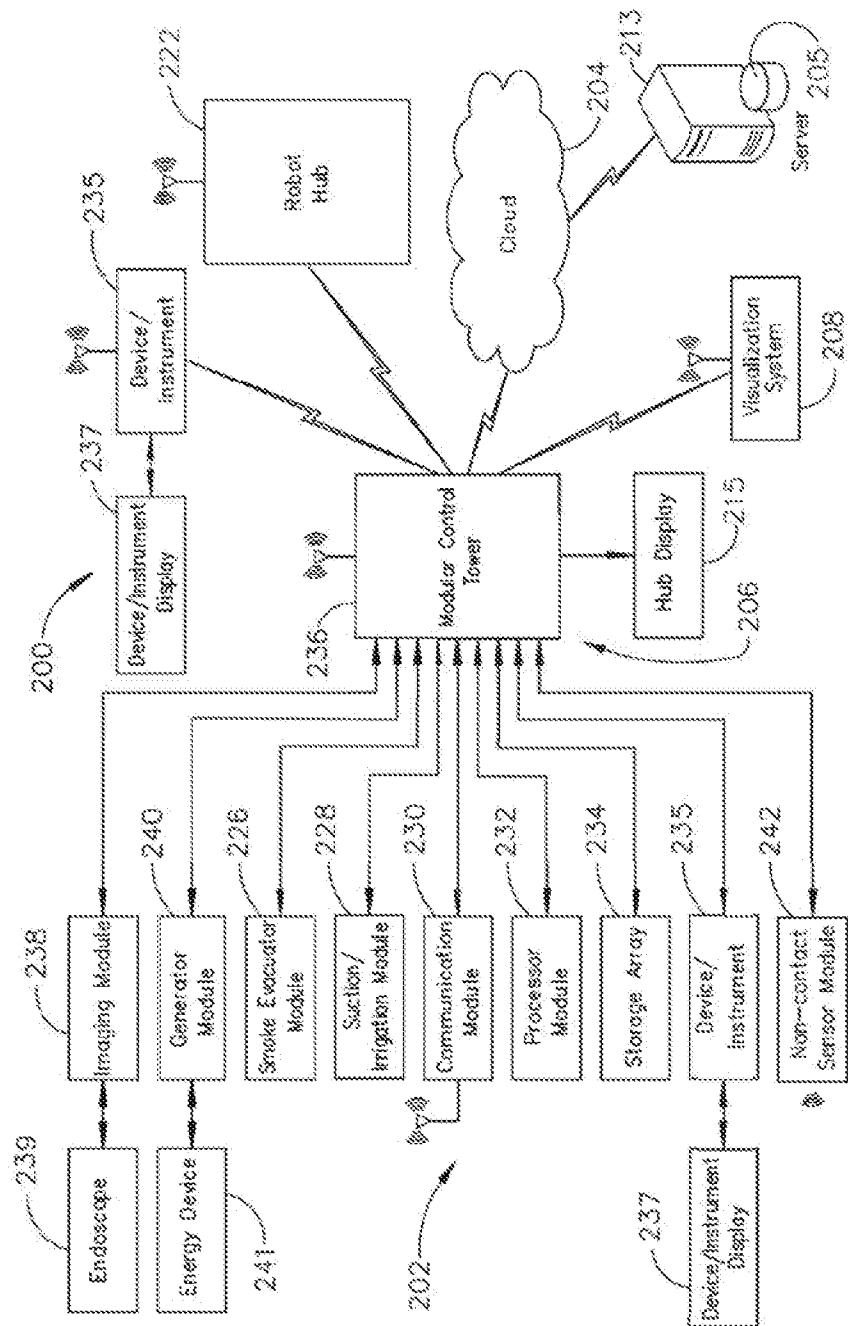


FIG. 5

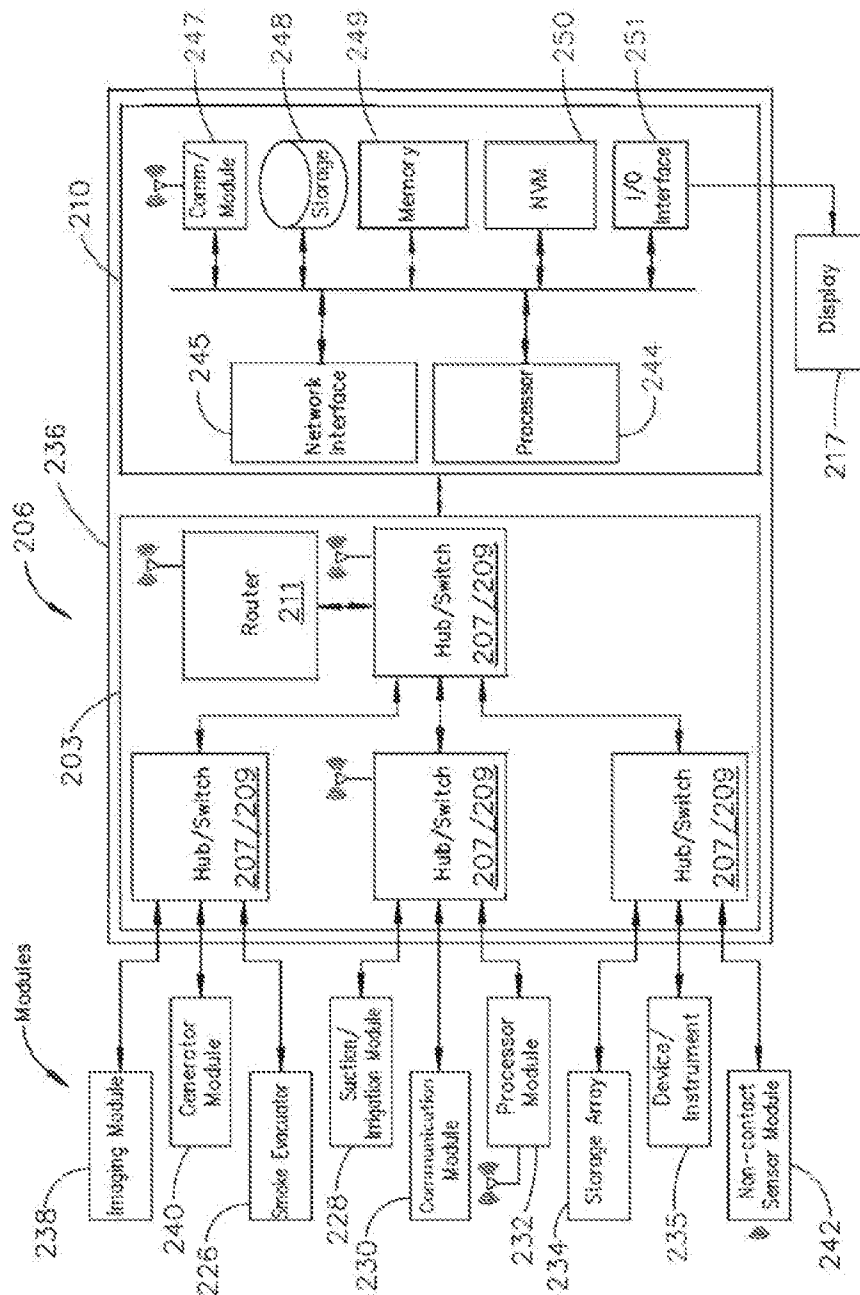


FIG. 6

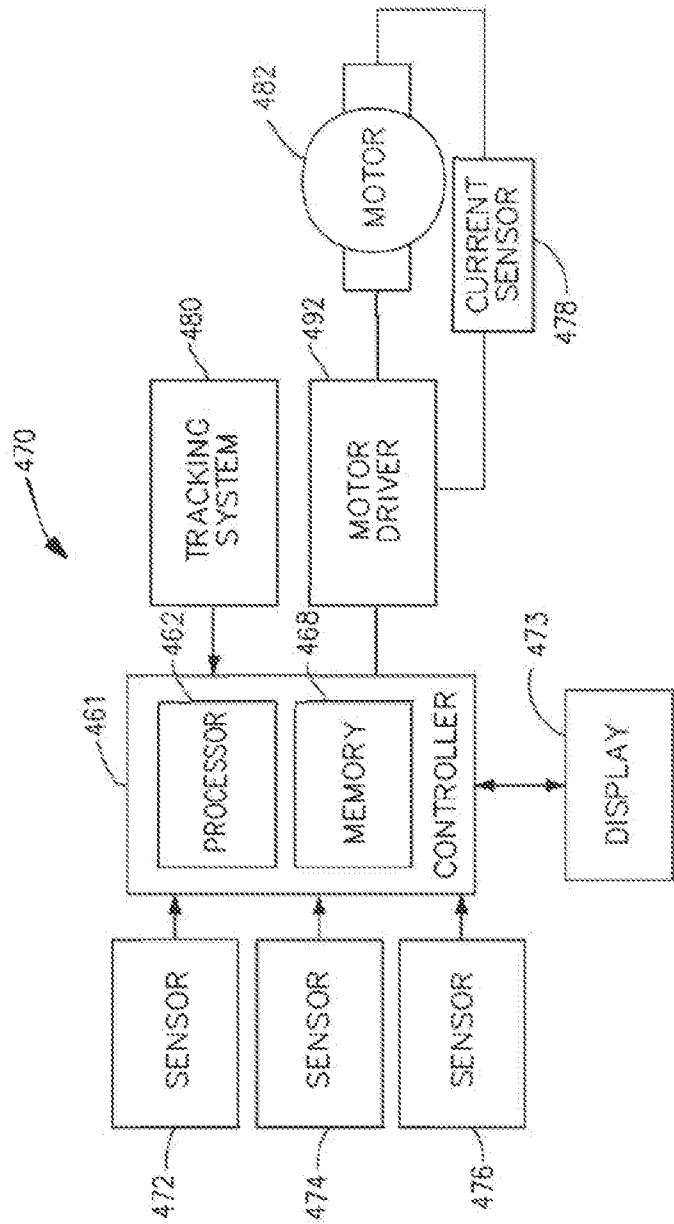


FIG. 7

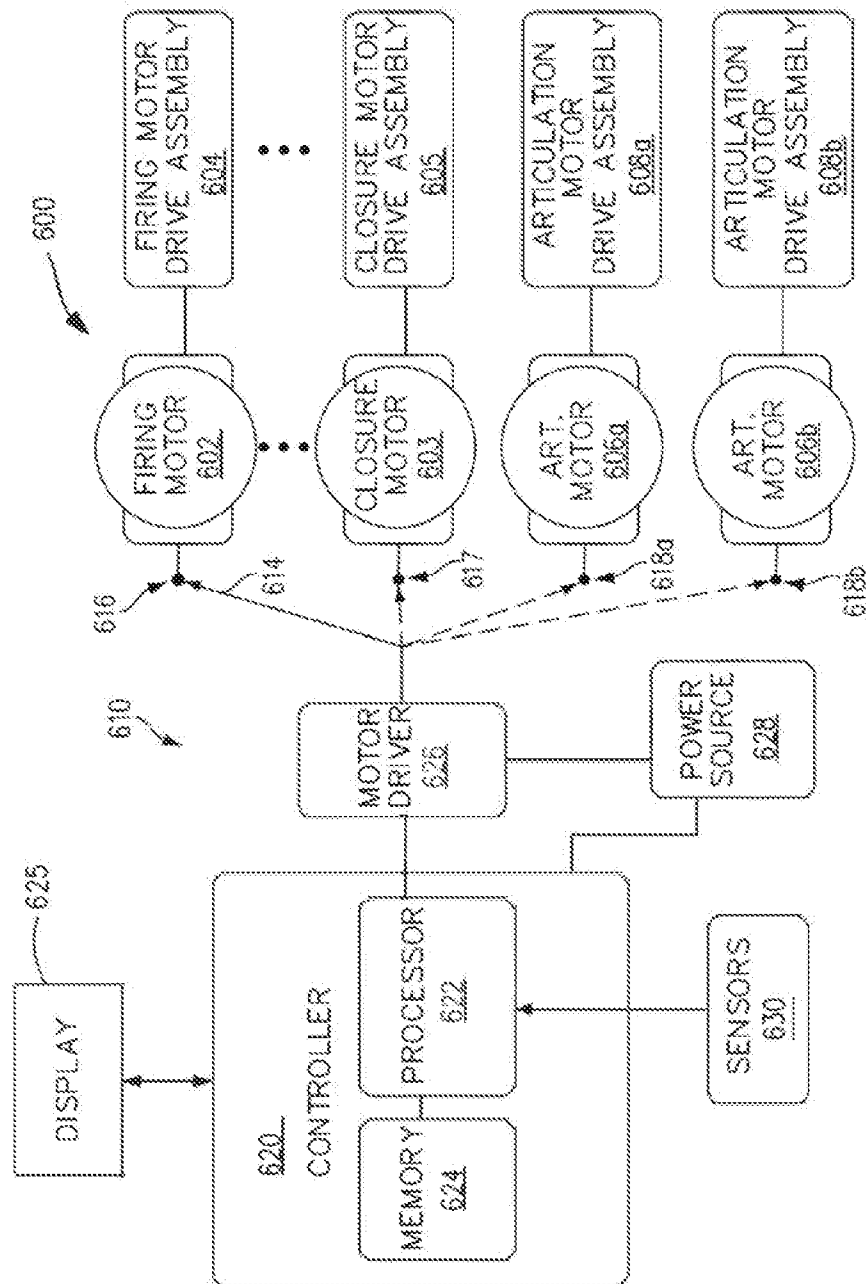


FIG. 8

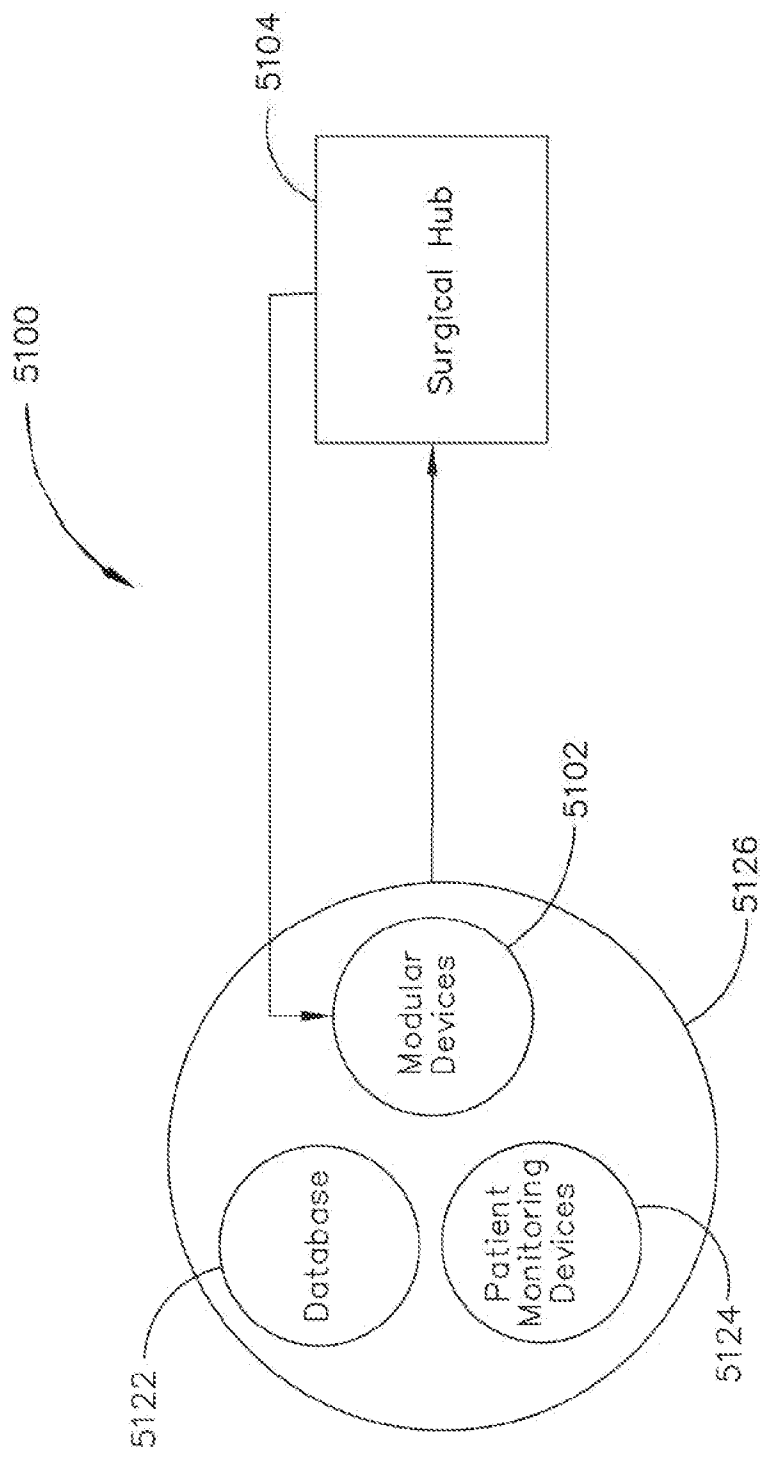


FIG. 9

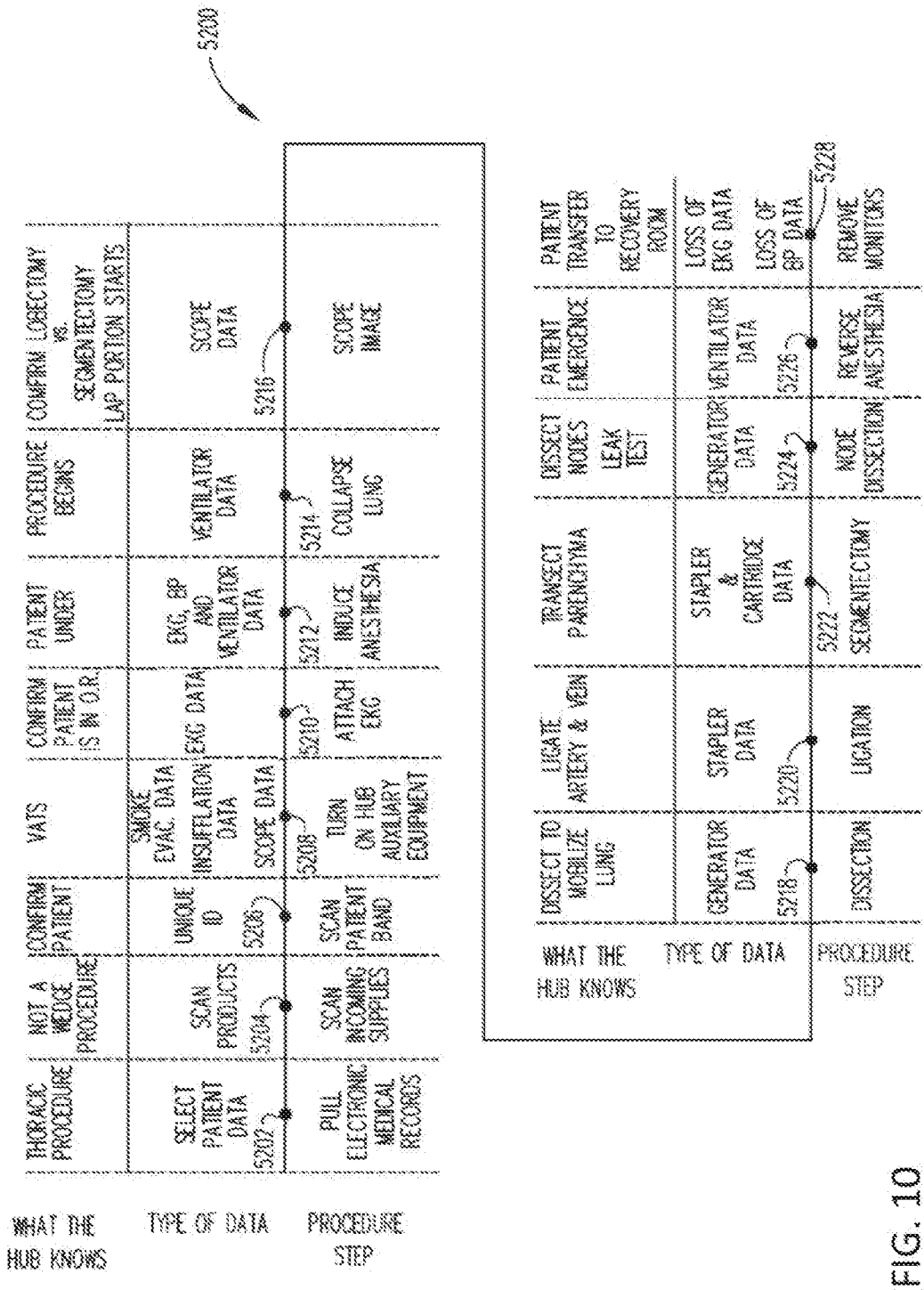


FIG. 10

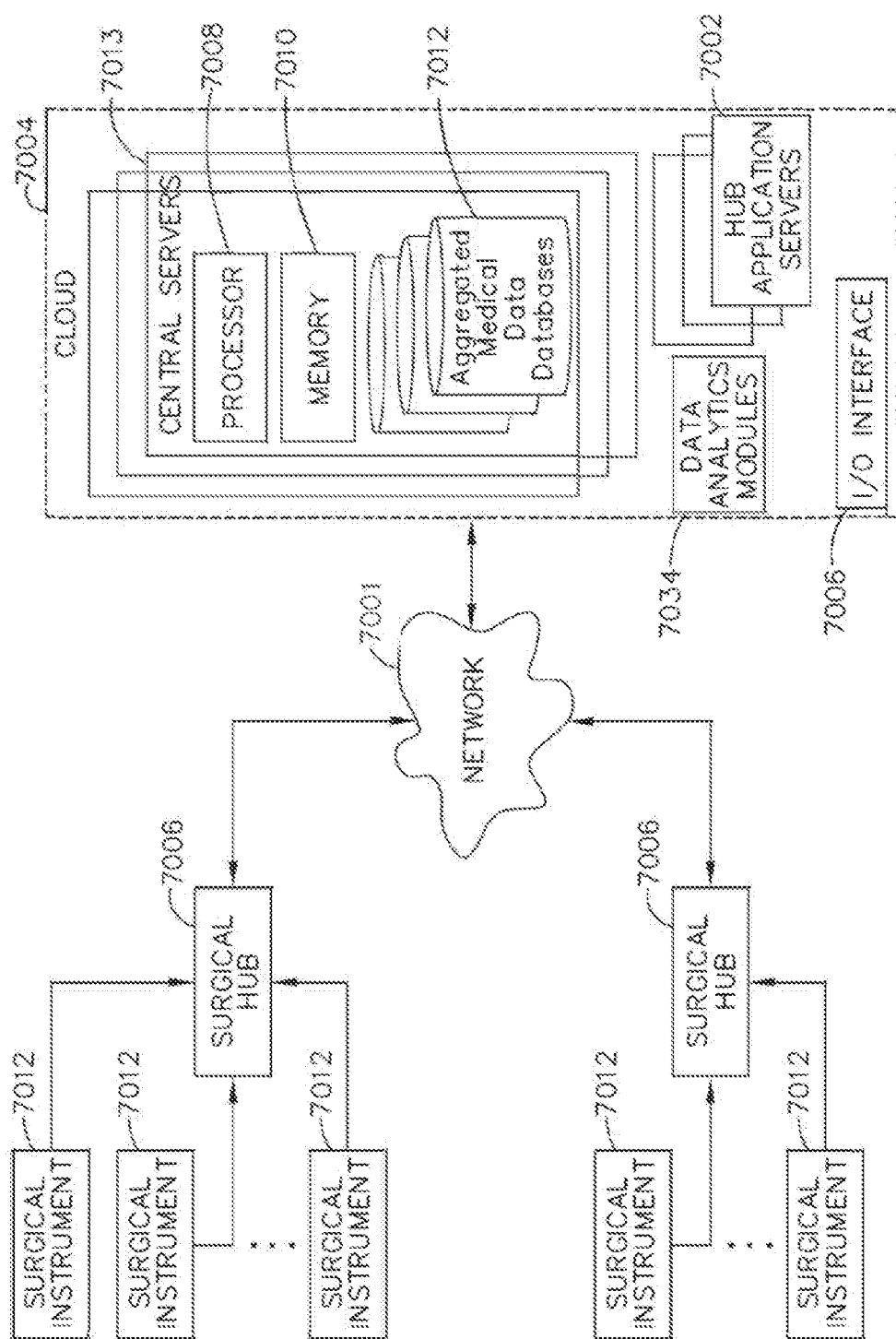


FIG. 11

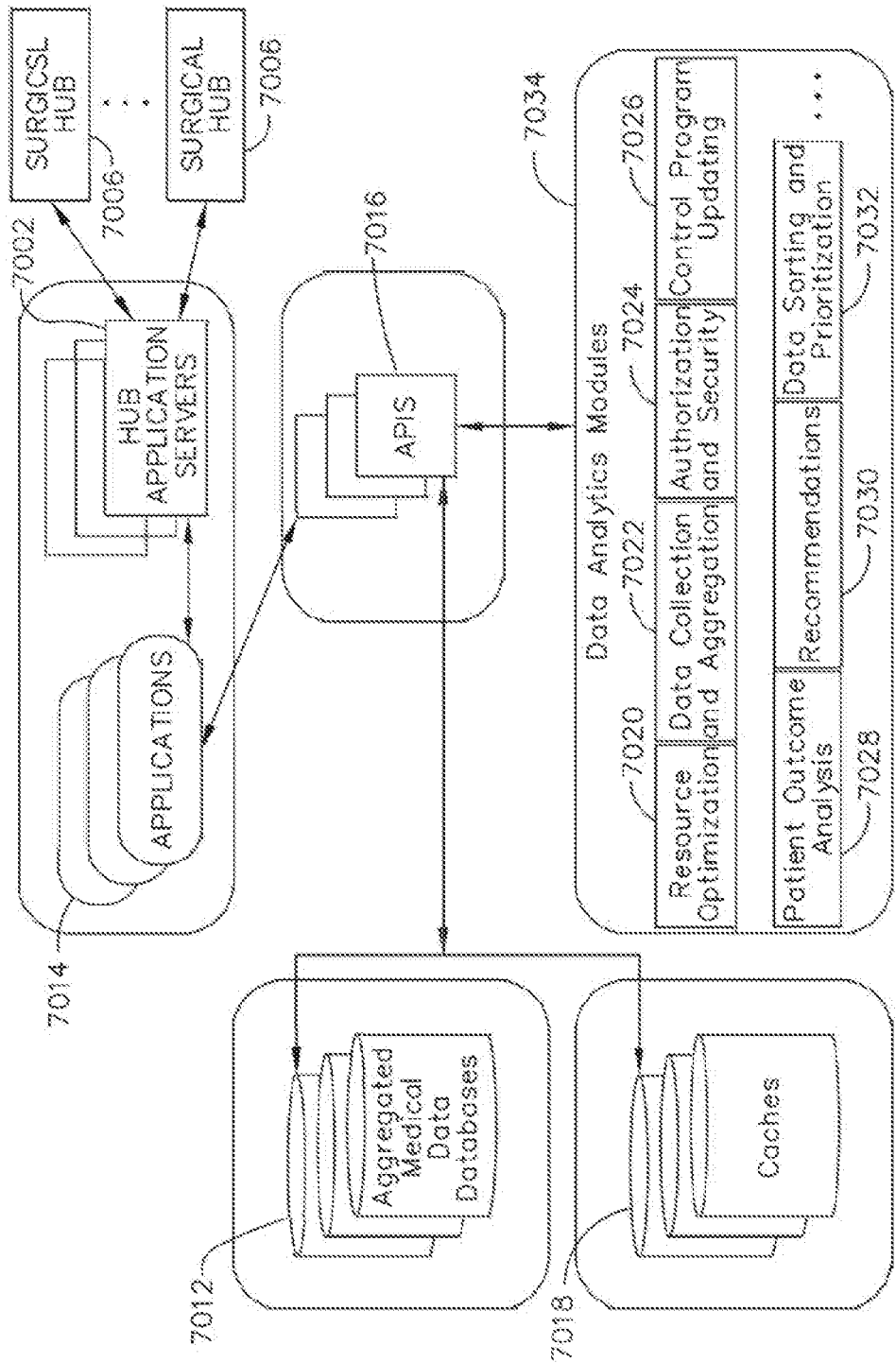


FIG. 12

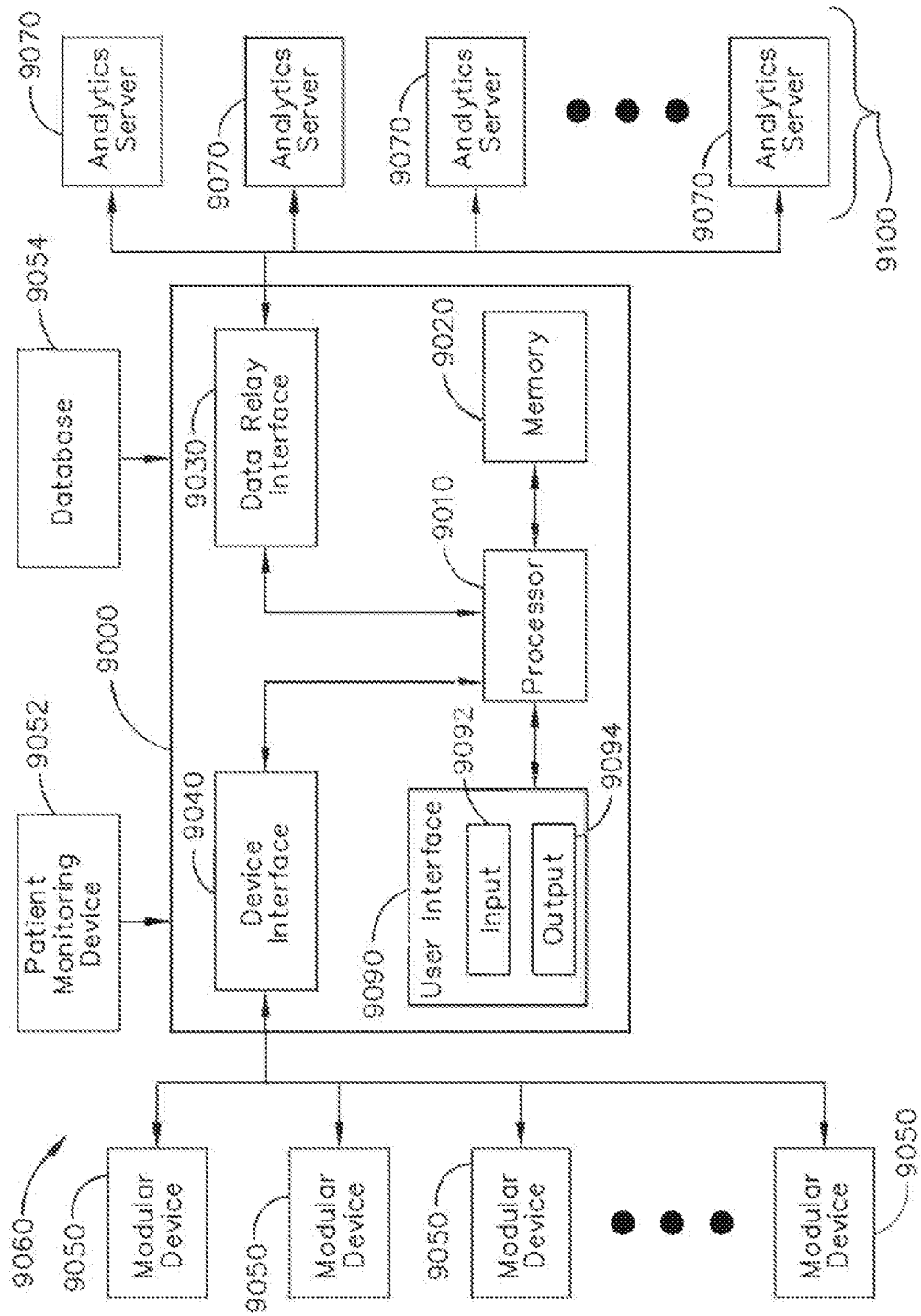


FIG. 13

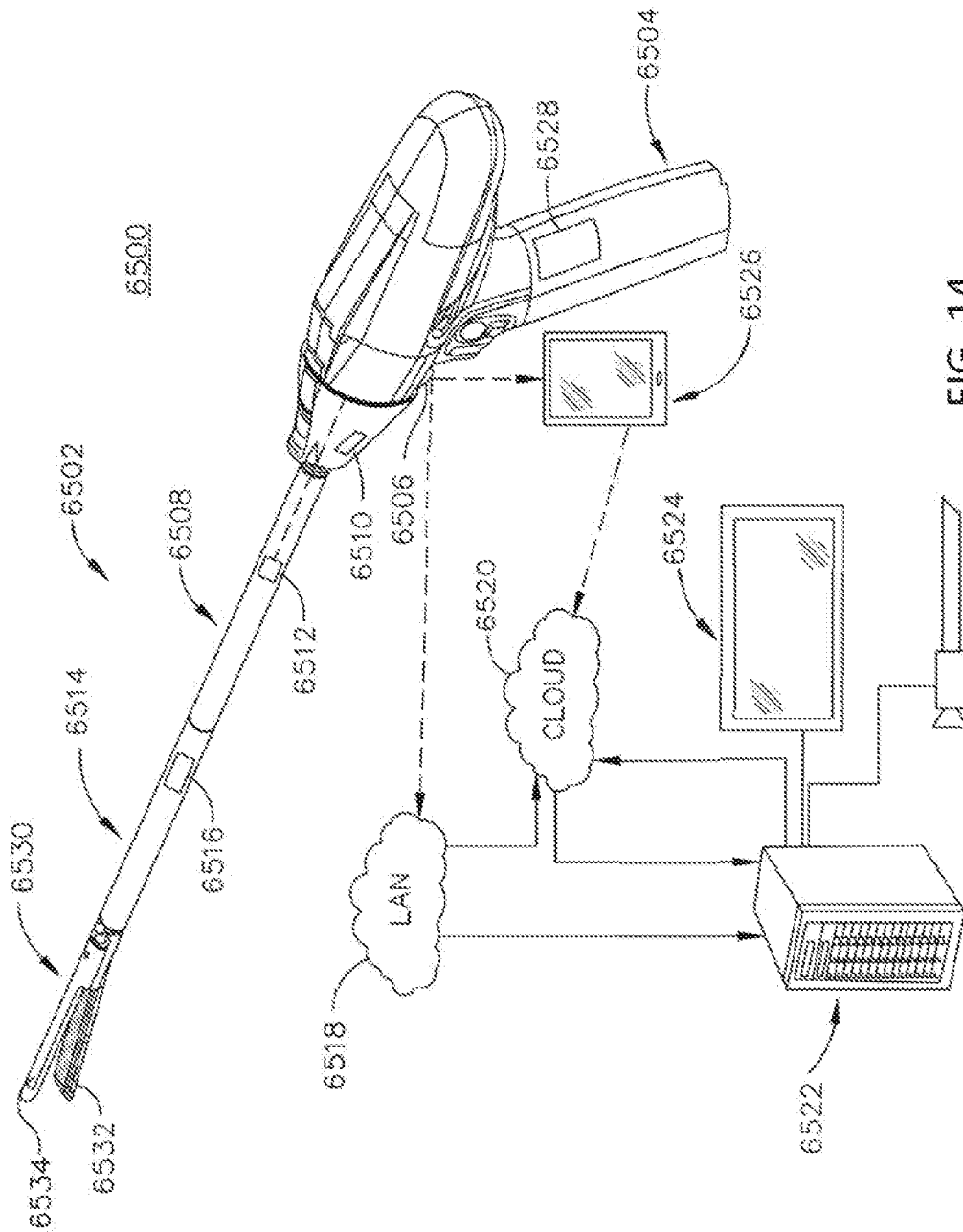
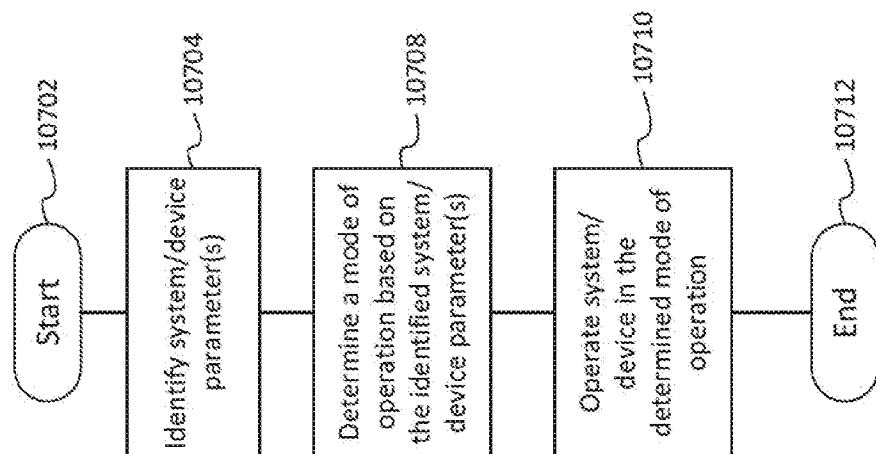
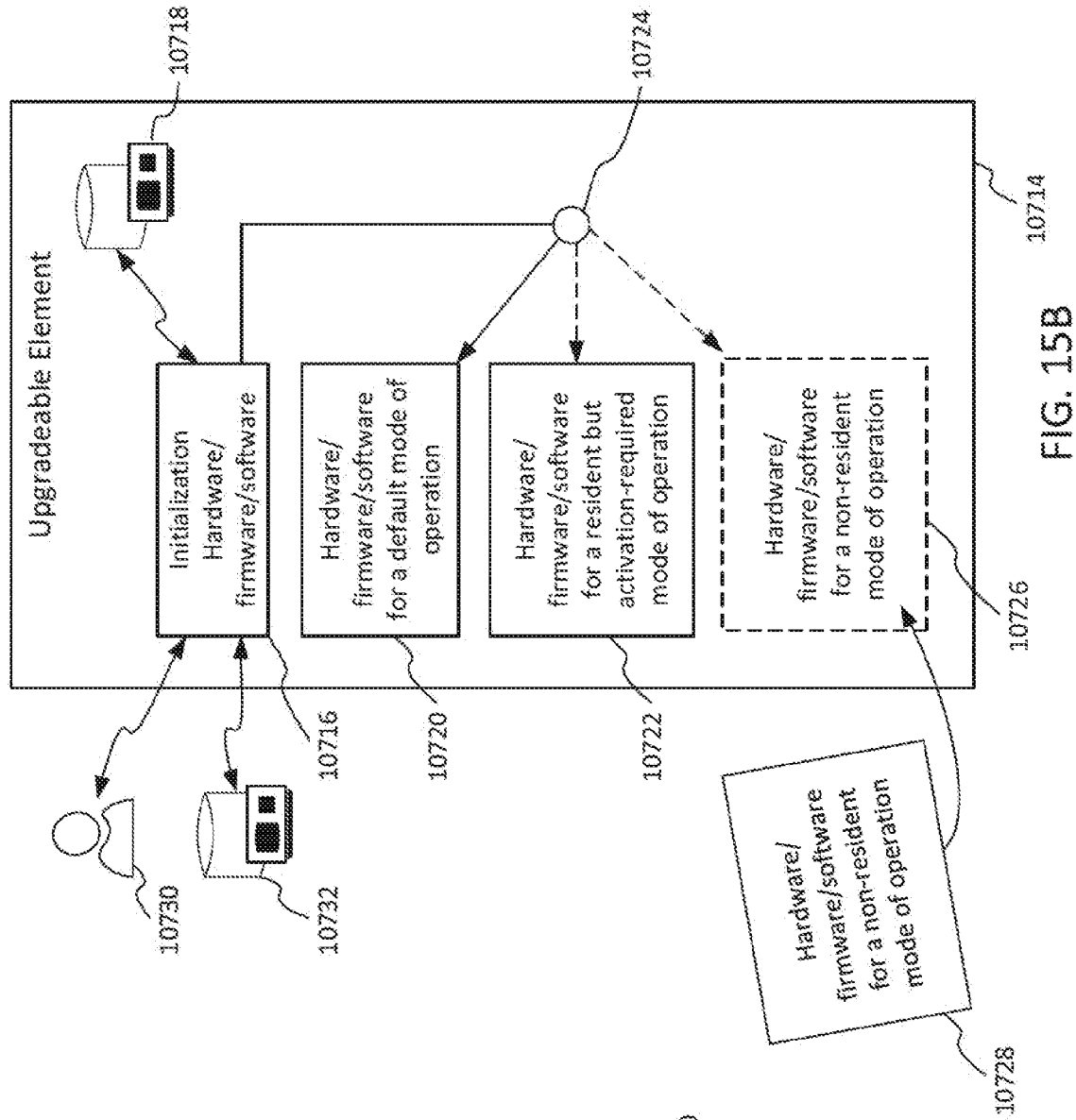
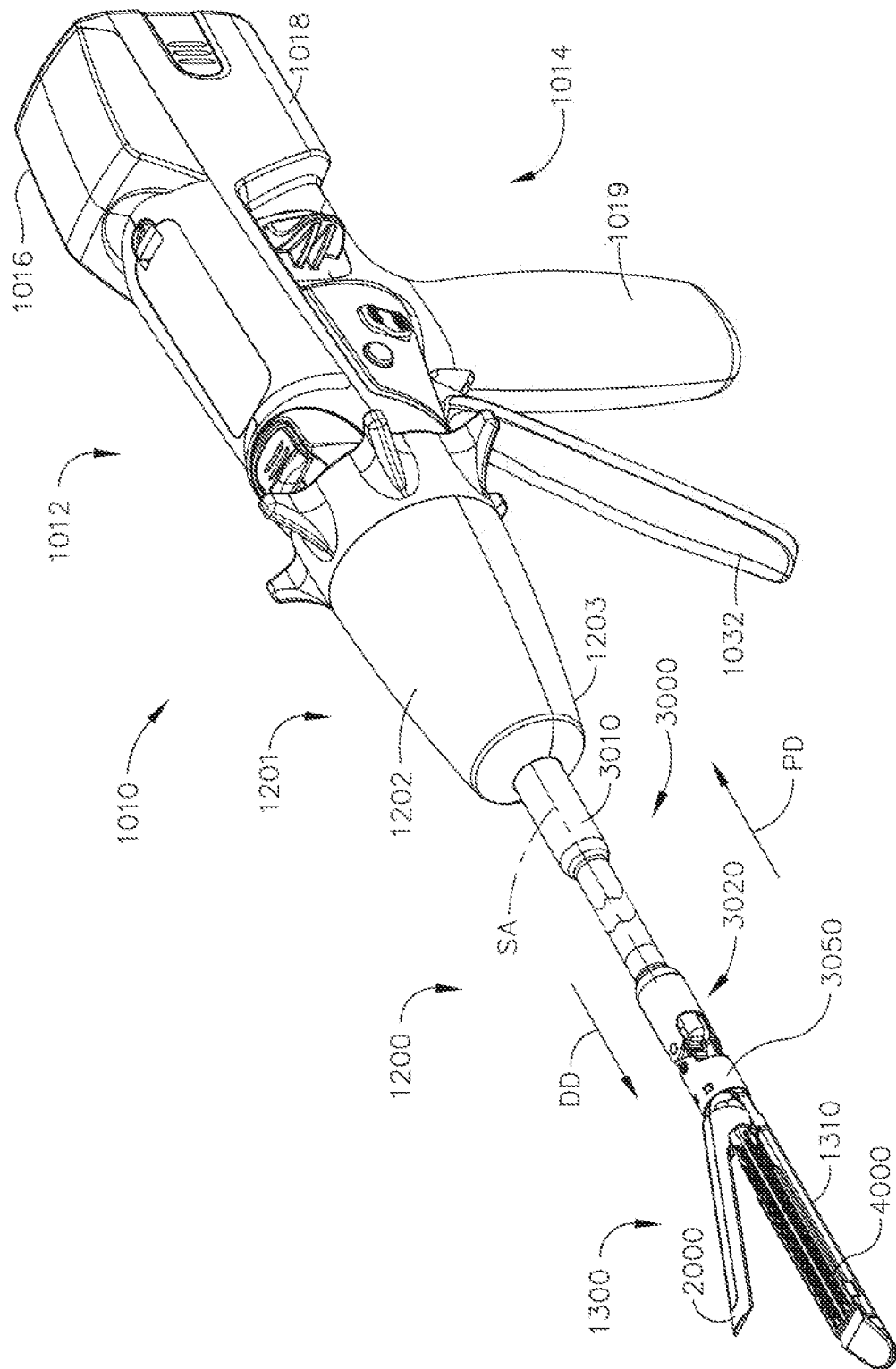


FIG. 14





911
616

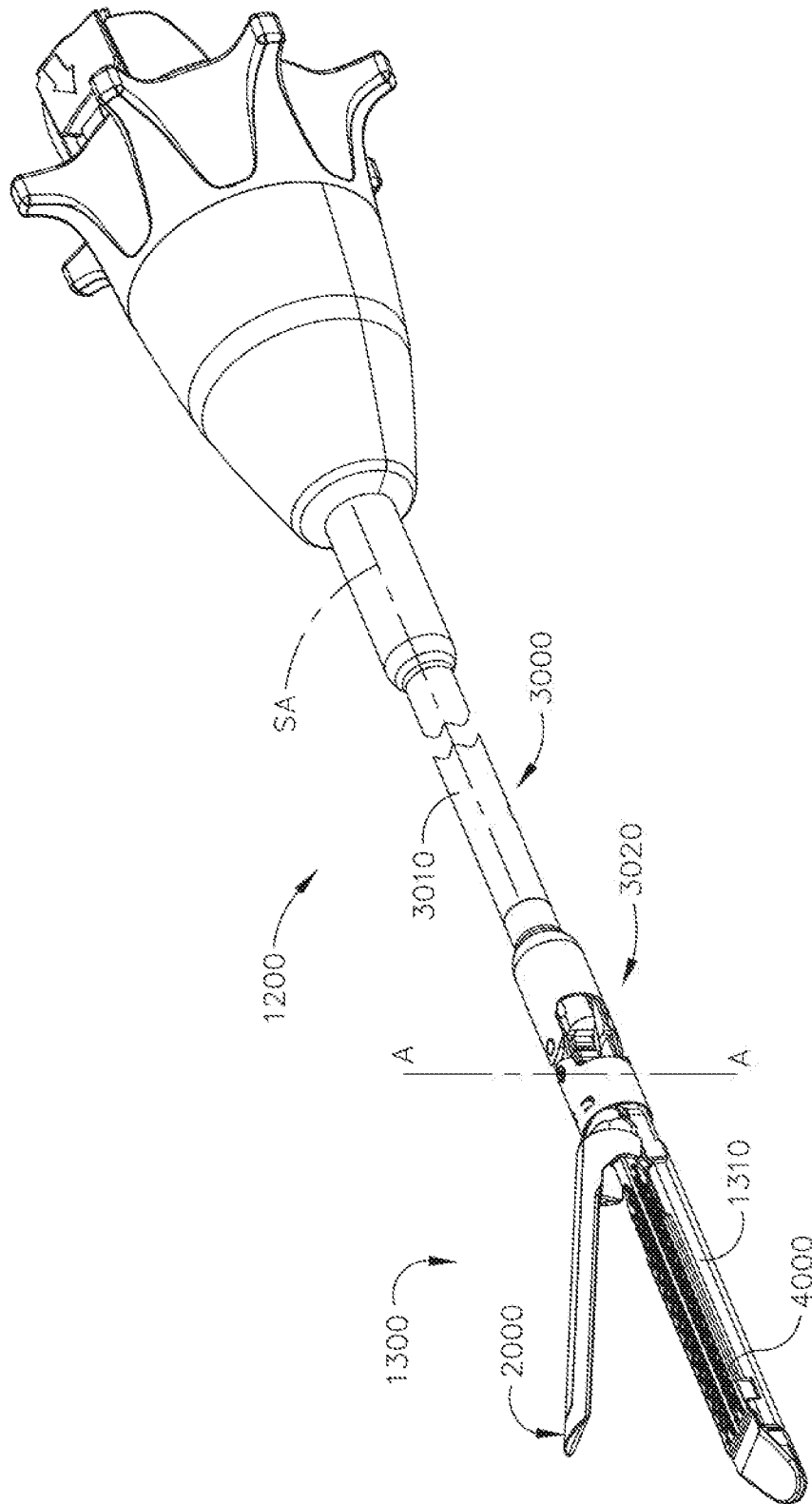


FIG. 17

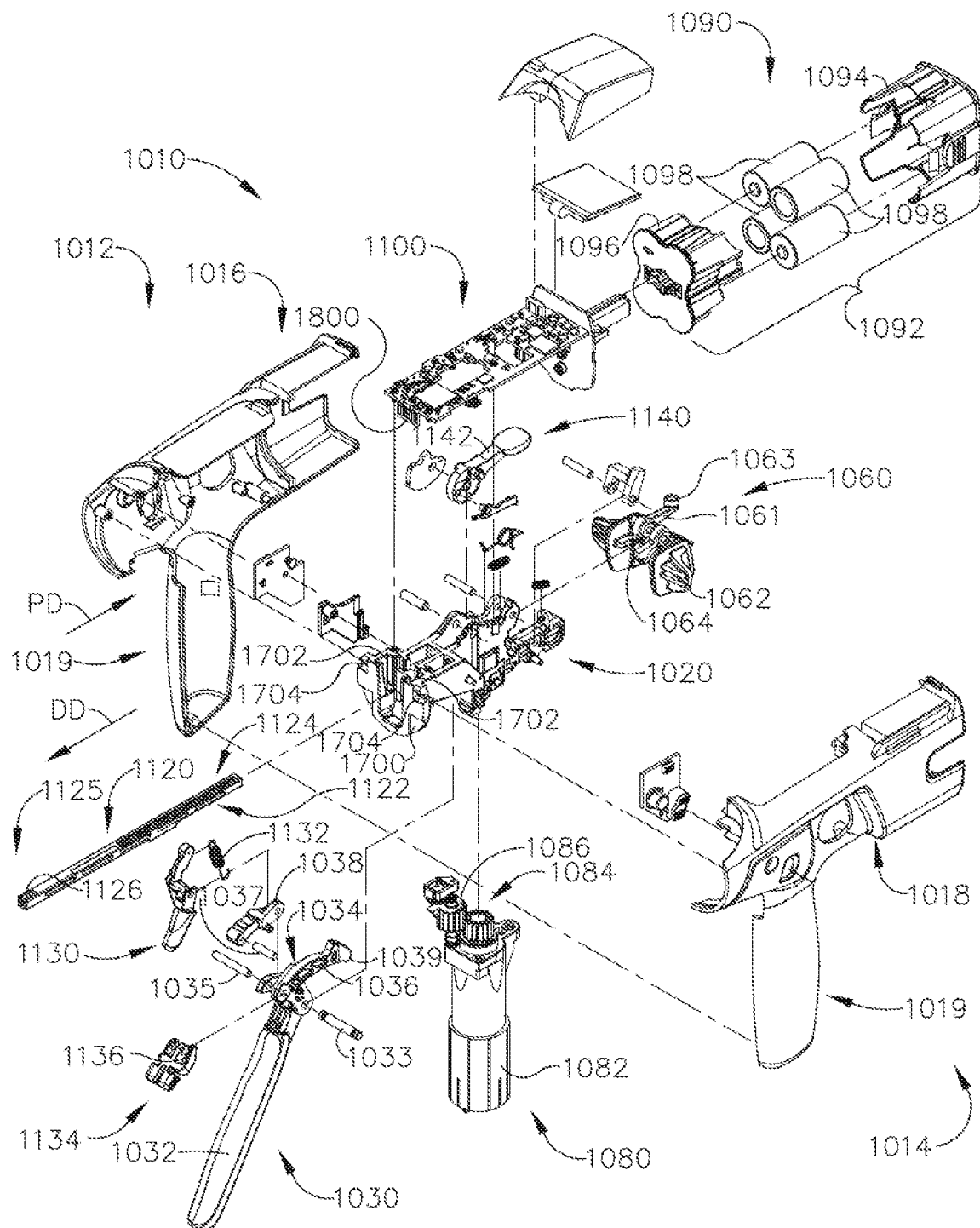
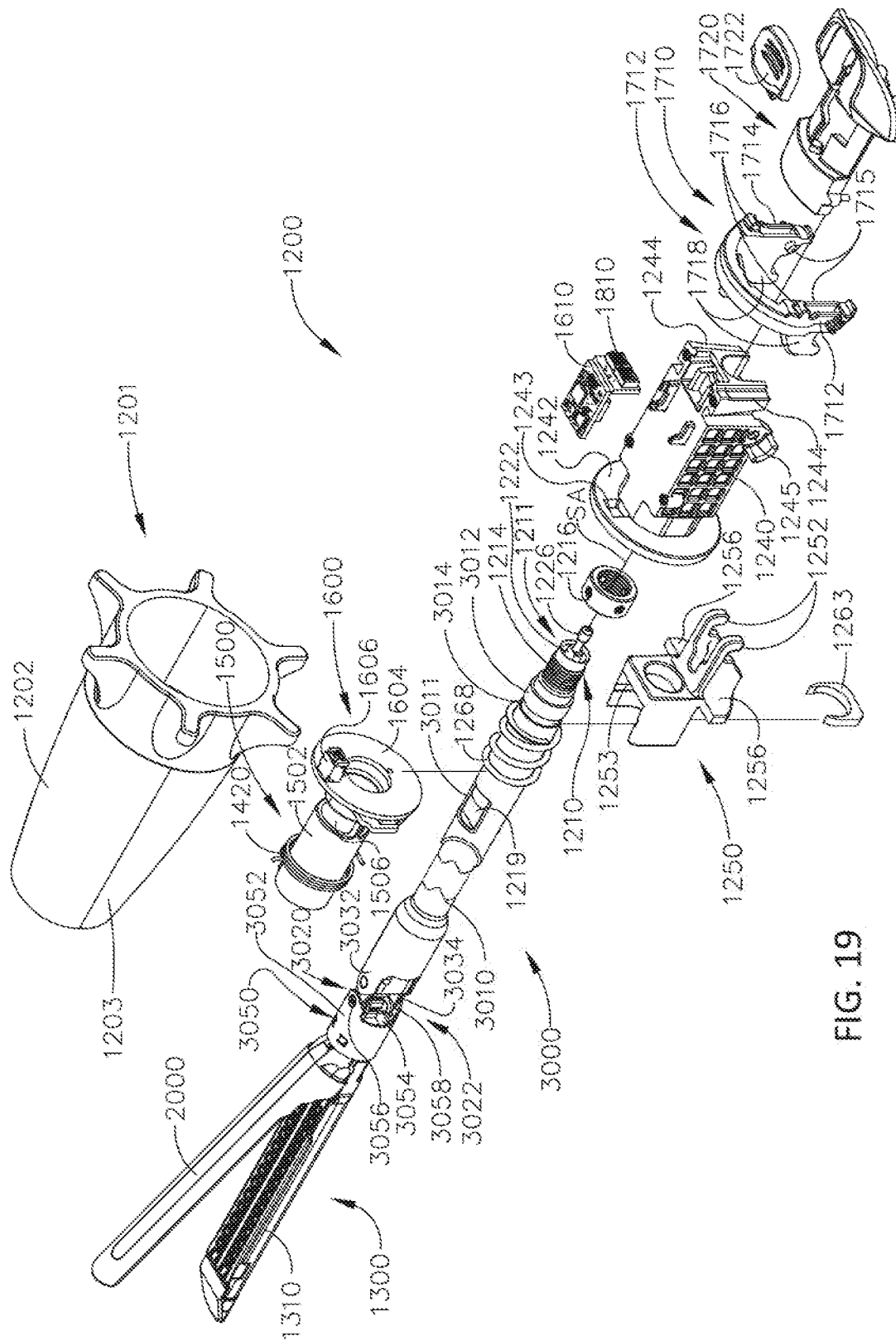


FIG. 18



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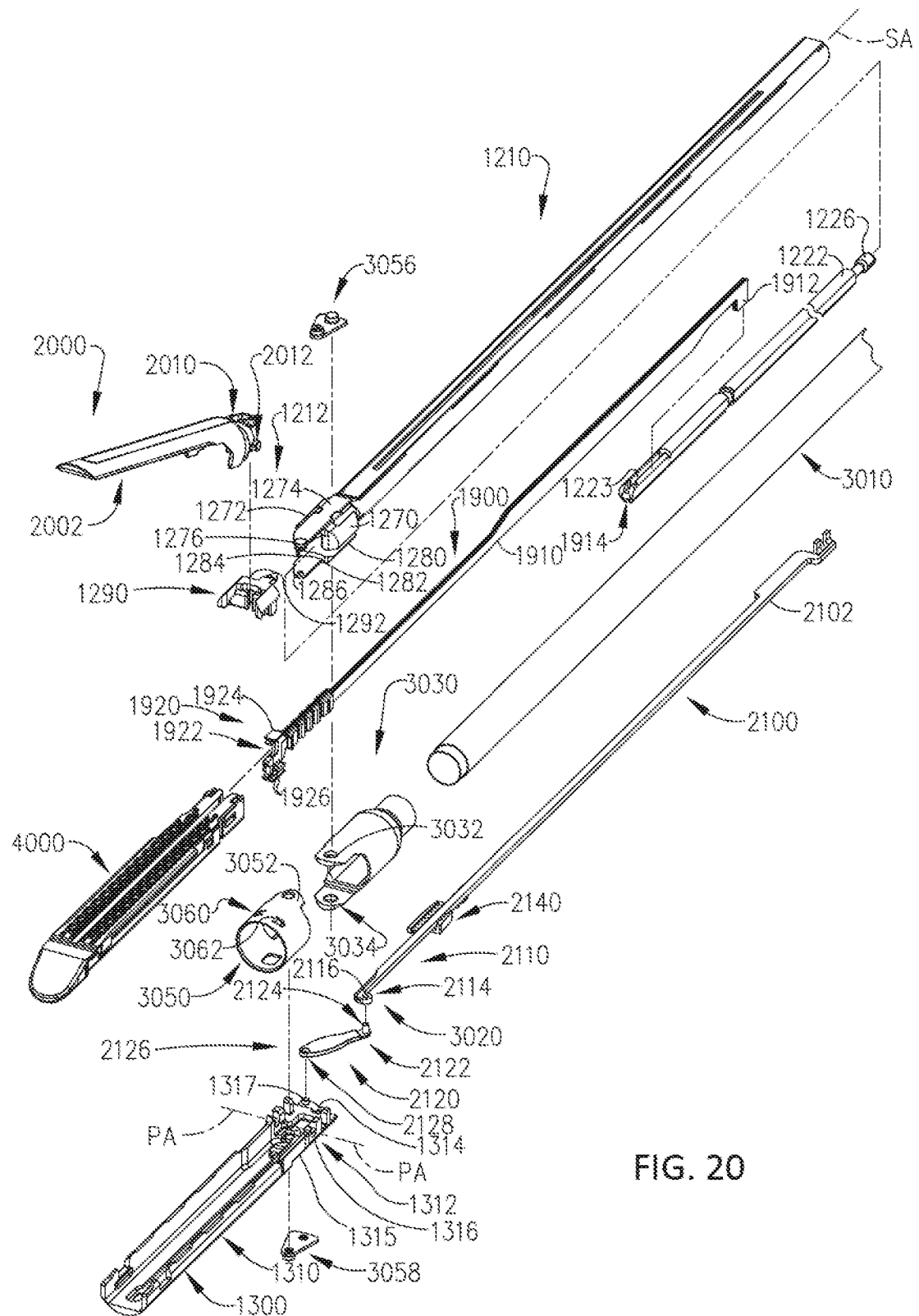


FIG. 20

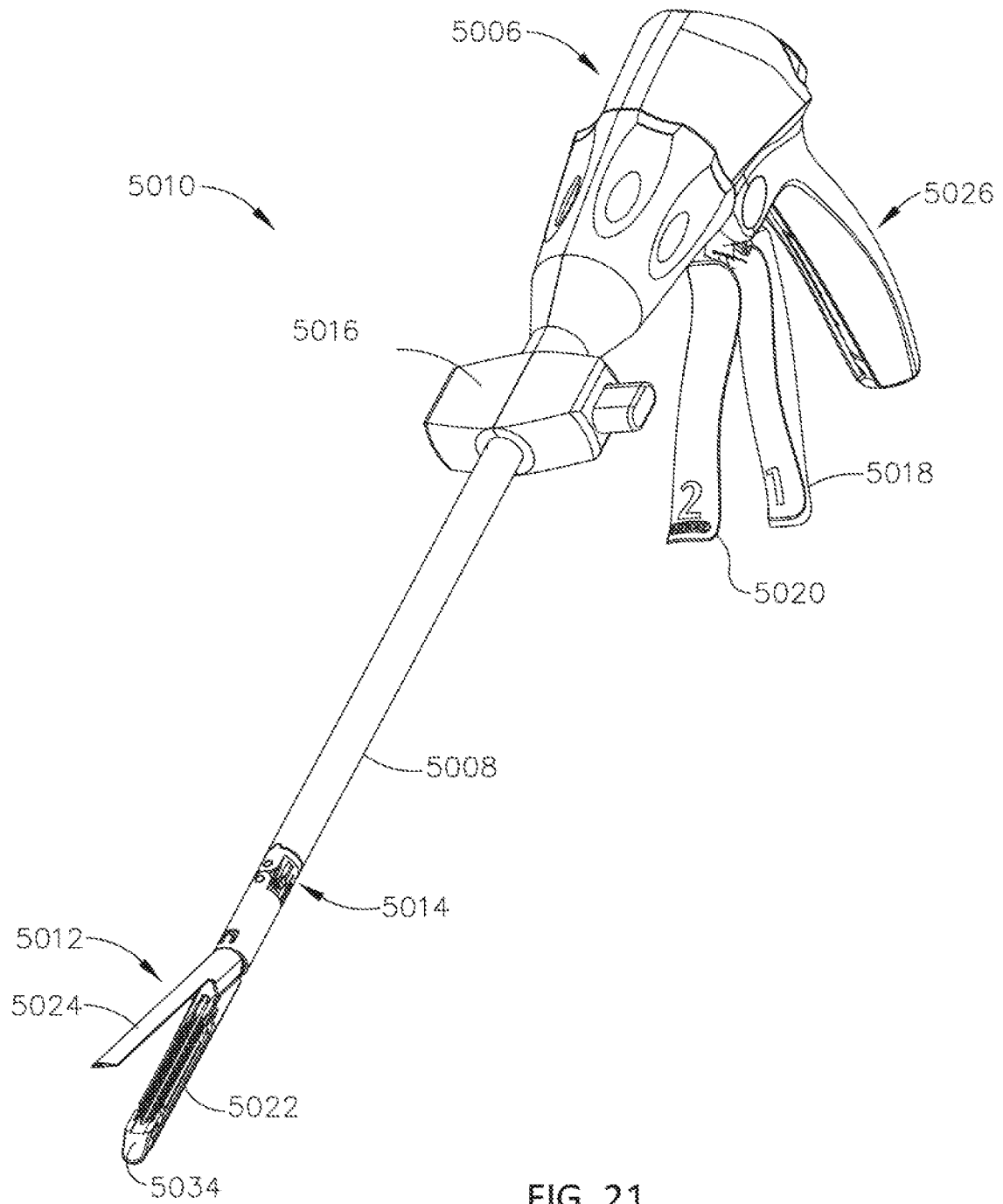


FIG. 21

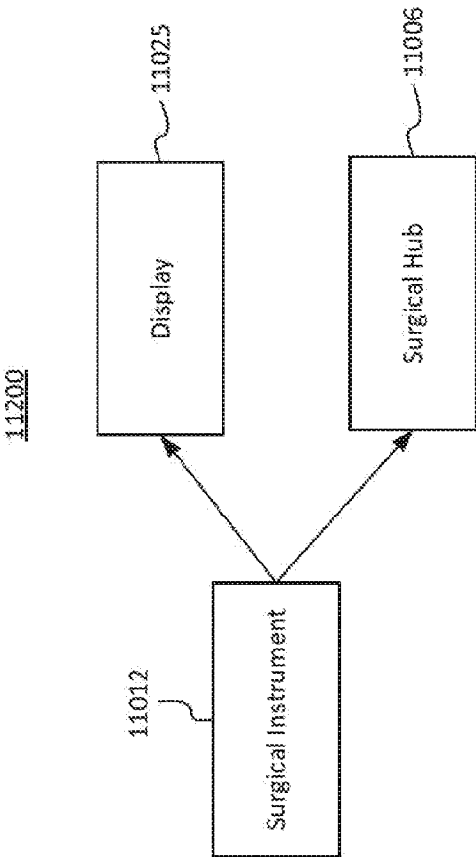


FIG. 22

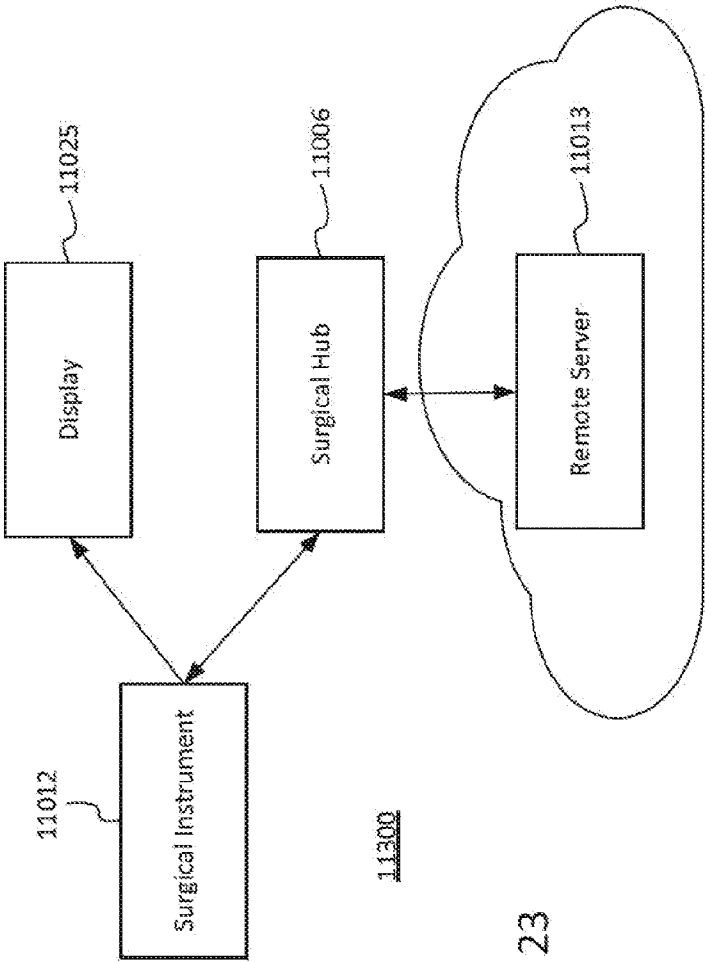


FIG. 23

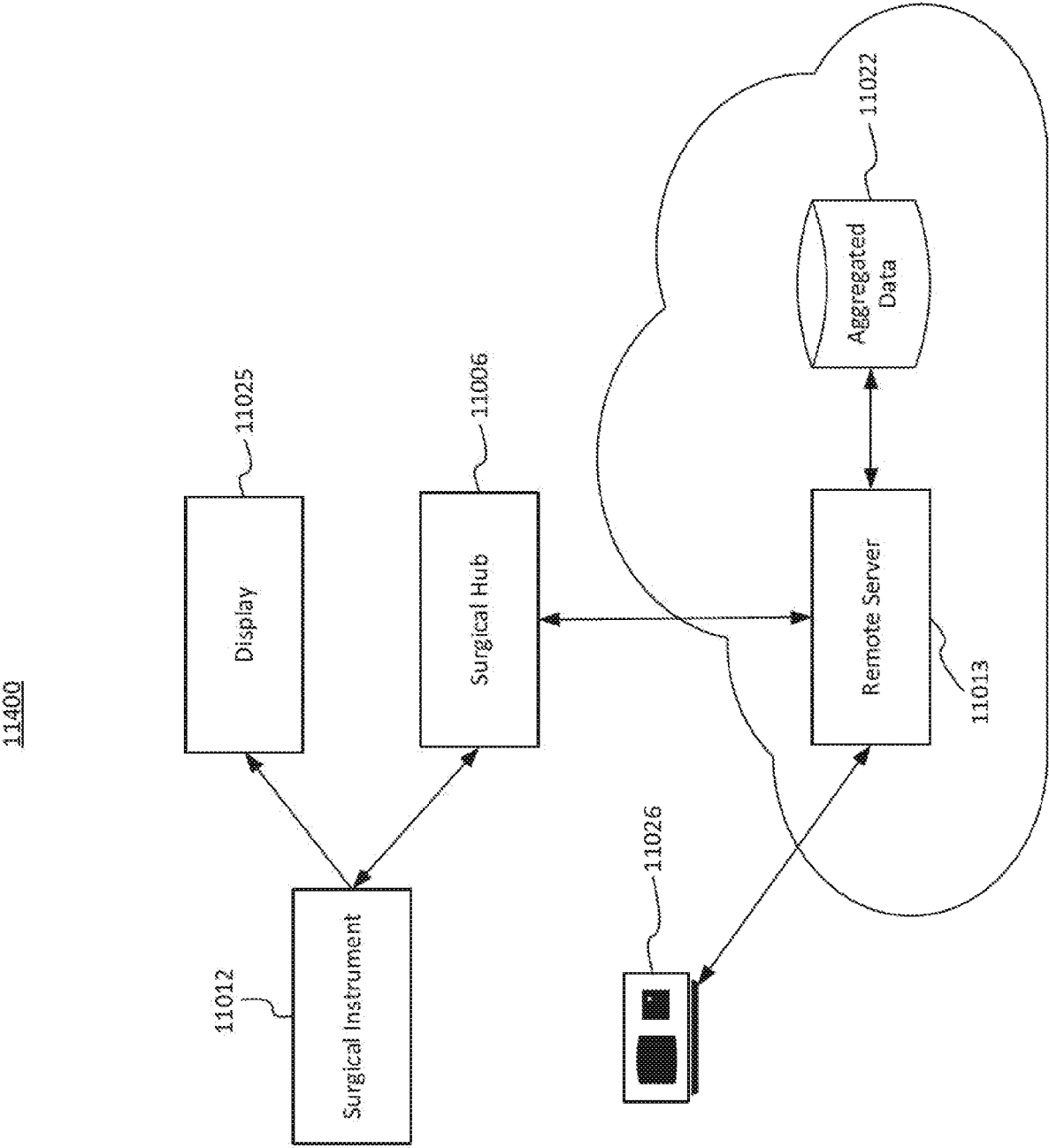


FIG. 24

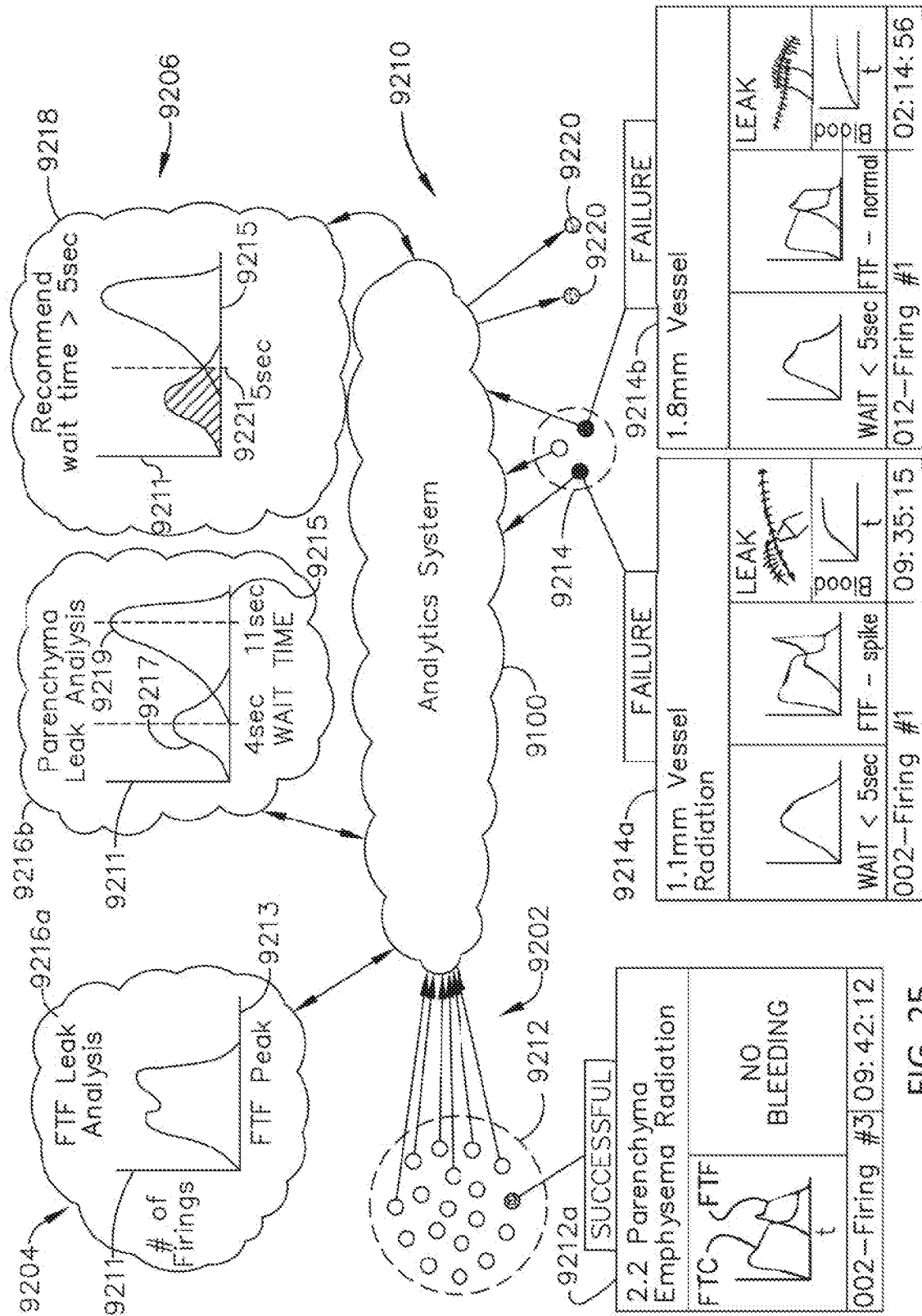


FIG. 25

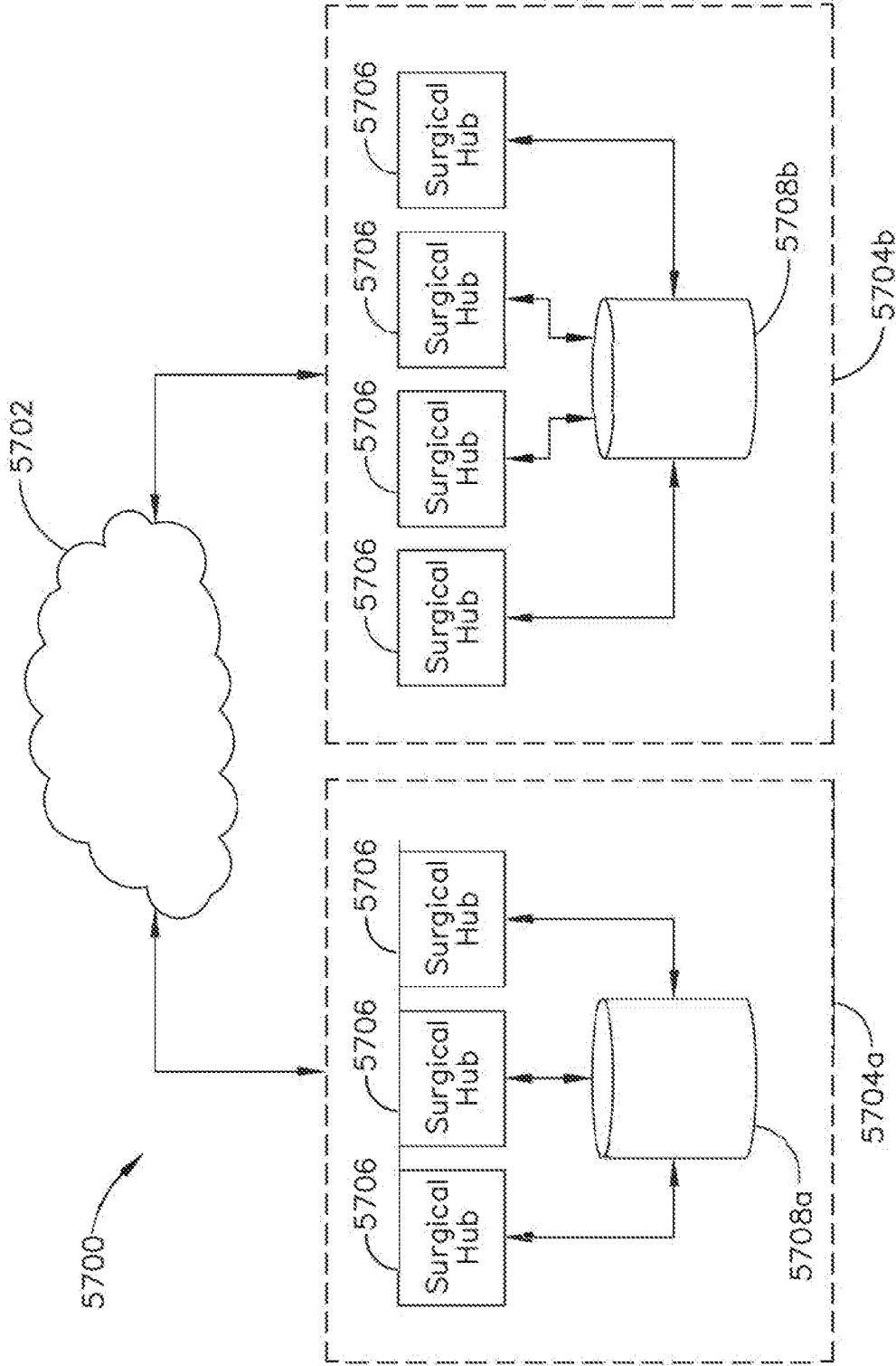


FIG. 26

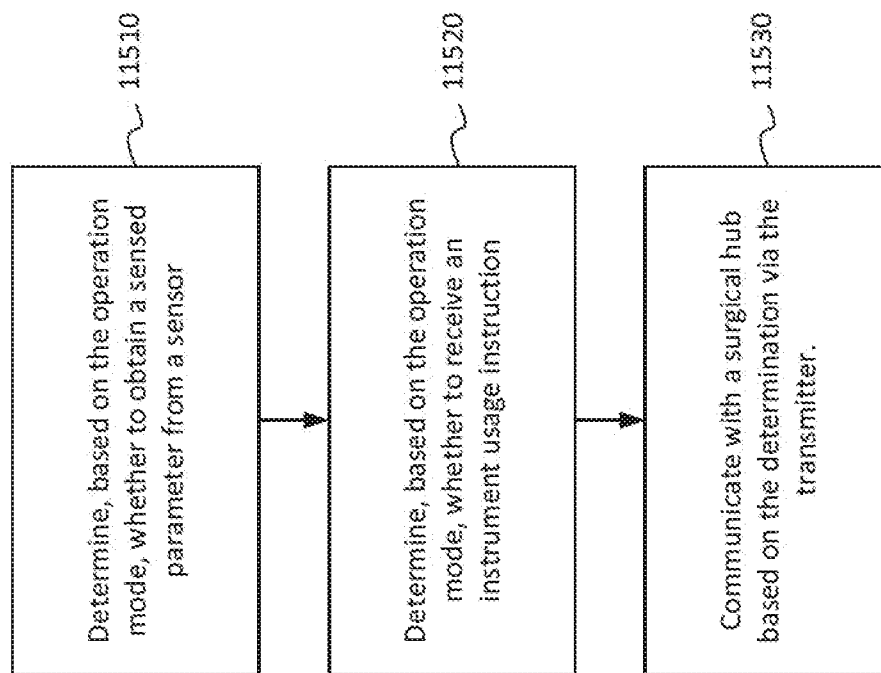
11500

FIG. 27

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2021/058929

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**INV. A61B17/072****ADD. A61B17/00 A61B90/00**

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)

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 practicable, 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 2019/206565 A1 (SHELTON IV FREDERICK E [US]) 4 July 2019 (2019-07-04) paragraph [2095] - paragraph [2138]; figures 190-196 -----	1-19, 23-33



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 application or patent 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)

"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

9 December 2021

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/01/2022

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk

Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,

Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Geiss, Oana

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2021/058929

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.: **20-22**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Pursuant to Article 17(2)(a)(i) PCT, this Authority is not required to search the subject-matter of claims 20-22, as they refer to methods for performing mental acts (Rule 39.1(iii)).
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:

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 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 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 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2021/058929

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2019206565	A1	04-07-2019	NONE
