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(54) **ANALYTE SENSOR**

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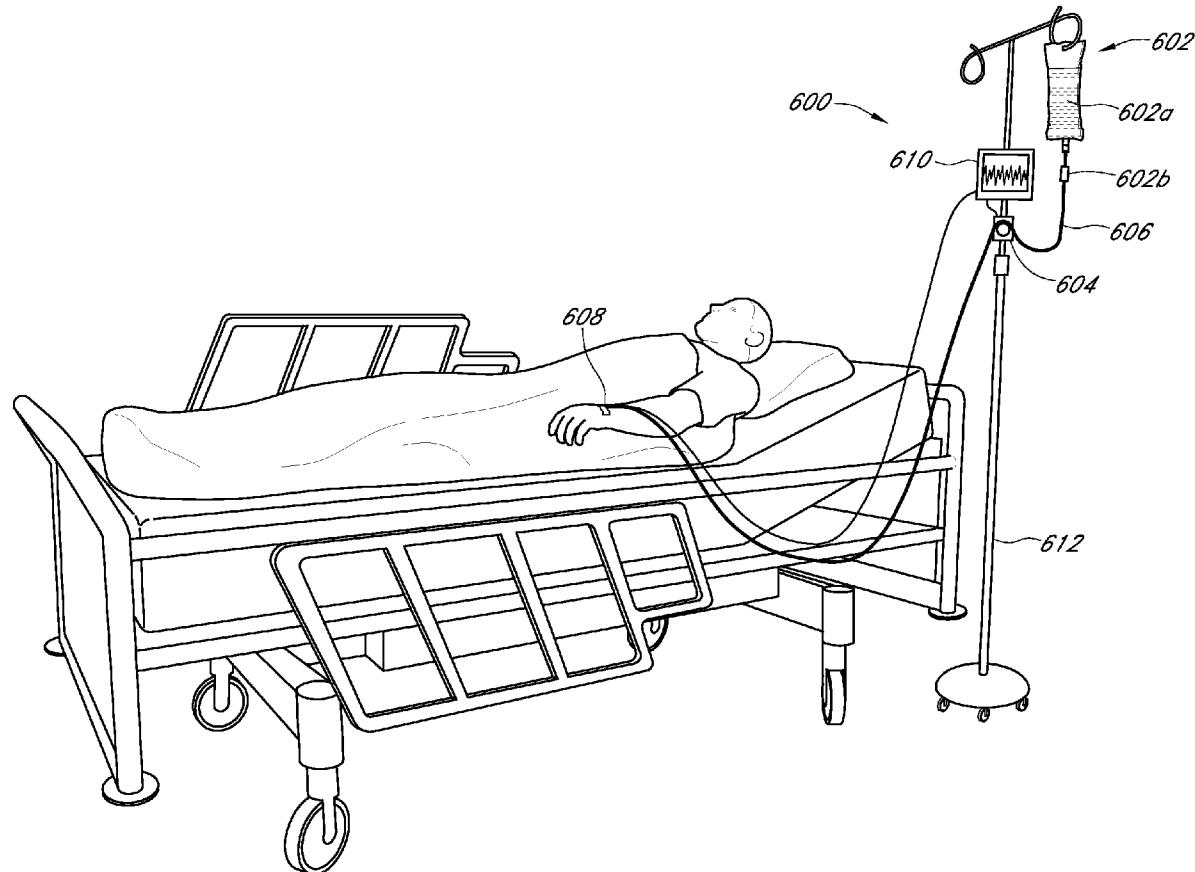
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ABSTRACT

Systems and methods of use for continuous analyte measurement of a host's vascular system are provided. In some embodiments, a continuous glucose measurement system includes a vascular access device, a sensor and sensor electronics, the system being configured for insertion into communication with a host's circulatory system.



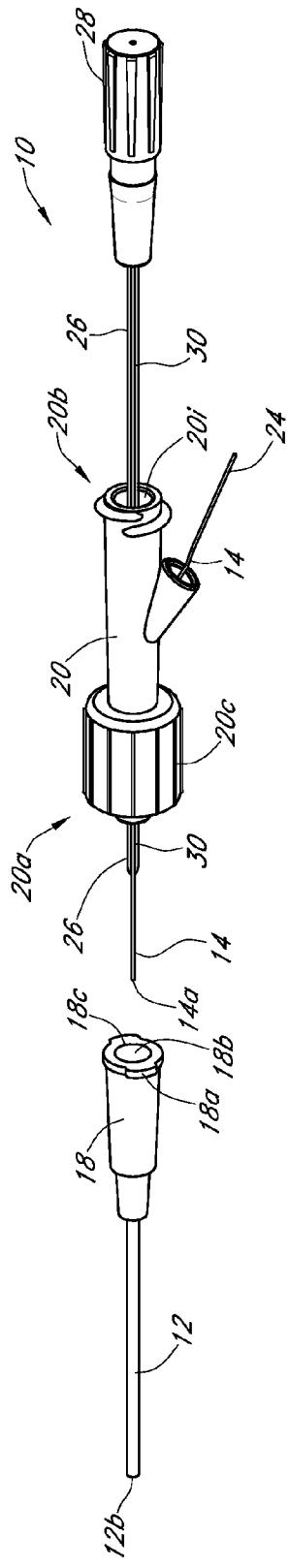


FIG. 1A

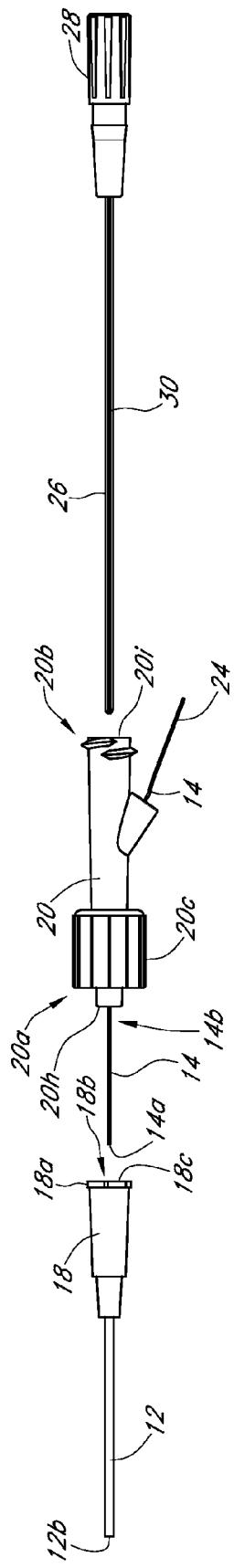
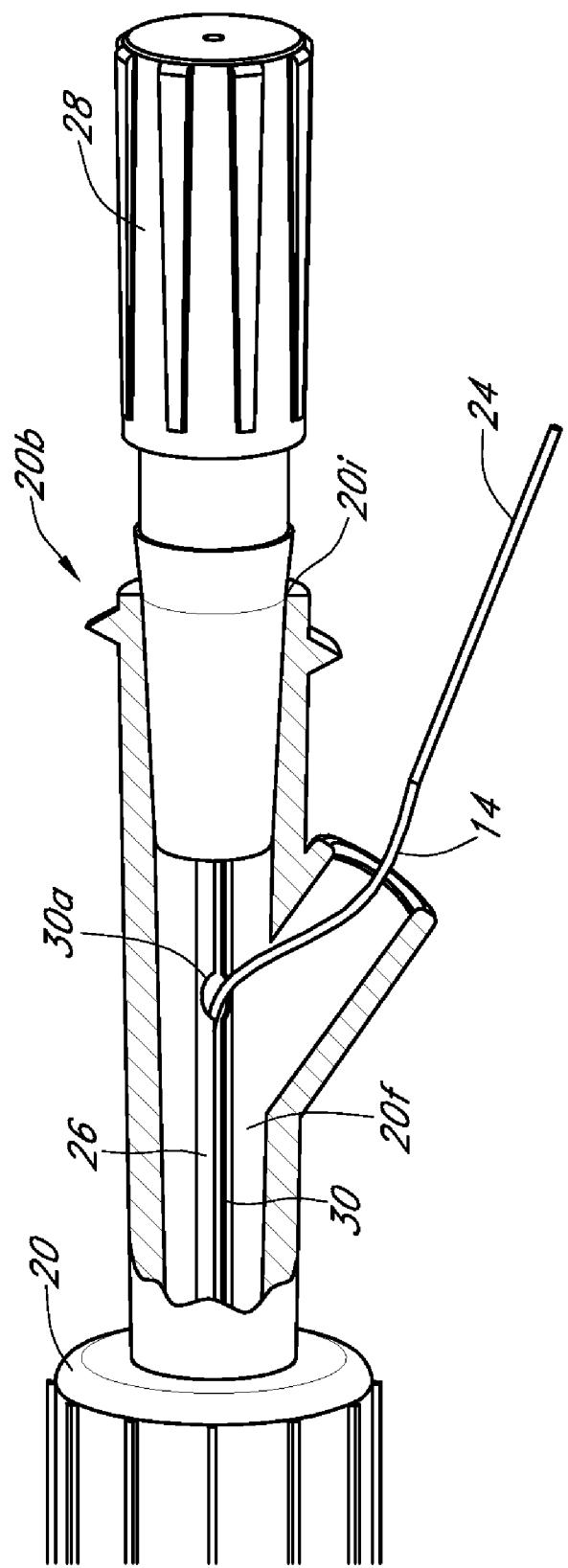


FIG. 1B

FIG. 1C₁

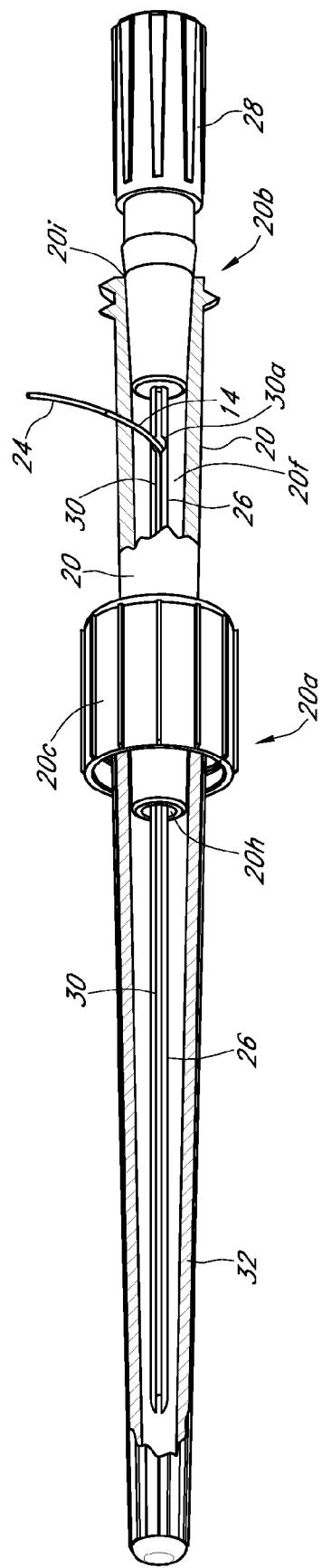


FIG. 1C₂

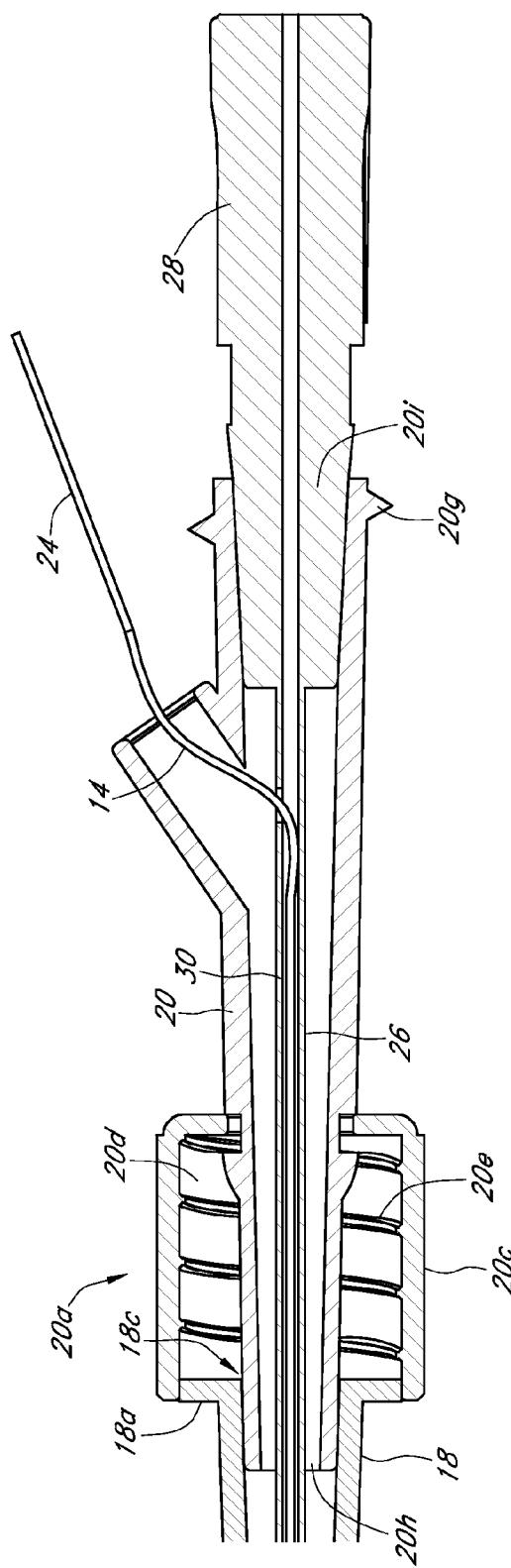


FIG. 1D

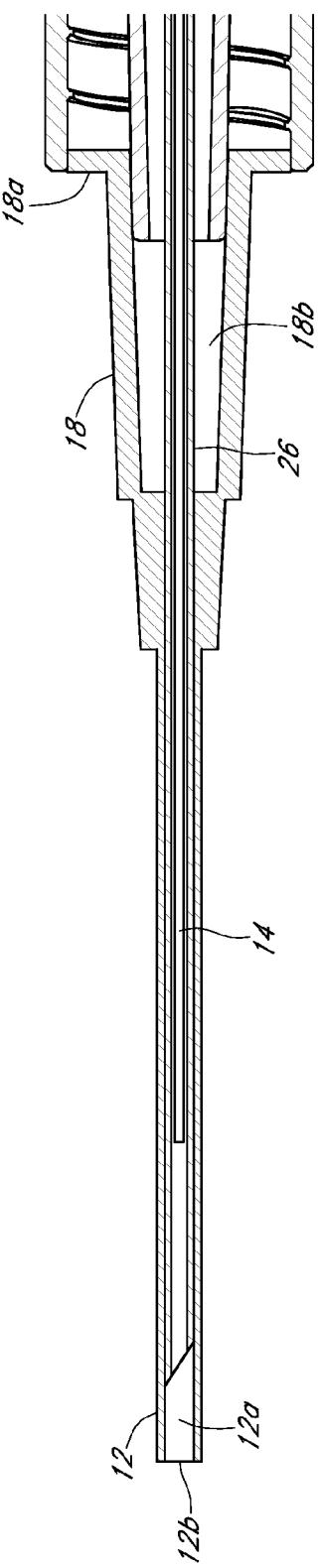
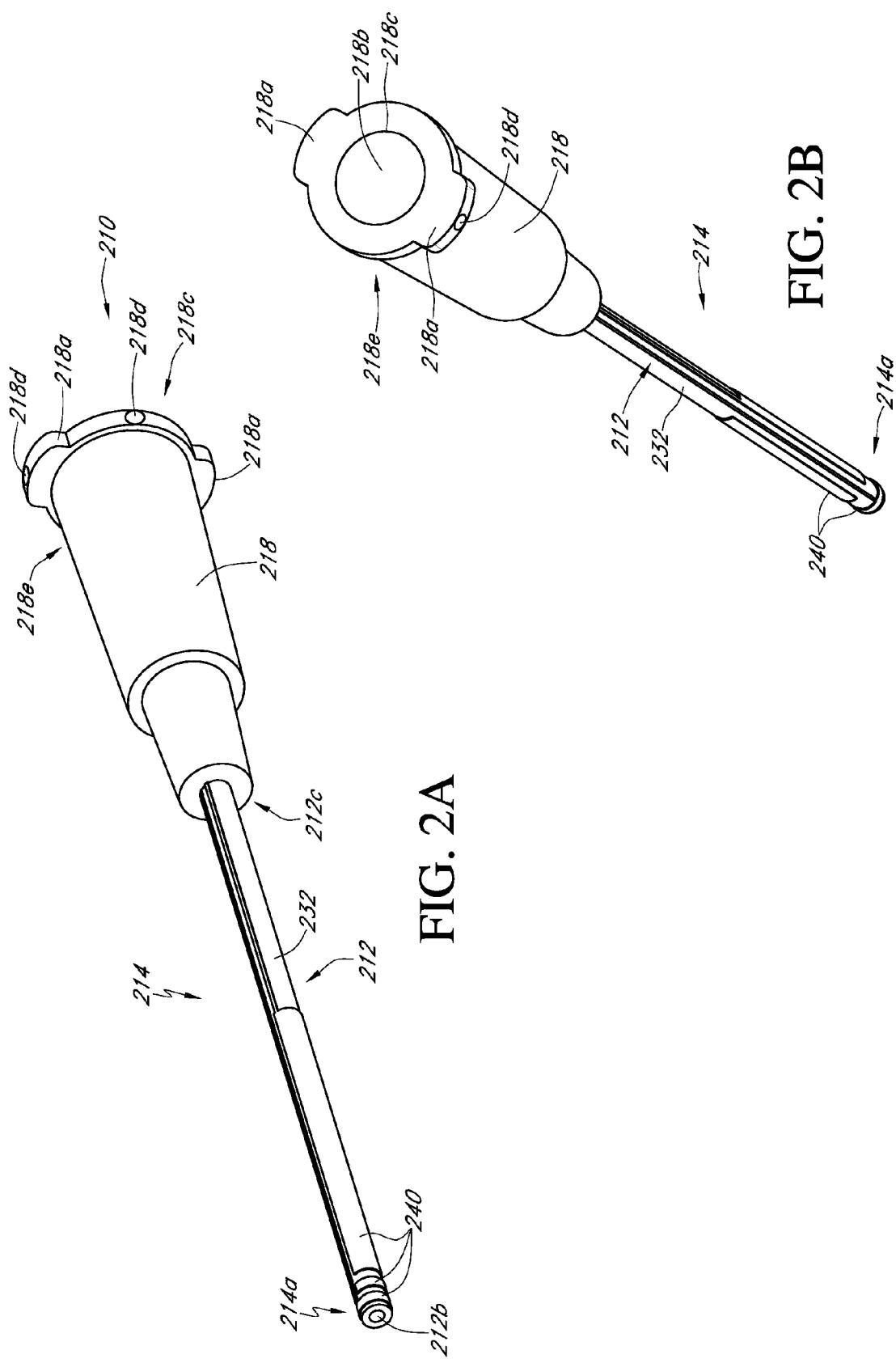


FIG. 1E



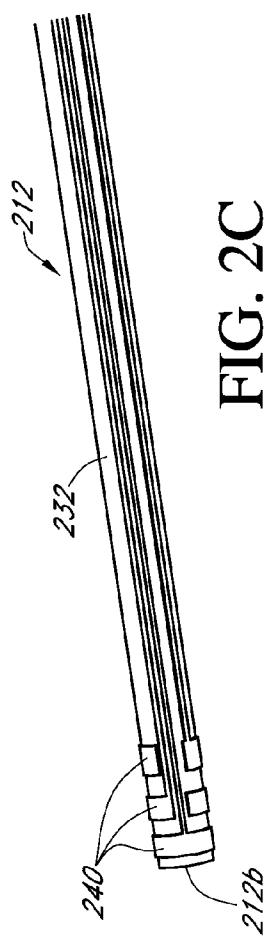


FIG. 2C

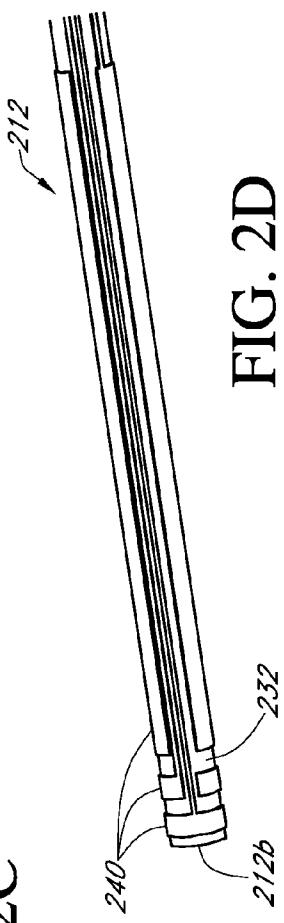


FIG. 2D

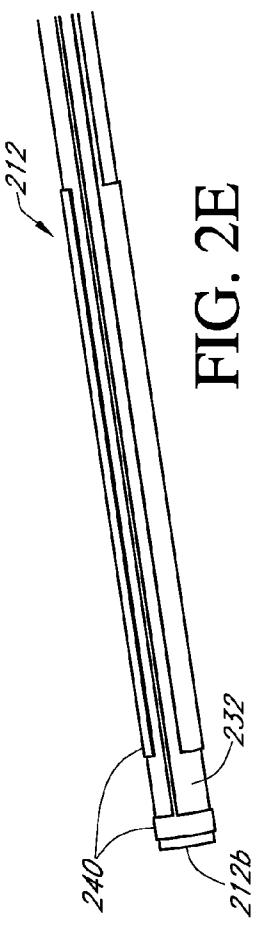
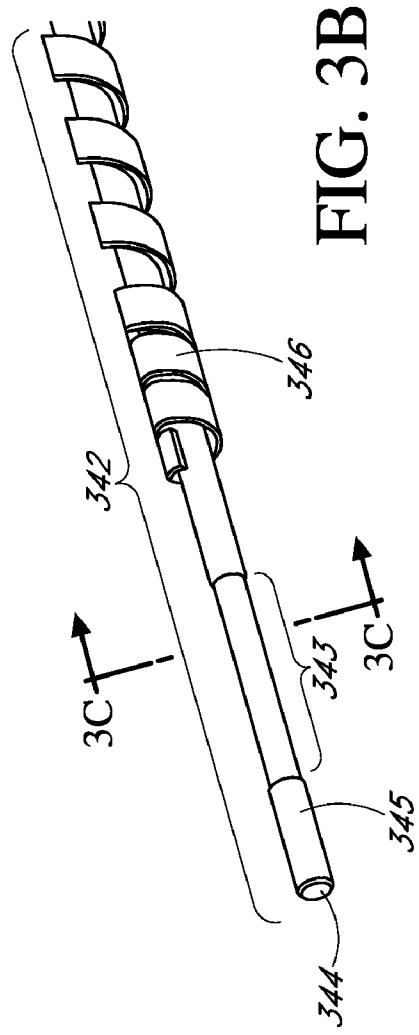
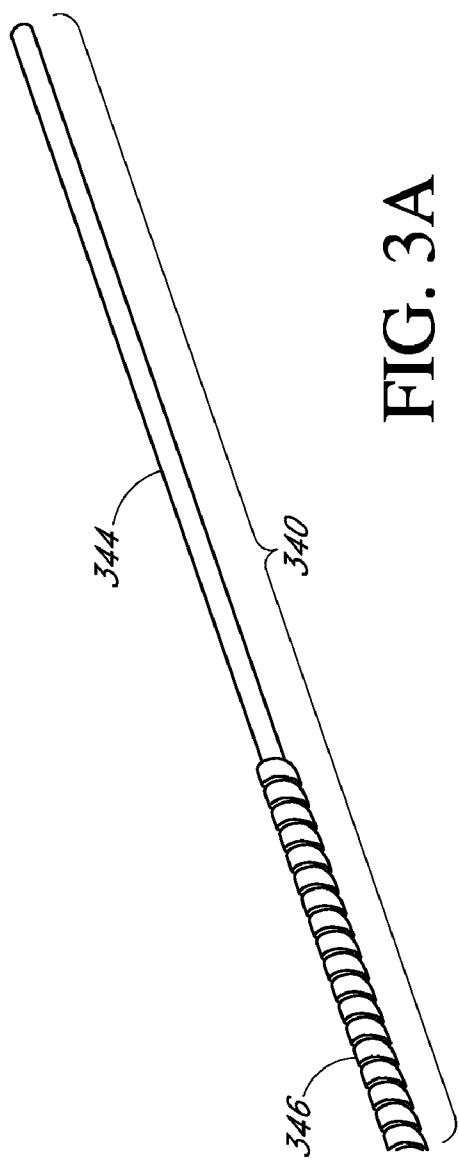


FIG. 2E



FIG. 2F



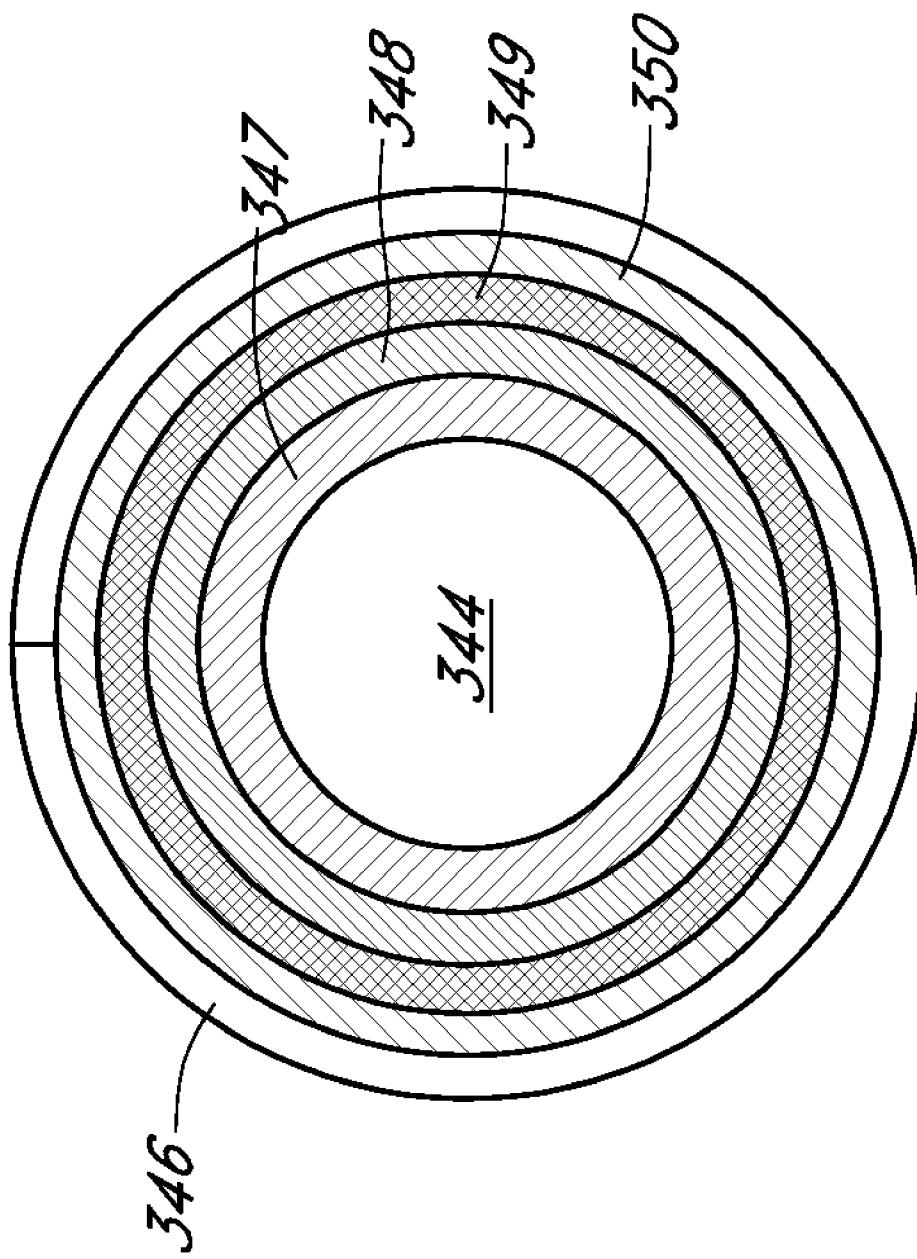


FIG. 3C

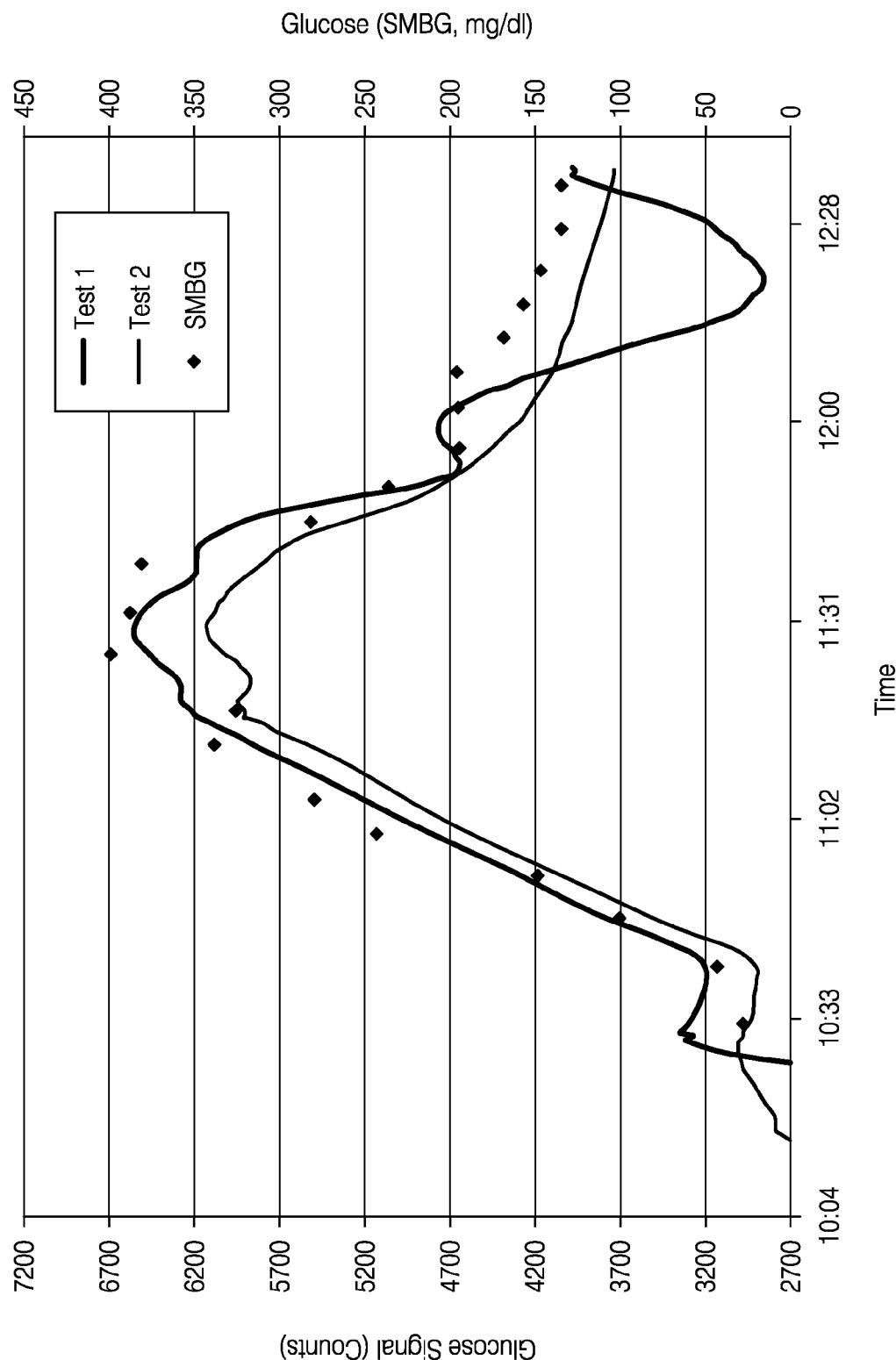


FIG. 4

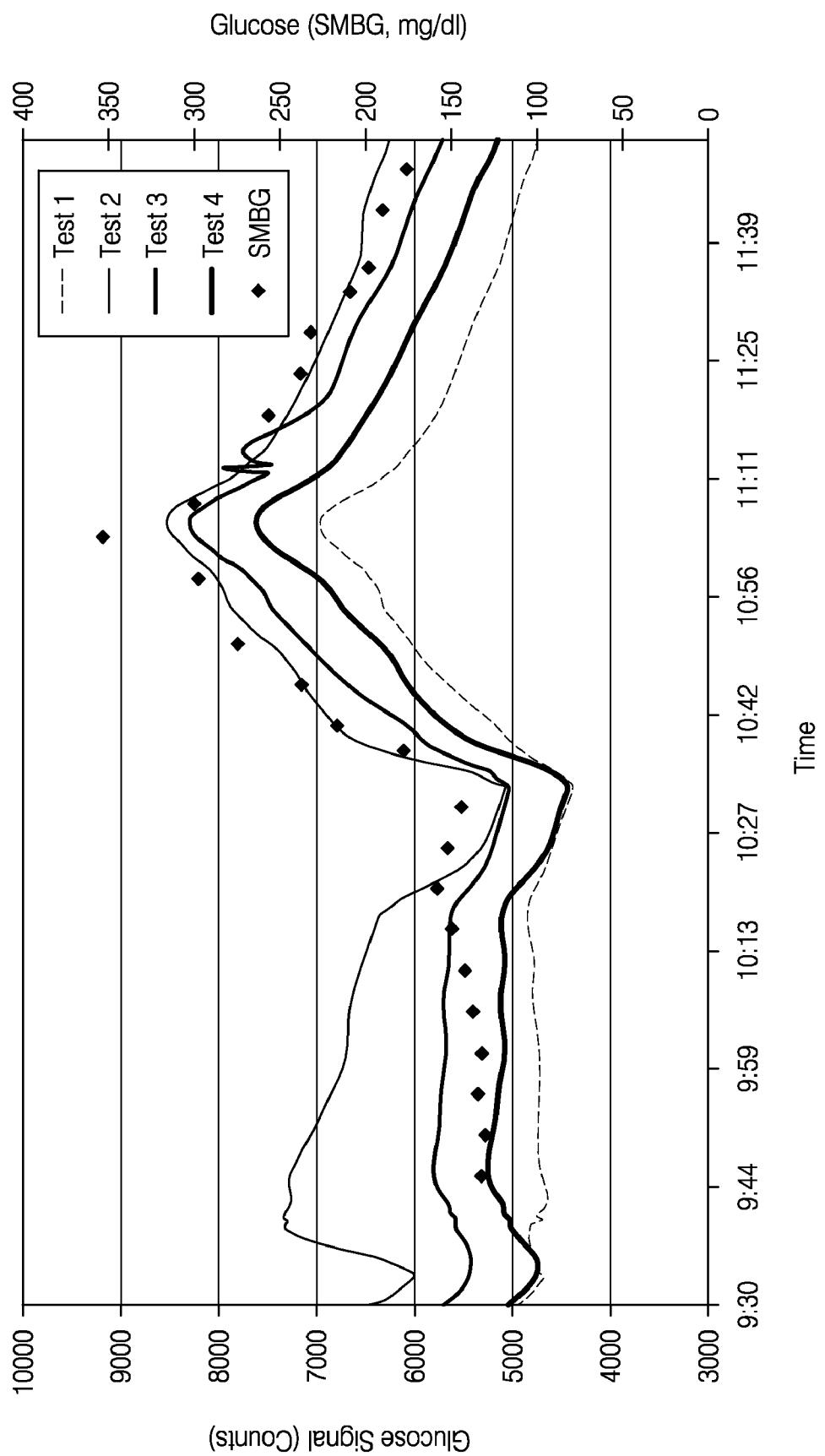


FIG. 5

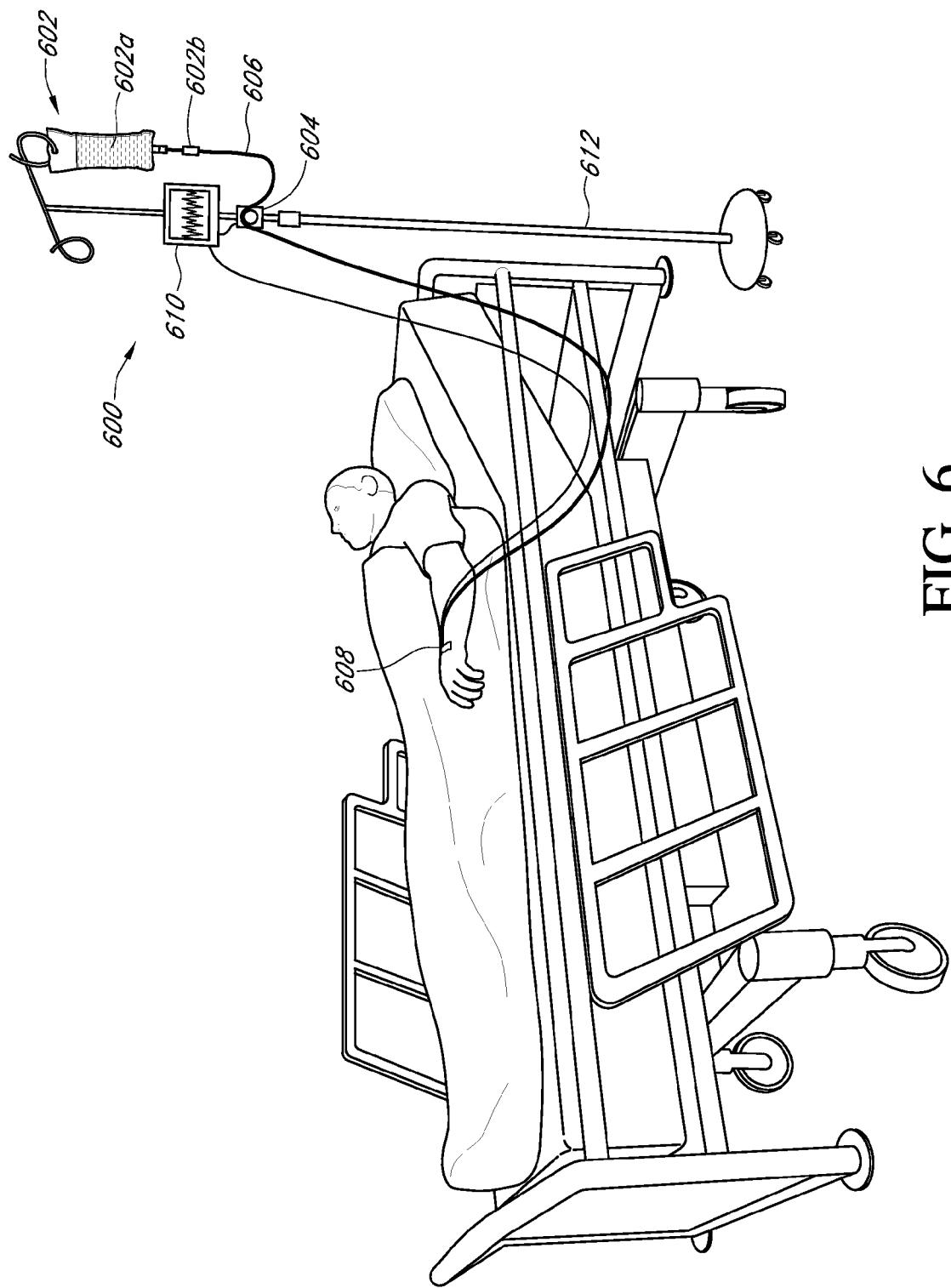


FIG. 6

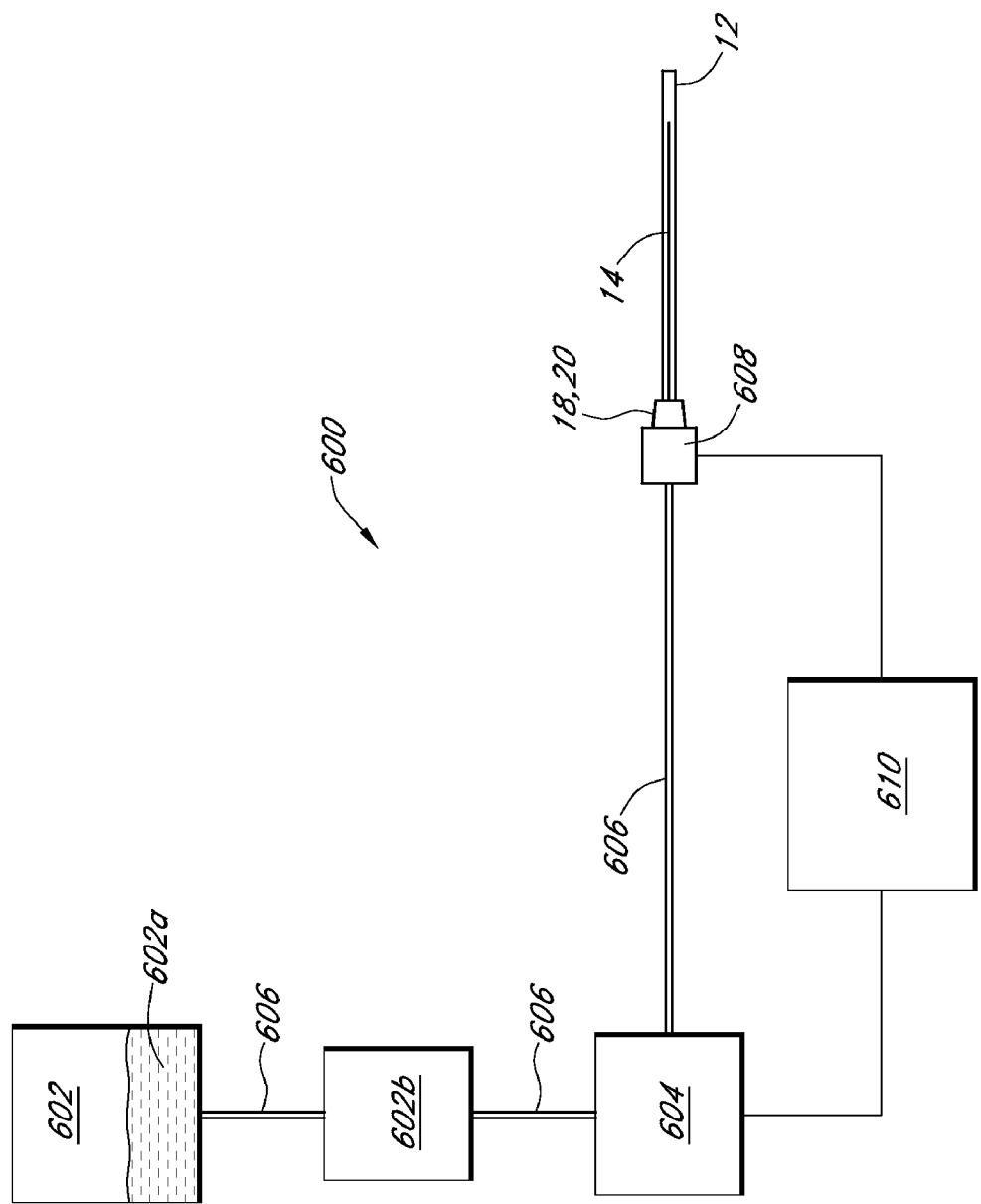


FIG. 7

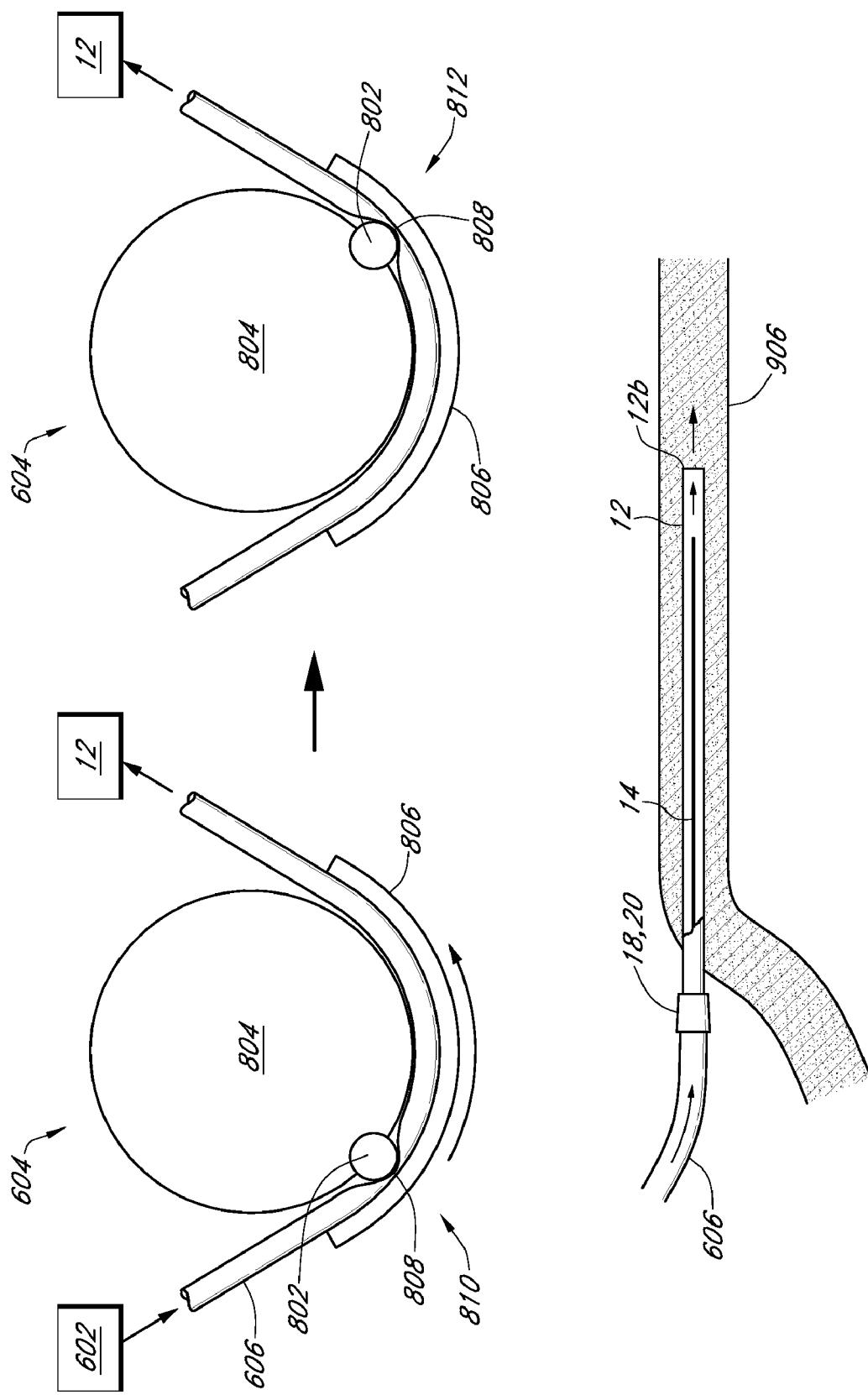


FIG. 8A

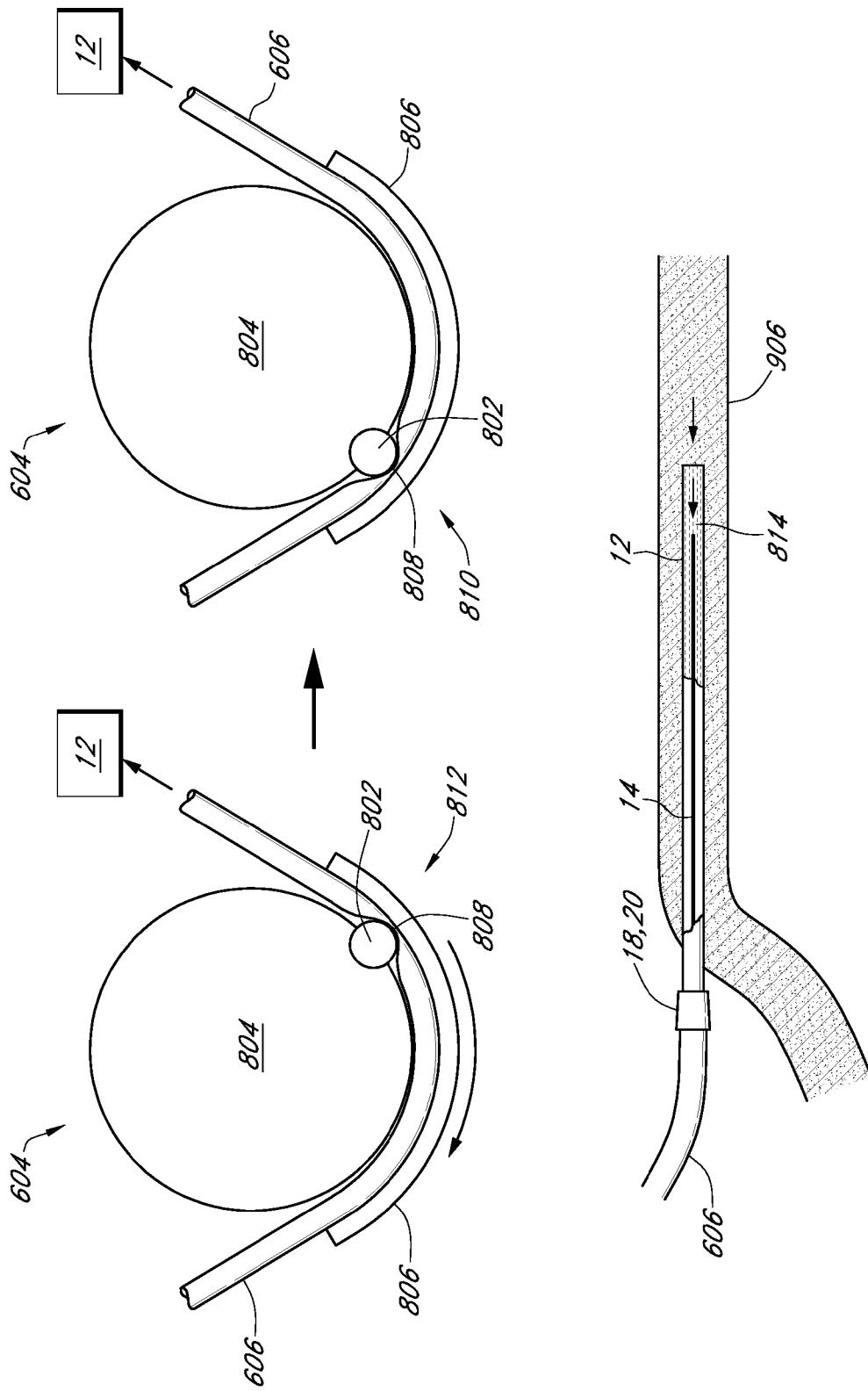


FIG. 8B

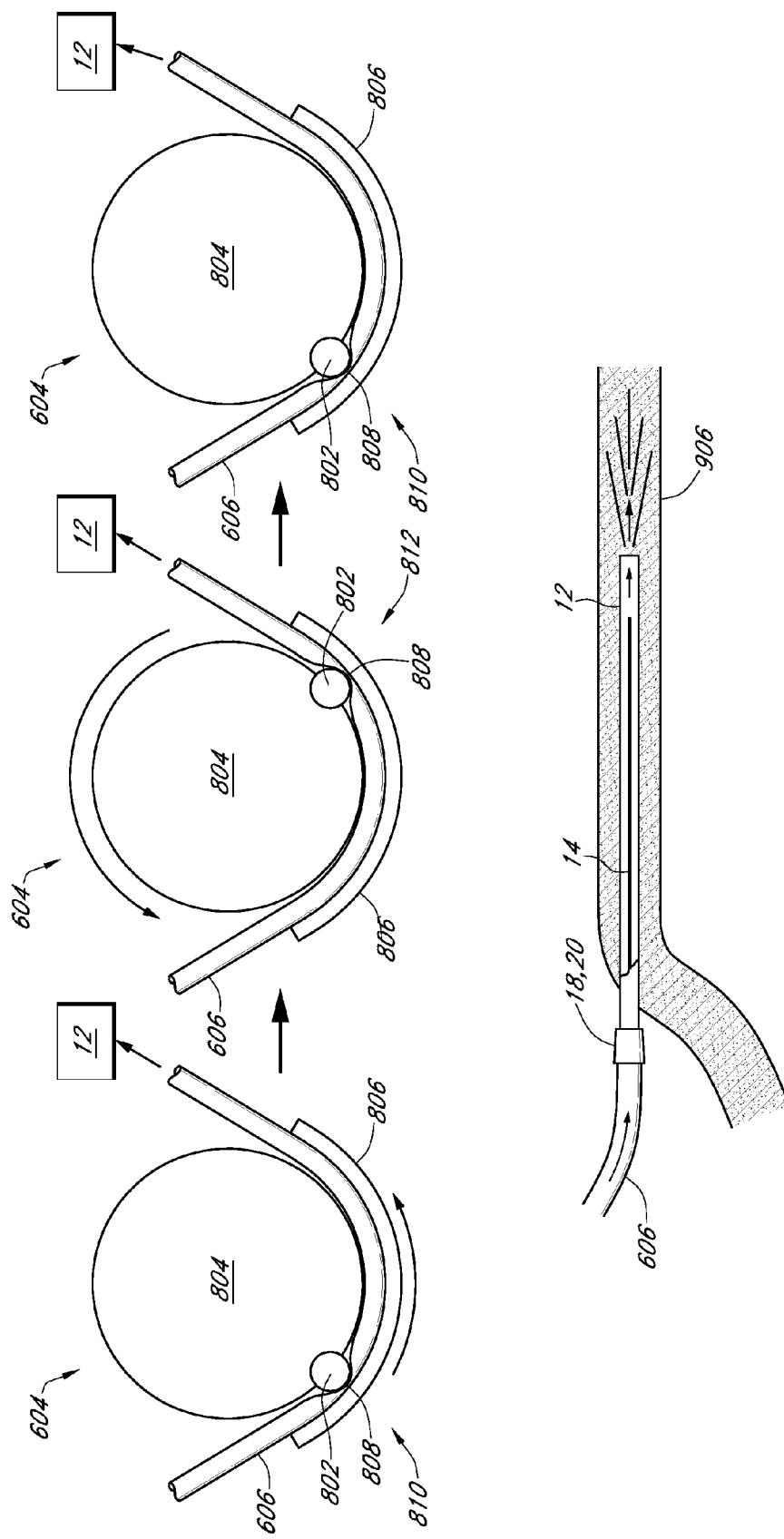


FIG. 8C

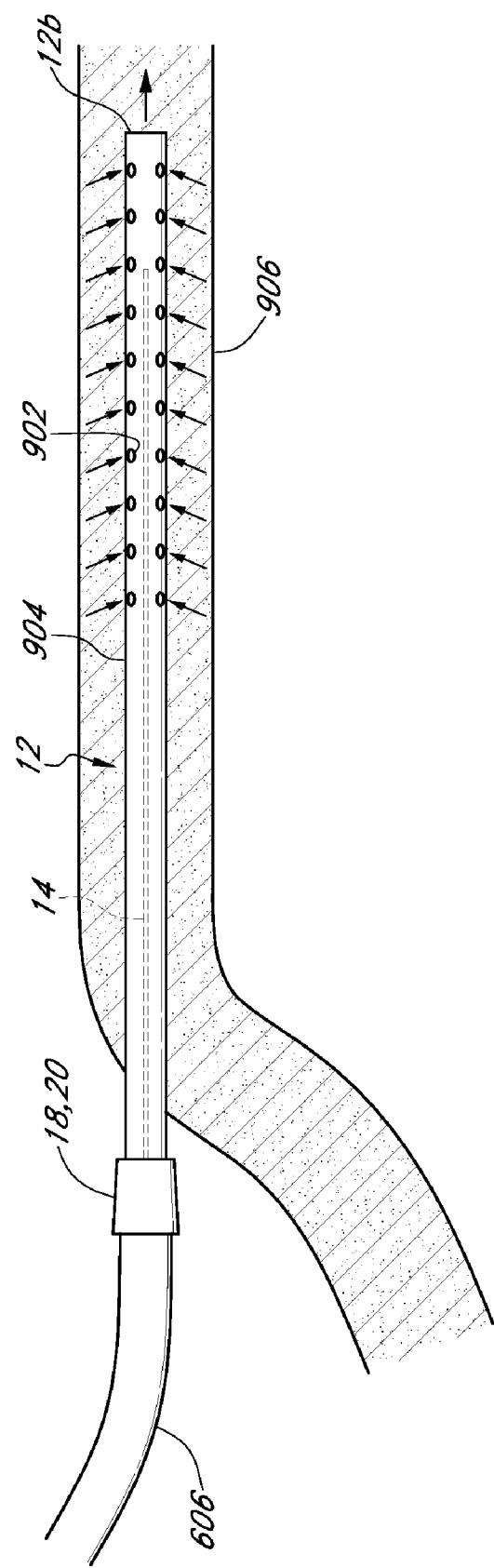


FIG. 9

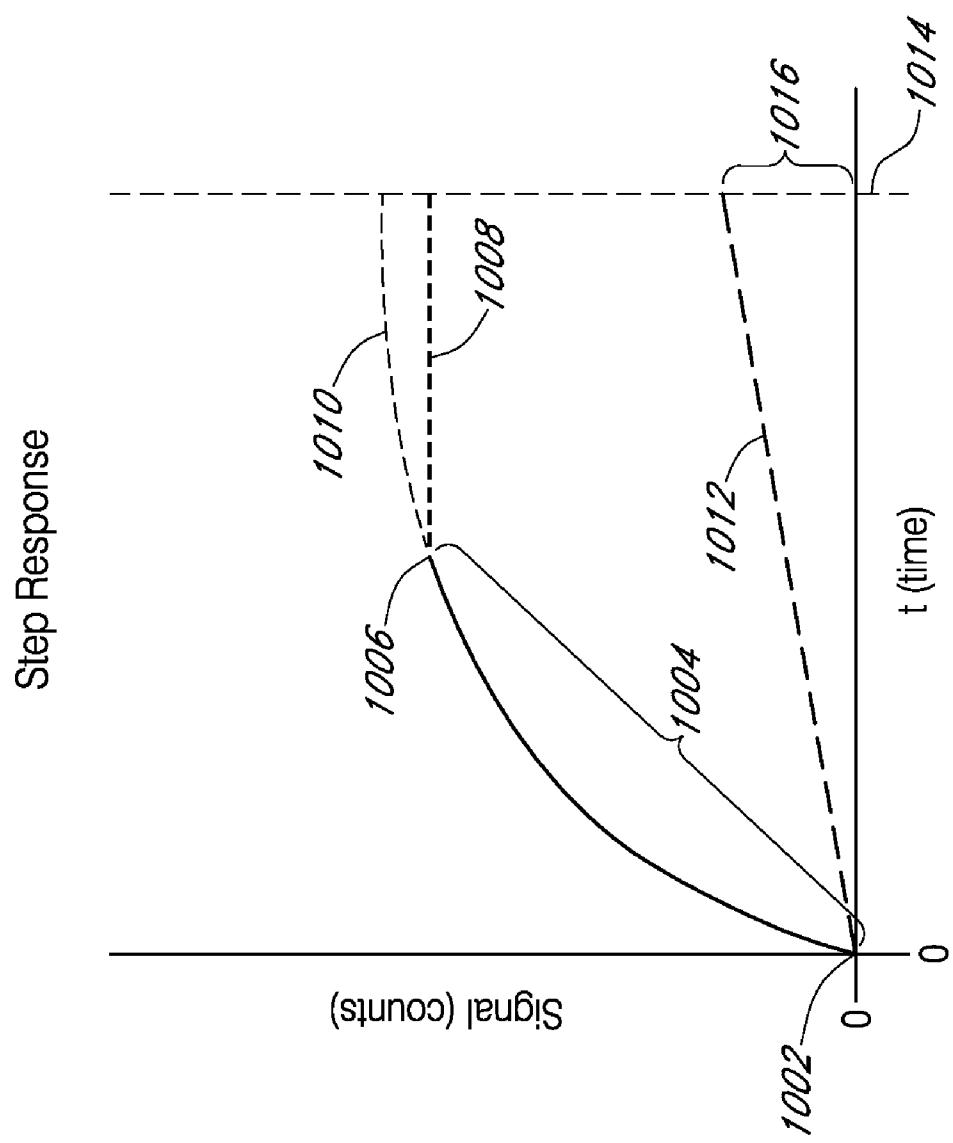


FIG. 10

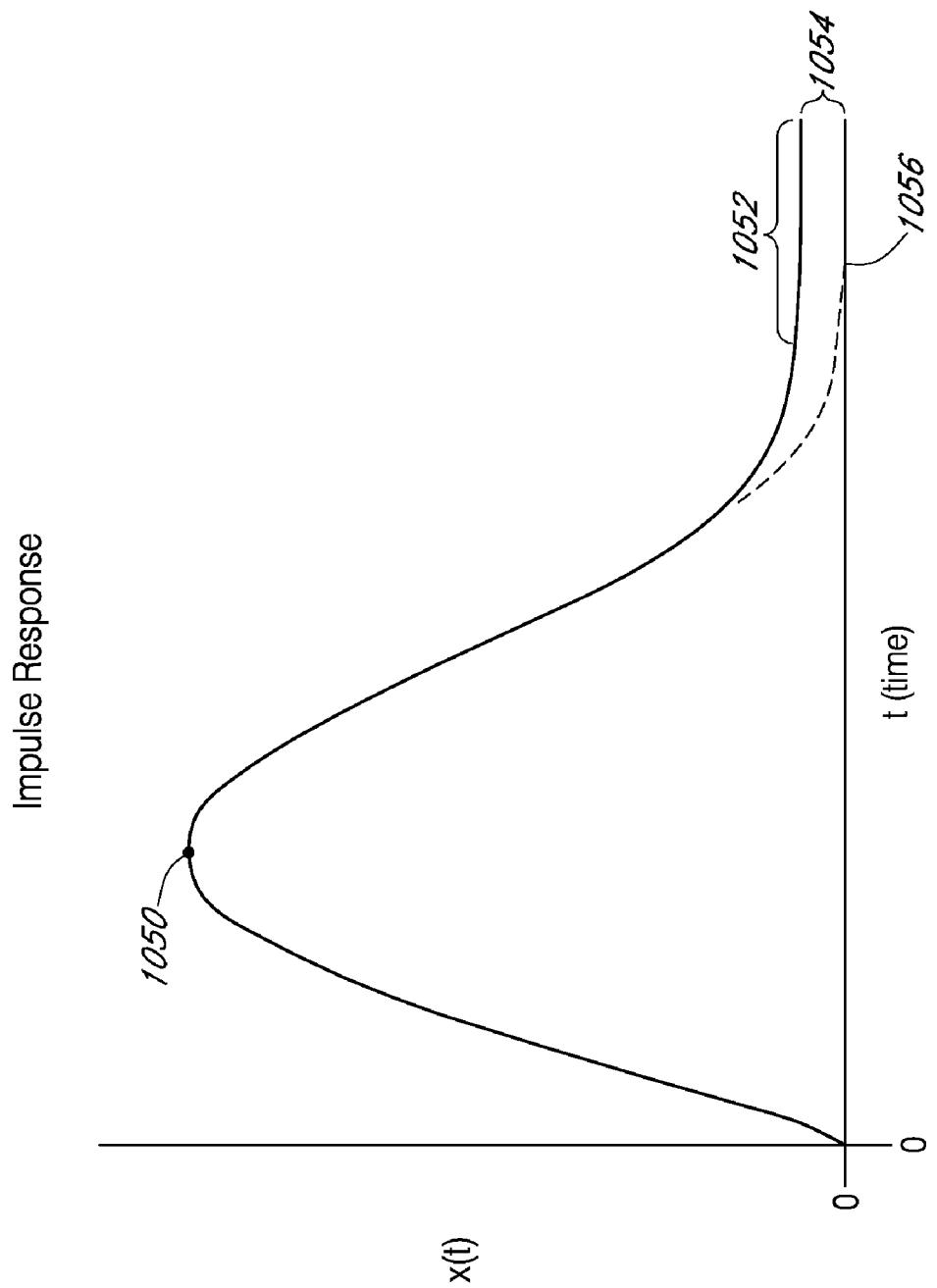


FIG. 11

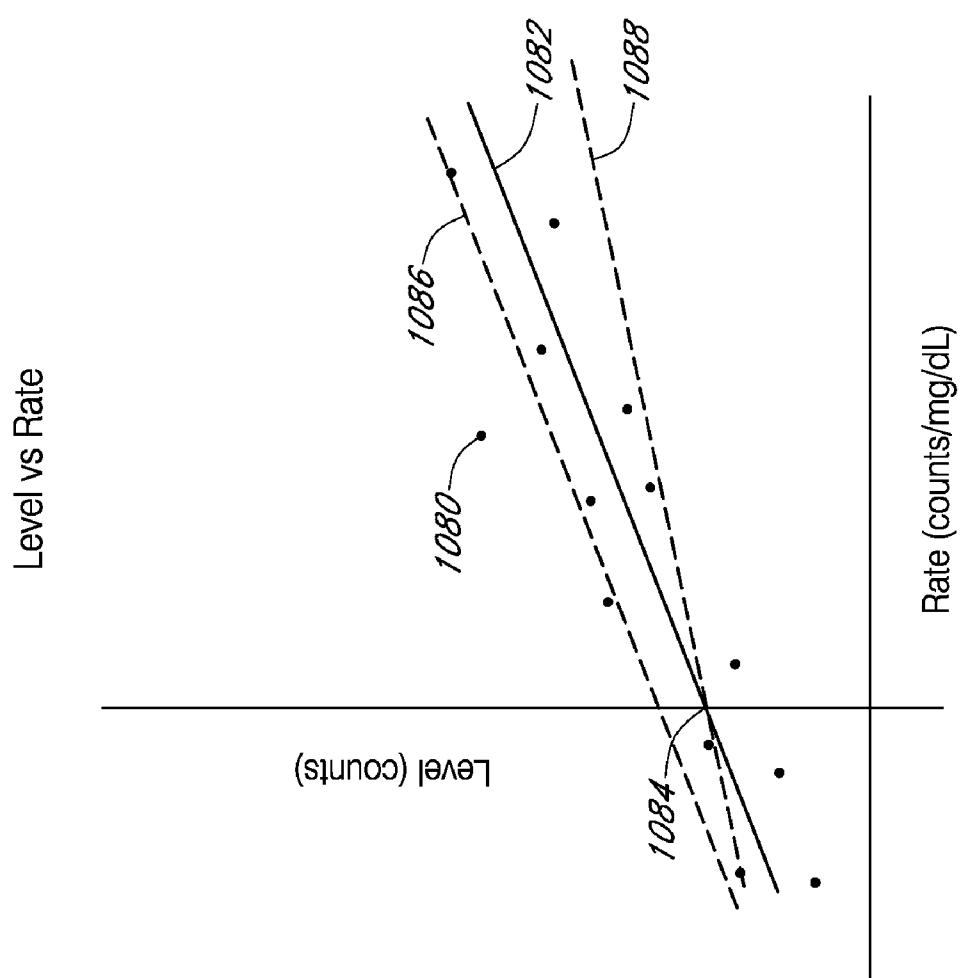


FIG. 12

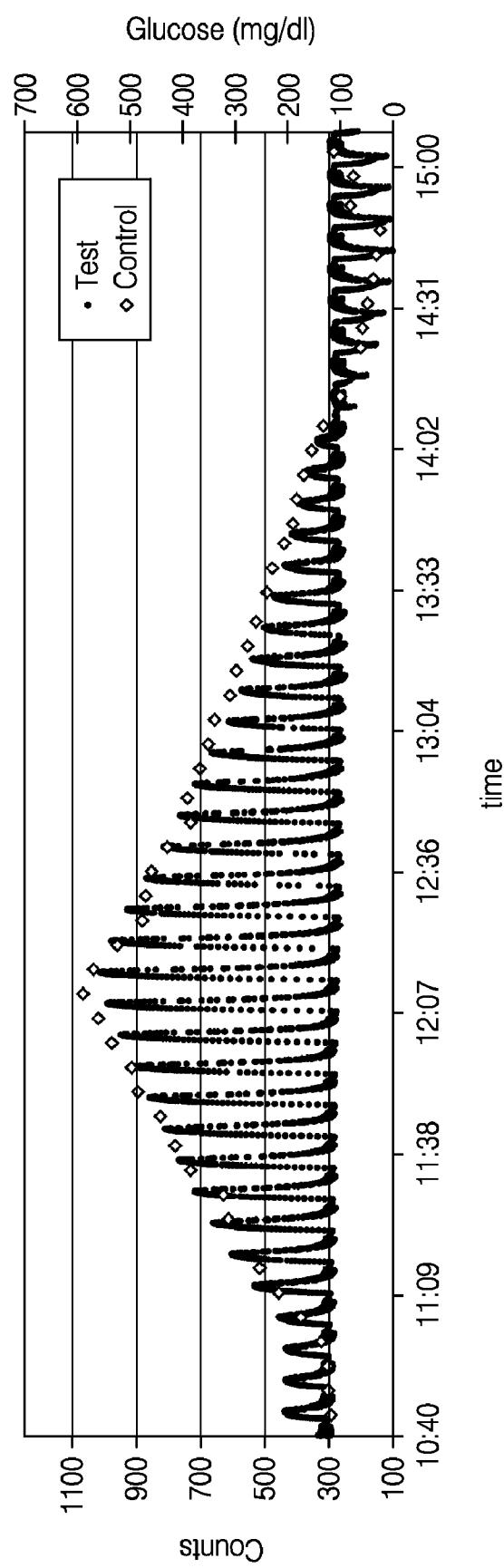


FIG. 13

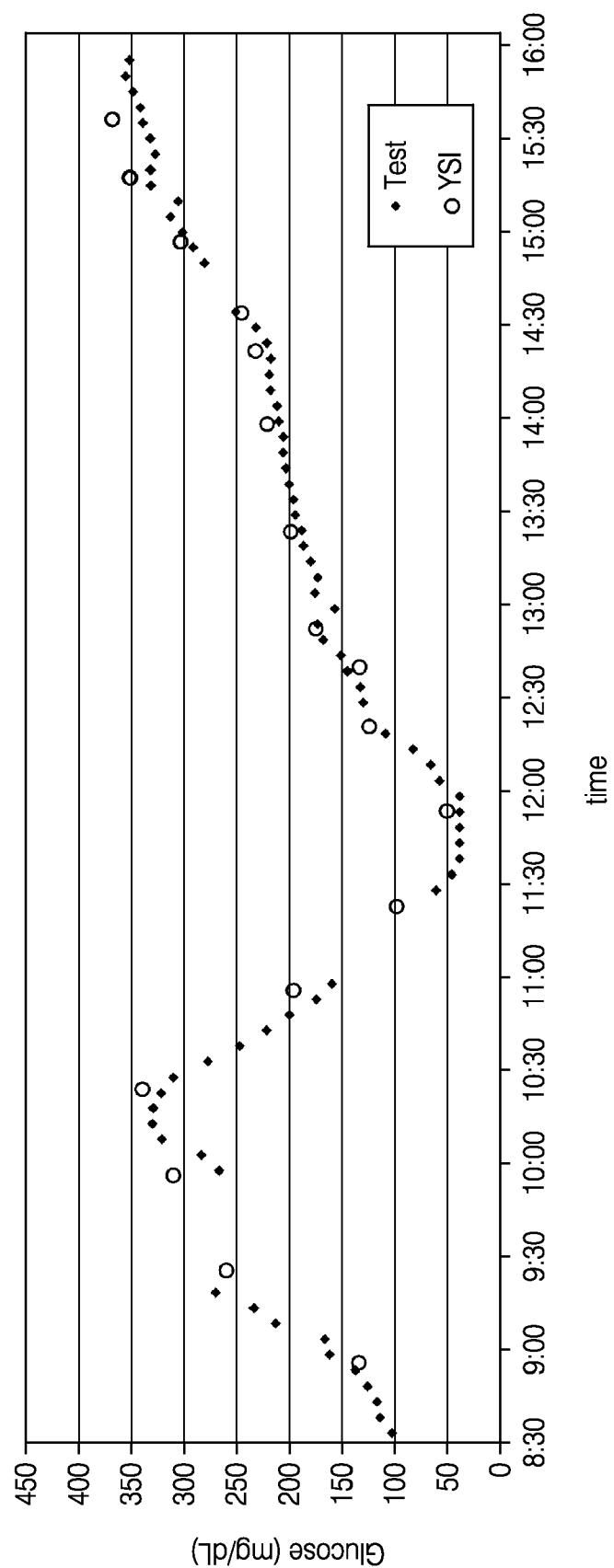


FIG. 14

ANALYTE SENSOR**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,396 filed Oct. 4, 2006; and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,490 filed Oct. 4, 2006; and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,404 filed Oct. 4, 2006, the disclosures of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference in their entirety and are hereby expressly made a portion of this application.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The preferred embodiments relate generally to systems and methods for measuring an analyte in a host.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Diabetes mellitus is a disorder in which the pancreas cannot create sufficient insulin (Type I or insulin dependent) and/or in which insulin is not effective (Type 2 or non-insulin dependent). In the diabetic state, the victim suffers from high blood sugar, which can cause an array of physiological derangements associated with the deterioration of small blood vessels, for example, kidney failure, skin ulcers, or bleeding into the vitreous of the eye. A hypoglycemic reaction (low blood sugar) can be induced by an inadvertent overdose of insulin, or after a normal dose of insulin or glucose-lowering agent accompanied by extraordinary exercise or insufficient food intake.

[0004] Conventionally, a person admitted to a hospital for certain conditions (with or without diabetes) is tested for blood sugar level by a single point blood glucose meter, which typically requires uncomfortable finger pricking methods or blood draws and can produce a burden on the hospital staff during a patient's hospital stay. Due to the lack of convenience, blood sugar glucose levels are generally measured as little as once per day or up to once per hour. Unfortunately, such time intervals are so far spread apart that hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic conditions unknowingly occur, incurring dangerous side effects. It is not only unlikely that a single point value will not catch some hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic conditions, it is also likely that the trend (direction) of the blood glucose value is unknown based on conventional methods. This inhibits the ability to make educated insulin therapy decisions.

[0005] A variety of sensors are known that use an electrochemical cell to provide output signals by which the presence or absence of an analyte, such as glucose, in a sample can be determined. For example, in an electrochemical cell, an analyte (or a species derived from it) that is electro-active generates a detectable signal at an electrode, and this signal can be used to detect or measure the presence and/or amount within a biological sample. In some conventional sensors, an enzyme is provided that reacts with the analyte to be measured, and the byproduct of the reaction is qualified or quantified at the electrode. An enzyme has the advantage that it can be very specific to an analyte and also, when the analyte itself is not sufficiently electro-active, can be used to interact with the analyte to generate another species which is electro-active and to which the sensor can produce a desired output. In one conventional amperometric glucose oxidase-based glucose sensor, immobilized glucose oxidase catalyses the oxidation

of glucose to form hydrogen peroxide, which is then quantified by amperometric measurement (for example, change in electrical current) through a polarized electrode.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In a first aspect, a system for measuring an analyte is provided, the system comprising: a vascular access device configured to be in communication with a circulatory system of a host; and an analyte sensor configured to reside within the vascular access device, wherein the analyte sensor is configured to measure a concentration of an analyte within the circulatory system.

[0007] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the system further comprises a flow control device.

[0008] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device comprises at least one of a pump and a valve.

[0009] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample from the circulatory system.

[0010] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the sample has a volume of about 500 microliters or less.

[0011] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the sample has a volume of about 50 microliters or less.

[0012] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to draw back the sample at a rate of from about 0.001 ml/min to about 2.0 ml/min.

[0013] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 1.0 ml/min.

[0014] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample substantially no farther than the vascular access device.

[0015] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample substantially no farther than a plane defined by skin of the host.

[0016] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to infuse a fluid through the vascular access device and into the circulatory system.

[0017] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the flow control device is configured to infuse the fluid at a rate such that a temperature of the fluid substantially equilibrates with a temperature of the host.

[0018] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the fluid has a known concentration of the analyte and the sensor comprises electronics configured to measure a signal associated with the known concentration of the analyte.

[0019] In an embodiment of the first aspect, an in vivo portion of the analyte sensor has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

[0020] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the in vivo portion of the analyte sensor has a width of less than about 0.010 inches.

[0021] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the vascular access device comprises a single lumen.

[0022] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the vascular access device comprises an 18 gauge or smaller catheter.

[0023] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the vascular access device comprises a 22 gauge or smaller catheter.

[0024] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the vascular access device comprises a sidewall and at least one orifice disposed within the sidewall, wherein the orifice is configured to allow blood to pass therethrough.

[0025] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the orifice is configured to allow blood to contact at least a portion of the sensor.

[0026] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the sensor comprises a tip, and wherein the tip of the sensor is disposed within the vascular access device.

[0027] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the tip of the sensor is disposed about 2 cm or less from a tip of the vascular access device.

[0028] In an embodiment of the first aspect, at least a portion of the sensor is configured to extend out of the vascular access device.

[0029] In an embodiment of the first aspect, at least a portion of the sensor is configured to intermittently protrude out of the vascular access device.

[0030] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the analyte sensor further comprises a bioinert material or a bioactive agent incorporated therein or thereon.

[0031] In an embodiment of the first aspect, the bioactive agent comprises at least one agent selected from the group consisting of vitamin K antagonists, heparin group anticoagulants, platelet aggregation inhibitors, enzymes, direct thrombin inhibitors, Dabigatran, Defibrotide, Dermatan sulfate, Fondaparinux, and Rivaroxaban.

[0032] In a second aspect, a system for measuring an analyte is provided, the system comprising: a vascular access device configured to be in communication with a circulatory system of a host; an analyte sensor configured to reside within the vascular access device, wherein the analyte sensor is configured to measure a concentration of an analyte within the circulatory system; and a flow control device.

[0033] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the flow control device comprises a valve.

[0034] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the valve comprises a first discreet position and a second discreet position.

[0035] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the valve is configured to move between the first position and the second position over a time period of from about 0.5 seconds to about 10.0 seconds.

[0036] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises tubing fluidly connected to the valve, wherein the valve is configured to meter a flow through the tubing at a predetermined flow rate.

[0037] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the predetermined flow rate is from about 0.001 ml/min to about 2.0 ml/min.

[0038] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the predetermined flow rate flow rate is from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.35 ml/min.

[0039] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises tubing connected to the valve, wherein the valve is configured such that about 500 microliters or less of a fluid passes through the tubing during movement of the valve between the first position and the second position.

[0040] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system is configured to push fluid through the tubing during movement of the valve from the first position to the second position.

[0041] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system is configured to draw back a sample into the tubing during movement of the valve from the second position to the first position.

[0042] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the valve is configured such that about 50 microliters or less of a fluid passes through the tubing during the movement of the valve between the first position and the second position.

[0043] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises a bag containing a fluid.

[0044] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises a flow regulator configured to regulate a flow of the fluid.

[0045] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises a local analyzer.

[0046] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the local analyzer comprises a potentiostat.

[0047] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the local analyzer comprises a data processing module.

[0048] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the local analyzer comprises a data storage module.

[0049] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the system further comprises a remote analyzer.

[0050] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the remote analyzer comprises a touch screen.

[0051] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the remote analyzer is configured to control the flow control device.

[0052] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the remote analyzer is detachably operably connected to a local analyzer.

[0053] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the remote analyzer comprises a data processing module.

[0054] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the remote analyzer comprises a data storage module.

[0055] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the flow control device comprises a processor configured to control the flow control device, and wherein the processor is operably connected to the remote analyzer.

[0056] In an embodiment of the second aspect, the flow control device comprises a pump.

[0057] In a third aspect, a method for measuring a concentration of an analyte in of a host is provided, the method comprising: a) providing an analyte measuring system comprising a vascular access device, an analyte sensor configured to measure an analyte concentration, and electronics operatively connected to the sensor and configured to generate a signal associated with the analyte concentration; wherein the analyte sensor is configured to reside within the vascular access device; b) placing the vascular access device and sensor in fluid communication with the circulatory system; c) passing a reference solution past the analyte sensor and measuring a signal associated with an analyte concentration of the reference solution; and d) drawing back a sample from the circulatory system and measuring a signal associated with the analyte concentration of the sample.

[0058] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of passing a reference solution comprises passing the reference solution at a first flow rate of from about 0.001 ml/min to about 2 ml/min.

[0059] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of passing a reference solution comprises passing the reference solution at a first flow rate of from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.35 ml/min.

[0060] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of passing a reference solution comprises allowing a temperature of the reference solution to equilibrate with a temperature of the host.

[0061] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises drawing back a sample at a second flow rate of from about 0.001 ml/min to about 2 ml/min.

[0062] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises drawing back a sample at a second flow rate of from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.35 ml/min.

[0063] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises substantially blocking mixing of the reference solution and the sample.

[0064] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the second flow rate is substantially equal to the first flow rate.

[0065] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the vascular access device is in fluid communication with a vein, the method further comprising a step of keeping the vein open by passing the reference solution past the sensor at a third flow rate.

[0066] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the third flow rate is less than the first flow rate.

[0067] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the third flow rate is from about 1.0 ml/min.

[0068] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the third flow rate is from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min.

[0069] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the analyte measuring system further comprises a flow control device, wherein the flow control device is configured to meter flow during steps c) and d).

[0070] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the flow control device comprises a valve comprising a first discreet position and a second discreet position.

[0071] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of passing a reference solution comprises moving the valve from the first position to the second position.

[0072] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of passing a reference solution comprises passing a solution volume of about 500 microliters or less during movement of the valve from the first position to the second position.

[0073] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises moving the valve from the second position to the first position.

[0074] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises drawing back a sample volume of about 500 microliters or less during movement of the valve from the second position to the first position.

[0075] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back a sample comprises drawing back a sample volume of about 50 microliters or less during movement of the valve from the second position to the first position.

[0076] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the vascular access device is in fluid communication with a vein, the method further comprising a step of keeping the vein open by metering flow of the reference solution through the vascular access device at a predetermined rate.

[0077] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of metering the flow is controlled at least in part by a timing for the valve to move between the first position and the second position.

[0078] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back the sample from the circulatory system comprises drawing back the sample substantially no farther than the vascular access device.

[0079] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the step of drawing back the sample from the circulatory system comprises drawing back the sample into the vascular access device substantially no farther than a plane defined by the skin of the host.

[0080] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the analyte is glucose, and wherein the step of measuring the concentration of the analyte comprises measuring a glucose concentration.

[0081] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the flow control device comprises a valve.

[0082] In an embodiment of the third aspect, the flow control device comprises a pump.

[0083] In an embodiment of the third aspect, steps c) through d) are repeated.

[0084] In a fourth aspect, a method for measuring a concentration of an analyte in a circulatory system of a host is provided, the method comprising: a) providing an analyte measuring system comprising a vascular access device, an analyte sensor, a flow control device, a fluids bag, an IV tubing, and a processor, wherein the processor is operatively connected to the flow control device and analyte sensor; b) inserting the vascular access device and the analyte sensor into fluid communication with the host's circulatory system; c) injecting a first reference solution into the IV tubing; d) coupling the fluids bag to the IV tubing, the fluids bag comprising a second reference solution; and e) initiating the analyte measuring system, wherein the processor is configured to auto-calibrate the analyte sensor without additional user interaction with the system.

[0085] In an embodiment of the fourth aspect, the first reference solution has a first known analyte concentration and wherein the second reference solution comprises a second known reference solution.

[0086] In an embodiment of the fourth aspect, the system is configured to auto-calibrate the analyte sensor using the first reference solution and the second reference solution.

[0087] In an embodiment of the fourth aspect, the system provides calibrated sensor data for at least about 24 hours prior to injection of another reference solution into the IV tubing.

[0088] In a fifth aspect, a system for monitoring analyte concentration in a biological sample of a host is provided, the system comprising: a substantially continuous analyte sensor configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample; a reference solution having a known analyte concentration, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the system is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution; and a computer system comprising programming configured to determine calibration information and to calibrate a signal associated with a biological sample therefrom, wherein the calibration information comprises steady state information and transient information.

[0089] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the calibration information is determined from a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the reference solution and a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the biological sample.

[0090] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the steady state information comprises at least one of sensitivity information and baseline information.

[0091] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the steady state information comprises both sensitivity information and baseline information.

[0092] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the steady state information comprises information associated with a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution.

[0093] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the reference solution comprises a known analyte concentration of about zero, and wherein the steady state information comprises baseline information about the sensor in the reference solution.

[0094] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the reference solution comprises a known analyte concentration of more than zero, and wherein the steady state information comprises sensitivity information about the sensor.

[0095] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the steady state calibration information comprises reference data from an analyte sensor other than the substantially continuous analyte sensor.

[0096] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, transient information comprises a rate of change of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration.

[0097] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the rate of change comprises a rate change of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample of an unknown analyte concentration or an uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0098] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the rate of change comprises a rate change of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, and wherein the steady state information comprises reference data from an analyte sensor other than the substantially continuous analyte sensor.

[0099] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, transient information comprises an impulse response of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration.

[0100] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the impulse response is used to determine an offset between a baseline measurement associated with the reference solution and a baseline measurement associated with a biological sample.

[0101] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the impulse response is used to determine a time point of a steady state measurement during which an analyte concentration can be obtained.

[0102] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the transient information comprises a comparison of steady state information and transient information for a plurality of time-spaced signals associated with biological samples of unknown analyte concentration or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0103] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the comparison of steady state information and transient information is used to determine an offset between a baseline measurement associated with the reference solution and a baseline measurement associated with a biological sample.

[0104] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the system further comprises programming to detect a shift in baseline or sensitivity based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information.

[0105] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the system further comprises programming configured to initiate calibration of the signal to correct for a shift in at least one of baseline and sensitivity based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information.

[0106] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the system further comprises programming configured to calibrate of the signal to correct for a shift in at least one of baseline and sensitivity based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information.

[0107] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the programming is configured to calibrate a signal is configured to perform at least one of initial calibration and update calibration.

[0108] In an embodiment of the fifth aspect, the analyte sensor is a glucose sensor.

[0109] In a sixth aspect, a system for monitoring analyte concentration in a biological sample of a host is provided, the system comprising: a substantially continuous analyte sensor configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample; a reference solution having a known analyte concentration, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the system is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution; and a computer system comprising programming configured to determine calibration information and to calibrate a signal associated with a biological sample therefrom, wherein the calibration information is determined from a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the reference solution and a signal associated with exposure of the sensor a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is of unknown analyte concentration or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0110] In an embodiment of the sixth aspect, calibration information comprises steady state information and transient information.

[0111] In an embodiment of the sixth aspect, the steady state information comprises at least one of sensitivity information and baseline information.

[0112] In an embodiment of the sixth aspect, transient information comprises a rate of change of the sensor's signal responsive to exposure of the sensor to a change in analyte concentration.

[0113] In an embodiment of the sixth aspect, transient information comprises a rate of change of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration.

[0114] In an embodiment of the sixth aspect, the analyte sensor is a glucose sensor.

[0115] In a seventh aspect, a system for monitoring analyte concentration in a biological sample of a host is provided, the system comprising: a substantially continuous analyte sensor configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample; a reference solution having a known analyte concentration, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the system is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution; and a computer system comprising programming configured to determine calibration information and calibrate a signal associated with a biological sample therefrom, wherein the calibration information is determined from at least one of a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the reference solution and a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is of unknown analyte concentration or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0116] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to diagnose a condition of at least one of the sensor and the host responsive to calibration information.

[0117] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, calibration information comprises baseline information, and wherein the system comprises programming configured to determine an offset between a baseline associated with a reference solution and a baseline associated with a biological sample.

[0118] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the offset is determined by processing an impulse response of the sensor's signal during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration.

[0119] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the offset is determined by a comparison of steady state information and transient information for a plurality of time-spaced samples of a biological sample of unknown analyte concentration or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0120] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to detect an interfering species responsive to a change in the offset above a predetermined amount.

[0121] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to diagnose a condition of the host's metabolic processes responsive to a change in the offset above a predetermined amount.

[0122] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to display or transmit a message associated with the host's condition responsive to diagnosing the condition.

[0123] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to diagnose an error and fail-safe responsive to a change in the offset above a predetermined amount.

[0124] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to recalibrate the sensor responsive to a change in the offset above a predetermined amount.

[0125] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, calibration information comprises sensitivity information, and wherein the system comprises programming configured to diagnose an error responsive to a change in sensitivity above a predetermined amount.

[0126] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the computer system further comprises programming configured to calculate an impulse response of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration, and wherein a time constant for the step change is determined from the time of the peak impulse response.

[0127] In an embodiment of the seventh aspect, the step of calculating an impulse response is repeated more than one time, and wherein the computer system further comprises programming configured to diagnose a sensor condition or error responsive to a change in the time constants associated with the plurality of step changes above a predetermined threshold.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0128] FIG. 1A is a perspective view of one embodiment of an analyte sensor system, including a vascular access device (e.g., a catheter), a sensor, a fluid connector, and a protective sheath.

[0129] FIG. 1B is a side view of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 1A, showing the protective sheath removed.

[0130] FIG. 1C1 is a close-up cut away view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 1A.

[0131] FIG. 1C2 is a close-up cut away view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 1A.

[0132] FIG. 1D is a close-up cut away view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 1A.

[0133] FIG. 1E is a close-up cut away view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 1A.

[0134] FIG. 2A is a perspective view of another embodiment of the analyte sensor system, including a catheter with a sensor integrally formed thereon.

[0135] FIG. 2B is a perspective view of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 2A.

[0136] FIG. 2C is a close-up view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 2A in an alternative configuration of an embodiment having three electrodes disposed on the catheter.

[0137] FIG. 2D is a close-up view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 2A in an alternative configuration of an embodiment having three electrodes disposed on the catheter.

[0138] FIG. 2E is a close-up view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 2A in an alternative embodiment having two electrodes disposed on the catheter.

[0139] FIG. 2F is a close-up view of a portion of the analyte sensor system of FIG. 2A in an alternative embodiment having one electrode disposed on the catheter.

[0140] FIG. 3A is a perspective view of a first portion of one embodiment of an analyte sensor.

[0141] FIG. 3B is a perspective view of a second portion of the analyte sensor of FIG. 3A.

[0142] FIG. 3C is a cross section of the analyte sensor of FIG. 3B, taken on line C-C.

[0143] FIG. 4 is a graph illustrating in vivo function of an analyte sensor system of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1A.

[0144] FIG. 5 is a graph illustrating in vivo function of an analyte sensor system of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1A.

[0145] FIG. 6 is a schematic of an integrated sensor system.

[0146] FIG. 7 is a block diagram of an integrated sensor system

[0147] FIGS. 8A through 8C are schematic illustrations of a flow control device in one exemplary embodiment, including is relative movement/positions and the consequential effect on the flow of fluids through the sensor/catheter inserted in a host.

[0148] FIG. 9 is a cut-away illustration of one exemplary embodiment of a catheter implanted in a host's vessel.

[0149] FIG. 10 is a graph that schematically illustrates a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration, in one exemplary embodiment.

[0150] FIG. 11 is a graph that schematically illustrates a derivative of the step response shown in FIG. 9.

[0151] FIG. 12 is a graph that illustrates level vs. rate for a plurality of time-spaced signals associated with exposure of the sensor to biological samples of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0152] FIG. 13 is a graphical representation showing exemplary glucose sensor data and corresponding blood glucose values over time in a pig.

[0153] FIG. 14 is a graphical representation showing exemplary calibrated glucose sensor data (test) and corresponding blood glucose values (YSI control) over time in a human.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0154] The following description and examples illustrate some exemplary embodiments of the disclosed invention in detail. Those of skill in the art will recognize that there are numerous variations and modifications of this invention that are encompassed by its scope. Accordingly, the description of a certain exemplary embodiment should not be deemed to limit the scope of the preferred embodiments.

DEFINITIONS

[0155] In order to facilitate an understanding of the preferred embodiments, a number of terms are defined below.

[0156] The term “analyte” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a substance or chemical constituent in a biological fluid (for example, blood, interstitial fluid, cerebral spinal fluid, lymph fluid or urine) that can be analyzed. Analytes can include naturally occurring substances, artificial substances, metabolites, and/or reaction products. In some embodiments, the analyte for measurement by the sensing regions, devices, and methods is glucose. However, other analytes are contemplated as well, including but not limited to acarboxyprothrombin; acylcarnitine; adenine phosphoribosyl transferase; adenosine deaminase; albumin; alpha-fetoprotein; amino acid profiles (arginine (Krebs cycle), histidine/urocanic acid, homocysteine, phenylalanine/tyrosine, tryptophan); andrenostenedione; antipyrine; arabinitol enantiomers; arginase; benzoyllecgonine (cocaine); biotimidase; biotin; c-reactive protein; carnitine; carnosinase; CD4; ceruloplasmin; chenodeoxycholic acid; chloroquine; cholesterol; cholinesterase; conjugated 1-β hydroxy-cholic acid; cortisol; creatine kinase; creatine kinase MM isoenzyme; cyclosporin A; d-penicillamine; de-ethylchloroquine; dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate; DNA (acetylator polymorphism, alcohol dehydrogenase, alpha 1-antitrypsin, cystic fibrosis, Duchenne/Becker muscular dystrophy, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, hemoglobin A, hemoglobin S, hemoglobin C, hemoglobin D, hemoglobin E, hemoglobin F, D-Punjab, beta-thalassemia, hepatitis B virus, HCMV, HIV-1, HTLV-1, Leber hereditary optic neuropathy, MCAD, RNA, PKU, *Plasmodium vivax*, sexual differentiation, 21-deoxycortisol); desbutylhalofantrine; dihydropteridine reductase; diphtheria/tetanus antitoxin; erythrocyte arginase; erythrocyte protoporphyrin; esterase D; fatty acids/acylglycines; free β-human chorionic gonadotropin; free erythrocyte porphyrin; free thyroxine (FT4); free tri-iodothyronine (FT3); fumarylacetate; galactose/gal-1-phosphate; galactose-1-phosphate uridylyltransferase; gentamicin; glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase; glutathione; glutathione peroxidase; glycocholic acid; glycosylated hemoglobin; halofantrine; hemoglobin variants; hexosaminidase A; human erythrocyte carbonic anhydrase I; 17-alpha-hydroxyprogesterone; hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase; immunoreactive trypsin; lactate; lead; lipoproteins ((a), B/A-1, β); lysozyme; mefloquine; netilmicin; phenobarbitone; phenyloin; phytanic/pristanic acid; progesterone; prolactin; prolidase; purine nucleoside

phosphorylase; quinine; reverse tri-iodothyronine (rT3); selenium; serum pancreatic lipase; sissomicin; somatomedin C; specific antibodies (adenovirus, anti-nuclear antibody, anti-zeta antibody, arbovirus, Aujeszky’s disease virus, dengue virus, *Dracunculus medinensis*, *Echinococcus granulosus*, *Entamoeba histolytica*, enterovirus, *Giardia duodenalis*, *Helicobacter pylori*, hepatitis B virus, herpes virus, HIV-1, IgE (atopic disease), influenza virus, *Leishmania donovani*, *leptospira*, measles/mumps/rubella, *Mycobacterium leprae*, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Myoglobin*, *Onchocerca volvulus*, *parainfluenza virus*, *Plasmodium falciparum*, poliovirus, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, respiratory syncytial virus, *rickettsia* (scrub typhus), *Schistosoma mansoni*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Treponema pallidum*, *Trypanosoma cruzi/rangeli*, vesicular stomatitis virus, *Wuchereria bancrofti*, yellow fever virus); specific antigens (hepatitis B virus, HIV-1); succinylacetone; sulfadoxine; theophylline; thyrotropin (TSH); thyroxine (T4); thyroxine-binding globulin; trace elements; transferrin; UDP-galactose-4-epimerase; urea; uroporphyrinogen I synthase; vitamin A; white blood cells; and zinc protoporphyrin. Salts, sugar, protein, fat, vitamins, and hormones naturally occurring in blood or interstitial fluids can also constitute analytes in certain embodiments. The analyte can be naturally present in the biological fluid, for example, a metabolic product, a hormone, an antigen, an antibody, and the like. Alternatively, the analyte can be introduced into the body, for example, a contrast agent for imaging, a radioisotope, a chemical agent, a fluorocarbon-based synthetic blood, or a drug or pharmaceutical composition, including but not limited to insulin; ethanol; cannabis (marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, hashish); inhalants (nitrous oxide, amyl nitrite, butyl nitrite, chlorohydrocarbons, hydrocarbons); cocaine (crack cocaine); stimulants (amphetamines, methamphetamines, Ritalin, Cylert, Preludin, Didrex, PreState, Voranil, Sandrex, Plegine); depressants (barbituates, methaqualone, tranquilizers such as Valium, Librium, Miltown, Serax, Equanil, Tranxene); hallucinogens (phencyclidine, lysergic acid, mescaline, peyote, psilocybin); narcotics (heroin, codeine, morphine, opium, meperidine, Percocet, Percodan, Tussionex, Fentanyl, Darvon, Talwin, Lomotil); designer drugs (analogs of fentanyl, meperidine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, and phencyclidine, for example, Ecstasy); anabolic steroids; and nicotine. The metabolic products of drugs and pharmaceutical compositions are also contemplated analytes. Analytes such as neurochemicals and other chemicals generated within the body can also be analyzed, such as, for example, ascorbic acid, uric acid, dopamine, noradrenaline, 3-methoxytyramine (3MT), 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (DOPAC), homovanillic acid (HVA), 5-hydroxytryptamine (5HT), histamine, Advanced Glycation End Products (AGEs) and 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (FHIAA).

[0157] The term “sensor break-in” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the time (after implantation) in which the sensor’s signal level becomes substantially representative of the analyte (e.g., glucose) concentration (e.g. where the current output from the sensor is stable relative to the glucose level). The signal may not be ‘flat’ at that point (e.g., when the sensor has broken-in), but, in general, variation in the signal level at that point is due to a change in the analyte (e.g. glucose) concentration. Thus “sensor break-in” generally refers to the time

required for the sensor's output signal to provide a substantially linear response to the analyte concentration (e.g. glucose level). In some preferred embodiments, sensor break-in occurs prior to obtaining a meaningful calibration of the sensor output. In some embodiments, sensor break-in generally includes both electrochemical break-in and membrane break-in.

[0158] The term "membrane break-in" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to an amount of time necessary for the membrane to equilibrate to its surrounding environment (e.g. physiological environment *in vivo*).

[0159] The term "electrochemical break-in" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the time, after sensor insertion *in vitro* and/or *in vivo*, at which the current output from the sensor settles to a stable value following the application of the potential to the sensor. Generally, prior to this time, the output may not be clinically useful. Accordingly, reductions in the length of time required to reach electrochemical break-in can be desirable, for example, in acute care environments." Numerous methods of accelerating electrochemical break-in can be used, such as, but not limited to, configuring the sensor electronics to aid in decreasing the break-in time of the sensor by applying different voltage settings (for example, starting with a higher voltage setting and then reducing the voltage setting). Additional methods of accelerating sensor break-in time are described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,411,647, for example, which is incorporated herein by reference.

[0160] The term "host" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to animals or plants, for example humans.

[0161] The term "continuous (or continual) analyte sensing" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the period in which monitoring of analyte concentration is continuously, continually, and/or intermittently (regularly or irregularly) performed, for example, about every 5 to 10 minutes.

[0162] The term "electrochemically reactive surface" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a surface where an electrochemical reaction takes place. For example, a working electrode measures hydrogen peroxide produced by the enzyme-catalyzed reaction of the analyte detected, which reacts to create an electric current. Glucose analyte can be detected utilizing glucose oxidase, which produces H₂O₂ as a byproduct. H₂O₂ reacts with the surface of the working electrode, producing two protons (2H⁺), two electrons (2e⁻) and one molecule of oxygen (O₂), which produces the electronic current being detected.

[0163] The terms "electronic connection," "electrical connection," "electrical contact" as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to

a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to any connection between two electrical conductors known to those in the art. In one embodiment, electrodes are in electrical connection with the electronic circuitry of a device.

[0164] The term "sensing region" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the region of a monitoring device responsible for the detection of a particular analyte. The sensing region generally comprises a non-conductive body, a working electrode (anode), and can include a reference electrode (optional), and/or a counter electrode (cathode) forming electrochemically reactive surfaces on the body.

[0165] The term "domain" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a region of the membrane system that can be a layer, a uniform or non-uniform gradient (for example, an anisotropic region of a membrane), or a portion of a membrane.

[0166] The term "distal to" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the spatial relationship between various elements in comparison to a particular point of reference. In general, the term indicates an element is located relatively far from the reference point than another element.

[0167] The term "proximal to" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the spatial relationship between various elements in comparison to a particular point of reference. In general, the term indicates an element is located relatively near to the reference point than another element.

[0168] The term "in vivo portion" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a portion of a device (for example, a sensor) adapted for insertion into and/or existence within a living body of a host.

[0169] The term "ex vivo portion" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a portion of a device (for example, a sensor) adapted to remain and/or exist outside of a living body of a host.

[0170] The terms "raw data," "raw data stream," "raw data signal", "data signal", and "data stream" as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to an analog or digital signal from the analyte sensor directly related to the measured analyte. For example, the raw data stream is digital data in "counts" converted by an A/D converter from an analog signal (for example, voltage or amps) representative of an analyte concentration. The terms can include a plurality of time spaced data points from a substantially continuous analyte sensor, each of which comprises individual measurements taken at

time intervals ranging from fractions of a second up to, for example, 1, 2, or 5 minutes or longer. In some embodiments, the terms can refer to data that has been integrated or averaged over a time period (e.g., 5 minutes).

[0171] The term “count” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a unit of measurement of a digital signal. For example, a raw data stream or raw data signal measured in counts is directly related to a voltage (for example, converted by an A/D converter), which is directly related to current from the working electrode. In some embodiments, the terms can refer to data that has been integrated or averaged over a time period (e.g., 5 minutes).

[0172] The terms “sensor” and “sensor system” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a device, component, or region of a device by which an analyte can be quantified.

[0173] The term “needle” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a slender hollow instrument for introducing material into or removing material from the body.

[0174] The terms “operatively connected,” “operatively linked,” “operably connected,” and “operably linked” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to one or more components linked to one or more other components. The terms can refer to a mechanical connection, an electrical connection, or any connection that allows transmission of signals between the components. For example, one or more electrodes can be used to detect the amount of analyte in a sample and to convert that information into a signal; the signal can then be transmitted to a circuit. In such an example, the electrode is “operably linked” to the electronic circuitry. The terms include wired and wireless connections.

[0175] The terms “membrane” and “membrane system” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a permeable or semi-permeable membrane that can be comprised of one or more domains and is typically constructed of materials of one or more microns in thickness, which is permeable to oxygen and to an analyte, e.g. glucose or another analyte. In one example, the membrane system comprises an immobilized glucose oxidase enzyme, which enables a reaction to occur between glucose and oxygen whereby a concentration of glucose can be measured.

[0176] The terms “processor module” and “microprocessor” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a computer system, state machine, processor, and the like designed to perform arithmetic or logic operations using logic circuitry that responds to and processes the basic instructions that drive a computer.

[0177] The term “calibration” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the relationship and/or process of determining the relationship between the sensor data and the corresponding reference data, which can be used to convert sensor data into values substantially equivalent to the reference data. In some embodiments, namely, in continuous analyte sensors, calibration can be updated or recalibrated over time if changes in the relationship between the sensor data and reference data occur, for example, due to changes in sensitivity, baseline, transport, metabolism, and the like.

[0178] The terms “interferents” and “interfering species” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to effects and/or species that interfere with the measurement of an analyte of interest in a sensor to produce a signal that does not accurately represent the analyte concentration. In one example of an electrochemical sensor, interfering species are compounds with an oxidation potential that substantially overlaps that of the analyte to be measured, thereby producing a false positive signal.

[0179] The term “single point glucose monitor” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a device that can be used to measure a glucose concentration within a host at a single point in time, for example, some embodiments utilize a small volume in vitro glucose monitor that includes an enzyme membrane such as described with reference to U.S. Pat. No. 4,994,167 and U.S. Pat. No. 4,757,022. It should be understood that single point glucose monitors can measure multiple samples (for example, blood, or interstitial fluid); however only one sample is measured at a time and typically requires some user initiation and/or interaction.

[0180] The term “specific gravity” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the ratio of density of a material (e.g., a liquid or a solid) to the density of distilled water.

[0181] The terms “substantial” and “substantially” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a sufficient amount that provides a desired function. For example, an amount greater than 50 percent, an amount greater than 60 percent, an amount greater than 70 percent, an amount greater than 80 percent, or an amount greater than 90 percent.

[0182] The term “casting” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a process where a fluid material is applied to a surface or surfaces and allowed to cure or dry. The term is broad enough to encompass a variety of coating techniques, for example, using a draw-down machine (i.e., drawing-down), dip coating, spray coating, spin coating, and the like.

[0183] The term “dip coating” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to coating, which involves dipping an object or material into a liquid coating substance.

[0184] The term “spray coating” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to coating, which involves spraying a liquid coating substance onto an object or material.

[0185] The term “spin coating” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a coating process in which a thin film is created by dropping a raw material solution onto a substrate while it is rotating.

[0186] The terms “solvent” and “solvent system” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to substances (e.g., liquids) capable of dissolving or dispersing one or more other substances. Solvents and solvent systems can include compounds and/or solutions that include components in addition to the solvent itself.

[0187] The term “baseline,” “noise” and “background signal” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a component of an analyte sensor signal that is not related to the analyte concentration. In one example of a glucose sensor, the baseline is composed substantially of signal contribution due to factors other than glucose (for example, interfering species, non-reaction-related hydrogen peroxide, or other electroactive species with an oxidation potential that overlaps with hydrogen peroxide). In some embodiments wherein a calibration is defined by solving for the equation $y=mX+b$, the value of b represents the baseline, or background, of the signal.

[0188] The terms “sensitivity” and “slope” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to an amount of electrical current produced by a predetermined amount (unit) of the measured analyte. For example, in one preferred embodiment, a glucose sensor has a sensitivity (or slope) of from about 1 to about 25 picoAmps of current for every 1 mg/dL of glucose.

[0189] The terms “baseline and/or sensitivity shift,” “baseline and/or sensitivity drift,” “shift,” and “drift” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a change in the baseline and/or sensitivity of the sensor signal over time. While the term “shift” generally refers to a substantially distinct change over a relatively short time period, and the term “drift” generally refers to a substantially gradual change over a relatively longer time period, the terms can be used interchangeably and can also be generally referred to as “change” in baseline and/or sensitivity.

[0190] The term “hypoglycemia” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a condition in which a limited or low amount of glucose exists in a host. Hypoglycemia can produce a variety of symptoms and effects but the principal problems arise from an inadequate supply of glucose as fuel to the brain, resulting in impairment of function (neuroglycopenia). Derangements of function can range from vaguely “feeling bad” to coma, and (rarely) permanent brain damage or death.

[0191] The term “hyperglycemia” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a condition in which an excessive or high amount of glucose exists in a host. Hyperglycemia is one of the classic symptoms of diabetes mellitus. Non-diabetic hyperglycemia is associated with obesity and certain eating disorders, such as bulimia nervosa. Hyperglycemia is also associated with other diseases (or medications) affecting pancreatic function, such as pancreatic cancer. Hyperglycemia is also associated with poor medical outcomes in a variety of clinical settings, such as intensive or critical care settings.

[0192] The term “potentiostat” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to an electronic instrument that controls the electrical potential between the working and reference electrodes at one or more preset values. Typically, a potentiostat works to keep the potential constant by noticing changes in the resistance of the system and compensating inversely with a change in the current. As a result, a change to a higher resistance would cause the current to decrease to keep the voltage constant in the system. In some embodiments, a potentiostat forces whatever current is necessary to flow between the working and counter electrodes to keep the desired potential, as long as the needed cell voltage and current do not exceed the compliance limits of the potentiostat.

[0193] The terms “electronics” and “sensor electronics” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to electronics operatively coupled to the sensor and configured to measure, process, receive, and/or transmit data associated with a sensor. In some embodiments, the electronics include at least a potentiostat that provides a bias to the electrodes and measures a current to provide the raw data signal. The electronics are configured to calculate at least one analyte sensor data point. For example, the electronics can include a potentiostat, A/D converter, RAM, ROM, and/or transmitter. In some embodiments, the potentiostat converts the raw data (e.g., raw counts) collected from the sensor and converts it to a value familiar to the host and/or medical personnel. For example, the raw counts from a glucose sensor can be converted to milligrams of glucose per deciliter of blood (e.g., mg/dL). In some embodiments, the sensor electronics include a transmitter that transmits the signals from the potentiostat to a receiver (e.g., a remote analyzer, such as but not limited to a remote analyzer unit), where additional data analysis and glucose concentration determination can occur.

[0194] The terms “coupling” and “operatively coupling” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meanings to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to a joining or linking together of two or more things, such as two parts of a device or two devices, such that the things can function together. In one example, two containers can be operatively coupled by tubing, such that fluid can flow from one container to another. Coupling does not imply a physical connection. For example, a transmitter and a receiver can be operatively coupled by radio frequency (RF) transmission/communication.

[0195] The term “fluid communication” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to two or more components (e.g., things such as parts of a body or parts of a device) functionally linked such that fluid can move from one component to another. These terms do not imply directionality.

[0196] The terms “continuous” and “continuously” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meanings to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to the condition of being marked by substantially uninterrupted extension in space, time or sequence. In one embodiment, an analyte concentration is measured continuously or continually, for example at time intervals ranging from fractions of a second up to, for example, 1, 2, or 5 minutes, or longer. It should be understood that continuous glucose sensors generally continually measure glucose concentration without required user initiation and/or interaction for each measurement, such as described with reference to U.S. Pat. No. 6,001,067, for example. These terms include situations wherein data gaps can exist (e.g., when a continuous glucose sensor is temporarily not providing data).

[0197] The term “medical device” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including a component part, or accessory which is intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, in man or other animals, or intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals. Medical devices that can be used in conjunction with various embodiments of the analyte sensor system include any monitoring device requiring placement in a human vessel, duct or body cavity, a dialysis machine, a heart-lung bypass machine, blood collection equipment, a blood pressure monitor, an automated blood chemistry analysis device and the like.

[0198] The term “blood pressure monitor” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to an instrument for monitoring the blood pressure of a human or other animal. For example, a blood pressure monitor can be an invasive blood pressure monitor, which periodically monitors the host’s blood pressure via a peripheral artery, using a blood pressure transducer, such as but not limited to a disposable blood pressure transducer.

Utah Medical Products Inc. (Midvale, Utah, USA) produces a variety of Deltran® Brand disposable blood pressure transducers that are suitable for use with various embodiments disclosed herein.

[0199] The term “pressure transducer” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a component of an intra-arterial blood pressure monitor that measures the host’s blood pressure.

[0200] The term “blood chemistry analysis device” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a device that measures a variety of blood components, characteristics or analytes therein. In one embodiment, a blood chemistry analysis device periodically withdraws an aliquot of blood from the host, measures glucose, O₂, CO₂, PCO₂, PO₂, potassium, sodium, pH, lactate, urea, bilirubin, creatinine, hematocrit, various minerals, and/or various metabolites, and the like, and returns the blood to the host’s circulatory system. A variety of devices exist for testing various blood properties/analytes at the bedside, such as but not limited to the blood gas and chemistry devices manufactured by Via Medical (Austin, Tex., USA).

[0201] The term “vascular access device” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to any device that is in communication with the vascular system of a host. Vascular access devices include but are not limited to catheters, shunts, blood withdrawal devices and the like.

[0202] The term “catheter” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a tube that can be inserted into a host’s body (e.g., cavity, duct or vessel). In some circumstances, catheters allow drainage or injection of fluids or access by medical instruments or devices. In some embodiments, a catheter is a thin, flexible tube (e.g., a “soft” catheter). In alternative embodiments, the catheter can be a larger, solid tube (e.g., a “hard” catheter). The term “cannula” is interchangeable with the term “catheter” herein.

[0203] The term “indwell” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to reside within a host’s body. Some medical devices can indwell within a host’s body for various lengths of time, depending upon the purpose of the medical device, such as but not limited to a few hours, days, weeks, to months, years, or even the host’s entire lifetime. In one exemplary embodiment, an arterial catheter may indwell within the host’s artery for a few hours, days, a week, or longer, such as but not limited to the host’s perioperative period (e.g., from the time the host is admitted to the hospital to the time he is discharged).

[0204] The term “sheath” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a covering or supporting structure that fits closely

around something, for example, in the way that a sheath covers a blade. In one exemplary embodiment, a sheath is a slender, flexible, polymer tube that covers and supports a wire-type sensor prior to and during insertion of the sensor into a catheter.

[0205] The term “slot” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a relatively narrow opening.

[0206] The term “regulator” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a device that regulates the flow of a fluid or gas. For example, a regulator can be a valve or a pump.

[0207] The term “pump” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a device used to move liquids, or slurries. In general, a pump moves liquids from lower pressure to higher pressure, and overcomes this difference in pressure by adding energy to the system (such as a water system).

[0208] The term “valve” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a device that regulates the flow of substances (either gases, fluidized solids, slurries, or liquids), for example, by opening, closing, or partially obstructing a passageway through which the substance flows. In general, a valve allows no flow, free flow and/or metered flow through movement of the valve between one or more discreet positions.

[0209] The term “retrograde” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to orientation (e.g., of a catheter) against the direction of blood flow.

[0210] The term “antegrade” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to orientation (e.g., of a catheter) with the direction of blood flow.

[0211] The term “biological sample” as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to any biological material to be tested for the presence and/or concentration of an analyte in a sample. Examples biological samples that may be tested include blood, serum, plasma, saliva, urine, ocular fluid, semen, and spinal fluid, tissue, and the like.

[0212] The terms “small diameter sensor,” “small structured sensor,” and “micro-sensor” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to sensing mechanisms that are less than about 2 mm in at least one dimension, and more preferably less than about 1 mm in at least one dimension. In some embodiments, the sensing mechanism (sensor) is less than about 0.95, 0.9,

0.85, 0.8, 0.75, 0.7, 0.65, 0.6, 0.5, 0.4, 0.3, 0.2, or 0.1 mm. In some embodiments, the sensing mechanism is a needle-type sensor, wherein the diameter is less than about 1 mm (see, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,613,379 to Ward et al. and in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020187-A1, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety). In some alternative embodiments, the sensing mechanism includes electrodes deposited on a planar substrate, wherein the thickness of the implantable portion is less than about 1 mm, see, for example U.S. Pat. No. 6,175,752 to Say et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,779,665 to Mastrototaro et al., both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Overview

[0213] Intensive care medicine or critical care medicine is concerned with providing greater than ordinary medical care and/or observation to people in a critical or unstable condition. In recent years, an increasingly urgent need has arisen, for more intensive care medicine. People requiring intensive care include those recovering after major surgery, with severe head trauma, life-threatening acute illness, respiratory insufficiency, coma, haemodynamic insufficiency, severe fluid imbalance or with the failure of one or more of the major organ systems (life-critical systems or others). More than 5 million people are admitted annually to intensive care units (ICUs) and critical care units (CCUs) in the United States.

[0214] Intensive care is generally the most expensive, high technology and resource intensive area of medical care. In the United States estimates of the year 2000 expenditure for critical care medicine ranged from \$15-55 billion accounting for about 0.5% of GDP and about 13% of national health care expenditure. As the U.S. population ages, these costs will increase substantially. Accordingly, there is an urgent need to reducing costs while at the same time reducing ICU/CCU mortality rates by improving care. Some embodiments disclosed herein are suitable for use in an intensive care or critical care unit of a medical care facility for substantially continuously measuring a host's analyte concentration.

[0215] Hyperglycemia is a medical condition in which an excessive amount of glucose circulates in a host. Medical studies suggest a relationship between hyperglycemia and host outcome in intensive/critical care settings. For example, perioperative hyperglycemia is associated with increased rates and severity of myocardial infarction (MI) and stroke, while tight glucose control with intravenous (IV) insulin therapy is linked to a 30% reduction in mortality one year after admission for acute MI. Furthermore, strict in-hospital glucose control is associated with 40% reductions of morbidity, mortality, sepsis, dialysis, blood transfusions, as well as reduced length of stay, reduced costs and the like.

[0216] Hyperglycemia can also be an issue in non-critical care settings, such as in the general hospital population, such as for diabetes hosts admitted for non-glucose-related medical conditions, or in clinical settings, such as the doctor's office, such as during glucose challenge tests, or treatment of the elderly or the very young, or others who may have difficulty with glucose control.

[0217] Unfortunately, using generally available technology, tight glucose control requires frequent monitoring of the host by the clinical staff, IV insulin or injections, and on-time feeding. Frequent monitoring typically requires a nurse or other staff member to measure the host's glucose concentration using a lancet (to obtain a blood sample) and a hand held glucose monitor. The nurse can perform this task many times

a day (e.g., every hour or more frequently). This task becomes an undue burden that takes the nurse away from his/her other duties, or requires extra staff. The preferred embodiments disclose systems and methods to reduce and/or minimize the interaction required to regularly (e.g., continuously) measure the host's glucose concentration.

[0218] Unfortunately it has been shown that an effort to maintain tight control of glucose levels (e.g., about 80-129 mg/dl) can increase the risk of hypoglycemia using conventional systems and methods. For example, administration of insulin, quality, and timing of meal ingestion, and the like can lead to hypoglycemia. Because hypoglycemia can cause shock and death (immediate problems), the clinical staff rigorously avoids it, often by maintaining the host at elevated blood glucose concentrations (which can degrade the clinical outcome in the long run) and causes the problems of hyperglycemia discussed above.

[0219] Accordingly, in spite of clinically demonstrated improvements associated with tight glucose control, institutions are slow to adopt the therapy due to the increased workload on the staff as well as a pervasive fear of hypoglycemia, which is potentially life ending. Therefore, there is an urgent need for devices and methods that offer continuous, robust glucose monitoring, to improve patient care and lower medical costs. The preferred embodiments describe systems and methods for providing continuous glucose monitoring while providing alarms or alerts that aid in avoiding hypoglycemic events.

[0220] Hyperglycemia can be managed in a variety of ways. Currently, for hosts in an intensive care setting, such as and ICU, CCU or emergency room (ER), hyperglycemia is managed with sliding-scale IV insulin, that stops insulin delivery at about 150 to 200 mg/dl. This generally requires monitoring by a nurse (using a hand-held clinical glucose meter) and insulin administration at least every six hours. Maintaining tight glucose control within the normal range (e.g., 80-110 mg/dl) currently requires hourly or even more frequent monitoring and insulin administration. This places an undue burden on the nursing staff. The preferred embodiments provide devices and methods for automated, continuous glucose monitoring (e.g., indwelling in the circulatory system), to enable tight glucose control.

[0221] The in vivo continuous analyte monitoring system of the preferred embodiments can be used in clinical settings, such as in the hospital, the doctor's office, long-term nursing facilities, or even in the home. The present device can be used in any setting in which frequent or continuous analyte monitoring is desirable. For example, in the ICU, hosts are often recovering from serious illness, disease, or surgery, and control of host glucose levels is important for host recovery. Use of a continuous glucose sensor as described in the preferred embodiments allows tight control of host glucose concentration and improved host care, while reducing hypoglycemic episodes and reducing the ICU staff work load. For example, the system can be used for the entire hospital stay or for only a part of the hospital stay.

[0222] In another example, the continuous glucose monitor of the preferred embodiments can be used in an ER setting. In the ER, a host may be unable to communicate with the staff. Routine use of a continuous analyte monitor (e.g., glucose, creatinine, phosphate, electrolytes, or drugs) can enable the ER staff to monitor and respond to analyte concentration changes indicative of the host's condition (e.g., the host's glucose concentration) without host input.

[0223] In yet another example, a continuous analyte monitor can be used in the general hospital population to monitor host analyte concentrations, for various lengths of time, such as during the entire hospital stay or for a portion of the hospital stay (e.g., only during surgery). For example, a diabetic host's glucose concentration can be monitored during his entire stay. In another example, a cardiac host's glucose can be monitored during surgery and while in the ICU, but not after being moved to the general host population. In another example, a jaundiced newborn infant can have his bilirubin concentration continuously monitored by an in-dwelling continuous analyte monitor until the condition has receded.

[0224] In addition to use in the circulatory system, the analyte sensor of the preferred embodiments can be used in other body locations. In some embodiments, the sensor is used subcutaneously. In another embodiment, the sensor can be used intracranially. In another embodiment, the sensor can be used within the spinal compartment, such as but not limited to the epidural space. In some embodiments, the sensor of the preferred embodiments can be used with or without a catheter.

Applications/Uses

[0225] One aspect of the preferred embodiments provides a system for in vivo continuous analyte monitoring (e.g., glucose, O₂, CO₂, PCO₂, PO₂, potassium, sodium, pH, lactate, urea, bilirubin, creatinine, hematocrit, various minerals, various metabolites, and the like) that can be operatively coupled to a catheter to measure analyte concentration within the host's blood stream. In some embodiments, the system includes an analyte sensor that extends a short distance into the blood stream (e.g., out of the catheter) without substantially occluding the catheter or the host's blood stream. The catheter can be fluidly coupled to additional IV and diagnostic devices, such as a saline bag, an automated blood pressure monitor, or a blood chemistry monitor device. In some embodiments, blood samples can be removed from the host via the sensor system, as described elsewhere herein. In one embodiment, the sensor is a glucose sensor, and the medical staff monitors the host's glucose level.

[0226] FIGS. 1A to 1E illustrate one embodiment of an exemplary analyte sensor system 10 for measuring an analyte (e.g., glucose, urea, potassium, pH, proteins, etc.) that includes a catheter 12 configured to be inserted or pre-inserted into a host's blood stream. In clinical settings, catheters are often inserted into hosts to allow direct access to the circulatory system without frequent needle insertion (e.g., venipuncture). Suitable catheters can be sized as is known and appreciated by one skilled in the art, such as but not limited to from about 1 French (0.33 mm) or less to about 30 French (10 mm) or more; and can be, for example, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 French (3 French is equivalent to about 1 mm) and/or from about 33 gauge or less to about 16 gauge or more, for example, 33, 32, 31, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, or 16 gauge. Additionally, the catheter can be shorter or longer, for example 0.75, 1.0, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, 2.0 inches in length or longer. The catheter can be manufactured of any medical grade material known in the art, such as but not limited to polymers and glass as described herein. A catheter can include a single lumen or multiple lumens. A catheter can include one or more perforations, to allow the passage of host fluid through the lumen of the catheter.

[0227] The terms “inserted” or “pre-inserted” as used herein are broad terms, and are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and are not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refer without limitation to insertion of one thing into another thing. For example, a catheter can be inserted into a host’s blood stream. In some embodiments, a catheter is “pre-inserted,” meaning inserted before another action is taken (e.g., insertion of a catheter into a host’s blood stream prior to insertion of a sensor into the catheter). In some exemplary embodiments, a sensor is coupled to a pre-inserted catheter, namely, one that has been previously inserted (or pre-inserted) into the host’s circulatory system.

[0228] Referring now to FIGS. 1A to 1E, in some embodiments, the catheter 12 is a thin, flexible tube having a lumen 12a, such as is known in the art. In some embodiments, the catheter can be rigid; in other embodiments, the catheter can be custom manufactured to desired specifications (e.g., rigidity, dimensions, etc). The catheter can be a single-lumen catheter or a multi-lumen catheter. At the catheter’s proximal end is a small orifice 12b for fluid connection of the catheter to the blood stream. At the catheter’s distal end is a connector 18, such as a leur connector or other fluid connector known in the art.

[0229] The illustrations of FIGS. 1A to 1E show one exemplary embodiment of the connector 18 including a flange 18a and a duct 18b. In the exemplary embodiment, the flange 18a is configured to enable connection of the catheter to other medical equipment (e.g., saline bag, pressure transducer, blood chemistry device, and the like) or capping (e.g., with a bung and the like). Although one exemplary connector is shown, one skilled in the art appreciates a variety of standard or custom made connectors suitable for use with the preferred embodiments. The duct 18b is in fluid communication with the catheter lumen and terminates in a connector orifice 18c.

[0230] In some embodiments, the catheter is inserted into the host’s blood stream, such as into a vein or artery by any useful method known in the art. Generally, prior to and during insertion, the catheter is supported by a hollow needle or trochar (not shown). For example, the supported catheter can be inserted into a peripheral vein or artery, such as in the host’s arm, leg, hand, or foot. Typically, the supporting needle is removed (e.g., pulled out of the connector) and the catheter is connected (e.g., via the connector 18) to IV tubing and a saline drip, for example. However, in one embodiment, the catheter is configured to operatively couple to medical equipment, such as but not limited to a sensor system of the preferred embodiments. Additionally and/or alternatively, the catheter can be configured to operatively couple to another medical device, such as a pressure transducer, for measurement of the host’s blood pressure.

[0231] In some embodiments, the catheter and the analyte sensor are configured to indwell within the host’s blood stream *in vivo*. An indwelling medical device, such as a catheter or implant, is disposed within a portion of the body for a period of time, from a few minutes or hours to a few days, months, or even years. An indwelling catheter is typically inserted within a host’s vein or artery for a period of time, often 2 or more days, a month, or even a few months. In some embodiments, the catheter can indwell in a host’s artery or vein for the length of a perioperative period (e.g., the entire hospital stay) or for shorter or longer periods. In some embodiments, the use of an indwelling catheter permits continuous access of an analyte sensor to a blood stream while

simultaneously allowing continuous access to the host’s blood stream for other purposes, for example, the administration of therapeutics (e.g., fluids, drugs, etc.), measurement of physiologic properties (e.g., blood pressure), fluid removal, and the like.

[0232] Referring again to FIGS. 1A to 1E, the system 10 also includes an analyte sensor 14 configured to extend through the catheter lumen 12a (see FIG. 1E), out of the catheter orifice 12b and into the host’s blood stream by about 0.010 inches to about 1 inch, or shorter or longer lengths. In some embodiments, however, the sensor may not extend out of the catheter, for example, can reside just inside the catheter tip. The sensor can extend through the catheter in any functional manner. In some embodiments, the sensor is configured to be held on an inner surface (e.g., the lumen) or outer surface of the catheter, while in other embodiments, the sensor is configured to “free float” within the lumen of the catheter.

[0233] In some embodiments, the sensor 14 is configured to measure the concentration of an analyte (e.g., glucose, O₂, CO₂, PCO₂, PO₂, potassium, sodium, pH, lactate, urea, bilirubin, creatinine, hematocrit, various minerals, various metabolites, and the like) within the host’s blood stream. Preferably, the sensor includes at least one electrode (see, e.g., FIG. 3B), for example a working electrode; however any combination of working electrode(s), reference electrode(s), and/or counter electrode(s) can be implemented as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. Preferably, the sensor 14 includes at least one exposed electroactive area (e.g., working electrode), a membrane system (e.g., including an enzyme), a reference electrode (proximal to or remote from the working electrode), and an insulator material. Various systems and methods for design and manufacture of continuous analyte sensors are described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor is a needle-type continuous analyte sensor, configured as disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020192-A1 and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036143, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. In some embodiments, the sensor is configured to measure glucose concentration. Exemplary sensor configurations are discussed in more detail, elsewhere herein.

[0234] Referring to FIGS. 1A to 1E, the sensor has a proximal end 14a and a distal end 14b. At its distal end 14b, the sensor 14 is associated with (e.g., connected to, held by, extends through, and the like) a fluid coupler 20 having first and second sides (20a and 20b, respectively). The fluid coupler is configured to mate (via its first side 20a) to the catheter connector 18. In one embodiment, a skirt 20c is located at the fluid coupler’s first side and includes an interior surface 20d with threads 20e (see FIGS. 1D and 1E). In this embodiment, the fluid coupler is configured to mate with the connector flange 18a, which is screwed into the fluid coupler via the screw threads. However, in other embodiments, the fluid coupler is configured to mate with the connector using any known mating configuration, for example, a snap-fit, a press-fit, an interference-fit, and the like, and can include a locking mechanism to prevent separation of the connector and fluid coupler. The fluid coupler 20 includes a lumen 20f extending from a first orifice 20h on its first side 20a to a second orifice 20l located on the fluid coupler’s second side 20b (FIGS. 1C to 1E). When the catheter connector is mated with the fluid coupler, the catheter’s lumen 12a is in fluid communication with the fluid coupler’s lumen 20f via orifices 18c and 20h.

[0235] FIGS. 1A to 1D show one embodiment of a fluid coupler 20, namely, a Y-coupler; however, any known coupler configuration can be used, including but not limited to a straight coupler, a T-coupler, a cross-coupler, a custom configured coupler, and the like. In some embodiments, the fluid coupler includes at least one valve (e.g., a septum, a 3-way valve, a stop-cock valve), which can be used for a variety of purposes (e.g., injection of drugs). The fluid coupler can be made of any convenient material, such as but not limited to plastic, glass, metal or combinations thereof and can be configured to withstand known sterilization techniques.

[0236] In the exemplary embodiment, the second side 20b of the fluid coupler 20 is configured to be operably connected to IV equipment, another medical device or to be capped, and can use any known mating configuration, for example, a snap-fit, a press-fit, an interference-fit, and the like. In one exemplary embodiment, the second side 20b is configured to mate with a saline drip, for delivery of saline to the host. For example, the saline flows from an elevated bag of sterile saline via tubing, through the fluid coupler, through the catheter and into the host's blood system (e.g., vein or artery). In another embodiment, a syringe can be mated to the fluid coupler, for example, to withdraw blood from the host, via the catheter. Additional connection devices (e.g., a three-way valve) can be operably connected to the fluid coupler, to support additional functionality and connection of various devices, such as but not limited to a blood pressure transducer.

[0237] Referring to the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. 1A and 1E, at least a portion of the sensor 14 passes through the fluid coupler 20 (e.g., the fluid coupler lumen 20f) and is operatively connected to sensor electronics (not shown) via a hardwire 24. In alternative embodiments however, the sensor electronics can be disposed in part or in whole with the fluid coupler (e.g., integrally with or proximal to) or can be disposed in part or in whole remotely from the fluid coupler (e.g., on a stand or at the bed side). Connections between the sensor and sensor electronics (in part or in whole) can be accomplished using known wired or wireless technology. In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor is hardwired to the electronics located substantially wholly remote from the fluid coupler (e.g., disposed on a stand or near the bedside); one advantage of remote electronics includes enabling a smaller sized fluid coupler design. In another exemplary embodiment, a portion of the sensor electronics, such as a potentiostat, is disposed on the fluid coupler and the remaining electronics (e.g., electronics for receiving, data processing, printing, connection to a nurses' station, etc.) are disposed remotely from the fluid coupler (e.g., on a stand or near the bedside). One advantage of this design can include more reliable electrical connection with the sensor in some circumstances. In this embodiment, the potentiostat can be hardwired directly to the remaining electronics or a transmitter can be disposed on or proximal to the fluid coupler, for remotely connecting the potentiostat to the remaining electronics (e.g., by radio frequency (RF)). In another exemplary embodiment, all of the sensor electronics can be disposed on the fluid coupler. In still another embodiment, the sensor electronics disposed on the fluid coupler include a potentiostat.

[0238] Referring again to FIGS. 1A to 1E, a protective sheath 26 is configured to cover at least a portion of the sensor 14 during insertion, and includes hub 28 and slot 30. In general, the protective sheath protects and supports the sensor prior to and during insertion into the catheter 12 via the

connector 18. The protective sheath can be made of biocompatible polymers known in the art, such as but not limited to polyethylene (PE), polyurethane (PE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polycarbonate (PC), nylon, polyamides, polyimide, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), Teflon, nylon and the like. The protective sheath includes a hub 28, for grasping the sheath (e.g., while maintaining sterilization of the sheath). In this embodiment, the hub additionally provides for mating with the second side 20b of the fluid coupler 20, prior to and during sensor insertion into the catheter. In this exemplary embodiment, the slot of the protective sheath is configured to facilitate release of the sensor therefrom. In this embodiment, after the sensor has been inserted into the catheter, the hub is grasped and pulled from the second side of the fluid coupler. This action peels the protective sheath from the sensor (e.g., the sensor slides through the slot as the sheath is removed), leaving the sensor within the catheter. The second side of the fluid coupler can be connected to other medical devices (e.g., a blood pressure monitor) or an IV drip (e.g., a saline drip), or capped. In alternative embodiments, the sheath can fold (e.g., fold back or concertinas) or retract (e.g., telescope) during insertion, to expose the sensor. In other embodiments, the sheath can be configured to tear away from the sensor before, during, or after insertion of the sensor. In still other embodiments, the sheath can include an outlet hole 30a, to allow protrusion of the sensor from the back end of the sheath (e.g., near the hub 28). One skilled in the art will recognize that additional configurations can be used, to separate the sensor 14 from the sheath 26.

[0239] In some embodiments, the sheath 26 can be optional, depending upon the sensor design. For example, the sensor can be inserted into a catheter or other vascular access device with or without the use of a protective sheath. In some embodiments, the sensor can be disposed on the outer surface of a catheter (as described elsewhere herein) or on the inner surface of a catheter; and no sheath is provided. In other embodiments, a multi-lumen catheter can be provided with a sensor already disposed within one of the lumens; wherein the catheter is inserted into the host's vein or artery with the sensor already disposed in one of the lumens.

[0240] In some alternative embodiments, an analyte sensor is integrally formed on a catheter. In various embodiments, the catheter can be placed into a host's vein or artery in the usual way a catheter is inserted, as is known by one skilled in the art, and the host's analyte concentration measured substantially continuously. In some embodiments, the sensor system can be coupled to one or more additional devices, such as a saline bag, an automated blood pressure monitor, a blood chemistry monitor device, and the like. In one exemplary embodiment, the integrally formed analyte sensor is a glucose sensor.

[0241] FIGS. 2A to 2B illustrate one exemplary embodiment of an analyte sensor integrally formed on a catheter. The system 210 is configured to measure an analyte (e.g., glucose, O₂, CO₂, PCO₂, PO₂, potassium, sodium, pH, lactate, urea, bilirubin, creatinine, hematocrit, various minerals, various metabolites, and the like) and generally includes a catheter 212 configured for insertion into a host's blood stream (e.g., via a vein or artery) and a sensor at least partially integrally formed on the catheter's exterior surface 232. Preferably, the sensor 214 includes at least one exposed electroactive area 240 (e.g., a working electrode), a membrane system (e.g., including an enzyme), a reference electrode (proximal to or remote from the working electrode), and an insulator. Various

systems and methods for design and manufacture of continuous analyte sensors are described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0242] In this embodiment, the catheter includes a lumen **212a** and an orifice **212b** at its proximal end, for providing fluid connection from the catheter's lumen to the host's blood stream (see FIG. 2A).

[0243] In some embodiments, the catheter is inserted into a vein, as described elsewhere herein. In other embodiments, the catheter is inserted into an artery, as described elsewhere herein. The catheter can be any type of venous or arterial catheter commonly used in the art (e.g., peripheral catheter, central catheter, Swan-Ganz catheter, etc.). The catheter can be made of any useful medical grade material (e.g., polymers and/or glass) and can be of any size, such as but not limited to from about 1 French (0.33 mm) or less to about 30 French (10 mm) or more; for example, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20 French (3 French is equivalent to about 1 mm). In certain embodiments, the catheter can be a single lumen catheter or a multi-lumen catheter. In some embodiments, the catheter can include one or more perforations, to allow the passage of host fluid through the lumen of the catheter.

[0244] At its distal end **212c**, the catheter **212** includes (e.g., in fluid communication) a connector **218**. The connector can be of any known type, such as a leur lock, a T-connector, a Y-connector, a cross-connector or a custom configuration, for example. In some embodiments, the connector includes at least one valve. At a second side **218e** (e.g., back end), the connector **218** can be operatively connected to a saline system (e.g., saline bag and tubing), other medical devices (e.g., automatic blood chemistry machine, dialysis machine, a blood bag for collecting donated blood, etc.), or capped.

[0245] In some embodiments, the system **210** includes sensor electronics (not shown) operatively connected to the analyte sensor, wherein the sensor electronics are generally configured to measure and/or process the sensor data as described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor electronics can be partially or wholly disposed with (e.g., integral with, disposed on, or proximal to) the connector **218** at the distal end of the catheter or partially or wholly remote from the catheter (e.g., on a stand or on the bedside). In one embodiment, the sensor electronics disposed with the connector include a potentiostat. In some embodiments, the sensor electronics are configured to measure the host's analyte concentration substantially continuously. For example, the sensor can measure the analyte concentration continuously or at time intervals ranging from fractions of a second up to, for example, 1, 2, or 5 minutes or longer.

[0246] FIGS. 2C to 2F illustrate additional embodiments of the sensor shown in FIGS. 2A to 2B. The catheter **212** is shown with an integral sensor **214** having at least one electrode **240** formed on its exterior surface **232** (e.g., FIG. 2F). In general, the sensor can be designed with 1, 2, 3, 4 or more electrodes and can be connected by traces (or the like) to electrical contacts **218d** (or the like) at the second end of the connector **218** (e.g., FIGS. 2A to 2F). In some embodiments, the sensor is hard-wired to the sensor electronics; alternatively, any operable connection can be used. Preferably, the sensor includes at least one working electrode and at least one reference or counter electrode. In some embodiments, the reference electrode is located proximal to the at least one working electrode (e.g., adjacent to or near to the working

electrode). In some alternative embodiments, the reference electrode is located remotely from the working electrode (e.g., away from the working electrode, such as but not limited to within the lumen of the catheter **212** (or connector **218**), on the exterior of the sensor system, in contact with the patient (e.g., on the skin), or the like). In some embodiments, the reference electrode is located proximal to or within the fluid connector, such as but not limited to, coiled about the catheter adjacent to the fluid connector or coiled within the fluid connector and in contact with fluid flowing through the fluid coupler, such as saline or blood. In some embodiments, the sensor can also include one or more additional working electrodes (e.g., for measuring baseline, for measuring a second analyte, or for measuring a substantially non-analyte related signal, and the like, such as described in more detail in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1 and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027385-A1 which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. In some embodiments one or more counter electrodes can be provided on a surface of the catheter or within or on the fluid connector.

[0247] In some of the preferred embodiments, the catheter is designed to indwell within a host's blood flow (e.g., a peripheral vein or artery) and remain in the blood flow for a period of time (e.g., the catheter is not immediately removed). In some embodiments, the indwelling catheter can be inserted into the blood flow for example, for a few minutes or more, or from about 1 to 24 hours, or from about 1 to 10 days, or even longer. For example, the catheter can indwell in the host's blood stream during an entire perioperative period (e.g., from host admittance, through an operation, and to release from the hospital).

[0248] In some embodiments, the catheter is configured as an intravenous catheter (e.g., configured to be inserted into a vein). The catheter can be inserted into any commonly used vein, such as in a peripheral vein (e.g., one of the metacarpal veins of the arm); in some embodiments (e.g., such as described with reference to FIGS. 1A to 1E) the analyte sensor inserted into a catheter. In alternative embodiments, the sensor is integrally formed on a catheter such as described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 2A to 2F, for example. Other veins, such as leg or foot veins, hand veins, or even scalp or umbilical veins, can also be used.

[0249] In addition to sensing analyte levels via a sensor system as described herein, the intravenous catheter can be used for delivery of fluids and/or drugs to the host's circulatory system. The catheter can be configured to be coupled to other medical devices or functions, for example, saline, blood products, total parenteral feeding or medications can be given to the host via the indwelling intravenous catheter. In some embodiments, the catheter can be operatively connected to a pump, such as an infusion pump, to facilitate flow of the fluids into the host and a desired rate. For example, an infusion pump can pump saline into the host at a rate of 1cc per minute, or at higher or lower rates. The rate of infusion can be changed (increased or decreased). For example, an infusion can be temporarily stopped, to permit injection of pain medication into the IV system, followed by increasing the infusion rate (e.g., for 5 minutes) to rapidly deliver the pain medication to the host's circulatory system.

[0250] In some embodiments, the catheter is configured as an arterial catheter (e.g., configured to be inserted into an arterial line or as part of an arterial line). Typically, an arterial catheter is inserted in the wrist (radial artery), armpit (axillary artery), groin (femoral artery), or foot (pedal artery). Gener-

ally, arterial catheters provide access to the host's blood stream (arterial side) for removal of blood samples and/or application of test devices, such as but not limited to a pressure transducer (for measuring blood pressure automatically), however, arterial catheters can also be used for delivery of fluids or medications. In one embodiment, a catheter is inserted into an arterial line and the sensor inserted into the catheter (e.g., functionally coupled) as described elsewhere herein. Saline filled non-compressible tubing is then coupled to the sensor, followed by a pressure transducer. An automatic flushing system (e.g., saline) is coupled to the tubing as well as a pressure bag to provide the necessary pressure. Electronics are generally operatively coupled to the pressure transducer for calculating and displaying a variety of parameters including blood pressure. Other medical devices can also be connected to the arterial catheter, to measure various blood components, such as but not limited to O₂, CO₂, PCO₂, PO₂, potassium, sodium, pH, lactate, urea, bilirubin, creatinine, hematocrit, various minerals, various metabolites, and the like.

[0251] In another embodiment, a blood pressure measurement system is inserted into the host and can be used as is known in the art. The analyte sensor (e.g., glucose sensor), such as the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1A-1E, is inserted into the pre-inserted (e.g., already in-dwelling) catheter using the following general methodology. First, the pressure transducer is temporarily disabled by disconnecting from the pre-inserted catheter. A cap (optionally) covers the protective slotted sheath and can be removed so as to enable the sensor to be grasped at the fluid coupler. The sheath, which is generally more rigid than the sensor but less flexible than a needle, is then threaded through the pre-inserted catheter so as to extend beyond the catheter into the blood stream (e.g., by about 0.001 inches to about 1 inches). The sheath is then removed by sliding the sensor through a small outlet hole and/or slot in the sheath. Thus, the sensor remains within the pre-inserted catheter and the fluid coupler, which supports the distal portion of the sensor, is coupled to the catheter itself. Saline filled non-compressible tubing is then coupled to the second side (e.g., back end) of the fluid coupler. The sensor electronics (whether adjacent to the fluid coupler or otherwise wired to the fluid coupler) are then operatively connected (e.g., wired or wirelessly) to the sensor to initiate sensor function.

[0252] In some embodiments, a portion of the sensor system (e.g., sensor, catheter, or other component) can be configured to allow removal of blood samples from the host's blood stream (e.g., artery or vein). Sample removal can be done using any systems and methods known in the art, for example, as is practiced for removing a blood sample from an arterial catheter (e.g., and arterial line). In one such exemplary embodiment, any tubing or equipment coupled to the second side of the fluid coupler is disconnected. A syringe is then be coupled to the second side and blood removed via the catheter by pulling back on the syringe plunger. In a further embodiment, saline can be flushed through the fluid coupler and catheter. In another embodiment, the fluid coupler can be configured with a side valve, to allow coupling of a syringe, for removal of blood samples or delivery of fluids, such as medications, without disconnecting attached tubing of equipment, and the like. In still another embodiment, a valve or diaphragm, for access to the system by a syringe, can be coupled into the tubing at a short distance from the fluid coupler. In yet another embodiment, the sensor is integrally

formed on the arterial catheter, such as the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2A-2B, and tubing can be disconnected from the connector, a syringe operably associated with the connector, and blood removed with the syringe. After blood collection, the syringe is removed and the tubing reconnected to the connector.

[0253] In still another embodiment, the analyte sensor can be functionally coupled to an extracorporeal blood flow device. A variety of devices exist for testing various blood properties/analytes at the bedside, such as but not limited to the blood gas and chemistry devices manufactured by Via Medical, Austin, Tex., USA. These devices generally withdraw a blood sample from the host, test the blood sample, and then return it to the host. Such a device can be connected in series to the arterial catheter, with the sensor in-between, and using systems and methods known in the art. In one embodiment, a sensor, such as the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1A-1E, is functionally connected to an in-dwelling arterial catheter, as described herein, and the extracorporeal blood flow device is connected to the second side of the fluid coupler. In an alternative embodiment, the sensor is integrally formed on the arterial catheter, such as the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2A-2F, and the extracorporeal blood flow device is functionally connected to the connector 218. Other devices, such as but not limited to dialysis machines, heart-lung bypass machines or blood collection bags, or other vascular access devices, can be functionally coupled to the analyte sensor.

[0254] The analyte sensor system of the preferred embodiments can be designed with a variety of alternative configurations. In some embodiments, the sensor is connected to a fluid connection device. The fluid connection device in these embodiments can be any standard fluid connection device known in the art, such as a fluid coupler, or a fluid coupler custom manufactured to preferred specifications. On its first side, the fluid coupler is configured to couple to an existing catheter or cannula (as described with reference to FIGS. 1A-1E). The catheter (or cannula) is typically inserted into a vascular access device and/or into a hospital host during a hospital stay. For example, the catheter can be inserted into an arterial line (e.g., for removing blood samples or for measuring blood pressure using a pressure transducer) or a venous line (e.g., for intravenous delivery of drugs and other fluids). In general practice, the catheter is inserted into the host's blood vessel, for example, and maintained there for a period of time during the host's hospital stay, such as part of the stay or during the entire stay (e.g., perioperatively). In one alternative embodiment, another vascular access device (e.g., other than a catheter) can be used to receive the sensor. In yet another alternative embodiment, the sensor system of the preferred embodiments can be inserted into a vascular access device (e.g., rather than the vascular system directly). Some examples of vascular access devices include but are not limited to, catheters, shunts, automated blood withdrawal devices and the like.

[0255] In some embodiments, such as the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1A to 1E, the system 10 is configured such that the sensor is inserted into a vascular access device, such as but not limited to a catheter 12 (e.g., a catheter that has been inserted into the host's blood stream prior to sensor insertion). In general, catheters are small, flexible tubes (e.g., soft catheter) but they can also be larger, rigid tubes. Catheters are inserted into a host's body cavity, vessel, or duct to provide access for fluid removal or insertion, or for access to medical

equipment. Catheters can also be inserted into extracorporeal devices, such as but not limited to an arterio-venous shunt for the transfer of blood from an artery to a vein. Some catheters are used to direct access to the circulatory system (e.g., venous or arterial catheters, Swan Ganz catheters) to allow removal of blood samples, the infusion of fluids (e.g., saline, medications, blood or total parenteral feeding) or access by medical devices (e.g., stents, extracorporeal blood chemistry analysis devices, invasive blood pressure monitors, etc.).

[0256] Preferably, the sensor is designed to include a protective cap, as illustrated in FIGS. 1A-1E. Namely, FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrates the catheter (the catheter cap having been removed prior to insertion), well known to those skilled in the art, which can be inserted into the host's blood vessel using standard methods. The sensor 14 is configured for measurement of an analyte (e.g., glucose) in the host's body, and is in fluid connection within the catheter lumen, which is in fluid connection with the fluid coupler 20 of the sensor. The first side 20a of the fluid coupler 20 of the sensor is designed to couple to the catheter, e.g., by screwing or snapping thereon, and can also couple (on its second side 20b) with other medical devices. One advantage of the fluid coupler is that it provides for a small amount of bleed back, to prevent air bubbles in the host's blood stream.

[0257] The exemplary sensor system 10 of FIGS. 1A and 1B further includes a slotted protective sheath 26 that supports and protects the sensor during sensor insertion, for example, the sheath increases the sensor visibility (e.g., the sensor is so thin that it can be difficult for some people to see without the protective sheath) and provides for ease of sliding the sensor into the catheter. The slotted protective sheath is configured to fit within the fluid coupler and houses the sensor during insertion of the sensor into the catheter (e.g., an indwelling catheter within the host's blood flow). Preferably, the protective sheath is substantially more rigid than the sensor and at the same time substantially more flexible than a standard syringe needle, however other designs are possible. To facilitate removal of the protective sheath, a slot 30 is provided with an optional outlet hole 30a, which is described in more detail with reference to FIG. 1C, and a hub 28. By grasping and pulling the hub, the user (e.g., health care professional) can withdraw the protective sheath after coupling the fluid coupler to the catheter. Prior to insertion of the sensor, a cap is provided, to cover the protective sheath, for example, to keep the sheath and sensor sterile, and to prevent damage to the components during shipping and/or handling.

[0258] In general, the sensor system is configured with a potentiostat and/or sensor electronics that are operatively coupled to the sensor. In some embodiments, a portion of the sensor electronics, such as the potentiostat, can be disposed directly on the fluid coupler. However, some or all of the sensor electronics (including the potentiostat) can be disposed remotely from the fluid coupler (e.g., on the bedside or on a stand) and can be functionally coupled (e.g., wired or wireless), as is generally known to those skilled in the art.

[0259] FIGS. 1C1 and 1C2 are cross-sectional views (not to scale) of the fluid coupler, including a protective sheath 26, a sensor 14, and a cap 32 (cap to be removed prior to insertion) in one embodiment. The protective sheath 26 extends through the fluid coupler and houses the sensor, for sensor insertion into a catheter. The protective sheath includes an optional outlet hole 30a, through which the sensor extends and a slot 30 along a length of the protective sheath that communicates with the outlet hole and enables the protective sheath to be

removed after the sensor has been inserted into the host's body. The protective sheath includes a hub 28 for ease of handling.

[0260] In some embodiments, the glucose sensor is utilized in combination with another medical device (e.g., a medical device or access port that is already coupled to, applied to, or connected to the host) in a hospital or similar clinical setting. For example, a catheter can be inserted into the host's vein or artery, wherein the catheter can be connected to additional medical equipment. In an alternative example, the catheter is placed in the host to provide quick access to the host's circulatory system (in the event of a need arising) and is simply capped. In another example, a dialysis machine can be connected to the host's circulatory system. In another example, a central line can be connected to the host, for insertion of medical equipment at the heart (e.g., the medical equipment reaches the heart through the vascular system, from a peripheral location such as a leg or arm pit).

[0261] In practice of coupling to a catheter, before insertion of the sensor, the access port is opened. In one exemplary embodiment of a pre-inserted catheter that is capped, the cap is removed and the sensor inserted into the catheter. The back end of the sensor system can be capped or attached to additional medical equipment (e.g., saline drip, blood pressure transducer, dialysis machine, blood chemistry analysis device, etc.). In another exemplary embodiment, medical equipment (e.g., saline drip, blood pressure transducer, dialysis machine, blood chemistry analysis device, etc.) is already connected to the catheter. The medical equipment is disconnected from the catheter, the sensor inserted into (and coupled to) the catheter and then the medical equipment reconnected (e.g., coupled to the back end of the sensor system).

[0262] In some embodiments, the sensor is inserted directly into the host's circulatory system without a catheter or other medical device. In one such exemplary embodiment, the sheath covering the sensor is relatively rigid and supports the sensor during insertion. After the sensor has been inserted into the host's vein or artery, the protective sheath is removed, leaving the exposed sensor in the host's vein or artery. In an alternative example, the sensor is inserted into a vascular access device (e.g., with or without a catheter) and the sheath removed, to leave the sensor in the host's vein or artery (e.g., through the vascular access device).

[0263] In various embodiments, in practice, prior to insertion, the cap 32 over the protective sheath is removed as the health care professional holds the glucose sensor by the fluid coupler 20. The protective sheath 26, which is generally more rigid than the sensor but more flexible than a needle, is then threaded through the catheter so as to extend beyond the catheter into the blood flow (e.g., by about 0.010 inches to about 1 inches). The protective sheath is then removed by sliding the sensor through the (optional) outlet hole 30a and slotted portion 30 of the sheath (e.g., by withdrawing the protective sheath by pulling the hub 28). Thus the sensor remains within the catheter; and the fluid coupler 20, which holds the sensor 14, is coupled to the catheter itself (via its connector 18). Other medical devices can be coupled to the second side of the fluid coupler as desired. The sensor electronics (e.g., adjacent to the fluid coupler or otherwise coupled to the fluid coupler) are then operatively connected (e.g., wired or wirelessly) to the sensor for proper sensor function as is known in the art.

[0264] In another embodiment, the catheter 12 includes a plurality of perforations (e.g., holes) that allow the host's

fluid (e.g., blood) to flow through the lumen **12a** of the catheter. The fluid flowing through the catheter can make contact with a sensor **14** inserted therein. In a further embodiment, the sensor does not protrude out of the catheter's tip **12b** and the host's blood flowing through the perforated catheter's lumen contacts the sensor's electroactive surfaces.

[0265] In still another embodiment, the catheter **12** includes at least a first lumen and a second lumen. The sensor **14** is configured for insertion into the catheter's first lumen. The second lumen can be used for infusions into the host's circulatory system or sample removal without disturbing the sensor within the first lumen.

[0266] FIGS. 2A-2F are schematic views of a sensor integrally formed (integrally incorporated) onto a surface of a catheter, in some exemplary embodiments. In some embodiments, the sensor can be integrally formed on an exterior surface of the catheter. In other embodiments, the sensor can be integrally formed on an interior surface of the catheter (e.g., on a luminal surface). In still other embodiments, the sensor can be integrally formed on the sensor's tip (e.g., as indicated by **214a**). In yet other embodiments, the sensor can be integrally incorporated with the catheter, for example by bonding a sensor of the type described in FIGS. 3A to 3C into an inner or outer surface of the catheter.

[0267] Generally, the sensor system is provided with a cap that covers the catheter and in vivo portion of the integral sensor. A needle or trochar that runs the length of the catheter supports the device during insertion into the host's blood stream. Prior to use, medical caregiver holds the device by the fluid connector **218** and removes the cap to expose the in vivo portion of the device (e.g., the catheter). The caregiver inserts the in vivo portion of the device into one of the host's veins or arteries (depending upon whether the catheter is an intravenous catheter or an arterial catheter). After insertion, the needle is withdrawn from the device. The device is then capped or connected to other medical equipment (e.g., saline bag, pressure transducer, blood collection bag, total parenteral feeding, dialysis equipment, automated blood chemistry equipment, etc.). In some alternative embodiments, the sensor-integrated catheter can be in communication (e.g., fluid communication) with the host's vascular system through a vascular access device.

[0268] In some embodiments, a glucose sensor system includes a sensing mechanism substantially similar to that described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020187-A1, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety; for example, with platinum working electrode and silver reference electrode coiled there around. Alternatively, the reference electrode can be located remote from the working electrode so as not to be inserted into the host, and can be located, for example, within the fluid coupler, thereby allowing a smaller footprint in the portion of the sensor adapted for insertion into the body (e.g., blood stream); for example, without a coiled or otherwise configured reference electrode proximal to the working electrode. Although a platinum working electrode is discussed, a variety of known working electrode materials can be utilized (e.g., Platinum-Iridium or Iridium). When located remotely, the reference electrode can be located away from the working electrode (e.g., the electroactive portion) at any location and with any configuration so as to maintain bodily and/or in fluid communication therewith as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0269] In an alternative embodiment, the sensor tip **14a** includes an enlarged, atraumatic area, for example a dull or

bulbous portion about two times the diameter of the sensor or larger. In one exemplary embodiment, the enlarged portion is created by heating, welding, crushing or bonding a substantially rounded structure onto the tip of the sensor (e.g., polymer or metal). In another exemplary embodiment, the tip of the sensor is heated (e.g., arc welded or flash-butt resistance welded) to cause the tip to enlarge (e.g., by melting). The enlarged portion can be of any atraumatic shape, such as but not limited to oval, round, cone-shaped, cylindrical, teardrop, etc. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that an atraumatic or enlarged area enables enhanced stability of a small diameter sensor in the blood flow and ensures that the sensor remains within the blood flow (e.g., to avoid piercing a vessel wall and/or becoming inserted subluminally.)

[0270] In some embodiments, a second working electrode can be provided on the sensor for measuring baseline, and thereby subtracting the baseline from the first working electrode to obtain a glucose-only signal, as disclosed in copending U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1 and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027385-A1, herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0271] Referring now to FIGS. 2A-2E in more detail, some embodiments of the analyte sensor system include a catheter **212** adapted for inserting into a host in a hospital or clinical setting, wherein the analyte sensor **214** is built integrally with the catheter **212**. For example, a glucose sensor can be integrally formed on the catheter itself. FIGS. 2A-2B illustrate one embodiment, wherein the catheter **212** is configured both for insertion into a host, and can be configured to couple to other medical devices on its ex vivo end. However, coupling to other medical devices is not necessary. In some embodiments, the catheter includes a connector **218** configured for connection to tubing or other medical devices, as described herein. The embodiment shown in FIGS. 2A-2B includes two or three electrodes **240** on the outer surface of the in vivo portion of the catheter **212**. In some embodiments, the catheter is perforated (as described elsewhere herein) and at least one electrode is disposed within the lumen (not shown) of the perforated catheter. In some embodiments, the catheter includes a single lumen. In other embodiment, the catheter includes two or more lumens.

[0272] With reference to FIGS. 2C-2E, in some embodiments, at least one working electrode **240** is disposed on the exterior surface of the in vivo portion of the catheter. Alternatively, the at least one working electrode can be disposed on an interior surface of the catheter, the tip of the catheter, extend from the catheter, and the like. In general, the preferred embodiments can be designed with any number of electrodes, including one or more counter electrodes, one or more reference electrodes, and/or one or more auxiliary working electrodes. In further embodiments, the electrodes can be of relatively larger or smaller surface area, depending upon their uses. In one example, a sensor includes a working electrode and a reference electrode that has a larger surface area (relative to the surface area of the working electrode) on the surface of the catheter. In another example, a sensor includes a working electrode, a counter electrode, and a reference electrode sized to have an increased surface area as compared to the working and/or counter electrode. In some embodiments, the reference electrode is disposed at a location remote from the working electrode, such as within the connector (e.g., coiled within the connector). In some embodiments, the reference electrode is located on the host's body (e.g., in body contact).

[0273] The electrodes 240 can be deposited on the catheter using any suitable techniques known in the art, for example, thick or thin film deposition techniques. The electrodes can be formed of any advantageous electrode materials known in the art (e.g., platinum, platinum-iridium, palladium, graphite, gold, carbon, silver, silver-silver chloride, conductive polymer, alloys, combinations thereof, and the like). In other embodiments, one or more of the electrodes is formed from an electrically conductive material (e.g., wire or foil comprising platinum, platinum-iridium, palladium, graphite, gold, carbon, silver, silver-silver chloride, conductive polymer, alloys, combinations thereof, and the like) applied to the exterior surface of the catheter, such as but not limited twisting, coiling, rolling or adhering.

[0274] In some embodiments, the catheter is (wired or wirelessly) connected to sensor electronics (not shown, disposed on the catheter's connector and/or remote from the catheter) so as to electrically connect the electrodes on the catheter with the sensor electronics. The inserted catheter (including the sensor integrally formed thereon) can be utilized by other medical devices for a variety of functions (e.g., blood pressure monitor, drug delivery, etc.).

[0275] While not wishing to be bound by theory, a number of the systems and methods disclosed in the preferred embodiments (e.g., an analyte sensor to be disposed in communication with the host's blood), can be employed in transcutaneous (e.g., transdermal) or wholly implantable analyte sensor devices. For example, the sensor could be integrally formed on the in vivo portion of a subcutaneous device or a wholly implantable device. As another example, an enlarged surface area (e.g., bulbous end) can useful in the design of a transcutaneous analyte sensor.

Exemplary Sensor Configurations

[0276] Referring to FIGS. 3A to 3C, in some embodiments, the sensor can be configured similarly to the continuous analyte sensors disclosed in co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/360,250 filed Feb. 22, 2006 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR," herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. The sensor includes a distal portion 342, also referred to as the in vivo portion, adapted for insertion into the catheter as described above, and a proximal portion 340, also referred to as an ex vivo portion, adapted to operably connect to the sensor electronics. Preferably, the sensor includes two or more electrodes: a working electrode 344 and at least one additional electrode, which can function as a counter electrode and/or reference electrode, hereinafter referred to as the reference electrode 346. A membrane system is preferably deposited over the electrodes, such as described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 3A to 3C, below.

[0277] FIG. 3B is an expanded cutaway view of a distal portion of the sensor in one embodiment, showing working and reference electrodes. In preferred embodiments, the sensor is formed from a working electrode 344 (e.g., a wire) and a reference electrode 346 helically wound around the working electrode 344. An insulator 345 is disposed between the working and reference electrodes to provide electrical insulation therebetween. Certain portions of the electrodes are exposed to enable electrochemical reaction thereon, for example, a window 343 can be formed in the insulator to expose a portion of the working electrode 344 for electrochemical reaction.

[0278] In preferred embodiments, each electrode is formed from a fine wire with a diameter of from about 0.001 inches or

less to about 0.010 inches or more, for example, and is formed from, e.g. a plated insulator, a plated wire, or bulk electrically conductive material. Although the illustrated electrode configuration and associated text describe one preferred method of forming a sensor, a variety of known sensor configurations can be employed with the analyte sensor system of the preferred embodiments, such as U.S. Pat. No. 5,711,861 to Ward et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,642,015 to Vachon et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,654,625 to Say et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,565,509 to Say et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,514,718 to Heller, U.S. Pat. No. 6,465,066 to Esselpreis et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,214,185 to Offenbacher et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,310,469 to Cunningham et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 5,683,562 to Shaffer et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,579,690 to Bonnecaze et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,046 to Say et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,512,939 to Colvin et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,424,847 to Mastrototaro et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,424,847 to Mastrototaro et al, for example. All of the above patents are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference and are not inclusive of all applicable analyte sensors; in general, it should be understood that the disclosed embodiments are applicable to a variety of analyte sensor configurations. It is noted that much of the description of the preferred embodiments, for example the membrane system described below, can be implemented not only with in vivo sensors, but also with in vitro sensors, such as blood glucose meters (SMBG).

[0279] In some embodiments, the working electrode comprises a wire formed from a conductive material, such as platinum, platinum-iridium, palladium, graphite, gold, carbon, conductive polymer, alloys, and the like. Although the electrodes can be formed by a variety of manufacturing techniques (bulk metal processing, deposition of metal onto a substrate, and the like), it can be advantageous to form the electrodes from plated wire (e.g. platinum on steel wire) or bulk metal (e.g. platinum wire). It is believed that electrodes formed from bulk metal wire provide superior performance (e.g. in contrast to deposited electrodes), including increased stability of assay, simplified manufacturability, resistance to contamination (e.g. which can be introduced in deposition processes), and improved surface reaction (e.g. due to purity of material) without peeling or delamination.

[0280] In some embodiments, the working electrode is formed of platinum-iridium or iridium wire. In general, platinum-iridium and iridium materials are generally stronger (e.g., more resilient and less likely to fail due to stress or strain fracture or fatigue). It is believed that platinum-iridium and/or iridium materials can facilitate a wire with a smaller diameter to further decrease the maximum diameter (size) of the sensor (e.g., in vivo portion). Advantageously, a smaller sensor diameter both reduces the risk of clot or thrombus formation (or other foreign body response) and allows the use of smaller catheters.

[0281] The electroactive window 343 of the working electrode 344 is configured to measure the concentration of an analyte. In an enzymatic electrochemical sensor for detecting glucose, for example, the working electrode measures the hydrogen peroxide produced by an enzyme catalyzed reaction of the analyte being detected and creates a measurable electronic current. For example, in the detection of glucose wherein glucose oxidase produces hydrogen peroxide as a byproduct, hydrogen peroxide reacts with the surface of the working electrode producing two protons ($2H^+$), two electrons ($2e^-$) and one molecule of oxygen (O_2), which produces the electronic current being detected.

[0282] In preferred embodiments, the working electrode 344 is covered with an insulating material 345, for example, a non-conductive polymer. Dip-coating, spray-coating, vapor-deposition, or other coating or deposition techniques can be used to deposit the insulating material on the working electrode. In one embodiment, the insulating material comprises parylene, which can be an advantageous polymer coating for its strength, lubricity, and electrical insulation properties. Generally, parylene is produced by vapor deposition and polymerization of para-xylylene (or its substituted derivatives). While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that the lubricious (e.g., smooth) coating (e.g., parylene) on the sensors of some embodiments contributes to minimal trauma and extended sensor life. While parylene coatings are generally preferred in some embodiments, any suitable insulating material can be used, for example, fluorinated polymers, polyethyleneterephthalate, polyurethane, polyimide, other nonconducting polymers, and the like. Glass or ceramic materials can also be employed. Other materials suitable for use include surface energy modified coating systems such as are marketed under the trade names AMC18, AMC148, AMC141, and AMC321 by Advanced Materials Components Express of Bellafonte, Pa. In some alternative embodiments, however, the working electrode may not require a coating of insulator.

[0283] The reference electrode 346, which can function as a reference electrode alone, or as a dual reference and counter electrode, is formed from silver, silver/silver chloride, and the like. In some embodiments, the reference electrode 346 is juxtapositioned and/or twisted with or around the working electrode 344; however other configurations are also possible (e.g. coiled within the fluid connector, or an intradermal or on-skin reference electrode). In the illustrated embodiments, the reference electrode 346 is helically wound around the working electrode 344. The assembly of wires is then optionally coated or adhered together with an insulating material, similar to that described above, so as to provide an insulating attachment.

[0284] In some embodiments, a silver wire is formed onto the sensor as described above, and subsequently chloridized to form silver/silver chloride reference electrode. Advantageously, chloridizing the silver wire as described herein enables the manufacture of a reference electrode with optimal in vivo performance. Namely, by controlling the quantity and amount of chloridization of the silver to form silver/silver chloride, improved break-in time, stability of the reference electrode, and extended life has been shown with some embodiments. Additionally, use of silver chloride as described above allows for relatively inexpensive and simple manufacture of the reference electrode.

[0285] In embodiments wherein an outer insulator is disposed, a portion of the coated assembly structure can be stripped or otherwise removed, for example, by hand, excimer lasing, chemical etching, laser ablation, grit-blasting (e.g. with sodium bicarbonate or other suitable grit), and the like, to expose the electroactive surfaces. Alternatively, a portion of the electrode can be masked prior to depositing the insulator in order to maintain an exposed electroactive surface area. In one exemplary embodiment, grit blasting is implemented to expose the electroactive surfaces, preferably utilizing a grit material that is sufficiently hard to ablate the polymer material, while being sufficiently soft so as to minimize or avoid damage to the underlying metal electrode (e.g. a platinum electrode). Although a variety of "grit" materials

can be used (e.g. sand, talc, walnut shell, ground plastic, sea salt, and the like), in some preferred embodiments, sodium bicarbonate is an advantageous grit-material because it is sufficiently hard to ablate, e.g. a parylene coating, without damaging, e.g. an underlying platinum conductor. One additional advantage of sodium bicarbonate blasting includes its polishing action on the metal as it strips the polymer layer, thereby eliminating a cleaning step that might otherwise be necessary.

[0286] In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3B, a radial window 343 is formed through the insulating material 345 to expose a circumferential electroactive surface of the working electrode. Additionally, sections of electroactive surface of the reference electrode are exposed. For example, the sections of electroactive surface can be masked during deposition of an outer insulating layer or etched after deposition of an outer insulating layer.

[0287] In some applications, cellular attack or migration of cells to the sensor can cause reduced sensitivity and/or function of the device, particularly after the first day of implantation. However, when the exposed electroactive surface is distributed circumferentially about the sensor (e.g. as in a radial window), the available surface area for reaction can be sufficiently distributed so as to minimize the effect of local cellular invasion of the sensor on the sensor signal. Alternatively, a tangential exposed electroactive window can be formed, for example, by stripping only one side of the coated assembly structure. In other alternative embodiments, the window can be provided at the tip of the coated assembly structure such that the electroactive surfaces are exposed at the tip of the sensor. Other methods and configurations for exposing electroactive surfaces can also be employed.

[0288] In some embodiments, the working electrode has a diameter of from about 0.001 inches or less to about 0.010 inches or more, preferably from about 0.002 inches to about 0.008 inches, and more preferably from about 0.004 inches to about 0.005 inches. The length of the window can be from about 0.1 mm (about 0.004 inches) or less to about 2 mm (about 0.078 inches) or more, and preferably from about 0.25 mm (about 0.01 inches) to about 0.375 mm (about 0.015 inches). In such embodiments, the exposed surface area of the working electrode is preferably from about 0.000013 in² (0.0000839 cm²) or less to about 0.0025 in² (0.016129 cm²) or more (assuming a diameter of from about 0.001 inches to about 0.010 inches and a length of from about 0.004 inches to about 0.078 inches). The preferred exposed surface area of the working electrode is selected to produce an analyte signal with a current in the picoAmp range, such as is described in more detail elsewhere herein. However, a current in the picoAmp range can be dependent upon a variety of factors, for example the electronic circuitry design (e.g. sample rate, current draw, A/D converter bit resolution, etc.), the membrane system (e.g. permeability of the analyte through the membrane system), and the exposed surface area of the working electrode. Accordingly, the exposed electroactive working electrode surface area can be selected to have a value greater than or less than the above-described ranges taking into consideration alterations in the membrane system and/or electronic circuitry. In preferred embodiments of a glucose sensor, it can be advantageous to minimize the surface area of the working electrode while maximizing the diffusivity of glucose in order to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio while maintaining sensor performance in both high and low glucose concentration ranges.

[0289] In some alternative embodiments, the exposed surface area of the working (and/or other) electrode can be increased by altering the cross-section of the electrode itself. For example, in some embodiments the cross-section of the working electrode can be defined by a cross, star, cloverleaf, ribbed, dimpled, ridged, irregular, or other non-circular configuration; thus, for any predetermined length of electrode, a specific increased surface area can be achieved (as compared to the area achieved by a circular cross-section). Increasing the surface area of the working electrode can be advantageous in providing an increased signal responsive to the analyte concentration, which in turn can be helpful in improving the signal-to-noise ratio, for example.

[0290] In some alternative embodiments, additional electrodes can be included within the assembly, for example, a three-electrode system (working, reference, and counter electrodes) and/or an additional working electrode (e.g. an electrode which can be used to generate oxygen, which is configured as a baseline subtracting electrode, or which is configured for measuring additional analytes). U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0161346-A1, U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1, and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027385-A1 describe some systems and methods for implementing and using additional working, counter, and/or reference electrodes. In one implementation wherein the sensor comprises two working electrodes, the two working electrodes are juxtaposed (e.g. extend parallel to each other), around which the reference electrode is disposed (e.g. helically wound). In some embodiments wherein two or more working electrodes are provided, the working electrodes can be formed in a double-, triple-, quad-, etc. helix configuration along the length of the sensor (for example, surrounding a reference electrode, insulated rod, or other support structure). The resulting electrode system can be configured with an appropriate membrane system, wherein the first working electrode is configured to measure a first signal comprising glucose and baseline (e.g., background noise) and the additional working electrode is configured to measure a baseline signal consisting of baseline only (e.g. configured to be substantially similar to the first working electrode without an enzyme disposed thereon). In this way, the baseline signal can be subtracted from the first signal to produce a glucose-only signal that is substantially not subject to fluctuations in the baseline and/or interfering species on the signal.

[0291] Although the embodiments of FIGS. 3A to 3C illustrate one electrode configuration including one bulk metal wire helically wound around another bulk metal wire, other electrode configurations are also contemplated. In an alternative embodiment, the working electrode comprises a tube with a reference electrode disposed or coiled inside, including an insulator therebetween. Alternatively, the reference electrode comprises a tube with a working electrode disposed or coiled inside, including an insulator therebetween. In another alternative embodiment, a polymer (e.g. insulating) rod is provided, wherein the electrodes are deposited (e.g. electroplated) thereon. In yet another alternative embodiment, a metallic (e.g. steel) rod is provided, coated with an insulating material, onto which the working and reference electrodes are deposited. In yet another alternative embodiment, one or more working electrodes are helically wound around a reference electrode.

[0292] Preferably, the electrodes and membrane systems of the preferred embodiments are coaxially formed, namely, the electrodes and/or membrane system all share the same central

axle. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that a coaxial design of the sensor enables a symmetrical design without a preferred bend radius. Namely, in contrast to prior art sensors comprising a substantially planar configuration that can suffer from regular bending about the plane of the sensor, the coaxial design of the preferred embodiments do not have a preferred bend radius and therefore are not subject to regular bending about a particular plane (which can cause fatigue failures and the like). However, non-coaxial sensors can be implemented with the sensor system of the preferred embodiments.

[0293] In addition to the above-described advantages, the coaxial sensor design of the preferred embodiments enables the diameter of the connecting end of the sensor (proximal portion) to be substantially the same as that of the sensing end (distal portion) such that the protective slotted sheath is able to insert the sensor into the catheter and subsequently slide back over the sensor and release the sensor from the protective slotted sheath, without complex multi-component designs.

[0294] In one such alternative embodiment, the two wires of the sensor are held apart and configured for insertion into the catheter in proximal but separate locations. The separation of the working and reference electrodes in such an embodiment can provide additional electrochemical stability with simplified manufacture and electrical connectivity. One skilled in the art will appreciate that a variety of electrode configurations can be implemented with the preferred embodiments.

[0295] In addition to the above-described configurations, the reference electrode can be separated from the working electrode, and coiled within a portion of the fluid connector, in some embodiments. In another embodiment, the reference electrode is coiled within the fluid connector and adjacent to its first side. In an alternative embodiment, the reference electrode is coiled within the fluid connector and adjacent to its second side. In such embodiments, the reference electrode is in contact with fluid, such as saline from a saline drip that is flowing into the host, or such as blood that is being withdrawn from the host. While not wishing to be bound by theory, this configuration is believed to be advantageous because the sensor is thinner, allowing the use of smaller catheters and/or a reduced likelihood to thrombus production.

[0296] In another embodiment, the reference electrode 346 can be disposed farther away from the electroactive portion of the working electrode 343 (e.g., closer to the fluid connector). In some embodiments, the reference electrode is located proximal to or within the fluid coupler, such as but not limited to, coiled about the catheter adjacent to the fluid coupler or coiled within the fluid coupler and in contact with fluid flowing through the fluid coupler, such as saline. These configurations can also minimize at least a portion of the sensor diameter and thereby allow the use of smaller catheters and reduce the risk of clots.

[0297] In addition to the embodiments described above, the sensor can be configured with additional working electrodes as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1, U.S. Pat. No. 7,081,195, and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027385-A1, herein incorporated by reference in their entirety. For example, in one embodiment have an auxiliary working electrode, wherein the auxiliary working electrode comprises a wire formed from a conductive material, such as described with reference to the glucose-measuring working electrode above. Preferably, the reference

electrode, which can function as a reference electrode alone, or as a dual reference and counter electrode, is formed from silver, Silver/Silver chloride, and the like.

[0298] In some embodiments, the electrodes are juxtaposed and/or twisted with or around each other; however other configurations are also possible. In one example, the auxiliary working electrode and reference electrode can be helically wound around the glucose-measuring working electrode. Alternatively, the auxiliary working electrode and reference electrode can be formed as a double helix around a length of the glucose-measuring working electrode. The assembly of wires can then be optionally coated together with an insulating material, similar to that described above, in order to provide an insulating attachment. Some portion of the coated assembly structure is then stripped, for example using an excimer laser, chemical etching, and the like, to expose the necessary electroactive surfaces. In some alternative embodiments, additional electrodes can be included within the assembly, for example, a three-electrode system (including separate reference and counter electrodes) as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0299] In some alternative embodiments, the sensor is configured as a dual-electrode system. In one such dual-electrode system, a first electrode functions as a hydrogen peroxide sensor including a membrane system containing glucose-oxidase disposed thereon, which operates as described herein. A second electrode is a hydrogen peroxide sensor that is configured similar to the first electrode, but with a modified membrane system (without active enzyme, for example). This second electrode provides a signal composed mostly of the baseline signal, b.

[0300] In some dual-electrode systems, the baseline signal is (electronically or digitally) subtracted from the glucose signal to obtain a glucose signal substantially without baseline. Accordingly, calibration of the resultant difference signal can be performed by solving the equation $y=mx$ with a single paired measurement. Calibration of the inserted sensor in this alternative embodiment can be made less dependent on the values/range of the paired measurements, less sensitive to error in manual blood glucose measurements, and can facilitate the sensor's use as a primary source of glucose information for the user. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1 describes systems and methods for subtracting the baseline from a sensor signal.

[0301] In some alternative dual-electrode system embodiments, the analyte sensor is configured to transmit signals obtained from each electrode separately (e.g. without subtraction of the baseline signal). In this way, the receiver can process these signals to determine additional information about the sensor and/or analyte concentration. For example, by comparing the signals from the first and second electrodes, changes in baseline and/or sensitivity can be detected and/or measured and used to update calibration (e.g. without the use of a reference analyte value). In one such example, by monitoring the corresponding first and second signals over time, an amount of signal contributed by baseline can be measured. In another such example, by comparing fluctuations in the correlating signals over time, changes in sensitivity can be detected and/or measured.

[0302] In some embodiments, the reference electrode can be disposed remotely from the working electrode. In one embodiment, the reference electrode remains within the fluid flow, but is disposed within the fluid coupler. For example, the reference electrode can be coiled within the fluid coupler such

that it is contact with saline flowing into the host, but it is not in physical contact with the host's blood (except when blood is withdrawn from the catheter). In another embodiment, the reference electrode is removed from fluid flow, but still maintains bodily fluid contact. For example, the reference electrode can be wired to an adhesive patch that is adhered to the host, such that the reference electrode is in contact with the host's skin. In yet another embodiment, the reference electrode can be external from the system, such as but not limited to in contact with the exterior of the ex vivo portion of the system, in fluid or electrical contact with a connected saline drip or other medical device, or in bodily contact, such as is generally done with EKG electrical contacts. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed to locating the reference electrode remotely from the working electrode permits manufacture of a smaller sensor footprint (e.g., diameter) that will have relatively less affect on the host's blood flow, such as less thrombosis, than a sensor having a relatively larger footprint (e.g., wherein both the working electrode and the reference electrode are adjacent to each other and within the blood path).

[0303] In some embodiments of the sensor system, in vivo portion of the sensor (e.g., the tip 14a) has an enlarged area (e.g., a bulbous, nail head-shaped, football-shaped, cone-shaped, cylindrical, etc. portion) as compared a substantial portion of the sensor (e.g., diameter of the in vivo portion of the sensor). The sensor tip can be made bulbous by any convenient systems and methods known in the art, such as but not limited to arc welding, crimping, smashing, welding, molding, heating, and plasma arc welding. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that an enlarged sensor tip (e.g., bulbous) will prevent vessel piercing as the sensor is pushed forward into the vessel.

[0304] The sensor of the preferred embodiments is designed with a minimally invasive architecture so as to minimize reactions or effects on the blood flow (or on the sensor in the blood flow). Accordingly, the sensor designs described herein, consider minimization of dimensions and arrangement of the electrodes and other components of the sensor system, particularly the in vivo portion of the sensor (or any portion of the sensor in fluid contact with the blood flow).

[0305] Accordingly, in some embodiments, a substantial portion of the in vivo portion of the sensor is designed with at least one dimension less than about 0.020, 0.015, 0.012, 0.010, 0.008, 0.006, 0.005, 0.004 inches. In some embodiments, a substantial portion of the sensor that is in fluid contact with the blood flow is designed with at least one dimension less than about 0.015, 0.012, 0.010, 0.008, 0.006, 0.005, 0.004, 0.003, 0.002, 0.001 inches. As one exemplary embodiment, a sensor such as described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 1A to 1C is formed from a 0.004 inch conductive wire (e.g., platinum) for a diameter of about 0.004 inches along a substantial portion of the sensor (e.g., in vivo portion or fluid contact portion). As another exemplary embodiment, a sensor such as described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 1A to 1C is formed from a 0.004 inch conductive wire and vapor deposited with an insulator material for a diameter of about 0.005 inches along a substantial portion of the sensor (e.g., in vivo portion or fluid contact portion), after which a desired electroactive surface area can be exposed. In the above two exemplary embodiments, the reference electrode can be located remote from the working electrode (e.g., formed from the conductive wire). While the devices and methods described herein are directed to use

within the host's blood stream, one skilled in the art will recognize that the systems, configurations, methods and principles of operation described herein can be incorporated into other analyte sensing devices, such as but not limited to subcutaneous devices or wholly implantable devices such as described in U.S. Publication 2006-0016700, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0306] FIG. 3C is a cross section of the sensor shown in FIG. 3B, taken at line C-C. Preferably, a membrane system (see FIG. 3C) is deposited over the electroactive surfaces of the sensor and includes a plurality of domains or layers, such as described in more detail below, with reference to FIGS. 3B and 3C. The membrane system can be deposited on the exposed electroactive surfaces using known thin film techniques (for example, spraying, electro-depositing, dipping, and the like). In one exemplary embodiment, each domain is deposited by dipping the sensor into a solution and drawing out the sensor at a speed that provides the appropriate domain thickness. In general, the membrane system can be disposed over (deposited on) the electroactive surfaces using methods appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0307] In general, the membrane system includes a plurality of domains, for example, an electrode domain 347, an interference domain 348, an enzyme domain 349 (for example, including glucose oxidase), and a resistance domain 350, as shown in FIG. 3C, and can include a high oxygen solubility domain, and/or a bioprotective domain (not shown), such as is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0245799-A1, and such as is described in more detail below. The membrane system can be deposited on the exposed electroactive surfaces using known thin film techniques (for example, vapor deposition, spraying, electro-depositing, dipping, and the like). In alternative embodiments, however, other vapor deposition processes (e.g., physical and/or chemical vapor deposition processes) can be useful for providing one or more of the insulating and/or membrane layers, including ultrasonic vapor deposition, electrostatic deposition, evaporative deposition, deposition by sputtering, pulsed laser deposition, high velocity oxygen fuel deposition, thermal evaporator deposition, electron beam evaporator deposition, deposition by reactive sputtering molecular beam epitaxy, atmospheric pressure chemical vapor deposition (CVD), atomic layer CVD, hot wire CVD, low-pressure CVD, microwave plasma-assisted CVD, plasma-enhanced CVD, rapid thermal CVD, remote plasma-enhanced CVD, and ultra-high vacuum CVD, for example. However, the membrane system can be disposed over (or deposited on) the electroactive surfaces using any known method, as will be appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0308] In some embodiments, one or more domains of the membrane systems are formed from materials such as described above in connection with the porous layer, such as silicone, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyethylene-co-tetrafluoroethylene, polyolefin, polyester, polycarbonate, biostable polytetrafluoroethylene, homopolymers, copolymers, terpolymers of polyurethanes, polypropylene (PP), polyvinylchloride (PVC), polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), polyether ether ketone (PEEK), polyurethanes, cellulosic polymers, polysulfones and block copolymers thereof including, for example, di-block, tri-block, alternating, random and graft copolymers. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-

0245799-A1 describes biointerface and membrane system configurations and materials that may be applied to the preferred embodiments.

Electrode Domain

[0309] In selected embodiments, the membrane system comprises an electrode domain. The electrode domain 347 is provided to ensure that an electrochemical reaction occurs between the electroactive surfaces of the working electrode and the reference electrode, and thus the electrode domain 347 is preferably situated more proximal to the electroactive surfaces than the interference and/or enzyme domain. Preferably, the electrode domain includes a coating that maintains a layer of water at the electrochemically reactive surfaces of the sensor. In other words, the electrode domain is present to provide an environment between the surfaces of the working electrode and the reference electrode, which facilitates an electrochemical reaction between the electrodes. For example, a humectant in a binder material can be employed as an electrode domain; this allows for the full transport of ions in the aqueous environment. The electrode domain can also assist in stabilizing the operation of the sensor by accelerating electrode start-up and drifting problems caused by inadequate electrolyte. The material that forms the electrode domain can also provide an environment that protects against pH-mediated damage that can result from the formation of a large pH gradient due to the electrochemical activity of the electrodes.

[0310] In one embodiment, the electrode domain 347 includes a flexible, water-swellable, hydrogel film having a "dry film" thickness of from about 0.05 microns or less to about 20 microns or more, more preferably from about 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, or 3.5 microns to about 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 19.5 microns, and more preferably still from about 3, 2.5, 2, or 1 microns, or less, to about 3.5, 4, 4.5, or 5 microns or more. "Dry film" thickness refers to the thickness of a cured film cast from a coating formulation by standard coating techniques.

[0311] In certain embodiments, the electrode domain 347 is formed of a curable mixture of a urethane polymer and a hydrophilic polymer. Particularly preferred coatings are formed of a polyurethane polymer having carboxylate or hydroxyl functional groups and non-ionic hydrophilic polyether segments, wherein the polyurethane polymer is crosslinked with a water-soluble carbodiimide (e.g., 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide (EDC)) in the presence of polyvinylpyrrolidone and cured at a moderate temperature of about 50° C.

[0312] In some preferred embodiments, the electrode domain 347 is formed from a hydrophilic polymer (e.g. a polyamide, a polylactone, a polyimide, a polylactam, a functionalized polyamide, a functionalized polylactone, a functionalized polyimide, a functionalized polylactam or a combination thereof) that renders the electrode domain substantially more hydrophilic than an overlying domain, (e.g. interference domain, enzyme domain). In some embodiments, the electrode domain is formed substantially entirely and/or primarily from a hydrophilic polymer. In some embodiments, the electrode domain is formed substantially entirely from PVP. In some embodiments, the electrode domain is formed entirely from a hydrophilic polymer. Useful hydrophilic polymers include but are not limited to poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone (PVP), poly-N-vinyl-2-piperidone, poly-N-vinyl-2-caprolactam, poly-N-vinyl-3-methyl-2-caprolactam,

poly-N-vinyl-3-methyl-2-piperidone, poly-N-vinyl-4-methyl-2-piperidone, poly-N-vinyl-4-methyl-2-caprolactam, poly-N-vinyl-3-ethyl-2-pyrrolidone, poly-N-vinyl-4,5-dimethyl-2-pyrrolidone, polyvinylimidazole, poly-N,N-dimethylacrylamide, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylic acid, polyethylene oxide, poly-2-ethyl-oxazoline, copolymers thereof and mixtures thereof. A blend of two or more hydrophilic polymers is preferred in some embodiments. In some preferred embodiments, the hydrophilic polymer(s) is not crosslinked. In alternative embodiments, crosslinking is preferred, such as by adding a crosslinking agent, such as but not limited to EDC, or by irradiation at a wavelength sufficient to promote crosslinking between the hydrophilic polymer molecules, which is believed to create a more tortuous diffusion path through the domain.

[0313] An electrode domain formed from a hydrophilic polymer (e.g. PVP) has been shown to substantially reduce break-in time of analyte sensors; for example, a glucose sensor utilizing a cellulosic-based interference domain such as described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, a uni-component electrode domain formed from a single hydrophilic polymer (e.g. PVP) has been shown to substantially reduce break-in time of a glucose sensor to less than about 2 hours, less than about 1 hour, less than about 20 minutes and/or substantially immediately, such as exemplified in Examples 9 through 11 and 13. Generally, sensor break-in is the amount of time required (after implantation) for the sensor signal to become substantially representative of the analyte concentration. Sensor break-in includes both membrane break-in and electrochemical break-in, which are described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, break-in time is less than about 2 hours. In other embodiments, break-in time is less than about 1 hour. In still other embodiments, break-in time is less than about 30 minutes, less than about 20 minutes, less than about 15 minutes, less than about 10 minutes, or less. In a preferred embodiment, sensor break-in occurs substantially immediately. Advantageously, in embodiments wherein the break-in time is about 0 minutes (substantially immediately), the sensor can be inserted and begin providing substantially accurate analyte (e.g. glucose) concentrations almost immediately post-insertion, for example, wherein membrane break-in does not limit start-up time.

[0314] While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that providing an electrode domain that is substantially more hydrophilic than the next more distal membrane layer or domain (e.g. the overlaying domain; the layer more distal to the electroactive surface than the electrode domain, such as an interference domain or an enzyme domain) reduces the break-in time of an implanted sensor, by increasing the rate at which the membrane system is hydrated by the surrounding host tissue (see Examples 8, 9, 10 and 12). While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that, in general, increasing the amount of hydrophilicity of the electrode domain relative to the overlaying layer (e.g. the distal layer in contact with electrode domain, such as the interference domain, enzyme domain, etc.), increases the rate of water absorption, resulting in reduced sensor break-in time. The hydrophilicity of the electrode domain can be substantially increased by the proper selection of hydrophilic polymers, based on their hydrophilicity relative to each other and relative to the overlaying layer (e.g. cellulosic-based interference domain), with preferred polymers being substantially more hydrophilic than the overlaying layer. In one exemplary

embodiment, PVP forms the electrode domain, the interference domain is formed from a blend of cellulosic derivatives, such as but not limited to cellulose acetate butyrate and cellulose acetate; it is believed that since PVP is substantially more hydrophilic than the cellulosic-based interference domain, the PVP rapidly draws water into the membrane to the electrode domain, and enables the sensor to function with a desired sensitivity and accuracy and starting within a substantially reduced time period after implantation. Reductions in sensor break-in time reduce the amount of time a host must wait to obtain sensor readings, which is particularly advantageous not only in ambulatory applications, but particularly in hospital settings where time is critical.

[0315] While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that when the water absorption of the overlying domain (e.g. the domain overlying the electrode domain) is less than the water absorption of the electrode domain (e.g. during membrane equilibration), then the difference in water absorption between the two domains will drive membrane equilibration and thus membrane break-in. Namely, increasing the difference in hydrophilicity (e.g. between the two domains) results in an increase in the rate of water absorption, which, in turn, results in a decrease in membrane break-in time and/or sensor break-in time. As discussed elsewhere herein, the relative hydrophilicity of the electrode domain as compared to the overlying domain can be modulated by a selection of more hydrophilic materials for formation of the electrode domain (and/or more hydrophobic materials for the overlying domain(s)). For example, an electrode domain with hydrophilic polymer capable of absorbing larger amounts of water can be selected instead of a second hydrophilic polymer that is capable of absorbing less water than the first hydrophilic polymer. In some embodiments, the water content difference between the electrode domain and the overlying domain (e.g. during or after membrane equilibration) is from about 1% or less to about 90% or more. In other embodiments, the water content difference between the electrode domain and the overlying domain is from about 10% or less to about 80% or more. In still other embodiments, the water content difference between the electrode domain and the overlying domain is from about 30% or less to about 60% or more. In preferred embodiments, the electrode domain absorbs 5 wt. % or less to 95 wt. % or more water, preferably 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 wt. % to about 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90 or 95 wt. % water than the adjacent (overlying) domain (e.g. the domain that is more distal to the electroactive surface than the electrode domain).

[0316] In another example, the rate of water absorption by a polymer can be affected by other factors, such as but not limited to the polymer's molecular weight. For example, the rate of water absorption by PVP is dependent upon its molecular weight, which is typically from about 40 kDa or less to about 360 kDa or more; with a lower molecular weight PVP (e.g., 40 kDa) absorbing water faster than a higher molecular weight PVP. Accordingly, modulating factors, such as molecular weight, that affect the rate of water absorption by a polymer, can promote the proper selection of materials for electrode domain fabrication. In one embodiment, a lower molecular weight PVP is selected, to reduce break-in time.

[0317] Preferably, the electrode domain is deposited by known thin film deposition techniques (e.g. spray coating or dip-coating the electroactive surfaces of the sensor). In some embodiments, the electrode domain is formed by dip-coating

the electroactive surfaces in an electrode domain solution (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30% or more PVP in deionized water) and curing the domain for a time of from about 15 minutes to about 30 minutes at a temperature of from about 40° C. to about 55° C. (and can be accomplished under vacuum (e.g. 20 to 30 mmHg)). In embodiments wherein dip-coating is used to deposit the electrode domain, a preferred insertion rate of from about 1 to about 3 inches per minute into the electrode domain solution, with a preferred dwell time of from about 0.5 to about 2 minutes in the electrode domain solution, and a preferred withdrawal rate of from about 0.25 to about 2 inches per minute from the electrode domain solution provide a functional coating. However, values outside of those set forth above can be acceptable or even desirable in certain embodiments, for example, depending upon solution viscosity and solution surface tension, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. In one embodiment, the electroactive surfaces of the electrode system are dip-coated one time (one layer) and cured at 50° C. under vacuum for 20 minutes. In another embodiment, the electroactive surfaces of the electrode system is dip-coated and cured at 50° C. under vacuum for 20 minutes a first time, followed by dip coating and curing at 50° C. under vacuum for 20 minutes a second time (two layers). In still other embodiments, the electroactive surfaces can be dip-coated three or more times (three or more layers). In other embodiments, the 1, 2, 3 or more layers of PVP are applied to the electroactive surfaces by spray coating or vapor deposition. In some embodiments, a crosslinking agent (e.g. EDC) can be added to the electrode domain casting solution to promote crosslinking within the domain (e.g. between electrode domain polymer components, latex, etc.). In some alternative embodiments however, no crosslinking agent is used and the electrode domain is not substantially crosslinked.

[0318] In some embodiments, the deposited PVP electrode domain 347 has a “dry film” thickness of from about 0.05 microns or less to about 20 microns or more, more preferably from about 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, or 3.5 microns to about 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 19.5 microns, and more preferably still from about 2, 2.5 or 3 microns to about 3.5, 4, 4.5, or 5 microns.

[0319] Although an independent electrode domain 347 is described herein, in some embodiments sufficient hydrophilicity can be provided in the interference domain and/or enzyme domain (the domain adjacent to the electroactive surfaces) so as to provide for the full transport of ions in the aqueous environment (e.g. without a distinct electrode domain). In these embodiments, an electrode domain is not necessary.

Interference Domain

[0320] Interferents are molecules or other species that are reduced or oxidized at the electrochemically reactive surfaces of the sensor, either directly or via an electron transfer agent, to produce a false positive analyte signal (e.g. a non-analyte-related signal). This false positive signal causes the host's analyte concentration (e.g., glucose concentration) to appear higher than the true analyte concentration. False-positive signal is a clinically significant problem in some conventional sensors. For example in a case of a dangerously hypoglycemic situation, wherein the host has ingested an interferent (e.g. acetaminophen), the artificially high glucose signal can lead the host to believe that he is euglycemic (or, in some cases, hyperglycemic). As a result, the host can make inap-

propriate treatment decisions, such as taking no action, when the proper course of action is to begin eating. In another example, in the case of a euglycemic or hyperglycemic situation, wherein a host has consumed acetaminophen, an artificially high glucose signal caused by the acetaminophen can lead the host to believe that his glucose concentration is much higher than it truly is. Again, as a result of the artificially high glucose signal, the host can make inappropriate treatment decisions, such as giving himself too much insulin, which in turn can lead to a dangerous hypoglycemic episode.

[0321] In preferred embodiments, an interference domain 348 is provided that substantially restricts or blocks the flow of one or more interfering species therethrough; thereby substantially preventing artificial signal increases. Some known interfering species for a glucose sensor, as described in more detail herein, include acetaminophen, ascorbic acid, bilirubin, cholesterol, creatinine, dopamine, ephedrine, ibuprofen, L-dopa, methyl dopa, salicylate, tetracycline, tolazamide, tolbutamide, triglycerides, and uric acid. In general, the interference domain of the preferred embodiments is less permeable to one or more of the interfering species than to the measured species, e.g. the product of an enzymatic reaction that is measured at the electroactive surface(s), such as but not limited to H₂O₂.

[0322] In one embodiment, the interference domain 348 is formed from one or more cellulosic derivatives. Cellulosic derivatives can include, but are not limited to, cellulose esters and cellulose ethers. In general, cellulosic derivatives include polymers such as cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate butyrate, 2-hydroxyethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate propionate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, and the like, as well as their copolymers and terpolymers with other cellulosic or non-cellulosic monomers. Cellulose is a polysaccharide polymer of β-D-glucose. While cellulosic derivatives are generally preferred, other polymeric polysaccharides having similar properties to cellulosic derivatives can also be employed in the preferred embodiments.

[0323] In one preferred embodiment, the interference domain 348 is formed from cellulose acetate butyrate. Cellulose acetate butyrate with a molecular weight of about 10,000 daltons to about 75,000 daltons, preferably from about 15,000, 20,000, or 25,000 daltons to about 50,000, 55,000, 60,000, 65,000, or 70,000 daltons, and more preferably about 20,000 daltons is employed. In certain embodiments, however, higher or lower molecular weights can be preferred. In some embodiments, a blend of two or more cellulose acetate butyrates having different molecular weights is preferred. While a “blend” as defined herein (a composition of two or more substances that are not substantially chemically combined with each other and are capable of being separated) is generally preferred, in certain embodiments a single polymer incorporating different constituents (e.g. separate constituents as monomeric units and/or substituents on a single polymer chain) can be employed instead. Additionally, a casting solution or dispersion of cellulose acetate butyrate at a wt. % of from about 5% to about 25%, preferably from about 5%, 6%, 7%, 8%, 9%, 10%, 11%, 12%, 13%, 14% or 15% to about 16%, 17%, 18%, 19%, 20%, 21%, 22%, 23%, 24% or 25%, and more preferably from about 5% to about 15% is preferred. Preferably, the casting solution includes a solvent or solvent system, for example an acetone:ethanol solvent system. Higher or lower concentrations can be preferred in certain embodiments. In alternative embodiments, a single solvent (e.g. acetone) is used to form a symmetrical membrane

domain. A single solvent is used in casting solutions for forming symmetric membrane layer(s). A plurality of layers of cellulose acetate butyrate can be advantageously combined to form the interference domain in some embodiments, for example, three layers can be employed. It can be desirable to employ a mixture of cellulose acetate butyrate components with different molecular weights in a single solution, or to deposit multiple layers of cellulose acetate butyrate from different solutions comprising cellulose acetate butyrate of different molecular weights, different concentrations, and/or different chemistries (e.g. functional groups). It can also be desirable to include additional substances in the casting solutions or dispersions, e.g. functionalizing agents, crosslinking agents, other polymeric substances, substances capable of modifying the hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity of the resulting layer, and the like.

[0324] In one alternative embodiment, the interference domain **348** is formed from cellulose acetate. Cellulose acetate with a molecular weight of about 30,000 daltons or less to about 100,000 daltons or more, preferably from about 35,000, 40,000, or 45,000 daltons to about 55,000, 60,000, 65,000, 70,000, 75,000, 80,000, 85,000, 90,000, or 95,000 daltons, and more preferably about 50,000 daltons is preferred. In some embodiments, a blend of two or more cellulose acetates having different molecular weights is preferred. Additionally, a casting solution or dispersion of cellulose acetate at a weight percent of about 3% to about 10%, preferably from about 3.5%, 4.0%, 4.5%, 5.0%, 5.5%, 6.0%, or 6.5% to about 7.5%, 8.0%, 8.5%, 9.0%, or 9.5%, and more preferably about 8% is preferred. In certain embodiments, however, higher or lower molecular weights and/or cellulose acetate weight percentages can be preferred. It can be desirable to employ a mixture of cellulose acetates with molecular weights in a single solution, or to deposit multiple layers of cellulose acetate from different solutions comprising cellulose acetates of different molecular weights, different concentrations, or different chemistries (e.g. functional groups). It can also be desirable to include additional substances in the casting solutions or dispersions such as described in more detail above.

[0325] In addition to forming an interference domain from only cellulose acetate(s) or only cellulose acetate butyrate(s), the interference domain **348** can be formed from combinations or blends of cellulosic derivatives, such as but not limited to cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate, or combinations of layer(s) of cellulose acetate and layer(s) of cellulose acetate butyrate. In some embodiments, a blend of cellulosic derivatives (for formation of an interference domain) includes up to about 10 wt. % or more of cellulose acetate. For example, about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 wt. % or more cellulose acetate is preferred, in some embodiments. In some embodiments, the cellulosic derivatives blend includes from about 90 wt. % or less to about 100 wt. % cellulose acetate butyrate. For example, in some embodiments, the blend includes about 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98 or 99 wt. % cellulose acetate butyrate. In some embodiments, the cellulosic derivative blend includes from about 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 or 3.5 wt. % cellulose acetate to about 98.5, 98.0, 97.5, 97.0 or 96.5 wt. % cellulose acetate butyrate. In other embodiments, the blend includes from about 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5 or 8 wt. % cellulose acetate to about 96, 95.5, 95, 94.5, 94, 93.3, 93, 92.5 or 92 wt. % cellulose acetate butyrate. In still other embodiments, the blend includes from about 8.5, 9.0, 9.5,

10.0, 10.5 or 11.0 wt. % cellulose acetate to about 91.5, 91.0, 90.5, 90, 89.5 or 89 wt. % cellulose acetate butyrate.

[0326] In some embodiments, preferred blends of cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate contain from about 1.5 parts or less to about 60 parts or more cellulose acetate butyrate to one part of cellulose acetate. In some embodiments, a blend contains from about 2 parts to about 40 parts cellulose acetate butyrate to one part cellulose acetate. In other embodiments, about 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 or 20 parts cellulose acetate butyrate to one part cellulose acetate is preferred for formation of the interference domain **348**. In still other embodiments, a blend having from 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36 or 38 parts cellulose acetate butyrate to one part cellulose acetate is preferred. As is discussed elsewhere herein, cellulose acetate butyrate is relatively more hydrophobic than cellulose acetate. Accordingly, the cellulose acetate/ cellulose acetate butyrate blend contains substantially more hydrophobic than hydrophilic components.

[0327] Cellulose acetate butyrate is a cellulosic polymer having both acetyl and butyl groups, in addition to hydroxyl groups. Acetyl groups are more hydrophilic than butyl groups, and hydroxyl groups are more hydrophilic than both acetyl and butyl groups. Accordingly, the relative amounts of acetyl, butyl and hydroxyl groups can be used to modulate the hydrophilicity/hydrophobicity of the cellulose acetate butyrate of the cellulose acetate/cellulose acetate butyrate blend. A cellulose acetate butyrate can be selected based on the compound's relative amounts of acetate, butyrate and hydroxyl groups; and a cellulose acetate can be selected based on the compound's relative amounts of acetate and hydroxyl groups. For example, in some embodiments, a cellulose acetate butyrate having about 35% or less acetyl groups, about 10% to about 25% butyl groups, and hydroxyl groups making up the remainder is preferred for formation of the interference domain **348**. In other embodiments a cellulose acetate butyrate having from about 25% to about 34% acetyl groups and from about 15 to about 20% butyl groups is preferred. In still other embodiments, the preferred cellulose acetate butyrate contains from about 28% to about 30% acetyl groups and from about 16 to about 18% butyl groups. In yet another embodiment, the cellulose acetate butyrate can have no acetate groups and from about 20% to about 60% butyrate groups. In yet another embodiment, the cellulose acetate butyrate has about 55% butyrate groups and no acetate groups.

[0328] While an asymmetric interference domain can be used in some alternative embodiments, a symmetrical interference domain **348** (e.g. of cellulosic-derivative blends, such as but not limited to blends of cellulose acetate components and cellulose acetate butyrate components) is preferred in some embodiments. Symmetrical membranes are uniform throughout their entire structure, without gradients of pore densities or sizes, or a skin on one side but not the other, for example. In various embodiments, a symmetrical interference domain **348** can be formed by the appropriate selection of a solvent (e.g. no anti-solvent is used), for making the casting solution. Appropriate solvents include solvents belonging to the ketone family that are able to solvate the cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate. The solvents include but are not limited to acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl n-propyl ketone, cyclohexanone, and diacetone alcohol. Other solvents, such as furans (e.g. tetra-hydro-furan and 1,4-dioxane), may be preferred in some embodiments. In one exemplary embodiment, from about 7 wt. % to about 9 wt. %

solids (e.g. a blend of cellulosic derivatives, such as cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate) are blended with a single solvent (e.g. acetone), to form the casting solution for a symmetrical interference domain. In another embodiment, from about 10 to about 15% solids are blended with acetone to form the casting solution. In yet another embodiment, from about 16 to about 18% solids are blended with acetone to form the casting solution. A relatively lower or greater weight percent of solids is preferred to form the casting solution, in some embodiments.

[0329] The casting solution can be applied either directly to the electroactive surface(s) of the sensor or on top of an electrode domain layer (if included in the membrane system). The casting solution can be applied using any known thin film technique, as discussed elsewhere herein. Additionally, in various embodiments, a symmetrical interference domain **348** includes at least one layer; and in some embodiments, two, three or more layers are formed by the sequential application and curing of the casting solution.

[0330] The concentration of solids in the casting solution can be adjusted to deposit a sufficient amount of solids on the electrode in one layer (e.g. in one dip or spray) to form a membrane layer with sufficient blocking ability, such that the equivalent glucose signal of an interferent (e.g. compounds with an oxidation or reduction potential that overlaps with that of the measured species (e.g. H_2O_2)), measured by the sensor, is about 60 mg/dL or less. For example, in some embodiments, the casting solution's percentage of solids is adjusted such that only a single layer (e.g. dip one time) is required to deposit a sufficient amount of the cellulose acetate/cellulose acetate butyrate blend to form a functional symmetric interference domain that substantially blocks passage therethrough of at least one interferent, such as but not limited to acetaminophen, ascorbic acid, dopamine, ibuprofen, salicylic acid, tolbutamide, tetracycline, creatinine, uric acid, ephedrine, L-dopa, methyl dopa and tolazamide. In some embodiments, the amount of interference domain material deposited by as single dip is sufficient to reduce the equivalent glucose signal of the interferent (e.g. measured by the sensor) to about 60 mg/dl or less. In preferred embodiments, the interferent's equivalent glucose signal response (measured by the sensor) is 50 mg/dl or less. In more preferred embodiments, the interferent produces an equivalent glucose signal response of 40 mg/dl or less. In still more preferred embodiments, the interferent produces an equivalent glucose signal response of less than about 30, 20 or 10 mg/dl. In one exemplary embodiment, the interference domain is configured to substantially block acetaminophen passage therethrough, wherein the equivalent glucose signal response of the acetaminophen is less than about 30 mg/dl.

[0331] In alternative embodiments, the interference domain **348** is configured to substantially block a therapeutic dose of acetaminophen. The term "therapeutic dose" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to the quantity of any substance required to effect the cure of a disease, to relieve pain, or that will correct the manifestations of a deficiency of a particular factor in the diet, such as the effective dose used with therapeutically applied compounds, such as drugs. For example, a therapeutic dose of acetaminophen can be an amount of acetaminophen required to relieve headache pain or reduce a fever. As a further example, 1,000 mg of acetaminophen taken

orally, such as by swallowing two 500 mg tablets of acetaminophen, is the therapeutic dose frequently taken for headaches. In some embodiments, the interference membrane is configured to block a therapeutic dose of acetaminophen, wherein the equivalent glucose signal response of the acetaminophen is less than about 60 mg/dl. In a preferred embodiment, the interference membrane is configured to block a therapeutic dose of acetaminophen, wherein the equivalent glucose signal response of the acetaminophen is less than about 40 mg/dl. In a more preferred embodiment, the interference membrane is configured to block a therapeutic dose of acetaminophen, wherein the equivalent glucose signal response of the acetaminophen is less than about 30 mg/dl.

[0332] While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that, with respect to symmetrical cellulosic-based membranes, there is an inversely proportional balance between interferent blocking and analyte sensitivity. Namely, changes to the interference domain configuration that increase interferent blocking can result in a corresponding decrease in sensor sensitivity. Sensor sensitivity is discussed in more detail elsewhere herein. It is believed that the balance between interferent blocking and sensor sensitivity is dependent upon the relative proportions of hydrophobic and hydrophilic components of the membrane layer (e.g. the interference domain), with sensors having more hydrophobic interference domains having increased interferent blocking but reduces sensitivity; and sensors having more hydrophilic interference domains having reduced interferent blocking but increased sensitivity. It is believed that the hydrophobic and hydrophilic components of the interference domain can be balanced, to promote a desired level of interferent blocking while at the same time maintaining a desired level of analyte sensitivity. The interference domain hydrophobe-hydrophile balance can be manipulated and/or maintained by the proper selection and blending of the hydrophilic and hydrophobic interference domain components (e.g. cellulosic derivatives having acetyl, butyryl, propionyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, hydroxyl, carboxymethyl, and/or carboxyethyl groups). For example, cellulose acetate is relatively more hydrophilic than cellulose acetate butyrate. In some embodiments, increasing the percentage of cellulose acetate (or reducing the percentage of cellulose acetate butyrate) can increase the hydrophilicity of the cellulose acetate/cellulose acetate butyrate blend, which promotes increased permeability to hydrophilic species, such as but not limited to glucose, H_2O_2 and some interferents (e.g. acetaminophen). In another embodiment, the percentage of cellulose acetate butyrate is increased to increase blocking of interferants, but less permeability to some desired molecules, such as H_2O_2 and glucose, is also reduced.

[0333] One method, of manipulating the hydrophobe-hydrophile balance of the interference domain, is to select the appropriate percentages of acetyl groups (relatively more hydrophilic than butyl groups), butyl groups (relatively more hydrophobic than acetyl groups) and hydroxyl groups of the cellulose acetate butyrate used to form the interference domain **348**. For example, increasing the percentage of acetate groups on the cellulose acetate butyrate will make the cellulose acetate butyrate more hydrophilic. In another example, increasing the percentage of butyl groups on the cellulose acetate butyrate will make the cellulose acetate butyrate more hydrophobic. In yet another example, increasing the percentage of hydroxyl groups will increase the

hydrophilicity of the cellulose acetate butyrate. Accordingly, the selection of a cellulose acetate butyrate that is more or less hydrophilic (or more or less hydrophobic) can modulate the over-all hydrophilicity of the cellulose acetate/cellulose acetate butyrate blend. In one exemplary embodiment, an interference domain can be configured to be relatively more hydrophobic (and therefore block interferants more strongly) by reducing the percentage of acetyl or hydroxyl groups or by increasing the percentage of butyl groups on the cellulose acetate butyrate used in the casting solution (while maintaining the relative ratio of cellulose acetate to cellulose acetate butyrate).

[0334] In some alternative embodiments, the interference domain **348** is formed of a blend of cellulosic derivatives, wherein the hydrophilic and hydrophobic components of the interference domain are balanced, such that the glucose sensitivity is from about 1 pA/mg/dL to about 100 pA/mg/dL, and at least one interferent is sufficiently blocked from passage through the interference domain such that the equivalent glucose signal response of the at least one interferent is less than about 60 mg/dL. In a preferred embodiment, the glucose sensitivity is from about 5 pA/mg/dL to about 25 pA/mg/dL. In a more preferred embodiments, the glucose sensitivity is from about 5 pA/mg/dL to about 25 pA/mg/dL and the equivalent glucose signal response of the at least one interferent is less than about 40 mg/dL. In a still more preferred embodiments, the glucose sensitivity is from about 5 pA/mg/dL to about 25 pA/mg/dL and the equivalent glucose signal response of the at least one interferent is less than about 30 mg/dL. In some embodiments, the balance between hydrophilic and hydrophobic components of the interference domain can be achieved by adjusting the amounts of hydrophilic and hydrophobic components, relative to each other, as well as adjusting the hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups (e.g. acetyl, butyryl, propionyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, hydroxyl, carboxymethyl, and/or carboxyethyl groups) of the components themselves (e.g. cellulosic derivatives, such as but not limited to cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate).

[0335] In some alternative embodiments, additional polymers, such as Nafion®, can be used in combination with cellulosic derivatives to provide equivalent and/or enhanced function of the interference domain **348**. As one example, a layer of a 5 wt. % Nafion® casting solution was applied over a previously applied (e.g. and cured) layer of 8 wt. % cellulose acetate, e.g. by dip coating at least one layer of cellulose acetate and subsequently dip coating at least one layer Nafion® onto a needle-type sensor such as described with reference to the preferred embodiments. Any number of coatings or layers formed in any order may be suitable for forming the interference domain of the preferred embodiments.

[0336] In some alternative embodiments, more than one cellulosic derivative can be used to form the interference domain **348** of the preferred embodiments. In general, the formation of the interference domain on a surface utilizes a solvent or solvent system, in order to solvate the cellulosic derivative(s) (or other polymer) prior to film formation thereon. In preferred embodiments, acetone and ethanol are used as solvents for cellulose acetate; however one skilled in the art appreciates the numerous solvents that are suitable for use with cellulosic derivatives (and other polymers). Additionally, one skilled in the art appreciates that the preferred relative amounts of solvent can be dependent upon the cellulosic derivative (or other polymer) used, its molecular weight,

its method of deposition, its desired thickness, and the like. However, a percent solute of from about 1 wt. % to about 25 wt. % is preferably used to form the interference domain solution so as to yield an interference domain having the desired properties. The cellulosic derivative (or other polymer) used, its molecular weight, method of deposition, and desired thickness can be adjusted, depending upon one or more other of the parameters, and can be varied accordingly as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0337] In some alternative embodiments, other polymer types that can be utilized as a base material for the interference domain **348** including polyurethanes, polymers having pendant ionic groups, and polymers having controlled pore size, for example. In one such alternative embodiment, the interference domain includes a thin, hydrophobic membrane that is non-swellable and restricts diffusion of high molecular weight species. The interference domain **48** is permeable to relatively low molecular weight substances, such as hydrogen peroxide, but restricts the passage of higher molecular weight substances, including glucose and ascorbic acid. Other systems and methods for reducing or eliminating interference species that can be applied to the membrane system of the preferred embodiments are described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,074,307, U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0176136-A1, U.S. Pat. No. 7,081,195, and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1. In some alternative embodiments, a distinct interference domain is not included.

[0338] In some embodiments, the interference domain **348** is deposited either directly onto the electroactive surfaces of the sensor or onto the distal surface of the electrode domain, for a domain thickness of from about 0.05 micron or less to about 20 microns or more, more preferably from about 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, or 3.5 microns to about 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 19.5 microns, and more preferably still from about 1, 1.5 or 2 microns to about 2.5 or 3 microns. Thicker membranes can also be desirable in certain embodiments, but thinner membranes are generally preferred because they have a lower impact on the rate of diffusion of hydrogen peroxide from the enzyme membrane to the electrodes.

[0339] In general, the membrane systems of the preferred embodiments can be formed and/or deposited on the exposed electroactive surfaces (e.g., one or more of the working and reference electrodes) using known thin film techniques (for example, casting, spray coating, drawing down, electro-depositing, dip coating, and the like), however casting or other known application techniques can also be utilized. Preferably, the interference domain **348** is deposited by spray or dip coating. In one exemplary embodiment of a needle-type (transcutaneous) sensor such as described herein, the interference domain is formed by dip coating the sensor into an interference domain solution using an insertion rate of from about 0.5 inch/min to about 60 inches/min, preferably 1 inch/min, a dwell time of from about 0 minute to about 2 minutes, preferably about 1 minute, and a withdrawal rate of from about 0.5 inch/minute to about 60 inches/minute, preferably about 1 inch/minute, and curing (drying) the domain from about 1 minute to about 30 minutes, preferably from about 3 minutes to about 15 minutes (and can be accomplished at room temperature or under vacuum (e.g., 20 to 30 mmHg)). In one exemplary embodiment including cellulose acetate butyrate interference domain, a 3-minute cure (i.e., dry) time is preferred between each layer applied. In another exemplary

embodiment employing a cellulose acetate interference domain, a 15 minute cure (i.e., dry) time is preferred between each layer applied.

[0340] In some embodiments, the dip process can be repeated at least one time and up to 10 times or more. In other embodiments, only one dip is preferred. The preferred number of repeated dip processes depends upon the cellulosic derivative(s) used, their concentration, conditions during deposition (e.g., dipping) and the desired thickness (e.g., sufficient thickness to provide functional blocking of certain interferences), and the like. In some embodiments, 1 to 3 microns may be preferred for the interference domain thickness, however, values outside of these can be acceptable or even desirable in certain embodiments, for example, depending upon viscosity and surface tension, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. In one exemplary embodiment, an interference domain is formed from three layers of cellulose acetate butyrate. In another exemplary embodiment, an interference domain is formed from 10 layers of cellulose acetate. In another embodiment, an interference domain is formed from 1 layer of a blend of cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate. In alternative embodiments, the interference domain can be formed using any known method and combination of cellulose acetate and cellulose acetate butyrate, as will be appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0341] In some embodiments, the electroactive surface can be cleaned prior to application of the interference domain 348. In some embodiments, the interference domain 348 of the preferred embodiments can be useful as a bioprotective or biocompatible domain, namely, a domain that interfaces with host tissue when implanted in an animal (e.g., a human) due to its stability and biocompatibility.

Enzyme Domain

[0342] In preferred embodiments, the membrane system further includes an enzyme domain 349 disposed more distally from the electroactive surfaces than the interference domain 348; however other configurations can be desirable. In the preferred embodiments, the enzyme domain provides an enzyme to catalyze the reaction of the analyte and its co-reactant, as described in more detail below. In the preferred embodiments of a glucose sensor, the enzyme domain includes glucose oxidase; however other oxidases, for example, galactose oxidase or uricase oxidase, can also be used.

[0343] For an enzyme-based electrochemical glucose sensor to perform well, the sensor's response is preferably limited by neither enzyme activity nor co-reactant concentration. Because enzymes, including glucose oxidase, are subject to deactivation as a function of time even in ambient conditions, this behavior is compensated for in forming the enzyme domain. Preferably, the enzyme domain is constructed of aqueous dispersions of colloidal polyurethane polymers including the enzyme. However, in alternative embodiments the enzyme domain is constructed from an oxygen enhancing material, for example, silicone, or fluorocarbon, in order to provide a supply of excess oxygen during transient ischemia. Preferably, the enzyme is immobilized within the domain. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0054909-A1.

[0344] In preferred embodiments, the enzyme domain is deposited onto the interference domain for a domain thickness of from about 0.05 micron or less to about 20 microns or more, more preferably from about 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, or 3.5 microns to

about 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 19.5 microns, and more preferably still from about 2, 2.5 or 3 microns to about 3.5, 4, 4.5, or 5 microns. However in some embodiments, the enzyme domain can be deposited directly onto the electroactive surfaces. Preferably, the enzyme domain is deposited by spray or dip coating. In one embodiment of needle-type (transcutaneous) sensor such as described herein, the enzyme domain is formed by dip coating the interference domain coated sensor into an enzyme domain solution and curing the domain for from about 15 to about 30 minutes at a temperature of from about 40° C. to about 55° C. (and can be accomplished under vacuum (e.g., 20 to 30 mmHg)). In embodiments wherein dip coating is used to deposit the enzyme domain at room temperature, a preferred insertion rate of from about 0.25 inch per minute to about 3 inches per minute, with a preferred dwell time of from about 0.5 minutes to about 2 minutes, and a preferred withdrawal rate of from about 0.25 inch per minute to about 2 inches per minute provides a functional coating. However, values outside of those set forth above can be acceptable or even desirable in certain embodiments, for example, depending upon viscosity and surface tension, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. In one embodiment, the enzyme domain is formed by dip coating two times (namely, forming two layers) in an enzyme domain solution and curing at 50° C. under vacuum for 20 minutes. However, in some embodiments, the enzyme domain can be formed by dip coating and/or spray coating one or more layers at a predetermined concentration of the coating solution, insertion rate, dwell time, withdrawal rate, and/or desired thickness.

Resistance Domain

[0345] In preferred embodiments, the membrane system includes a resistance domain 350 disposed more distal from the electroactive surfaces than the enzyme domain. Although the following description is directed to a resistance domain for a glucose sensor, the resistance domain can be modified for other analytes and co-reactants as well.

[0346] There exists a molar excess of glucose relative to the amount of oxygen in blood; that is, for every free oxygen molecule in extracellular fluid, there are typically more than 100 glucose molecules present (see Updike et al., *Diabetes Care* 5:207-21 (1982)). However, an immobilized enzyme-based glucose sensor employing oxygen as co-reactant is preferably supplied with oxygen in non-rate-limiting excess in order for the sensor to respond linearly to changes in glucose concentration, while not responding to changes in oxygen concentration. Specifically, when a glucose-monitoring reaction is oxygen limited, linearity is not achieved above minimal concentrations of glucose. Without a semipermeable membrane situated over the enzyme domain to control the flux of glucose and oxygen, a linear response to glucose levels can be obtained only for glucose concentrations of up to about 40 mg/dL. However, in a clinical setting, a linear response to glucose levels is desirable up to at least about 400 mg/dL.

[0347] The resistance domain includes a semipermeable membrane that controls the flux of oxygen and glucose to the underlying enzyme domain, preferably rendering oxygen in a non-rate-limiting excess. As a result, the upper limit of linearity of glucose measurement is extended to a much higher value than that which is achieved without the resistance domain. In one embodiment, the resistance domain exhibits an oxygen to glucose permeability ratio of from about 50:1 or less to about 400:1 or more, preferably about 200:1. As a

result, one-dimensional reactant diffusion is adequate to provide excess oxygen at all reasonable glucose and oxygen concentrations found in the subcutaneous matrix (See Rhodes et al., *Anal. Chem.*, 66:1520-1529 (1994)).

[0348] In alternative embodiments, a lower ratio of oxygen-to-glucose can be sufficient to provide excess oxygen by using a high oxygen solubility domain (for example, a silicone or fluorocarbon-based material or domain) to enhance the supply/transport of oxygen to the enzyme domain. If more oxygen is supplied to the enzyme, then more glucose can also be supplied to the enzyme without creating an oxygen rate-limiting excess. In alternative embodiments, the resistance domain is formed from a silicone composition, such as is described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0090607-A1.

[0349] In a preferred embodiment, the resistance domain includes a polyurethane membrane with both hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions to control the diffusion of glucose and oxygen to an analyte sensor, the membrane being fabricated easily and reproducibly from commercially available materials. A suitable hydrophobic polymer component is a polyurethane, or polyetherurethaneurea. Polyurethane is a polymer produced by the condensation reaction of a diisocyanate and a difunctional hydroxyl-containing material. A polyurethaneurea is a polymer produced by the condensation reaction of a diisocyanate and a difunctional amine-containing material. Preferred diisocyanates include aliphatic diisocyanates containing from about 4 to about 8 methylene units. Diisocyanates containing cycloaliphatic moieties can also be useful in the preparation of the polymer and copolymer components of the membranes of preferred embodiments. The material that forms the basis of the hydrophobic matrix of the resistance domain can be any of those known in the art as appropriate for use as membranes in sensor devices and as having sufficient permeability to allow relevant compounds to pass through it, for example, to allow an oxygen molecule to pass through the membrane from the sample under examination in order to reach the active enzyme or electrochemical electrodes. Examples of materials which can be used to make non-polyurethane type membranes include vinyl polymers, polyethers, polyesters, polyamides, inorganic polymers such as polysiloxanes and polycarbosiloxanes, natural polymers such as cellulosic and protein based materials, and mixtures or combinations thereof.

[0350] In a preferred embodiment, the hydrophilic polymer component is polyethylene oxide. For example, one useful hydrophobic-hydrophilic copolymer component is a polyurethane polymer that includes about 20% hydrophilic polyethylene oxide. The polyethylene oxide portions of the copolymer are thermodynamically driven to separate from the hydrophobic portions of the copolymer and the hydrophobic polymer component. The 20% polyethylene oxide-based soft segment portion of the copolymer used to form the final blend affects the water pick-up and subsequent glucose permeability of the membrane.

[0351] In some embodiments, the resistance domain is formed from a silicone polymer modified to allow analyte (e.g., glucose) transport.

[0352] In some embodiments, the resistance domain is formed from a silicone polymer/hydrophobic-hydrophilic polymer blend. In one embodiment, The hydrophobic-hydrophilic polymer for use in the blend may be any suitable hydrophobic-hydrophilic polymer, including but not limited to components such as polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyhy-

droxyethyl methacrylate, polyvinylalcohol, polyacrylic acid, polyethers such as polyethylene glycol or polypropylene oxide, and copolymers thereof, including, for example, di-block, tri-block, alternating, random, comb, star, dendritic, and graft copolymers (block copolymers are discussed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,803,243 and 4,686,044, which are incorporated herein by reference). In one embodiment, the hydrophobic-hydrophilic polymer is a copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) (PEO) and poly(propylene oxide) (PPO). Suitable such polymers include, but are not limited to, PEO-PPO diblock copolymers, PPO-PEO-PPO triblock copolymers, PEO-PPG-PEO triblock copolymers, alternating block copolymers of PEO-PPO, random copolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, and blends thereof. In some embodiments, the copolymers may be optionally substituted with hydroxy substituents. Commercially available examples of PEO and PPO copolymers include the PLURONIC® brand of polymers available from BASF®. In one embodiment, PLURONIC® F-127 is used. Other PLURONIC® polymers include PPO-PEO-PPO triblock copolymers (e.g., PLURONIC® R products). Other suitable commercial polymers include, but are not limited to, SYNPONICS® products available from UNIQEMA®. Co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/404,417 and entitled, "SILICONE BASED MEMBRANES FOR USE IN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, describes systems and methods suitable for the resistance and/or other domains of the membrane system of the preferred embodiments.

[0353] In preferred embodiments, the resistance domain is deposited onto the enzyme domain to yield a domain thickness of from about 0.05 microns or less to about 20 microns or more, more preferably from about 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.2, 0.25, 0.3, 0.35, 0.4, 0.45, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, or 3.5 microns to about 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 19.5 microns, and more preferably still from about 2, 2.5 or 3 microns to about 3.5, 4, 4.5, or 5 microns. Preferably, the resistance domain is deposited onto the enzyme domain by vapor deposition, spray coating, or dip coating. In one preferred embodiment, spray coating is the preferred deposition technique. The spraying process atomizes and mists the solution, and therefore most or all of the solvent is evaporated prior to the coating material settling on the underlying domain, thereby minimizing contact of the solvent with the enzyme.

[0354] In another preferred embodiment, physical vapor deposition (e.g., ultrasonic vapor deposition) is used for coating one or more of the membrane domain(s) onto the electrodes, wherein the vapor deposition apparatus and process include an ultrasonic nozzle that produces a mist of micro-droplets in a vacuum chamber. In these embodiments, the micro-droplets move turbulently within the vacuum chamber, isotropically impacting and adhering to the surface of the substrate. Advantageously, vapor deposition as described above can be implemented to provide high production throughput of membrane deposition processes (e.g., at least about 20 to about 200 or more electrodes per chamber), greater consistency of the membrane on each sensor, and increased uniformity of sensor performance, for example, as described below.

[0355] In some embodiments, depositing the resistance domain (for example, as described in the preferred embodiments above) includes formation of a membrane system that substantially blocks or resists ascorbate (a known electro-

chemical interferant in hydrogen peroxide-measuring glucose sensors). While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that during the process of depositing the resistance domain as described in the preferred embodiments, a structural morphology is formed that is characterized in that ascorbate does not substantially permeate therethrough.

[0356] In a preferred embodiment, the resistance domain is deposited on the enzyme domain by spray coating a solution of from about 1 wt. % to about 5 wt. % polymer and from about 95 wt. % to about 99 wt. % solvent. In spraying a solution of resistance domain material, including a solvent, onto the enzyme domain, it is desirable to mitigate or substantially reduce any contact with enzyme of any solvent in the spray solution that can deactivate the underlying enzyme of the enzyme domain. Tetrahydrofuran (THE) is one solvent that minimally or negligibly affects the enzyme of the enzyme domain upon spraying. Other solvents can also be suitable for use, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0357] Although a variety of spraying or deposition techniques can be used, spraying the resistance domain material and rotating the sensor at least one time by 180° can typically provide adequate coverage by the resistance domain. Spraying the resistance domain material and rotating the sensor at least two times by 120° provides even greater coverage (one layer of 360° coverage), thereby ensuring resistivity to glucose, such as is described in more detail above.

[0358] In preferred embodiments, the resistance domain is spray coated and subsequently cured for a time of from about 15 minutes to about 90 minutes at a temperature of from about 40° C. to about 60° C. (and can be accomplished under vacuum (e.g. from 20 to 30 mmHg)). A cure time of up to about 90 minutes or more can be advantageous to ensure complete drying of the resistance domain.

[0359] In one embodiment, the resistance domain is formed by spray coating at least six layers (namely, rotating the sensor seventeen times by 120° for at least six layers of 360° coverage) and curing at 50° C. under vacuum for 60 minutes. However, the resistance domain can be formed by dip coating or spray coating any layer or plurality of layers, depending upon the concentration of the solution, insertion rate, dwell time, withdrawal rate, and/or the desired thickness of the resulting film. Additionally, curing in a convention oven can also be employed.

[0360] In certain embodiments, a variable frequency microwave oven can be used to cure the membrane domains/layers. In general, microwave ovens directly excite the rotational mode of solvents. Consequently, microwave ovens cure coatings from the inside out rather than from the outside in as with conventional convection ovens. This direct rotational mode excitation is responsible for the typically observed “fast” curing within a microwave oven. In contrast to conventional microwave ovens, which rely upon a fixed frequency of emission that can cause arcing of dielectric (metallic) substrates if placed within a conventional microwave oven, Variable Frequency Microwave (VFM) ovens emit thousands of frequencies within 100 milliseconds, which substantially eliminates arcing of dielectric substrates. Consequently, the membrane domains/layers can be cured even after deposition on metallic electrodes as described herein. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that VFM curing can increase the rate and completeness of solvent evaporation from a liquid membrane solution applied to a sensor, as compared to the rate and completeness of solvent evaporation observed for curing in conventional convection ovens.

[0361] In certain embodiments, VFM is can be used together with convection oven curing to further accelerate cure time. In some sensor applications wherein the membrane is cured prior to application on the electrode (see, for example, U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0245799-A1, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety), conventional microwave ovens (e.g., fixed frequency microwave ovens) can be used to cure the membrane layer.

Treatment of Interference Domain/Membrane System

[0362] Although the above-described methods generally include a curing step in formation of the membrane system, including the interference domain, the preferred embodiments further include an additional treatment step, which can be performed directly after the formation of the interference domain and/or some time after the formation of the entire membrane system (or anytime in between). In some embodiments, the additional treatment step is performed during (or in combination with) sterilization of the sensor.

[0363] In some embodiments, the membrane system (or interference domain) is treated by exposure to ionizing radiation, for example, electron beam radiation, UV radiation, X-ray radiation, gamma radiation, and the like. Alternatively, the membrane can be exposed to visible light when suitable photoinitiators are incorporated into the interference domain. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that exposing the interference domain to ionizing radiation substantially crosslinks the interference domain and thereby creates a tighter, less permeable network than an interference domain that has not been exposed to ionizing radiation.

[0364] In some embodiments, the membrane system (or interference domain) is crosslinked by forming free radicals, which may include the use of ionizing radiation, thermal initiators, chemical initiators, photoinitiators (e.g., UV and visible light), and the like. Any suitable initiator or any suitable initiator system can be employed, for example, α -hydroxyketone, α -aminoketone, ammonium persulfate (APS), redox systems such as APS/bisulfite, or potassium permanganate. Suitable thermal initiators include but are not limited to potassium persulfate, ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, and mixtures thereof.

[0365] In embodiments wherein electron beam radiation is used to treat the membrane system (or interference domain), a preferred exposure time is from about 6 k or 12 kGy to about 25 or 50 kGy, more preferably about 25 kGy. However, one skilled in the art appreciates that choice of molecular weight, composition of cellulosic derivative (or other polymer), and/or the thickness of the layer can affect the preferred exposure time of membrane to radiation. Preferably, the exposure is sufficient for substantially crosslinking the interference domain to form free radicals, but does not destroy or significantly break down the membrane or does not significantly damage the underlying electroactive surfaces.

[0366] In embodiments wherein UV radiation is employed to treat the membrane, UV rays from about 200 nm to about 400 nm are preferred; however values outside of this range can be employed in certain embodiments, dependent upon the cellulosic derivative and/or other polymer used.

[0367] In some embodiments, for example, wherein photoinitiators are employed to crosslink the interference domain, one or more additional domains can be provided adjacent to the interference domain for preventing delamination that may be caused by the crosslinking treatment. These additional domains can be “tie layers” (i.e., film layers that enhance

adhesion of the interference domain to other domains of the membrane system). In one exemplary embodiment, a membrane system is formed that includes the following domains: resistance domain, enzyme domain, electrode domain, and cellulosic-based interference domain, wherein the electrode domain is configured to ensure adhesion between the enzyme domain and the interference domain. In embodiments wherein photoinitiators are employed to crosslink the interference domain, UV radiation of greater than about 290 nm is preferred. Additionally, from about 0.01 to about 1 wt % photoinitiator is preferred weight-to-weight with a preselected cellulosic polymer (e.g., cellulose acetate); however values outside of this range can be desirable dependent upon the cellulosic polymer selected.

[0368] In general, sterilization of the transcutaneous sensor can be completed after final assembly, utilizing methods such as electron beam radiation, gamma radiation, glutaraldehyde treatment, and the like. The sensor can be sterilized prior to or after packaging. In an alternative embodiment, one or more sensors can be sterilized using variable frequency microwave chamber(s), which can increase the speed and reduce the cost of the sterilization process. In another alternative embodiment, one or more sensors can be sterilized using ethylene oxide (EtO) gas sterilization, for example, by treating with 100% ethylene oxide, which can be used when the sensor electronics are not detachably connected to the sensor and/or when the sensor electronics must undergo a sterilization process. In one embodiment, one or more packaged sets of transcutaneous sensors (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 sensors or more) are sterilized simultaneously.

Therapeutic Agents

[0369] A variety of therapeutic (bioactive) agents can be used with the analyte sensor system of the preferred embodiments, such as the analyte sensor system of the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1A-3C. In some embodiments, the therapeutic agent is an anticoagulant. The term "anticoagulant" as used herein is a broad term, and is to be given its ordinary and customary meaning to a person of ordinary skill in the art (and is not to be limited to a special or customized meaning), and refers without limitation to a substance that prevents coagulation (e.g., minimizes, reduces, or stops clotting of blood). In some embodiments, an anticoagulant is included in the analyte sensor system to prevent coagulation within or on the sensor (e.g., within or on the catheter or within or on the sensor). Suitable anticoagulants for incorporation into the sensor system include, but are not limited to, vitamin K antagonists (e.g., Acenocoumarol, Clorindione, Dicumarol (Dicoumarol), Diphenadione, Ethyl biscoumacetate, Phenprocoumon, Phenindione, Tioclomarol, or Warfarin), heparin group anticoagulants (e.g., Platelet aggregation inhibitors: Antithrombin III, Bemiparin, Dalteparin, Danaparoid, Enoxaparin, Heparin, Nadroparin, Parnaparin, Reviparin, Sulodexide, Tinzaparin), other platelet aggregation inhibitors (e.g., Abciximab, Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin), A洛xiprin, Beraprost, Ditazole, Carbasalate calcium, Cloricromen, Clopidogrel, Dipyridamole, Epoprostenol, Eptifibatide, Indobufen, Iloprost, Picotamide, Ticlopidine, Tirofiban, Treprostinil, Triflusal), enzymes (e.g., Alteplase, Ancrod, Anistreplase, Brinase, Drotrecogin alfa, Fibrinolysis, Protein C, Reteplase, Saruplase, Streptokinase, Tenecteplase, Urokinase), direct thrombin inhibitors (e.g., Argatroban, Bivalirudin, Desirudin, Lepirudin, Melagatran, Ximelagatran, other

antithrombotics (e.g., Dabigatran, Defibrotide, Dermatan sulfate, Fondaparinux, Rivaroxaban) and the like.

[0370] In one embodiment, heparin is incorporated into the analyte sensor system. In a further embodiment, heparin is coated on the catheter (inner and/or outer diameter) and/or sensor, for example, by dipping or spraying. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that heparin coated on the catheter and/or sensor prevents aggregation and clotting of blood on the analyte sensor system, thereby preventing thromboembolization (e.g., prevention of blood flow by the thrombus or clot) and/or subsequent complications. In another embodiment, an antimicrobial is coated on the catheter (inner and/or outer diameter) and/or sensor.

[0371] In some embodiments, the therapeutic agent is an antimicrobial. The term "antimicrobial agent" as used in the preferred embodiments means antibiotics, antiseptics, disinfectants and synthetic moieties, and combinations thereof, that are soluble in organic solvents such as alcohols, ketones, ethers, aldehydes, acetonitrile, acetic acid, methylene chloride and chloroform.

[0372] Classes of antibiotics that can be used include tetracyclines (i.e. minocycline), rifamycins (i.e. rifampin), macrolides (i.e. erythromycin), penicillins (i.e. nafcillin), cephalosporins (i.e. cefazolin), other beta-lactam antibiotics (i.e. imipenem, aztreonam), aminoglycosides (i.e. gentamicin), chloramphenicol, sulfonamides (i.e. sulfamethoxazole), glycopeptides (i.e. vancomycin), quinolones (i.e. ciprofloxacin), fusidic acid, trimethoprim, metronidazole, clindamycin, mupirocin, polyenes (i.e. amphotericin B), azoles (i.e. fluconazole) and beta-lactam inhibitors (i.e. sulbactam).

[0373] Examples of specific antibiotics that can be used include minocycline, rifampin, erythromycin, nafcillin, cefazolin, imipenem, aztreonam, gentamicin, sulfamethoxazole, vancomycin, ciprofloxacin, trimethoprim, metronidazole, clindamycin, teicoplanin, mupirocin, azithromycin, clarithromycin, ofloxacin, lomefloxacin, norfloxacin, nalidixic acid, sparfloxacin, pefloxacin, amifloxacin, enoxacin, fleroxacin, temafloxacin, tosufloxacin, clinafloxacin, sulbactam, clavulanic acid, amphotericin B, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole, and nystatin.

[0374] Examples of antiseptics and disinfectants are hexachlorophene, cationic bisiguanides (i.e. chlorhexidine, cyclohexidine) iodine and iodophores (i.e. povidone-iodine), para-chloro-meta-xylene, triclosan, furan medical preparations (i.e. nitrofurantoin, nitrofurazone), methenamine, aldehydes (glutaraldehyde, formaldehyde) and alcohols. Other examples of antiseptics and disinfectants will readily suggest themselves to those of ordinary skill in the art.

[0375] These antimicrobial agents can be used alone or in combination of two or more of them. The antimicrobial agents can be dispersed throughout the material of the sensor and/or catheter. The amount of each antimicrobial agent used to impregnate the medical device varies to some extent, but is at least of an effective concentration to inhibit the growth of bacterial and fungal organisms, such as staphylococci, gram-positive bacteria, gram-negative bacilli and *Candida*.

[0376] In some embodiments, the membrane system of the preferred embodiments preferably include a bioactive agent, which is incorporated into at least a portion of the membrane system, or which is incorporated into the device and adapted to diffuse through the membrane.

[0377] There are a variety of systems and methods by which the bioactive agent is incorporated into the membrane of the preferred embodiments. In some embodiments, the

bioactive agent is incorporated at the time of manufacture of the membrane system. For example, the bioactive agent can be blended prior to curing the membrane system, or subsequent to membrane system manufacture, for example, by coating, imbibing, solvent-casting, or sorption of the bioactive agent into the membrane system. Although the bioactive agent is preferably incorporated into the membrane system, in some embodiments the bioactive agent can be administered concurrently with, prior to, or after insertion of the device intravascularly, for example, by oral administration, or locally, for example, by subcutaneous injection near the implantation site. A combination of bioactive agent incorporated in the membrane system and bioactive agent administration locally and/or systemically can be preferred in certain embodiments.

[0378] In general, a bioactive agent can be incorporated into the membrane system, and/or incorporated into the device and adapted to diffuse therefrom, in order to modify the tissue response of the host to the membrane. In some embodiments, the bioactive agent is incorporated only into a portion of the membrane system adjacent to the sensing region of the device, over the entire surface of the device except over the sensing region, or any combination thereof, which can be helpful in controlling different mechanisms and/or stages of thrombus formation. In some alternative embodiments however, the bioactive agent is incorporated into the device proximal to the membrane system, such that the bioactive agent diffuses through the membrane system to the host circulatory system.

[0379] The bioactive agent can include a carrier matrix, wherein the matrix includes one or more of collagen, a particulate matrix, a resorbable or non-resorbable matrix, a controlled-release matrix, and/or a gel. In some embodiments, the carrier matrix includes a reservoir, wherein a bioactive agent is encapsulated within a microcapsule. The carrier matrix can include a system in which a bioactive agent is physically entrapped within a polymer network. In some embodiments, the bioactive agent is cross-linked with the membrane system, while in others the bioactive agent is sorbed into the membrane system, for example, by adsorption, absorption, or imbibing. The bioactive agent can be deposited in or on the membrane system, for example, by coating, filling, or solvent casting. In certain embodiments, ionic and nonionic surfactants, detergents, micelles, emulsifiers, demulsifiers, stabilizers, aqueous and oleaginous carriers, solvents, preservatives, antioxidants, or buffering agents are used to incorporate the bioactive agent into the membrane system. The bioactive agent can be incorporated into a polymer using techniques such as described above, and the polymer can be used to form the membrane system, coatings on the membrane system, portions of the membrane system, and/or any portion of the sensor system.

[0380] The membrane system can be manufactured using techniques known in the art. The bioactive agent can be sorbed into the membrane system, for example, by soaking the membrane system for a length of time (for example, from about an hour or less to about a week or more, preferably from about 4, 8, 12, 16, or 20 hours to about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7 days).

[0381] The bioactive agent can be blended into uncured polymer prior to forming the membrane system. The membrane system is then cured and the bioactive agent thereby cross-linked and/or encapsulated within the polymer that forms the membrane system.

[0382] In yet another embodiment, microspheres are used to encapsulate the bioactive agent. The microspheres can be formed of biodegradable polymers, most preferably synthetic polymers or natural polymers such as proteins and polysaccharides. As used herein, the term polymer is used to refer to both to synthetic polymers and proteins. U.S. Pat. No. 6,281,015, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, discloses some systems and methods that can be used in conjunction with the preferred embodiments. In general, bioactive agents can be incorporated in (1) the polymer matrix forming the microspheres, (2) microparticle(s) surrounded by the polymer which forms the microspheres, (3) a polymer core within a protein microsphere, (4) a polymer coating around a polymer microsphere, (5) mixed in with microspheres aggregated into a larger form, or (6) a combination thereof. Bioactive agents can be incorporated as particulates or by co-dissolving the factors with the polymer. Stabilizers can be incorporated by addition of the stabilizers to the factor solution prior to formation of the microspheres.

[0383] The bioactive agent can be incorporated into a hydrogel and coated or otherwise deposited in or on the membrane system. Some hydrogels suitable for use in the preferred embodiments include cross-linked, hydrophilic, three-dimensional polymer networks that are highly permeable to the bioactive agent and are triggered to release the bioactive agent based on a stimulus.

[0384] The bioactive agent can be incorporated into the membrane system by solvent casting, wherein a solution including dissolved bioactive agent is disposed on the surface of the membrane system, after which the solvent is removed to form a coating on the membrane surface.

[0385] The bioactive agent can be compounded into a plug of material, which is placed within the device, such as is described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,506,680 and 5,282,844, which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. In some embodiments, it is preferred to dispose the plug beneath a membrane system; in this way, the bioactive agent is controlled by diffusion through the membrane, which provides a mechanism for sustained-release of the bioactive agent in the host.

Release of Bioactive Agents

[0386] Numerous variables can affect the pharmacokinetics of bioactive agent release. The bioactive agents of the preferred embodiments can be optimized for short- and/or long-term release. In some embodiments, the bioactive agents of the preferred embodiments are designed to aid or overcome factors associated with short-term effects (e.g., acute inflammation and/or thrombosis) of sensor insertion. In some embodiments, the bioactive agents of the preferred embodiments are designed to aid or overcome factors associated with long-term effects, for example, chronic inflammation or build-up of fibrotic tissue and/or plaque material. In some embodiments, the bioactive agents of the preferred embodiments combine short- and long-term release to exploit the benefits of both.

[0387] As used herein, "controlled," "sustained," or "extended" release of the factors can be continuous or discontinuous, linear or non-linear. This can be accomplished using one or more types of polymer compositions, drug loadings, selections of excipients or degradation enhancers, or other modifications, administered alone, in combination or sequentially to produce the desired effect.

[0388] Short-term release of the bioactive agent in the preferred embodiments generally refers to release over a period of from about a few minutes or hours to about 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 days or more.

Loading of Bioactive Agents

[0389] The amount of loading of the bioactive agent into the membrane system can depend upon several factors. For example, the bioactive agent dosage and duration can vary with the intended use of the membrane system, for example, the intended length of use of the device and the like; differences among patients in the effective dose of bioactive agent; location and methods of loading the bioactive agent; and release rates associated with bioactive agents and optionally their carrier matrix. Therefore, one skilled in the art will appreciate the variability in the levels of loading the bioactive agent, for the reasons described above.

[0390] In some embodiments, wherein the bioactive agent is incorporated into the membrane system without a carrier matrix, the preferred level of loading of the bioactive agent into the membrane system can vary depending upon the nature of the bioactive agent. The level of loading of the bioactive agent is preferably sufficiently high such that a biological effect (e.g., thrombosis prevention) is observed. Above this threshold, bioactive agent can be loaded into the membrane system so as to imbibe up to 100% of the solid portions, cover all accessible surfaces of the membrane, and/or fill up to 100% of the accessible cavity space. Typically, the level of loading (based on the weight of bioactive agent(s), membrane system, and other substances present) is from about 1 ppm or less to about 1000 ppm or more, preferably from about 2, 3, 4, or 5 ppm up to about 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, or 900 ppm. In certain embodiments, the level of loading can be 1 wt. % or less up to about 50 wt. % or more, preferably from about 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, or 20 wt. % up to about 25, 30, 35, 40, or 45 wt. %.

[0391] When the bioactive agent is incorporated into the membrane system with a carrier matrix, such as a gel, the gel concentration can be optimized, for example, loaded with one or more test loadings of the bioactive agent. It is generally preferred that the gel contain from about 0.1 or less to about 50 wt. % or more of the bioactive agent(s), preferably from about 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, or 0.9 wt. % to about 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, or 45 wt. % or more bioactive agent(s), more preferably from about 1, 2, or 3 wt. % to about 4 or 5 wt. % of the bioactive agent(s). Substances that are not bioactive can also be incorporated into the matrix.

[0392] Referring now to microencapsulated bioactive agents, the release of the agents from these polymeric systems generally occurs by two different mechanisms. The bioactive agent can be released by diffusion through aqueous filled channels generated in the dosage form by the dissolution of the agent or by voids created by the removal of the polymer solvent or a pore forming agent during the original micro-encapsulation. Alternatively, release can be enhanced due to the degradation of the encapsulating polymer. With time, the polymer erodes and generates increased porosity and micro-structure within the device. This creates additional pathways for release of the bioactive agent.

[0393] In some embodiments, the sensor is designed to be bioinert, e.g., by the use of bioinert materials. Bioinert materials do not substantially cause any response from the host. As a result, cells can live adjacent to the material but do not form

a bond with it. Bioinert materials include but are not limited to alumina, zirconia, titanium oxide or other bioinert materials generally used in the "catheter/catheterization" art. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that inclusion of a bioinert material in or on the sensor can reduce attachment of blood cells or proteins to the sensor, thrombosis or other host reactions to the sensor.

Sensor Electronics

[0394] The analyte sensor system has electronics, also referred to as a "computer system" that can include hardware, firmware, and/or software that enable measurement and processing of data associated with analyte levels in the host. In one exemplary embodiment, the electronics include a potentiostat, a power source for providing power to the sensor, and other components useful for signal processing. In another exemplary embodiment, the electronics include an RF module for transmitting data from sensor electronics to a receiver remote from the sensor. In another exemplary embodiment, the sensor electronics are wired to a receiver, which records the data and optionally transmits the data to a remote location, such as but not limited to a nurse's station, for tracking the host's progress and to alarm the staff if a hypoglycemic episode occurs.

[0395] Various components of the electronics of the sensor system can be disposed on or proximal to the analyte sensor, such as but not limited to disposed on the fluid coupler 20 of the system, such as the embodiment shown in FIG. 1A. In another embodiment, wherein the sensor is integrally formed on the catheter (e.g., see FIG. 2A) and the electronics are disposed on or proximal to the connector 218. In some embodiments, only a portion of the electronics (e.g., the potentiostat) is disposed on the device (e.g., proximal to the sensor), while the remaining electronics are disposed remotely from the device, such as on a stand or by the bedside. In a further embodiment, a portion of the electronics can be disposed in a central location, such as a nurse's station.

[0396] In additional embodiments, some or all of the electronics can be in wired or wireless communication with the sensor and/or other portions of the electronics. For example, a potentiostat disposed on the device can be wired to the remaining electronics (e.g., a processor, a recorder, a transmitter, a receiver, etc.), which reside on the bedside. In another example, some portion of the electronics is wirelessly connected to another portion of the electronics, such as by infrared (IR) or RF. In one embodiment, a potentiostat resides on the fluid coupler and is connected to a receiver by RF; accordingly, a battery, RF transmitter, and/or other minimally necessary electronics are provided with the fluid coupler and the receiver includes an RF receiver.

[0397] Preferably, the potentiostat is operably connected to the electrode(s) (such as described above), which biases the sensor to enable measurement of a current signal indicative of the analyte concentration in the host (also referred to as the analog portion). In some embodiments, the potentiostat includes a resistor that translates the current into voltage. In some alternative embodiments, a current to frequency converter is provided that is configured to continuously integrate the measured current, for example, using a charge counting device.

[0398] In some embodiments, the electronics include an A/D converter that digitizes the analog signal into a digital signal, also referred to as "counts" for processing. Accord-

ingly, the resulting raw data stream in counts, also referred to as raw sensor data, is directly related to the current measured by the potentiostat.

[0399] Typically, the electronics include a processor module that includes the central control unit that controls the processing of the sensor system. In some embodiments, the processor module includes a microprocessor, however a computer system other than a microprocessor can be used to process data as described herein, for example an ASIC can be used for some or all of the sensor's central processing. The processor typically provides semi-permanent storage of data, for example, storing data such as sensor identifier (ID) and programming to process data streams (for example, programming for data smoothing and/or replacement of signal artifacts such as is described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0043598-A1). The processor additionally can be used for the system's cache memory, for example for temporarily storing recent sensor data. In some embodiments, the processor module comprises memory storage components such as ROM, RAM, dynamic-RAM, static-RAM, non-static RAM, EEPROM, rewritable ROMs, flash memory, and the like.

[0400] In some embodiments, the processor module comprises a digital filter, for example, an infinite impulse response (IIR) or finite impulse response (FIR) filter, configured to smooth the raw data stream from the A/D converter. Generally, digital filters are programmed to filter data sampled at a predetermined time interval (also referred to as a sample rate). In some embodiments, wherein the potentiostat is configured to measure the analyte at discrete time intervals, these time intervals determine the sample rate of the digital filter. In some alternative embodiments, wherein the potentiostat is configured to continuously measure the analyte, for example, using a current-to-frequency converter as described above, the processor module can be programmed to request a digital value from the A/D converter at a predetermined time interval, also referred to as the acquisition time. In these alternative embodiments, the values obtained by the processor are advantageously averaged over the acquisition time due to the continuity of the current measurement. Accordingly, the acquisition time determines the sample rate of the digital filter. In preferred embodiments, the processor module is configured with a programmable acquisition time, namely, the predetermined time interval for requesting the digital value from the A/D converter is programmable by a user within the digital circuitry of the processor module. An acquisition time of from about 2 seconds to about 512 seconds is preferred; however any acquisition time can be programmed into the processor module. A programmable acquisition time is advantageous in optimizing noise filtration, time lag, and processing/battery power.

[0401] In some embodiments, the processor module is configured to build the data packet for transmission to an outside source, for example, an RF transmission to a receiver. Generally, the data packet comprises a plurality of bits that can include a preamble, a unique identifier identifying the electronics unit, the receiver, or both, (e.g., sensor ID code), data (e.g., raw data, filtered data, and/or an integrated value) and/or error detection or correction. Preferably, the data (transmission) packet has a length of from about 8 bits to about 128 bits, preferably about 48 bits; however, larger or smaller packets can be desirable in certain embodiments. The processor module can be configured to transmit any combination of raw and/or filtered data. In one exemplary embodiment, the

transmission packet contains a fixed preamble, a unique ID of the electronics unit, a single five-minute average (e.g., integrated) sensor data value, and a cyclic redundancy code (CRC).

[0402] In some embodiments, the processor module further comprises a transmitter portion that determines the transmission interval of the sensor data to a receiver, and the like. In some embodiments, the transmitter portion, which determines the interval of transmission, is configured to be programmable. In one such embodiment, a coefficient can be chosen (e.g. a number of from about 1 to about 100, or more), wherein the coefficient is multiplied by the acquisition time (or sampling rate), such as described above, to define the transmission interval of the data packet. Thus, in some embodiments, the transmission interval is programmable from about 2 seconds to about 850 minutes, more preferably from about 30 second to about 5 minutes; however, any transmission interval can be programmable or programmed into the processor module. However, a variety of alternative systems and methods for providing a programmable transmission interval can also be employed. By providing a programmable transmission interval, data transmission can be customized to meet a variety of design criteria (e.g. reduced battery consumption, timeliness of reporting sensor values, etc.)

[0403] In some embodiments, the processor further performs the processing, such as storing data, analyzing data streams, calibrating analyte sensor data, estimating analyte values, comparing estimated analyte values with time corresponding measured analyte values, analyzing a variation of estimated analyte values, downloading data, and controlling the user interface by providing analyte values, prompts, messages, warnings, alarms, and the like. In such cases, the processor includes hardware and software that performs the processing described herein, for example flash memory provides permanent or semi-permanent storage of data, storing data such as sensor ID, receiver ID, and programming to process data streams (for example, programming for performing estimation and other algorithms described elsewhere herein) and random access memory (RAM) stores the system's cache memory and is helpful in data processing. Alternatively, some portion of the data processing (such as described with reference to the processor elsewhere herein) can be accomplished at another (e.g., remote) processor and can be configured to be in wired or wireless connection therewith.

[0404] In some embodiments, an output module, which is integral with and/or operatively connected with the processor, includes programming for generating output based on the data stream received from the sensor system and it's processing incurred in the processor. In some embodiments, output is generated via a user interface.

[0405] In some embodiments, a user interface is provided integral with (e.g., on the patient inserted medical device), proximal to (e.g., a receiver near the medical device including bedside or on a stand), or remote from the sensor electronics (e.g., at a central station such as a nurse's station), wherein the user interface comprises a keyboard, speaker, vibrator, back-light, liquid crystal display (LCD) screen, and one or more buttons. The components that comprise the user interface include controls to allow interaction of the user with the sensor system. The keyboard can allow, for example, input of user information, such as mealtime, exercise, insulin administration, customized therapy recommendations, and reference analyte values. The speaker can produce, for example,

audible signals or alerts for conditions such as present and/or estimated hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic conditions. The vibrator can provide, for example, tactile signals or alerts for reasons such as described with reference to the speaker, above. The backlight can be provided, for example, to aid a user in reading the LCD in low light conditions. The LCD can be provided, for example, to provide the user with visual data output, such as is described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0203360-A1. In some embodiments, the LCD is a touch-activated screen, enabling each selection by a user, for example, from a menu on the screen. The buttons can provide for toggle, menu selection, option selection, mode selection, and reset, for example. In some alternative embodiments, a microphone can be provided to allow for voice-activated control.

[0406] In some embodiments, prompts or messages can be displayed on the user interface to convey information to the user, such as reference outlier values, requests for reference analyte values, therapy recommendations, deviation of the measured analyte values from the estimated analyte values, and the like. Additionally, prompts can be displayed to guide the user through calibration or trouble-shooting of the calibration.

[0407] Additionally, data output from the output module can provide wired or wireless, one- or two-way communication between the user interface and an external device. The external device can be any device that wherein interfaces or communicates with the user interface. In some embodiments, the external device is a computer, and the system is able to download historical data for retrospective analysis by the patient or physician, for example. In some embodiments, the external device is a modem or other telecommunications station, and the system is able to send alerts, warnings, emergency messages, and the like, via telecommunication lines to another party, such as a doctor or family member. In some embodiments, the external device is an insulin pen, and the system is able to communicate therapy recommendations, such as insulin amount and time to the insulin pen. In some embodiments, the external device is an insulin pump, and the system is able to communicate therapy recommendations, such as insulin amount and time to the insulin pump. The external device can include other technology or medical devices, for example pacemakers, implanted analyte sensor patches, other infusion devices, telemetry devices, and the like.

[0408] The user interface, including keyboard, buttons, a microphone (not shown), and optionally the external device, can be configured to allow input of data. Data input can be helpful in obtaining information about the patient (for example, meal time, insulin administration, and the like), receiving instructions from a physician (for example, customized therapy recommendations, targets, and the like), and downloading software updates, for example. Keyboard, buttons, touch-screen, and microphone are all examples of mechanisms by which a user can input data directly into the receiver. A server, personal computer, personal digital assistant, insulin pump, and insulin pen are examples of external devices that can provide useful information to the receiver. Other devices internal or external to the sensor that measure other aspects of a patient's body (for example, temperature sensor, accelerometer, heart rate monitor, oxygen monitor, and the like) can be used to provide input helpful in data processing. In one embodiment, the user interface can prompt the patient to select an activity most closely related to their

present activity, such as medication taken, surgical procedures, and the like, which can be helpful in linking to an individual's physiological patterns, or other data processing. In another embodiment, a temperature sensor and/or heart rate monitor can provide information helpful in linking activity, metabolism, and glucose excursions of an individual. While a few examples of data input have been provided here, a variety of information can be input, which can be helpful in data processing.

Algorithms

[0409] In some embodiments, calibration of an analyte sensor can be required, which includes data processing that converts sensor data signal into an estimated analyte measurement that is meaningful to a user. In general, the sensor system has a computer system (e.g., within the electronics) that receives sensor data (e.g. a data stream), including one or more time-spaced sensor data points, measured by the sensor. The sensor data point(s) can be smoothed (filtered) in certain embodiments using a filter, for example, a finite impulse response (FIR) or infinite impulse response (IIR) filter. During the initialization of the sensor, prior to initial calibration, the system can receive and store uncalibrated sensor data, however it can be configured to not display any data to the user until initial calibration and, optionally, stabilization of the sensor has been established. In some embodiments, the data stream can be evaluated to determine sensor break-in (equilibration of the sensor in vitro or in vivo).

[0410] In some embodiments, the system is configured to receive reference data from a reference analyte monitor, including one or more reference data points, also referred to as calibration information in some embodiments. The monitor can be of any suitable configuration. For example, in one embodiment, the reference analyte points can comprise results from a self-monitored blood analyte test (e.g., from a finger stick test, YSI, Beckman Glucose Analyzer, and the like), such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,045,567; 6,156,051; 6,197,040; 6,284,125; 6,413,410; and 6,733,655. In one such embodiment, the user can administer a self-monitored blood analyte test to obtain an analyte value (e.g., point) using any suitable analyte sensor, and then enter the numeric analyte value into the computer system. In another such embodiment, a self-monitored blood analyte test comprises a wired or wireless connection to the computer system so that the user simply initiates a connection between the two devices, and the reference analyte data is passed or downloaded between the self-monitored blood analyte test and the system. In yet another such embodiment, the self-monitored analyte test is integral with the receiver so that the user simply provides a blood sample to the receiver, and the receiver runs the analyte test to determine a reference analyte value.

[0411] In some alternative embodiments, the reference data is based on sensor data from another substantially continuous analyte sensor such as described herein, or another type of suitable continuous analyte sensor. In an embodiment employing a series of two or more continuous sensors, the sensors can be employed so that they provide sensor data in discrete or overlapping periods. In such embodiments, the sensor data from one continuous sensor can be used to calibrate another continuous sensor, or be used to confirm the validity of a subsequently employed continuous sensor.

[0412] In some embodiments, the sensor system is coupled to a blood analysis device that periodically or intermittently collects a sample of the host's blood (e.g., through the sensor

system) and measures the host's glucose concentration. In some embodiments, the blood analysis device collects a blood sample from the host about every 30 minutes, every hour, or every few hours (e.g., 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 or 10 hours or longer). In other embodiments, the blood analysis device can be activated manually (e.g., by a healthcare worker) to collect and analyze a blood sample from the host. The glucose concentration data generated by the blood analysis device can be used by the sensor system for calibration data. In some embodiments, the sensor system can electronically receive (either wired or wirelessly) these calibration data (from the blood analysis device). In other embodiments, these calibration data can be entered into the sensor system (e.g., sensor system electronics) by hand (e.g., manually entered by a healthcare worker).

[0413] In some embodiments, the sensor system is provided with one or more calibration solutions (e.g., glucose solutions). In some embodiments, the sensor is shipped in a calibration solution (e.g., soaked). The sensor is activated to calibrate itself (using the calibration solution in which it was shipped) before insertion into the host. In some embodiments, the sensor is shipped (e.g., soaked or dry) with one or more vials of calibration solution. The sensor can be soaked (e.g., sequentially) in the vial(s) of calibration solution; calibration data points collected and the sensor calibrated using those calibration points, before inserting the sensor into the host.

[0414] In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor is a glucose sensor, and it is shipped soaking in a sterile 50 mg/dl glucose solution with two accompanying calibration solutions (e.g., 100 mg/dl and 200 mg/dl sterile glucose solutions). Prior to insertion into the host, calibration data points are collected with the sensor in the 50 mg/dl, 100 mg/dl and 200 mg/dl glucose solutions respectively. The sensor system can be calibrated using the collected calibration data points (e.g., using regression as described in more detail elsewhere herein). In an alternative exemplary embodiment, the sensor is shipped dry (e.g., not soaking in a solution or buffer) with at least one calibration solution, for calibrating the sensor prior to insertion into the host. In some embodiments, a hand held glucose monitor (e.g., SMBG device described herein) can test the calibration solutions to generate calibration data points, which are transferred electronically or manually to the sensor system for calibration.

[0415] In some embodiments, a data matching module, also referred to as the processor module, matches reference data (e.g. one or more reference analyte data points) with substantially time corresponding sensor data (e.g. one or more sensor data points) to provide one or more matched data pairs. One reference data point can be matched to one time corresponding sensor data point to form a matched data pair. Alternatively, a plurality of reference data points can be averaged (e.g. equally or non-equally weighted average, mean-value, median, and the like) and matched to one time corresponding sensor data point to form a matched data pair, one reference data point can be matched to a plurality of time corresponding sensor data points averaged to form a matched data pair, or a plurality of reference data points can be averaged and matched to a plurality of time corresponding sensor data points averaged to form a matched data pair.

[0416] In some embodiments, a calibration set module, also referred to as the calibration module or processor module, forms an initial calibration set from a set of one or more matched data pairs, which are used to determine the relationship between the reference analyte data and the sensor analyte

data. The matched data pairs, which make up the initial calibration set, can be selected according to predetermined criteria. The criteria for the initial calibration set can be the same as, or different from, the criteria for the updated calibration sets. In certain embodiments, the number (n) of data pair(s) selected for the initial calibration set is one. In other embodiments, n data pairs are selected for the initial calibration set wherein n is a function of the frequency of the received reference data points. In various embodiments, two data pairs make up the initial calibration set or six data pairs make up the initial calibration set. In an embodiment wherein a substantially continuous analyte sensor provides reference data, numerous data points are used to provide reference data from more than 6 data pairs (e.g. dozens or even hundreds of data pairs). In one exemplary embodiment, a substantially continuous analyte sensor provides 288 reference data points per day (every five minutes for twenty-four hours), thereby providing an opportunity for a matched data pair 288 times per day, for example. While specific numbers of matched data pairs are referred to in the preferred embodiments, any suitable number of matched data pairs per a given time period can be employed.

[0417] In some embodiments, a conversion function module, also referred to as the conversion module or processor module, uses the calibration set to create a conversion function. The conversion function substantially defines the relationship between the reference analyte data and the analyte sensor data.

[0418] A variety of known methods can be used with the preferred embodiments to create the conversion function from the calibration set. In one embodiment, wherein a plurality of matched data points form the calibration set, a linear least squares regression is used to calculate the conversion function; for example, this regression calculates a slope and an offset using the equation $y = mx + b$. A variety of regression or other conversion schemes can be implemented herein.

[0419] In some alternative embodiments, the sensor is a dual-electrode system. In one such dual-electrode system, a first electrode functions as a hydrogen peroxide sensor including a membrane system containing glucose-oxidase disposed thereon, which operates as described herein. A second electrode is a hydrogen peroxide sensor that is configured similar to the first electrode, but with a modified membrane system (with the enzyme domain removed, for example). This second electrode provides a signal composed mostly of the baseline signal, b.

[0420] In some dual-electrode systems, the baseline signal is (electronically or digitally) subtracted from the glucose signal to obtain a glucose signal substantially without baseline. Accordingly, calibration of the resultant difference signal can be performed by solving the equation $y = mx$ with a single paired measurement. Calibration of the implanted sensor in this alternative embodiment can be made less dependent on the values/range of the paired measurements, less sensitive to error in manual blood glucose measurements, and can facilitate the sensor's use as a primary source of glucose information for the user. U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1 describes systems and methods for subtracting the baseline from a sensor signal.

[0421] In some alternative dual-electrode system embodiments, the analyte sensor is configured to transmit signals obtained from each electrode separately (e.g. without subtraction of the baseline signal). In this way, the receiver can process these signals to determine additional information

about the sensor and/or analyte concentration. For example, by comparing the signals from the first and second electrodes, changes in baseline and/or sensitivity can be detected and/or measured and used to update calibration (e.g. without the use of a reference analyte value). In one such example, by monitoring the corresponding first and second signals over time, an amount of signal contributed by baseline can be measured. In another such example, by comparing fluctuations in the correlating signals over time, changes in sensitivity can be detected and/or measured.

[0422] In some alternative embodiments, a regression equation $y=m \times + b$ is used to calculate the conversion function; however, prior information can be provided for m and/or b , thereby enabling calibration to occur with fewer paired measurements. In one calibration technique, prior information (e.g. obtained from in vivo or in vitro tests) determines a sensitivity of the sensor and/or the baseline signal of the sensor by analyzing sensor data from measurements taken by the sensor (e.g. prior to inserting the sensor). For example, if there exists a predictive relationship between in vitro sensor parameters and in vivo parameters, then this information can be used by the calibration procedure. For example, if a predictive relationship exists between in vitro sensitivity and in vivo sensitivity, $m \approx f(m_{in vitro})$ then the predicted m can be used, along with a single matched pair, to solve for b ($b=y - mx$). If, in addition, b can be assumed=0, for example with a dual-electrode configuration that enables subtraction of the baseline from the signal such as described above, then both m and b are known a priori, matched pairs are not needed for calibration, and the sensor can be completely calibrated e.g. without the need for reference analyte values (e.g. values obtained after implantation in vivo.)

[0423] In another alternative embodiment, prior information can be provided to guide or validate the baseline (b) and/or sensitivity (m) determined from the regression analysis. In this embodiment, boundaries can be set for the regression line that defines the conversion function such that working sensors are calibrated accurately and easily (with two points), and non-working sensors are prevented from being calibrated. If the boundaries are drawn too tightly, a working sensor may not enter into calibration. Likewise, if the boundaries are drawn too loosely, the scheme can result in inaccurate calibration or can permit non-working sensors to enter into calibration. For example, subsequent to performing regression, the resulting slope and/or baseline are tested to determine whether they fall within a predetermined acceptable threshold (boundaries). These predetermined acceptable boundaries can be obtained from in vivo or in vitro tests (e.g. by a retrospective analysis of sensor sensitivities and/or baselines collected from a set of sensors/patients, assuming that the set is representative of future data).

[0424] In some alternative embodiments, the sensor system does not require initial and/or update calibration by the host; in these alternative embodiments, also referred to as “zero-point calibration” embodiments, use of the sensor system without requiring a reference analyte measurement for initial and/or update calibration is enabled. In general, the systems and methods of the preferred embodiments provide for stable and repeatable sensor manufacture, particularly when tightly controlled manufacturing processes are utilized. Namely, a batch of sensors of the preferred embodiments can be designed with substantially the same baseline (b) and/or sensitivity (m) ($+/- 10\%$) when tested in vitro. Additionally, the sensor of the preferred embodiments can be designed for

repeatable m and b in vivo. Thus, an initial calibration factor (conversion function) can be programmed into the sensor (sensor electronics and/or receiver electronics) that enables conversion of raw sensor data into calibrated sensor data solely using information obtained prior to implantation (namely, initial calibration does not require a reference analyte value). Additionally, to obviate the need for recalibration (update calibration) during the life of the sensor, the sensor is designed to minimize drift of the sensitivity and/or baseline over time in vivo. Accordingly, the preferred embodiments can be manufactured for zero point calibration.

[0425] In some embodiments, a sensor data transformation module, also referred to as the calibration module, conversion module, or processor module, uses the conversion function to transform sensor data into substantially real-time analyte value estimates, also referred to as calibrated data, or converted sensor data, as sensor data is continuously (or intermittently) received from the sensor. For example, the sensor data, which can be provided to the receiver in “counts,” is translated in to estimate analyte value(s) in mg/dL. In other words, the offset value at any given point in time can be subtracted from the raw value (e.g., in counts) and divided by the slope to obtain the estimate analyte value:

$$\text{mg/dL} = \frac{(\text{rawvalue} - \text{offset})}{\text{slope}}$$

[0426] In some embodiments, an output module provides output to the user via the user interface. The output is representative of the estimated analyte value, which is determined by converting the sensor data into a meaningful analyte value. User output can be in the form of a numeric estimated analyte value, an indication of directional trend of analyte concentration, and/or a graphical representation of the estimated analyte data over a period of time, for example. Other representations of the estimated analyte values are also possible, for example audio and tactile.

[0427] In some embodiments, annotations are provided on the graph; for example, bitmap images are displayed thereon, which represent events experienced by the host. For example, information about meals, medications, insulin, exercise, sensor insertion, sleep, and the like, can be obtained by the receiver (by user input or receipt of a transmission from another device) and displayed on the graphical representation of the host's glucose over time. It is believed that illustrating a host's life events matched with a host's glucose concentration over time can be helpful in educating the host to his or her metabolic response to the various events.

[0428] In yet another alternative embodiment, the sensor utilizes one or more additional electrodes to measure an additional analyte. Such measurements can provide a baseline or sensitivity measurement for use in calibrating the sensor. Furthermore, baseline and/or sensitivity measurements can be used to trigger events such as digital filtering of data or suspending display of data, all of which are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1.

[0429] In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor can be calibrated by a calibration solution. For example, after the sensor system has been inserted into the host, a calibration solution can be injected so as to pass across the electroactive surface of the analyte-measuring electrode and the sensor calibrated thereby. For example, the saline drip can be changed to a known IV glucose or dextrose solution (e.g.,

D50—a 50% dextrose solution, or D5W—a 5% dextrose solution). In one embodiment, a known volume of D5W is infused into the host at a known rate over a predetermined period of time (e.g., 5, 10, 15 or 20 minutes, or for shorter or longer periods). During and/or after the period of infusion, the sensor measures the signal at the analyte-measuring working electrode. The system, knowing the specifications of the infused calibration solution (also referred to as a calibration information in some embodiments), can calibrate the signal to obtain host's glucose concentration as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. In a further embodiment, two or more glucose or dextrose solutions can be infused, with a corresponding signal being measured during each infusion, to provide additional data for sensor calibration. Calibration can be performed after the sensor has first been inserted into the host, after a break-in time, at two or more different levels (high/low), regularly, intermittently, in response to sensor drift/shift, automatically or any other time when calibration is required. In some alternative embodiments, calibration can be determined during sensor break-in, such as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0430] In some circumstances, catheters are flushed with saline. For example, the analyte sensor system of the preferred embodiments can be flushed with saline prior to application of control solutions, after which a predetermined amount of glucose solution is flushed by the sensor, as described above, and the sensor is calibrated there from.

[0431] In still another embodiment, a blood sample can be withdrawn from an artery or vein, and used to calibrate the sensor, for example, by using a hand-held glucose meter, by an automatic extracorporeal glucose sensor such as but not limited to in conjunction with an automated bedside clinical chemistry device, or by sending the blood sample to the clinical laboratory for glucose analysis, after which the data is input (e.g., into the electronics associated with the sensor system).

[0432] In some embodiments, the sensor can be calibrated (and/or re-calibrated) during use (after initial calibration), for example, by withdrawing one or more blood samples (also referred to as calibration information in some embodiments), through the catheter (see FIGS. 1 and 2) and used for calibration of the sensor, such as by measuring the glucose concentration of the blood sample with an additional system, such as but not limited to a hand-held glucose meter, optical methods or additional electrochemical methods. Blood samples can be withdrawn manually or automatically; additionally or alternatively, blood samples are withdrawn at regular intervals or at selected times, for example, using an extracorporeal blood analysis device as described herein.

[0433] In another embodiment of sensor calibration (and/or re-calibration) during use, a calibration solution (e.g., 40 mg/dL equivalent glucose, D540 or D5W) can be flushed through or by the sensor to enable calibration of the sensor (e.g., at one time, intermittently, or continuously), such as described in more detail above. In these embodiments, calibration solution can be flushed manually or automatically through the system; additionally or alternatively, calibration solution can be flushed at regular intervals or at selected times. In one exemplary embodiment, the system can be provided with a dual lumen, one for saline and another for the control solution. Additionally, the system is configured to

automatically switch from the saline to control solution and perform the real-time system calibration, and then switch back to the saline solution.

Integrated Sensor System

System Overview

[0434] As described above, tight control of glucose levels is critical to patient outcome in a critical care medical setting, especially for diabetic hosts. Maintaining tight glucose control with current technology poses an undue burden to medical personnel, due to time constraints and the extensive patient contact required. Reducing medical staff workload is a key component of improving patient care in this setting. The preferred embodiments disclose systems and methods to maintaining tight glucose control in the host while reducing and/or minimizing staff-patient interactions. Additionally, the preferred embodiments decrease testing intervals and improve sensor accuracy and reliability.

[0435] FIGS. 6 and 7 illustrate one preferred embodiment of the integrated sensor system 600 (e.g., for use at the bedside), which couples to the analyte sensor 14 (e.g., a glucose sensor) and vascular access device 12 (e.g., a catheter placed in a peripheral vein or artery) described above (see FIGS. 1A-1E), and which includes at least one fluid reservoir 602 (e.g., a bag of calibration or IV hydration solution), a flow control device 604 (e.g., to control delivery of an infusion fluid 602a from the reservoir to the host via the catheter), a local analyzer 608 and a remote analyzer 610. In some embodiments, the analyte sensor is configured to reside within the catheter lumen 12a (see FIGS. 1A-1E). In some embodiments, the sensor is disposed within the catheter such the sensor does not protrude from the catheter orifice 12b. In other embodiments, the sensor is disposed within the catheter such that at least a portion of the sensor protrudes from the catheter orifice. In still other embodiments, the sensor is configured to move between protruding and non-protruding dispositions. The analyte sensor and vascular access device used in the integrated sensor system 600 can be any types known in the art, such as but not limited to analyte sensors and vascular access devices described above, in the sections entitled "Applications/Uses" and "Exemplary Sensor Configurations." For convenience, the vascular access device 12 will be referred to as a catheter herein. However, one skilled in the art appreciates that other vascular access devices can be used in place of a catheter.

[0436] In some embodiments, at least one electronics module (not shown) is included in the local and/or remote analyzers 608, 610 respectively, for controlling execution of various system functions, such as but not limited to system initiation, sensor calibration, movement of the flow control device 604 from one position to another, collecting and/or analyzing data, and the like. In preferred embodiments, the components and functions of the electronics module can be divided into two or more parts, such as between the local analyzer and remote analyzer, as is discussed in greater detail in the sections entitled "Local Analyzer" and "Remote Analyzer."

[0437] In some embodiments, the flow control device 604 includes one or more valves and is configured to control fluid delivery to the host and sample take-up (e.g., drawing blood back into the catheter until at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces are contacted by the blood). In some embodiments, the sensor 14 dwells within the lumen 12a of the catheter 12, as described elsewhere herein. In some embodiments,

wherein an internal calibration is performed, an infusion fluid (e.g., calibration solution **602a**) flows over the indwelling sensor **14** and is infused into the host. Generally, analyte in the solution **602a** can be measured when the sensor electroactive surfaces are in contact with the solution **602a**. In some embodiments, the measurements of the solution **602a** can be used to calibrate the sensor **14**. After calibration, the system is configured such that a sample (e.g., blood or other bodily fluid) contacts the sensor's electroactive surfaces (e.g., by drawing blood back into the catheter). When the sample contacts the electroactive surfaces, the sample's analyte concentration can be detected by the sensor **14**. When a sample is drawn back, the sample can then be returned to the host. In some embodiments, the integrated sensor system **600** cycles between calibration (e.g., measurement of a reference calibration solution) and measurement (e.g., of a sample, such as blood, glucose concentration). In some embodiments, the system **600** continues operation in this cyclical manner, until the system **600** is either disconnected from the host or turned off for a period of time (e.g., during movement of the host from one location to another). For example, in one embodiment, the system **600** cycles between the calibration and measurement steps from about every 30 seconds or less to about every 2 hours or more. In another embodiment, the system **600** cycles between the calibration and measurement steps of from about every 2 minutes to about every 45 minutes. In still another embodiment, the system **600** cycles between the calibration and measurement steps from about every 1 minute to about every 10 minutes. In some embodiments, the user can adjust the time between steps. In some embodiments, the user can adjust the time between each step. In some embodiments, the system **600** can perform additional steps, such as but not limited to a flushing step, a keep vein open step (KVO), an extended infusion step, and the like. In some embodiments, the time is dependent upon sensors that detect a reference solution (e.g., calibration solution) and/or sample (e.g., blood) at the electroactive surfaces.

[0438] The integrated sensor system **600** of the preferred embodiments provides several advantages over prior art technology. Namely, in preferred embodiments, continuous analyte monitoring is enabled. When the analyte is glucose, continuous glucose monitoring enables tight glucose control, which can lead to reduced morbidity and mortality among diabetic hosts. Additionally, the medial staff is not unduly burdened by additional patient interaction requirements. Advantageously, there is no net sample (e.g., blood) loss for the host, which is a critical feature in some clinical settings. For example, in a neonatal intensive care unit, the host is extremely small and loss of even a few milliliters of blood can be life threatening. Furthermore, returning the body fluid sample to the host, instead of delivering to a waste container greatly reduces the accumulation of biohazardous waste that requires special disposal procedures. The integrated sensor system components, as well as their use in conjunction with an indwelling analyte sensor, are discussed in greater detail below.

Fluids

[0439] Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, in preferred embodiments, the integrated sensor system **600** includes at least one reservoir **602** that contains an infusion fluid **602a**, such as but not limited to reference (e.g., calibration), hydration and/or flushing solutions. For simplicity, the infusion fluid **602a** will be referred to herein as a solution **602a**. However, one skilled

in the art recognizes that a wide variety of infusible fluids can be used in the embodiments discussed herein.

[0440] In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** includes a container such as but not limited to an IV bag. In other embodiments, the reservoir **602** can include two or more IV bags, or any other sterile infusion fluid container. In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** is a multi-compartment container, such as but not limited to a multi-compartment IV bag. If two or more solutions **602a** (e.g., calibration solutions, flush solutions, medication delivery solutions, etc.) are used, the solutions **602a** can be contained in two or more IV bags or in a multi-compartment IV bag, for example. In some embodiments, it is preferred to use a single solution **602a**. Use of a single solution **602a** for calibration, catheter flushing and the like simplifies the system **600** by reducing the complexity and/or number of system **600** components required for system **600** function. In some embodiments, two or more solutions **602a** are preferred, and can be provided by a multi-compartment IV bag or two or more separate reservoirs **602** (e.g., two or more bags, each containing a different solution **602a**). Advantageously, use of multiple solutions **602a** can increase system functionality **600** and can improve sensor accuracy.

[0441] Any infusion fluid (e.g., solution **602a**) known in the art can be used in conjunction with the present system **600**. In some embodiments, the solution **602a** is an analyte-containing solution that can be used as a reference or standard for sensor **14** calibration (generally referred to as a calibration solution in the art). In some embodiments, a solution **602a** can be used as a flushing solution, to wash a sample off the sensor **14** and out of the catheter **12**. In some embodiments, two or more solutions **602a** (e.g., having different analyte concentrations) can be used to provide two or more calibration measurements. In one exemplary embodiment, the analyte sensor **14** is a glucose sensor, and the solution **602a** contains dextrose or glucose at a concentration of from about 0 mg/dl to about 400 mg/dl. In preferred embodiments, the solution **602a** contains from about 75 mg/dl to about 200 mg/dl glucose. In more preferred embodiments, the solution **602a** contains from about 100 mg/dl to about 150 mg/dl glucose. In some embodiments, the solution **602a** is an isotonic saline solution. In some embodiments, the solution **602a** contains a sufficient concentration of an anticoagulant to substantially prevent blood clotting in and/or near the catheter **14**. In some embodiments, the solution **602a** contains a sufficient concentration of or antimicrobial to substantially prevent infection in and/or near the catheter. In one exemplary embodiment, the reservoir **602** is a 500 ml bag containing a sterile solution **602a** including 0.9% sodium chloride in water (e.g., normal saline), 2 IU/ml heparin and 100 mg/dl dextrose. In another exemplary embodiment, the reservoir **602** is a 500 ml bag containing heparinized saline.

[0442] In some embodiments, one, two or more solutions **602a** can be used in conjunction with the integrated sensor system **600**. For example, in some embodiments, two or more calibration solutions **602a** (e.g., solutions with different analyte concentrations) can be used. In one preferred embodiment, the analyte sensor **14** is a glucose sensor and the calibration solution **602a** includes a glucose concentration of from 0 mg/dl to about 300 mg/dl or more. In one exemplary embodiment, a single calibration solution **602a** (e.g., having a 100 mg/dl glucose concentration) can be used. In another exemplary embodiment, two calibration solutions **602a** (e.g., having 100 mg/dl and 0 mg/dl glucose concentrations) can be

used. In other exemplary embodiments, three calibration (e.g., 0 mg/dl glucose, 75 mg/dl glucose and 300 mg/dl glucose) solutions **602a** can be used. In still other embodiments, more than three calibration solutions **602a** can be used. In addition to calibration solutions **602a**, non-calibration solutions **602a** can be used in conjunction with the integrated sensor system **600**, such as but not limited to intravenously administered drugs, insulin, enzymes, nutritional fluids, and the like.

[0443] The solution **602a** can be provided to the user in a variety of ways, depending upon local hospital protocol and/or physician preference. In some embodiments, the solution **602a** is supplied pre-mixed (e.g., an IV bag containing sodium chloride, dextrose and heparin), such that fluid reservoir **602** can be connected to an infusion set and infused into the host with minimal effort. In other embodiments, one or more of the solution components **602a** can be provided separately, such that the final solution **602a** is prepared at the host's bedside, at the nurse's station or in the hospital pharmacy, for example. In one exemplary embodiment, the solution **602a** can be provided to the medical staff as a kit including a bag of sterile solution (e.g., water) and injectable sodium chloride, dextrose and heparin aliquots of sufficient quantity to prepare the final solution **602a**. The solution **602a** can be mixed at the bedside or at a location remote from the host, and then applied to the host and to the integrated sensor system **600**. In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** is a 500 ml or 1000 ml bag containing a sterile solution of heparinized saline and 100 mg/dl, 150 mg/dl or 200 mg/dl glucose.

[0444] In various preferred embodiments, the solutions **602a** are administered with standard IV administration lines, such as those commonly used today, such as a sterile, single-use IV set, referred to herein as tubing **606**. In some embodiments, the tubing **606** can be provided with the solution(s) **602a**. While in other embodiments, the tubing **606** can be provided separately from the solution(s) **602a** or other system components. Additional system **600** components that can be provided with the solution(s) **602a** include but are not limited to a sensor **14**, a catheter **12**, tubing **606**, a local analyzer **608**, wires/cables for hard-wire connections between system components, and the like.

[0445] In some embodiments, multiple solutions **602a** can be infused through a multi-lumen catheter **12**, such as but not limited to a two-lumen or three-lumen catheter. In some embodiments, the sensor **14** is disposed in one of the catheter's lumens **12a**, through which one or more calibration solutions **602a** can be passed, while other fluids (e.g., hydration fluids, drugs, nutritional fluids) to be delivered to the patient are infused through the other catheter **12** lumens **12a** (e.g., second, third or more lumens).

[0446] In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** is held by a support **612**. The support **612** can take many forms, such as an elevated support. In some embodiments, the support **612** is an IV pole, such those commonly used in medical care facilities. In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** is suspended on the support **612**, and the height of the reservoir **602** can be adjusted (e.g., raised or lowered) to modulate solution **602a** discharge from the reservoir **602**.

[0447] In some embodiments, the reservoir **602** and solution **602a** can be provided with one or more system **600** components, such as in a kit. In one exemplary embodiment, a kit including the components to mix the solution **602a** can include an analyte sensor **14** and a standard infusion set (e.g., catheter **12**, cannula, IV tubing **606**, etc.). In other embodiments, a kit can include a premixed solution **602a**, with an analyte sensor **14**. In various embodiments, a kit can contain instructions for use, such as for mixing the solution **602a** and applying it to the integrated sensor system **600**. Advantageously, providing either a pre-mixed solution **602a** or solution components with one or more system **600** components (e.g., sensor **14**, catheter **12**, tubing **606**, local analyzer **608**) can increase efficiency of medical care and provide ease of use to the nursing staff

Flow Regulators

[0448] Still referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, in some embodiments, a flow regulator **602b** controls the solution **602a** flow rate from the reservoir **602** to the flow control device **604**, which is described below. A variety of flow regulators can be used with the preferred embodiments, including but not limited to pinch valves, such as rotating pinch valves and linear pinch valves, cams and the like. In one exemplary embodiment, the flow regulator **602b** is a pinch valve, supplied with the IV set and located on the tubing **606** adjacent to and below the drip chamber. In some embodiments, a flow regulator **602b** controls the flow rate from the reservoir **602** to a flow control device **604**, which is described in the section entitled "Flow Control Device." In some embodiments, a flow regulator is optional; and a flow control device **604** controls the flow rate (e.g., from the reservoir **602** to the catheter **14**, described elsewhere herein).

Flow Control Device

[0449] In preferred embodiments, the integrated sensor system **600** includes a flow control device **604**. In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** is configured to regulate the exposure of the sensor **14** to the solution **602a** and to host sample (e.g., blood or other bodily fluid). In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can include a variety of flow regulating devices, such as but not limited to valves, cams, pumps, and the like. In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a simple linear pinch valve. In another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes two or more linear pinch valves. In another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes one or more non-linear pinch valves. In another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a global valve. In still another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a gate valve, such as but not limited to a rising stem or non-rising-stem valve. In another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a butterfly valve or a ball valve. In still another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a pump, such as but not limited to volumetric infusion pumps, peristaltic pumps, piston pumps and syringe pumps. In still other exemplary embodiments, the flow control device **604** can be configured to vary the pressure at the reservoir **602**, such as but not limited to a pressure cuff around an IV bag and/or raising/lowering the reservoir adjust head pressure. In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** includes a gravity-fed valve. In still other embodiments, the flow control device **604** is configured to use flow dynamics at the catheter **12**, to regulate exposure to the sensor to solution or sample, as described elsewhere herein. Although some exemplary glucose sensors are described in detail herein, the system **600** can be configured to utilize a variety of analyte sensors including a variety of measurement technologies, such as enzymatic,

chemical, physical, electrochemical, spectrophotometric, polarimetric, calorimetric, radiometric, and the like.

[0450] Referring now to a preferred embodiment wherein the sensor is an enzyme-based sensor, it is known to those skilled in the art that the rate of an enzymatic reaction is temperature dependent. Depending upon the enzyme, temperature reductions generally slow enzymatic reaction rates; temperature increases generally increase reaction rates. Since the analyte sensors **14** described in the preferred embodiment herein depend upon an enzyme (e.g., GOX) to detect the analyte (e.g., glucose) temperature changes during sensor calibration can result in artifacts on the sensor signal. For example, if the solution **602a** temperature is reduced (relative to body temperature), the enzymatic reaction will proceed at a reduced rate (relative to the rate at body temperature), causing the solution's analyte concentration to appear artificially low, which can result in improper sensor calibration. An improperly calibrated sensor can aberrantly measure the analyte concentration in the sample (e.g., blood from the host). Aberrant readings of sample analyte concentration can lead to improper treatment decisions by the medical staff and/or the host. The effects of temperature on enzymatic reaction rates can be mathematically described using a temperature coefficient. Signal artifacts caused by temperature-related reductions in enzyme reaction rate are referred to herein as temperature coefficient artifacts.

[0451] Generally, the host tissue in which the catheter **12** has been implanted surrounds an in vivo portion of the catheter **12**. In preferred embodiments, the flow control device **604** is configured to pass the solution **602a** through the catheter **12** at a rate such that the solution's temperature substantially equilibrates with the temperature of the surrounding host tissue. In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** maintains a flow rate of from about 0.5 μ l/min or less to about 1.5 ml/min or more. In one preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 1 μ l/min to about 1.0 ml/min. In one exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min. In another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.05 ml/min to about 0.1 ml/min. Advantageously, since the flow control device **604** infuses the solution **602a** at a rate sufficient to allow substantial temperature equilibration with the surrounding tissue, sensor **14** accuracy is improved and the integrated sensor system **600** has substantially no temperature coefficient artifacts.

[0452] In some alternative embodiments, a faster flow rate that does not allow for temperature equilibration is preferred. In such circumstances, measurement inaccuracies due to temperature coefficient can be generally eliminated mathematically using b_{offset} and the calibration methods described in the section entitled "Systems and Methods for Processing Sensor Data."

[0453] In some embodiments, sample is taken up into the same catheter lumen **12a** through which the solution **602a** is infused into the host (described elsewhere herein). Thus, it is preferred that mixing of the sample and the solution **602a** is prevented. Similarly, it can be advantageous to detect when the sensor **14** is in contact with undiluted sample and/or undiluted solution. In some preferred embodiments of the integrated sensor system **600**, the flow control device **604** is configured to substantially prevent mixing of two or more fluids, such as but not limited to the solution **602a** and a host sample (e.g., blood). In preferred embodiments, mixing can be substantially prevented by a combination of factors,

including specific gravity and flow rate. It is known that two solutions with different specific gravities tend not to mix, provided that the fluids are moved at a sufficiently slow rate (e.g., flow rate). Human whole blood has a specific gravity of about 1.05-1.06, while an infusion solution of 5% dextrose and 0.225% NaCl has a specific gravity of about 1.0189. Due to the difference in specific gravities, a blood sample and the solution **602a** tend to resist mixing within the tubing **606** when the flow rate is sufficiently slow. In preferred embodiments, the sample and the solution **602a** are moved within the catheter lumen **12a** at a rate such that substantially no mixing occurs therebetween. In some embodiments, the flow rate is from about 0.001 ml/min or less to about 2.0 ml/min or more. In preferred embodiments, the flow rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 1.0 ml/min. In one exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.35 ml/min. In another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min. In yet another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.085 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min.

[0454] In preferred embodiments, the flow control device **604** can include a variety of fluid flow-regulating devices known in the art. In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** includes one or more valves, such as but not limited to linear and non-linear roller valves, linear and non-linear pinch valves, bi-directional valves (either linear or non-linear), peristaltic rollers, cams, combinations thereof, and the like. In some other embodiments, the flow control device **604** is configured to generate sufficient "head pressure" to overcome the host's blood pressure such that the solution **602a** is infused into the host at a controlled rate; this can include elevating the fluid reservoir **602** (e.g., gravity fed) and using a valve to control the fluid flow rate out of the reservoir **602** and into the host. In one exemplary embodiment, the fluid flows at a maximum rate (e.g., about 6.25 ml/hr) such that a maximum fluid volume of about 150 ml/day can be infused into the host, however ranges much higher and/or lower can be implemented with the preferred embodiments.

[0455] In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device **604** is a rotating pinch valve that has first and second positions. The valve can move between the two positions, for example, backward and forward, and thereby move fluids in and out of the catheter, as described in the section entitled "Flow Control Device Function." Namely, solution **602a** can be moved from the reservoir **602**, over the electroactive surfaces of the sensor **14** and into the host; and sample can be drawn up from the host, to cover the electroactive surfaces of the sensor **14**, and then pushed back into the host, by movement of the valve between the first and second positions.

[0456] In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device includes a rotating pinch valve as described with reference to FIGS. 8A through 8C. Although FIGS. 8A to 8C describe one implementation of a rotating pinch valve that can be implemented with the sensor system, some alternatives include rotating pinch valves with multiple pinch surfaces, for example around the circumference of the rotatable axle (FIG. 8, **804**), which enables the use of one valve for multiple infusion fluids (e.g., using multiple IV lines).

[0457] In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** includes one or more cams that regulate the flow rate. In one embodiment, the flow control device **604** includes a plurality of fixed orifices, which are opened and closed by the cams. As the cams are rotated, the flow increases and/or decreases in

response. In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device 604 includes three openings and three cams that mate with the openings (one cam per opening); fluid can flow through each opening at a given rate, X ml/min. Accordingly, when the cams close all three openings, flow is stopped. When one of the openings is opened, the fluid flows at X ml/min. If two openings are opened, fluid flows at $2 \times$ ml/min. Similarly, when the three openings are opened (e.g., by turning the cams such that they no longer close the openings), the fluid flows at $3 \times$ ml/min.

[0458] In another example, the flow control device 604 includes a plurality of cams and an equal plurality to tubes 606 passing through the cams, such that each cam can pinch closed the tube 606 that passes through it. In an exemplary embodiment, the cams are arranged such that they pinch and roll the tubing 606, such that fluid is pushed into the host and sample taken up at pre-determined rates and times. For example, the flow control device 604 can include two cams, each having a tube 606 threaded therethrough. The cams are arranged such that each cam pinches and rolls the tubing 606 passing therethrough to push fluid into the host at one or more rates and to take up a blood sample.

[0459] In yet another example, the flow control device includes a rotating ball valve controlled by a motor, wherein the direction of the ball valve can be utilized to control a variety of functions, such as flow direction of the fluid.

[0460] In some embodiments, an electronics module (not shown) is incorporated into the flow control device 604, to provide local control over flow control device function; in these embodiments, the flow control device function can be transmitted to the local and/or remote analyzer for processing. In other embodiments, a remote analyzer 610 and/or electronics module, such as but not limited to a computer system, controls the flow control device 604. System 600 components that regulate the flow control device 604 are discussed in greater detail elsewhere herein.

[0461] In a further embodiment, the flow control device 604 is a computer controlled rolling pinch valve that acts on the exterior of sterile tubing 606 in order to control the gravity flow of a solution 602a from an elevated fluid reservoir 602 into the host. In preferred embodiments, the flow control device 604 is configured to pinch and roll a small volume of tubing 606 such that a sample of host blood is drawn up into the catheter 12 (e.g., with a sensor 14 disposed therein) for analyte measurement, and to then push the sample back into the host with a solution (e.g., the calibration solution 602a). In general, the flow control device 604 is configured to oscillate between drawing up a blood sample and allowing flow of the calibration solution 602a at a predetermined rate. In some embodiments, the flow control device 604 includes at least one "hard stop" that ensures that the flow control device 604 does not move to a position that could endanger and/or injure the host, such as by draining the IV bag 602 of fluid 602a or inappropriately (e.g., excessively) withdrawing blood, for example.

Tubing Catheter

[0462] Referring again to FIGS. 6 and 7, in preferred embodiments, the integrated sensor system 600 includes tubing 606 (e.g., sterile tubing configured for use in intravascular fluid infusion) and a catheter 12, to deliver the solution 602a from the reservoir 602 to the host. Generally, the tubing 606 and catheter 12 are sterile, single use devices generally used in medical fluid infusion, and may be referred to as an "infu-

sion set." An infusion set may include additional components, such as but not limited to a cannula or needle for implanting the catheter, sterilization fluid (e.g., on a gauze pad) for cleaning/sterilizing the insertion site (e.g., the host's skin), tape, gauze, and the like. IV tubing is available in a variety of sizes and configurations, which find use in the preferred embodiments. For example, the tubing can be any size internal diameter, such as from about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm internal diameter. In various embodiments, the tubing can include a drip chamber and/or one or more access devices, such as but not limited to stopcocks, diaphragms and the like.

[0463] Catheters 12 are available in a variety of sizes and configurations. Catheters 12 for use in conjunction with an analyte sensor 14 are described in detail, elsewhere herein. Briefly, the catheter 12 can be any single- or multi-lumen catheter having a straight or divided tubing connector (e.g., straight-through, single shut off, double shut off, non-spill couplings, valves, T-connectors, Y-connectors, X-connectors, pinch clamps, leur locks, back-flow valves, and the like). In some embodiments, the catheter 12 is configured with an integrally formed sensor 14. In alternative embodiments, a non-integral sensor 14 is configured for insertion into the catheter 12 after catheter insertion. In some embodiments, the catheter 12 is a single lumen catheter that is configured for infusion of a fluid. In preferred embodiments, an indwelling sensor 14 is disposed within the catheter's lumen 12a. In some embodiments, the catheter 12 and sensor 14 are provided to a user together. In other embodiments, the catheter 12 and sensor 14 are supplied separately. In an alternative embodiment, the catheter 12 is a multi-lumen catheter configured for infusion of two or more solutions. In preferred embodiments, a sensor 14 is disposed within one of the catheter's multiple lumens 12a. For example, a calibration solution 602a (e.g., 100 mg/dl glucose in saline) can be infused through the lumen 12a in which the sensor 14 is disposed, while a hydration fluid (e.g., including a medication) can be infused through a second lumen. Advantageously, a dual lumen catheter 12 allows non-interrupted system use while other fluids are concurrently provided to the host.

[0464] In some embodiments, only the working electrode (s) of the sensor 14 are disposed within the catheter lumen 12a and the reference electrode is disposed remotely from the working electrode(s). In other embodiments, the sensor 14 is configured to intermittently protrude from the catheter lumen 12a.

Sample-Contacting Sensor

[0465] In preferred embodiments, the integrated sensor system 600 is configured such that at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces can be exposed to a sample and the sample's analyte concentration can be detected. Contacting the sensor 14 with the sample can be accomplished in a variety of ways, depending upon sensor/catheter configuration. A wide variety of catheter 12 and/or sensor 14 configurations can be implemented in the preferred embodiments, to expose the sensor's electroactive surfaces to a biological sample. In one exemplary embodiment, the catheter 12 is disposed in the host's peripheral vascular system, such as in a peripheral vein or artery, and a blood sample is taken up into the catheter 12 such that the blood contacts the sensor's electroactive surfaces. In another exemplary embodiment, the catheter 12 can be disposed in the host's central vascular system or in an extracorporeal blood flow device, such as but not limited to an arterial-venous shunt, an extravascular blood-testing appa-

tus, a dialysis machine and the like, wherein blood samples can be taken up into the catheter 12 such that at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces are contacted by the drawn up blood sample.

[0466] In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor 14 is configured to reside within the catheter lumen 12a (e.g., not protrude from the catheter tip); and the integrated sensor system 600 is configured to draw back a sample into the catheter lumen 12a such that at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces are contacted by the sample. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 is a small-structured sensor having a width of less than about 1 mm. In one preferred embodiment, the sensor has a width of less than about 0.4 mm. In a more preferred embodiment, the sensor has a width of less than about 0.2 mm. In some embodiments, the catheter 12 has an internal diameter of from about 0.2 mm or less to about 2.0 mm or more, preferably from about 0.5 mm to about 1.0 mm. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 is configured such that its electroactive surfaces are at or adjacent to its tip, and the flow control device 604 is configured to take up sample into the catheter lumen 12a until the sample covers at least the electroactive surfaces. In some embodiments, the electroactive surfaces are distal from the sensor's tip and sample is drawn farther back into the catheter lumen 12a until the sample covers the electroactive surfaces. In some embodiments, the tip of the sensor is disposed about 3 cm, 2 cm, or 1 cm or less from a tip of the catheter.

[0467] In some embodiments, the sample taken up into the catheter's lumen 12a covers only a portion of the sensor's in vivo portion. In other embodiments, the sample taken up into the catheter's lumen 12a covers the entire in vivo portion of the sensor 14. In some embodiments, a sample volume of from about 1 μ l or less to about 2 ml or more is taken up into the catheter 12 and is sufficient to cover at least the electroactive surfaces of the sensor 14. In some preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 10 μ l to about 1 ml. In some preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 20 μ l to about 500 μ l. In other preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 25 μ l to about 150 μ l. In more preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 2 μ l to about 15 μ l.

[0468] In preferred embodiments, the sample taken up into the catheter's lumen 12a remains within the in vivo portion of the catheter 12. For example, in some embodiments, the sample is not drawn so far back into the catheter 12 that it enters the ex vivo portion of the catheter 12, the tubing 606 or the reservoir 602. In some embodiments, however, the sample can be drawn back as far as the catheter but not into the IV tubing. In some embodiments wherein the catheter 12 is implanted in a host, the blood sample never leaves the host's body (e.g., a plane defined by the host's skin). In some embodiments wherein the catheter 12 is implanted in an extracorporeal device, the sample does not substantially exit the extracorporeal device. In preferred embodiments, wherein blood is taken up into the catheter 12, the blood is returned to the host (or extracorporeal device), which is described elsewhere herein. In preferred embodiments, the sample is blood taken up from the host's circulatory system and into the catheter 12 disposed within the circulatory system.

[0469] In another exemplary embodiment of the integrated sensor system, the sensor is configured to protrude from the catheter's orifice 12b, at least intermittently. In preferred embodiments, the sensor is configured to protrude suffi-

ciently far out of the catheter's lumen 12a (e.g., into the circulatory system proper) that the sensor's electroactive surfaces are contacted by sample (e.g., blood). In a further embodiment, the sensor is configured to intermittently protrude from the catheter orifice 12b, such as by moving back and forth, such that the electroactive surfaces are alternately disposed within the catheter 12 and outside of the catheter 12. In one exemplary embodiment of a catheter is implanted in a host's vein, calibration solution 602a is provided within the catheter 12 such that the sensor 14 is disposed within the catheter 12, the sensor 14 is contacted by the calibration solution 602a and calibration measurements can be obtained periodically, when the sensor 14 (e.g., electroactive surfaces) is moved outside of the catheter 12, the sensor 14 is contacted by blood and blood analyte measurements can be obtained.

[0470] In some embodiments of the integrated sensor system 600, the catheter 12 and sensor 14 are configured to take advantage of flow dynamics within the host's vascular system. By taking advantage of flow dynamics, the system can be simplified, such that the flow control device functions mainly to allow or block the flow of calibration solution.

[0471] FIG. 9 is a cut-away illustration of one exemplary embodiment, in which a catheter 12 is implanted in a host's vessel 906, such as but not limited to an artery or vein. The catheter 12 includes a sidewall 904 that can be configured to include one or more holes 902 (e.g., orifices or openings configured for fluid passage, such as from the exterior sidewall surface into the catheter lumen 12a). The catheter 12 can be inserted into the host's vein (or artery, or an extracorporeal circulatory device) such that the catheter points either in the direction of blood flow (antegrade) or against the direction of blood flow (retrograde). The catheter is configured such that in an antegrade position, blood flows into the catheter lumen 12a via the holes 902 and then out of the catheter orifice 12b. In a retrograde position, blood enters the catheter lumen 12a via the catheter orifice 12b and flows out of the lumen through the holes 902. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 can be disposed within the catheter lumen 12a such that blood flowing between the holes 902 and the orifice 12b contacts at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 is configured to be substantially immobile within the lumen 12a, while in other embodiments the sensor 14 is configured to be substantially moveable within the lumen 12a, as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0472] Generally, the holes 902 can be placed in any location on the catheter's sidewall 904. In some embodiments, the holes 902 can be located near or adjacent to the catheter orifice 12a. In other embodiments, the holes 902 can be placed remotely from the catheter orifice 12a. The size, shape and number of holes 902 can be selected to optimize the sample volume and flow rate through the catheter lumen 12a. For example, in some embodiments, the holes 902 are round, ellipsoid, rectangular, triangular, star-shaped, X-shaped, slits, combinations thereof, variations there of, and the like. Similarly, in some embodiments, the catheter 12 can have from 1 to about 50 or more holes 902. In other embodiments, the catheter can have from 2 to about 10 or more holes 902.

[0473] In some alternative embodiments, the catheter includes at least one size wall orifice in place of an end tip orifice, which allows selective exposure of the sensor to the host's biological sample there through. A variety of alternative catheter configurations are contemplated in conjunction with the preferred embodiments.

[0474] In one exemplary embodiment of the integrated sensor system 600, the flow control device 604 is configured to intermittently block the infusion of solution 602a through the catheter 12, which is configured with side holes 902 as described above. Additionally, the analyte sensor is disposed within the catheter lumen 12a such that sample passing between the side holes 902 and the catheter orifice 12b bathes the sensor's electroactive surfaces, during which time an analyte measurement can be obtained. When the flow control device 604 does not block infusion, the solution 602a contacts the sensor's electroactive surfaces; and calibration measurements can be taken.

[0475] In some embodiments, a solution 602a can be infused into the catheter 12 at a rate such that the flow of sample between the holes 902 and the orifice 12b is substantially blocked and at least the electroactive surfaces are bathed in the solution 602a (e.g., undiluted solution). In preferred embodiments, the sensor 14 can be calibrated while it is bathed in the undiluted solution 602a.

[0476] In preferred embodiments, the sensor 14 is a small-structured sensor with at least one electrode, such as a working electrode, as described elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 has two or more electrodes, such as but not limited to working, reference and counter electrodes. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 includes a reference electrode disposed remotely from the working electrode, as discussed elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor 14 includes two or more electrodes that are separated by an insulator, such as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027385-A1, to Brister et al, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In preferred embodiments, the electrode is a fine wire, such as but not limited to a wire formed from platinum, iridium, platinum-iridium, palladium, gold, silver, silver chloride, carbon, graphite, gold, conductive polymers, alloys and the like. In some exemplary embodiments, the sensor 14 includes one or more electrodes formed from a fine wire with a diameter of from about 0.001 or less to about 0.010 inches or more. Although the electrodes can be formed by a variety of manufacturing techniques (bulk metal processing, deposition of metal onto a substrate, and the like), it can be advantageous to form the electrodes from plated wire (e.g., platinum on steel wire) or bulk metal (e.g., platinum wire). It is believed that electrodes formed from bulk metal wire provide superior performance (e.g., in contrast to deposited electrodes), including increased stability of assay, simplified manufacturability, resistance to contamination (e.g., which can be introduced in deposition processes), and improved surface reaction (e.g., due to purity of material) without peeling or delamination.

[0477] In some embodiments, one or more electrodes are disposed on a support, such as but not limited to a planar support of glass, polyimide, polyester and the like. In some exemplary embodiments, the electrodes include conductive inks and/or pastes including gold, platinum, palladium, chromium, copper, aluminum, pyrolytic carbon, composite material (e.g., metal-polymer blend), nickel, zinc, titanium, or an alloy, such as cobalt-nickel-chromium, or titanium-aluminum-vanadium, and are applied to the support using known techniques, such as but not limited to screen-printing and plating. Additional description can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 7,153,265, US patent publication 2006-0293576, US patent publication 2006-0253085, U.S. Pat. No. 7,003,340, and U.S. Pat. No. 6,261,440, all of which are incorporated in their entirety by reference herein.

[0478] In some embodiments, an optional redundant sensor can be disposed within the catheter lumen, in addition to the sensor 14 described elsewhere herein. In one exemplary embodiment, a sensor 14 and a redundant sensor are disposed within the lumen of a sensor implanted in a host's peripheral vein, such that the electroactive surfaces of the sensor 14 are more proximal to the catheter orifice 12b than the electroactive surfaces of the redundant sensor; wherein blood is taken up into the lumen 12a such that the electroactive surfaces of both the sensor 14 and the redundant sensor are contact by the blood; such that analyte can be detected by both the sensor 14 and the redundant sensor and the redundant sensor measurements are used by the system 600 to confirm the sensor's 14 measurements. In a further embodiment, both the sensor 14 and the redundant sensor are intermittently concurrently contacted by the solution 602a such that both the sensor 14 and the redundant sensor can take calibration measurements of the solution 602a, wherein the calibration measurements of the redundant sensor are at least used to confirm the calibration measurements of the sensor 14. In another embodiment, the calibration measurements from both the sensor 14 and the redundant sensor are used to calibrate the sensor 14.

Local Analyzer

[0479] Referring to FIGS. 6 and 7, in some embodiments, the integrated sensor system 600 includes a local analyzer 608 configured to operably connect to a remote analyzer 610. In some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 is proximal to an analyte sensor 14 and the remote analyzer 610 is configured to operably connect to the local analyzer. However, alternative configurations are possible, such as the analyte sensor 14 can be operably connected to both the local and remote analyzers 608, 610 respectively. The remote analyzer 610 of the preferred embodiments is discussed below. In various embodiments, one or more functions of the local analyzer 608 can be transferred to the remote analyzer, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. Likewise, in some embodiments, one or more functions of the remote analyzer 610 can be incorporated into the local analyzer 608. In further embodiments, functions of the local and/or remote analyzers 608, 610 can be disposed in one, two, three or more physical bodies (e.g., separate housings), depending upon the integrated sensor system 600 configuration and/or component combinations. For example, in one embodiment, the local analyzer 608 includes a potentiostat, a power source (e.g., battery or connection to an electrical source), and data storage; and the local analyzer 608 is configured such that the potentiostat is disposed on the sensor's fluid coupler 20 and the remaining local analyzer 608 components are disposed elsewhere between the local analyzer 608 and the remote analyzer 610 (e.g., connected by wiring).

[0480] Operable connections between the local and remote analyzers 608, 610 and the analyte sensor 14 can be accomplished by a hard wire (e.g., USB, serial), RF communication, IR communication, and the like. In some embodiments, operable connections include a connector known in the art, such as but not limited to mating plug and socket units, screw connectors, clips and the like. In some embodiments, the connectors are separable. In other embodiments, the connectors are inseparable. In some embodiments, the connectors include a lock, to prevent inadvertent disconnection. In some embodiments, the local analyzer can be isolated from the remote analyzer by an isolation transformer.

[0481] In some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 is operably connected to the sensor 14 (e.g., the sensor electrode (s)), such as by a wire connection. A detailed description of electronic components and configurations is described elsewhere herein, for example, in the section entitled “Sensor Electronics.” In some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 is disposed on or adjacent to the sensor, such as on the sensor fluid coupler 20. In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor’s fluid coupler 20 includes a local analyzer housing that includes at least a potentiostat. In some embodiments, the housing can include a battery and electronics, such that the sensor 14 can be powered, and data can be collected and/or transmitted to additional system electronics (e.g., electronics units disposed remotely from the sensor, such as on the host’s arm, on the host’s bed and in the remote analyzer, and the like). In some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 includes a small housing that is connected to the sensor 14 via a short wire (e.g., from about 1 cm or less to about 10 cm or more) and is taped to the host’s skin, such as adjacent to the catheter’s insertion site on the host’s arm or hand. In a further embodiment, the local analyzer 608 includes a connector, such as but not limited to a “plug” configured to mate with a “socket” wired to the sensor 14, such that an electrical connection can be made between the local analyzer 608 and the sensor 14. In another embodiment, the sensor 14 includes a cable having a plug configured to connection to the local analyzer 608 via a socket. In still another embodiment, both the sensor 14 and the local analyzer 608 include cables configured to mate with each other via a plug and socket mechanism. Advantageously, a detachable configuration allows catheter/sensor insertion without a cumbersome connection to the local analyzer 608 as well as re-use of the local analyzer 608. In an alternative exemplary embodiment, the local analyzer 608 is permanently connected to the sensor 14 and cannot be disconnected therefrom; a single use, permanently connected configuration can simplify application to the host, can reduce the possibility of cross-contamination between hosts, does not require cleaning and/or sterilization between hosts, and can reduce operator error during application to the host.

[0482] In preferred embodiments, the local analyzer 608 includes at least the minimal electronic components and/or programming required to energize the sensor 14 and collect data therefrom, such as but not limited to a potentiostat. However, in some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 includes additional electronic components that can be programmed to analyze one or more components of the collected raw signal, or to store data, calibration information, a patient ID and the like. In one exemplary embodiment, the local analyzer 608 includes a potentiostat and a battery back up. The battery back up can maintain a potential on the sensor and store data (calibration and/or collected host data) for brief periods of time when the electronics can be disconnected, such as when the host is moved from one location to another. In one exemplary embodiment, the local analyzer 608 is disposed on or adjacent to the sensor 14 and is configured such that the host can be connected to a first remote analyzer 610 at one station, and then disconnected from the first remote analyzer 610, moved to a new location and connected to a second remote analyzer 610 at the new location, and the local analyzer 608 retains sufficient data that the system 600 functions substantially without initialization or substantial delay upon connection to the new (second) remote analyzer 610. In another example, the host can be disconnected from the first

remote analyzer 610, taken to another location for a procedure (e.g., for surgery, imaging, and the like) and then reconnected to the first remote analyzer 610 upon return to the original location without substantial loss of system 600 function upon reconnection.

[0483] In some embodiments, the local analyzer 608 includes two or more parts, such that only the potentiostat is disposed on or adjacent to the sensor 14 (e.g., sensor fluid coupler 20) or the catheter (e.g., catheter connector 18); other portions of the local analyzer 608 can be disposed remotely from the host, such as in a separate housing wired to the sensor and to the remote analyzer. In one exemplary embodiment, the two parts of the local analyzer 608 can be separated (e.g., unplugged) such that the host can be moved and the local analyzer 608 portion that is attached to the host goes with the host while the remaining portion stays with the remote analyzer 610.

[0484] In still other embodiments, all sensor electronics components are disposed remotely from the host, such as in the remote analyzer 610. For example, the sensor 14 can include an appropriate connector, plug and/or wiring to connect the sensor 14 to the remote analyzer 610, which powers the sensor 14, collects raw data from the sensor 14, calibrates the sensor 14, analyzes and presents the data, and the like. In one example, the sensor 14 includes a cable of sufficient length to permit plugging the sensor 14 into a remote analyzer 610 disposed at the host’s bedside.

[0485] In still other embodiments, the local analyzer 608 can be incorporated into the remote analyzer 610, such as housed in the same body as the remote analyzer 610, for example. In one exemplary embodiment, both the local and remote analyzers 608, 610 are disposed in a housing attached to a support 612 (e.g., connected to an IV pole, placed on a bedside table, connected to the wall, clamped to the head of the host’s bed) and connected to the analyte sensor via a wire or cable. In some embodiments, the cables/wires (e.g., for connecting the sensor to the local analyzer and/or the remote analyzer, and/or connecting the local analyzer to the remote analyzer) can be provided in the IV tubing set.

Remote Analyzer

[0486] As discussed in the section entitled “Local Analyzer,” the integrated sensor system 600 includes a remote analyzer 610. In preferred embodiment, the remote analyzer 610 is configured to at least communicate with the local analyzer 608 and can be configured to control the flow control device 604 described in the sections entitled “Flow Control Device,” and “Flow Control Device Function.” Generally, the remote analyzer 610 is powered from a standard 120VAC wall circuit or other suitable power source, for example. In some embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 is disposed at the host’s bedside and can be configured to be disposed on a support 612, such as but not limited to, mounted a mobile IV drip pole, attached to the wall, clamped to the host’s bed, or sitting on a table or other nearby structure.

[0487] In preferred embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 includes a display, such as but not limited to a printout, an LED display, a monitor, a touch-screen monitor and the like. In some embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 includes both a hard copy display, such as a printer configured to print collected data, and a monitor. In some embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 is a programmable touch-screen panel PC configured to have different “screens” and “buttons” for control of system components (e.g., the sensor 14, the flow

control device 604, etc.) and to display data, such as but not limited to host identification and condition, host food intake, medication schedules and dosage information, sensor identification, raw data, processed data, calibration information, and the like, such as in tables and/or graphs. In further preferred embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 is configured to be programmed, such that the operator can initiate system functions such as IV fluid line priming, starting and/or stopping the flow control device 604, select among two or more solutions (e.g., between glucose concentrations), select the mode of data delivery (e.g., printer or on-screen), send data to a central location (e.g., the nurse's station or medical records), set alarms (e.g., for low and high glucose), and the like.

[0488] In some embodiments, the system 600 is configured to integrate with (e.g., be used in conjunction with) third party medical devices, such as but not limited to a pulse-oxygen meter, a blood pressure meter, a blood chemistry machine, and the like. In such embodiments, the local and/or remote analyzers 608, 610 can be configured to communicate with the third party medical devices, such as but not limited to a patient monitor.

Flow Control Device Function

[0489] In some embodiments, the remote analyzer 610 controls the function of the flow control device 604. In some embodiments, the flow control device includes electronics configured to control the flow control device. The flow control device 604 can be configured to perform a number of steps of operation, which are discussed below. Depending upon the system configuration and physician preferences, in some embodiments, one or more of the steps can be performed. In some embodiments, all of the steps are performed. In some embodiments, the steps of operation can be performed in the order in which they are presented herein. In other embodiments, the order of steps of operation can be varied (e.g., repeated, omitted, rearranged), depending upon various parameters, such as but not limited to the calibration solution 602a selected, the particular infusion set selected, catheter 12 size, host condition, analyte of interest, type of sample and location of sample collection, integration with third party devices, additional infusion of fluids and the like.

[0490] FIGS. 8A through 8C are schematic illustrations of a flow control device in one exemplary embodiment, including its relative movement/positions and the consequential effect on the flow of fluids through the sensor/catheter inserted in a host. In general, steps performed by the flow control device 604, include the steps of: contacting the sensor 14 with calibration solution 602a (including sensor calibration) and contacting the sensor with a biological sample to be measured. In some embodiments, additional steps can be taken, such as but not limited to keep a vein open (KVO) step and a wash step. In the exemplary embodiment presented in FIGS. 8A through 8C, the flow control device 604 is a roller valve configured to move between at least two positions, 810 and 812, respectively. Movement of the flow control device 604 between positions 810 and 812 effectively concurrently moves the pinch point 808 (e.g., the point at which tubing 606 is pinched) between positions 810 and 812. Additional flow control device positions are discussed below.

[0491] The top of FIGS. 8A through 8C are schematic drawings illustrating positions of the flow control device 604. The bottom of FIGS. 8A through 8C, are a cut-away views of an implanted catheter 12, including an indwelling sensor 14,

illustrating the corresponding activity at the implantation site, in response to movements of the flow control device 604. For simplicity, for purposes of discussion only, it is assumed that the catheter 12 is implanted in a host's vein, that the sensor 12 does not protrude from the catheter's orifice 12b and that the catheter 14 does not include side holes 902. However, one skilled in the art appreciates that the catheter 14 could be implanted into any vessel of the host or into a variety of extracorporeal devices discussed elsewhere herein.

[0492] Step One: Contacting Sensor with Calibration Solution

[0493] In general, the system is configured to allow a calibration solution to contact the sensor using a flow control device such as a pump, valve or the like. In some embodiments, such as shown in FIGS. 8A through 8C, the flow control device 604 is a valve configured with a first structure 802 and a second structure 806. For convenience, the first structure 802 is depicted as a roller connected to a rotatable axle 804, however any flow control device such as described in the section entitled "Flow Control Device," can be configured to utilize the concepts and/or functions described herein. In general, when the flow control device is a valve, the valve is configured to allow no flow, free flow and/or metered flow through movement of the valve between one or more discreet positions.

[0494] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 8A through 8C, the flow control device 604 is configured such that a tube 606 threaded between the first and second structures 802, 806 (e.g., between the roller and the surface against which the roller presses) is compressed substantially closed. For convenience, the compressed location on the tubing is referred to herein as the "pinch point" 808. In some embodiments, the flow control device 604 is configured such that the pinch point is moved along the tubing, either closer to or farther from the host. As the pinch point 808 is moved closer to the host, the tube 606 is progressively compressed, causing fluid (e.g., solution 602) to be pushed into the host's vascular system (see the corresponding illustration of the sensor within the host's vessel at the bottom of FIG. 8A), at the catheter 12 implantation site. Conversely, as the pinch point 808 is moved away from the host, the portion of tubing 606 on the host side of the pinch point 808 progressively expands, causing sample (e.g., blood) to be drawn up into the catheter lumen 12a. In an alternative embodiment, the flow control device 604 is configured such that the pinch point is substantially stationary and the first and second structures selectively compress the tubing at the pinch point (e.g., the tube 606 is either pinched fully closed or is fully open), which either stops or allows the flow of solution 602a.

[0495] In the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 8A (bottom), the catheter 12 is implanted in the host's vein 906 (or artery), as described elsewhere herein. A sensor 14 is disposed with the catheter 12. The catheter 12 is fluidly connected to a first end of tubing 606 that delivers the solution 602a to the catheter 12. The solution 602a can move out of the catheter 12 and a sample of blood 814 can move in and out of the catheter 12, via the catheter's orifice 12b. In some alternative embodiments, the catheter 12 includes optional sidewall holes 902 (see FIG. 9, described elsewhere herein) and the solution 602a and blood can move in and out of the catheter 12 via the sidewall holes 902 and the catheter orifice 12b. In some alternative embodiments, the sensor is configured to move in and out of the catheter. In some embodiments, the catheter orifice 12b is disposed in the sidewall 904 (e.g.,

near the catheter's tip) instead of at the tip. Tubing 606 is fluidly connected to the reservoir 602 on a second end (see FIGS. 6 and 7).

[0496] Referring now to a calibration phase to be performed by the exemplary valve of FIG. 8A, in preferred embodiments, the flow control device 604 is configured to perform a step of contacting the sensor 14 with solution 602a, wherein the flow control device 604 moves from position 810 to position 812 (e.g., forward, toward the host/catheter). When the flow control device 604 moves from position 810 to position 812, the pinch point 808 is moved from position 810 to position 812. As the pinch point 808 is moved from position 810 to position 812, a first volume of the calibration solution 602a is pushed through the tubing 606, toward the catheter 12.

[0497] Referring again to the bottom of FIG. 8A, a second volume of the solution 602a, which is substantially equal to the first volume, is pushed into the host's vein 906, in response to the first volume of solution 602a moving toward the host. As the second volume of solution 602a is pushed through the catheter 12 and into the host's vein the second volume contacts (e.g., bathes) the analyte sensor 14, including the analyte sensor's electroactive surfaces. In some embodiments, the volume (e.g., the first and second volumes of fluid) moved is from about 3 μ l or less to about 1 ml or more. In some preferred embodiments, the volume is from about 10 μ l to about 500 μ l, or more preferably from about 15 μ l to about 50 μ l. In general, the volume of fluid pushed through the catheter in a particular phase (e.g., calibration phase) is dependent upon the timing of the phase. For example, if a long phase, such as a 20 minute calibration phase (e.g., as compared to a shorter 5 minute phase) were selected, the volume of fluid pushed during the long phase would be 4 \times greater than the volume of fluid pushed during the shorter phase. Accordingly, one skilled in the art appreciates that the above described ranges of fluids infusion can be increased and/or decreased simply by increasing or decreasing the measurement phase and/or intervals (i.e., timing). In preferred embodiments, the fluid is moved at a flow rate that is sufficiently slow that the calibration solution's temperature substantially equilibrates with the temperature of the tissue surrounding the in vivo portion of the catheter and/or temperature of bodily fluid (e.g., blood). In preferred embodiments, the flow rate is from about 0.25 μ l/min or less to about 10.0 ml/min or more. In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device 604 maintains a flow rate from about 0.5 μ l/min or less to about 1.5 ml/min or more. In one preferred exemplary embodiment, the flow rate is from about 1 μ l/min to about 1.0 ml/min. In one exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min. In another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.05 ml/min to about 0.1 ml/min.

[0498] In some embodiments, the system is configured such that the speed of the movement between the first and second discreet positions is regulated or metered to control the flow rate of the fluid through the catheter. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that the time of movement between the first and second discreet positions is from about 0.25 to 30 seconds, preferably from about 0.5 to 10 seconds. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that an amount of pinch of the tubing regulates the flow rate of the fluid through the catheter. In some embodiments, the fluid flow is regulated through a combination of metering and/or pinching techniques, for example. Depending on the type of

flow control device (e.g., valve), a variety of methods of metering and/or regulating the flow rate can be implemented as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0499] Preferably, the sensor is configured to measure a signal associated with the solution (e.g., analyte concentration) during the movement of the flow control device from position 810 to position 812 and/or during contact of the sensor 14 with the solution 602a. Electronics, such as an electronic module included in either the local or remote analyzer 608, 610 controls signal measurement and processing, such as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0500] In general, a calibration measurement can be taken at any time during the flow control device 604 movement from position 810 to position 812, and including a stationary (stagnant) time there after. In some embodiments, one or more calibration measurements are taken at the beginning of the flow control device 604 movement from position 810 to position 812. In other embodiments, one or more calibration measurements are taken at some time in the middle of the flow control device 604 movement from position 810 to position 812. In some embodiments, one or more calibration measurements are taken near the completion of the flow control device 604 movement from position 810 to position 812. In some embodiments, one or more calibration measurements are taken after completion of the flow control device 604 movement from position 810 to position 812. In still other embodiments, the flow control device is positioned such that fluid can flow followed by positioning the flow control device such that there is no fluid flow (e.g., 0 ml/min) during the calibration measurement. In preferred embodiments, one or more calibration measurements are taken when the temperature of the solution 602a has substantially equilibrated with the temperature of the tissue surrounding the in vivo portion of the implanted catheter 12. Processing of calibration measurements and sensor calibration are described elsewhere herein.

[0501] Step Two: Sample Collection and Measurement

[0502] In general, the system is configured to allow a sample (e.g., blood) to contact the sensor using the flow control device. Referring now to the top of FIG. 8B, the flow control device 604 is configured to draw back (or take-in) a sample (e.g., blood) from the host. For example, to collect a sample, the flow control device 604 reverses and moves backward (e.g., away from the host/catheter), from position 812 to position 810, thereby causing the pinch point 808 to move away from the host. As the pinch point is moved from position 812 to position 810, the tube 606 (on the host side of the pinch point 808) expands (e.g., the tube volume increases).

[0503] Referring now to the bottom of FIG. 8B, as the tube volume increases, a small, temporary vacuum is created, causing sample 814 (e.g., blood) to be taken up into the catheter lumen 12a. In some embodiments, the flow control device 604 is configured to take up a sufficient volume of sample 814 such that at least the sensor's electroactive surfaces are contacted by the sample 814. In some embodiments, a sample volume of from about 1 μ l or less to about 2 ml or more is taken up into the catheter 12 and is sufficient to cover at least the electroactive surfaces of the sensor 14. In some preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 10 μ l to about 1 ml. In some preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 20 μ l to about 500 μ l. In other preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 25 μ l to about 150 μ l. In more preferred embodiments, the sample volume is from about 2 μ l to about 15 μ l.

[0504] In some embodiments, the sample taken up into the catheter is taken up substantially no farther than the skin (or a plane defined by the skin of the patient). In some embodiments, the sample is taken up into the catheter substantially no farther than the catheter's inner lumen (e.g., substantially not into the IV tubing.)

[0505] In some embodiments, the rate of sample take-up is sufficiently slow that the temperature of the sample substantially equilibrates with the temperature of the surrounding tissue. Additionally, in some embodiments, the rate of sample take-up is sufficiently slow such that substantially no mixing of the sample **814** and solution **602a** occurs. In some embodiments, the flow rate is from about 0.001 ml/min or less to about 2.0 ml/min or more. In preferred embodiments, the flow rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 1.0 ml/min. In one exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.35 ml/min. In another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.002 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min. In yet another exemplary preferred embodiment, the flow rate is from about 0.085 ml/min to about 0.2 ml/min.

[0506] As described above, in some embodiments, the system is configured such that the speed of the movement between the first and second discreet positions is regulated or metered to control the flow rate of the fluid through the catheter. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that the time of movement between the first and second discreet positions is from about 0.25 to 30 seconds, preferably from about 0.5 to 10 seconds. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that the time of movement between the first and second discreet positions is from about 0.25 to 30 seconds, preferably from about 0.5 to 10 seconds. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that an amount of pinch of the tubing regulates the flow rate of the fluid through the catheter. In some embodiments, regulate the fluid flow through a combination of metering and/or pinching techniques, for example. Depending on the type of flow control device (e.g., valve), a variety of methods of metering and/or regulating the flow rate can be implemented as is appreciated by one skilled in the art.

[0507] Measurements of sample analyte concentration can be taken while the electroactive surfaces are in contact with the sample **814**. An electronics module included in the local and/or remote analyzer **608**, **610** controls sample analyte measurement, as described elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, one sample measurement is taken. In some embodiments, a plurality of sample measurements are taken, such as from about 2 to about 50 or more measurements and/or at a sample rate of between about 1 measurement per second and about 1 measurement per minute. In some embodiments, the rate is from about 1 measurement per 2 seconds to about 1 measurement per 30 seconds. In preferred embodiments, sample measurements are taken substantially continuously, such as but not limited to substantially intermittently, as described elsewhere herein.

[0508] Optional Step: Flush

[0509] In some exemplary embodiments, the flow control device **604** is configured to perform one or more steps, in addition to steps one and two, described above. A flush step, during which the sensor **14** and/or catheter **12** are substantially washed and/or cleaned of host sample, is one such optional step.

[0510] Referring now to the top of FIG. **8C**, the exemplary flow control device **604** performs a flush step by moving

forward from position **810** (e.g., toward the host/catheter), past position **812** (e.g., around and over the top of structure **804**) and back to position **810**. For convenience, the movement illustrated by an arrow in the top of FIG. **8C** is referred to herein as the "flush movement."

[0511] Referring now to the bottom of FIG. **8C**, the flush movement pushes forward a volume of solution **602a** (e.g., a third volume) that pushes the collected blood sample **814** into the host. In some embodiments, the third volume of solution **602a** is substantially equal to the first and second volumes described above. In some embodiments, the flush movement is repeated at least one time. In some embodiments, the flush movement is repeated two, three or more times. With the exception of the first flush movement, which pushes the sample **814** back into the host, each repeat of the flush movement pushes a volume of solution **602a** into the host, for example. In some embodiments, the flush movement pushes the third volume of solution **602a** into the host at a rate of from about 0.25 μ l/min or less to about 10.0 ml/min or more. In preferred embodiments the flush movement pushes the third volume of solution into the host at a rate of from about 1.0 μ l/min to about 1.0 ml/min. In alternative embodiments, the flow control device **604** is moved to a fully opened position (e.g., no pinch) and the flow regulator **602b** is set at a setting that allows more solution (e.g., an increased volume and/or at a faster rate) to infuse into the host than during the calibration phase (e.g., step one, above). In preferred embodiments, the flush movement washes enough blood off of the analyte sensor's electroactive surfaces that the sensor **14** can measure the solution **602a** substantially without any interference by any remaining blood. In some embodiments, the flush step is incorporated into step one, above.

[0512] Generally, the solution **602a** is flushed through the catheter **12**, to ensure that a sufficient amount of the sample has been removed from the sensor **14** and the catheter lumen **12a**, such that a calibration measurement can be taken. However, in some embodiments, sample is collected, measured and flushed out, followed by collection of the next sample, substantially without sensor calibration; the flush step can be executed between samples to ensure that the sample being analyzed is substantially uncontaminated by the previous sample. In some embodiments, a relatively extended flush is used, while in other embodiments the flush is just long enough to ensure no blood remains.

[0513] In some embodiments, the effectiveness of the flushing movement is dependent upon the solution **602a** composition (e.g., concentrations of sodium chloride, glucose/dextrose, anticoagulant, etc.). Accordingly, the amount of solution **602a** required to ensure that substantially no sample remains in the catheter **12** and/or on the sensor **14** can depend on the solution **602a** composition. For example, relatively more flush movements may be required to completely remove all of the sample when a non-heparinized solution is selected than when a heparinized solution is selected. In some embodiments, the effectiveness of the flushing movement is also dependent upon the flush flow rate. For example, a relatively faster flow rate can be more effective in removing sample from the sensor than a slower flow rate, while a slower flow rate can more effectively move a larger volume of fluid. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the number of flush movements selected is dependent upon the calibration solution and flow rate selected. In some embodiments, the flush step flow rate is from about 0.25 μ l/min or less to about 10.0 ml/min or more, and last for from about 10 seconds or less to

about 3 minutes or more. In one exemplary embodiment, about 0.33 ml of solution **602a** is flushed at a rate of about 1.0 ml/min, which takes about 20 seconds.

[0514] In some embodiments, the flush step returns the sample **814** (e.g., blood) to the host, such that the host experiences substantially no net sample loss. Further more, the flush movement washes the sensor **14** and catheter lumen **12a** of a sufficient amount of sample, such that an accurate calibration measurement (e.g., of undiluted solution **602a**) can be taken during the next step of integrated sensor system **600** operations. In some embodiments, the number of sequential flush movements is sufficient to only wash substantially the sample from the sensor **14** and catheter lumen **12a**. In other embodiments, the number of sequential flush movements can be extended past the number of flush movements required to remove the sample from the sensor and catheter lumen, such as to provide additional fluid to the host, for example.

[0515] At the completion of the flush step, the flow control device **604** returns to step one, illustrated in FIG. 8A. In some embodiments, the steps illustrated in FIGS. 8A through 8C are repeated, until the system **600** is disconnected from the catheter/sensor, either temporarily (e.g., to move a host to an alternate location for a procedure) or permanently (e.g., at patient discharge or expiration of sensor life time). In some embodiments, additional optional steps can be performed.

[0516] Optional Step: Keep Vein Open (KVO)

[0517] Thrombosis and catheter occlusion are known problems encountered during use of an IV system, such as when the fluid flow is stopped for a period of time or flows at a too slow rate. For example, thrombi in, on and/or around the catheter **12**, such as at the catheter's orifice **12b** can cause an occlusion. Occlusion of the catheter can require insertion of a new catheter in another location. It is known that a slow flow of IV solution (e.g., saline or calibration fluid; with or without heparin) can prevent catheter occlusion due to thrombosis. This procedure is known as keep vein open (KVO).

[0518] In general, to infuse a fluid into a host, the infusion device must overcome the host's venous and/or arterial pressure. For example, during infusion of a hydration fluid, the IV bag is raised to a height such that the head pressure (from the IV bag) overcomes the venous pressure and the fluid flows into the host. If the head pressure is too low, some blood can flow out of the body and in to the tubing and/or bag. This sometimes occurs when the host stands up or raises his arm, which increases the venous pressure relative to the head pressure. This problem can be encountered with any fluid infusion device and can be overcome with a KVO procedure. KVO can maintain sufficient pressure to overcome the host's venous pressure and prevent "back flow" of blood into the tubing and/or reservoir.

[0519] In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can be configured to perform a KVO step, wherein the fluid flow rate is reduced (but not completely stopped) relative to the calibration and/or wash flow rates. In preferred embodiments, the KVO flow rate is sufficient to prevent the catheter **12** from clotting off and is relatively lower than the flow rate used in step one (above). In preferred embodiments, the KVO flow rate is sufficient to overcome the host vessel pressure (e.g., venous pressure, arterial pressure) and is relatively lower than the flow rate used in step one (above). In some embodiments, the KVO flow rate is from about 1.0 μ l/min or less to about 1.0 ml/min or more. In some preferred embodiments, the KVO flow rate is from about 0.02 to about 0.2 ml/min. In some more preferred embodiments, the KVO flow

rate is from about 0.05 ml/min to about 0.1 ml/min). In some embodiments, the KVO flow rate is less than about 60%, 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, or 10% of the calibration and/or flush flow rate(s). In some embodiments, the KVO step is performed for from about 0.25 minutes or less to about 20 minutes or more. In preferred embodiments, the solution **602a** flows at a rate such that the temperature of the solution **602a** substantially equilibrates with the temperature of the tissue surrounding the in vivo portion of the catheter **12**. Advantageously, equilibrating the solution **602a** temperature with that of the surrounding tissue reduces the effect of temperature on sensor **14** calibration and/or sample measurement, thereby improving sensor accuracy and consistency. In some embodiments, the KVO step can be incorporated into one or more of the flow control device steps of operation described elsewhere herein, including steps one and two, and the flush step, above.

[0520] The KVO step can be executed in one or more ways. In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can be configured to move to at least one addition position, wherein the tube **606** is partially pinched. For example, the flow control device **604** is configured to move to a position such that the pinch point **808** is partially closed/open. For example, in the embodiment shown in FIGS. 8A through 8C, the flow control device **604** can be moved forward somewhat past position **812**, such that the roller **802** causes the tube **606** to be partially pinched. In another example, the flow control device **604** can be moved backwards somewhat behind position **810**, such that the roller **802** again causes the tube **606** to be partially pinched. In preferred embodiment, the amount of pinch can be adjusted such that the desired KVO flow rate can be achieved. In some alternative embodiments, KVO is performed by moving the flow control device between positions **810** and **812** (e.g., see FIG. 8A) at a reduced speed, such that the flow rate is from about 0.1 μ l/min or less to about 0.5 ml/min or more. In some embodiments, the system is configured such that the time of movement between the first and second discreet positions is from about 0.25 to 30 seconds, preferably from about 5 to 15 seconds. In some preferred embodiments, the tubing is pinched fully closed (e.g., between structures **802** and **806**) during the movement from position **810** and **812** (e.g., see FIG. 8A). In some preferred embodiments, after the flow control device reaches position **812**, the flow control device flips over the top and back to position **810** (e.g., see FIG. 8C) at a substantially rapid speed that the flow rate remains substantially unchanged. In an even further embodiment, during the KVO step the flow control device alternates between the slow and fast movements at least two times, such that the KVO step lasts a period of time.

[0521] As disclosed above, the flow control device **604** can be configured a variety of ways, which can require modifications to one or more of the steps of operation described above. For example, in some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can be configured to include a simple pinch valve, wherein the valve can be configured to open, close or partially open. In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can be configured to include a non-linear rolling pinch valve, wherein the roller can move back and forth between opened, closed and partially opened positions, for example.

[0522] In some embodiments, the flow control device **604** can include one roller **802** (e.g., first structure) attached to an axle **804** and configured to press against a curved surface **806** (e.g., second structure), such that when the roller **802** is pressing against the curved surface **806** at or between positions **810**

and 812, the tubing 606 is pinched completely closed and the flow control device 604 moves the roller 802 forward (e.g., toward the host). In one exemplary embodiment, the flow control device 604 can be configured to perform step one (above, contacting the sensor 14 with solution 602a) by moving the roller 802 forward (e.g., rotating from position 810 to 812, see FIG. 8A), thereby causing solution 602a to flow over the sensor 14. In some embodiments, the flow control device 604 is configured to perform step two (contacting the sensor 14 with sample) by moving the roller 802 backwards (e.g., rotating from position 812 to 810, see FIG. 8B), causing blood 814 to enter the catheter 12 and contact the sensor 14. Additionally, the flow control device 604 can be configured to perform a wash or KVO step by moving the roller 802 forward (from position 810) past position 812 and around the axle 804 until position 810 is again reached a plurality of times sequentially (e.g., see FIG. 8C). In a further example, the flow control device 604 includes two, three or more rollers 802 arranged about axle 804. In some embodiments, the flow control device includes a plurality of rollers arranged about the axle, wherein the flow control device performs KVO by rotating the rollers about the axle a plurality of times, to continuously push (e.g., for a period of time) the solution forward into the host.

[0523] In one alternative embodiment, back flow can be substantially stopped by incorporation of a one-way, pressure-controlled valve into the system, such as at or adjacent to the catheter or sensor connector, whereby fluid can flow into the host only when fluid pressure (e.g., head pressure) is applied to the reservoir-side of the valve. In other words, fluid can only flow in the direction of the host (e.g., toward the host), not backwards towards the reservoir. In some embodiments, the valve is a two-way valve configured such that the pressure required to open the valve is greater than the venous pressure, such that back flow is substantially prevented.

[0524] The preferred embodiments provide several advantages over prior art devices. Advantageously, the movement of the solution 602a and sample occur at a metered rate and are unaffected by changes in head pressure, such as but not limited to when the host elevates his arm or gets up to move around. Also, sample loss to the host is minimized, first by returning all collected samples to the host; and second by substantially preventing back-flow from the host (e.g., into the tubing or reservoir) with a "hard stop" (e.g., a point beyond which the flow control device cannot move fluid into or out of the host). For example, in one preferred embodiment, the flow control device can be configured to deliver no more than 25-ml of solution to the host per hour. In another exemplary embodiment, the flow control device can be configured to draw back no more than 100 μ l of blood at any time. Advantageously, the flow rate of solution 602a and sample 814 is carefully controlled, such that both the sample 814 and the solution 602a remain substantially undiluted. Additionally, the solution 602a warms to the host's local body temperature, such that the integrated sensor system 600 is substantially unaffected by temperature coefficient and sensor 14 accuracy is increased.

Systems and Methods for Processing Sensor Data

[0525] In general, systems and methods for processing sensor data associated with the preferred embodiments and related sensor technologies include at least three steps: initialization, calibration, and measurement. Although some exemplary glucose sensors are described in detail herein, the

systems and methods for processing sensor data can be implemented with a variety of analyte sensors utilizing a variety of measurement technologies including enzymatic, chemical, physical, electrochemical, spectrophotometric, polarimetric, calorimetric, radiometric, and the like. Namely, analyte sensors using any known method, including invasive, minimally invasive, and non-invasive sensing techniques, configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, can be substituted for the exemplary analyte sensor described herein.

[0526] In some embodiments, the sensor system is initialized, wherein initialization includes application of the sensor and/or sensor system in or on the host. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes a computer system including programming configured for performing one or more of the following functions: turning the system on, requesting and/or receiving initial data (e.g., time, location, codes, etc), requesting and/or receiving patient data (e.g., age, conditions, medications, insulin dosing, etc), requesting and/or receiving calibration information (e.g., manufacturer calibration lot data, reference information such as solution(s) provided for calibration, etc.), and the like.

[0527] In some embodiments, the sensor system is configured with a predetermined initial break-in time. In some embodiments, the sensor's sensitivity (e.g., sensor signal strength with respect to analyte concentration) and/or baseline can be used to determine the stability of the sensor; for example, amplitude and/or variability of sensor sensitivity and/or baseline may be evaluated to determine the stability of the sensor signal. In alternative embodiments, detection of pH levels, oxygen, hypochlorite, interfering species (e.g., ascorbate, urea, and acetaminophen), correlation between sensor and reference values (e.g., R-value), and the like may be used to determine the stability of the sensor. In some embodiments, the sensor is configured to calibrate during sensor break-in, thereby enabling measurement of the biological sample prior to completion of sensor break-in.

[0528] In one embodiment, systems and methods are configured to process calibrated sensor data during sensor break-in. In general, signals associated with a calibration and/or measurement phase of the sensor system can be measured during initial sensor break-in. Using a rate method of measuring an analyte (e.g., measuring the rate of change of a step change), a sensor signal can be calibrated with a correction factor to account for the rate of change of the break-in curve. In one exemplary embodiment, the bottom of sequential step responses (e.g., of calibration phases during sensor break-in) can be fit to a line or curve (e.g., using linear or non-linear regression, such as least squares regression), to extrapolate the rate of change of the curve of the sensor break-in. Accordingly, the rate of change measured in a measurement phase can be corrected to account for the rate of change of the sensor break-in curve, and the sensor signal calibrated. By calibrating during sensor break-in, sensor data can more quickly be provided (e.g., to the user interface) after sensor insertion.

[0529] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured to determine an initial baseline value of the sensor. In general, baseline refers to a component of an analyte sensor signal that is not substantially related to the analyte concentration. In one example of a glucose sensor, the baseline is composed substantially of signal contribution due to factors other than glucose (for example, interfering species, non-

reaction-related hydrogen peroxide, or other electroactive species with an oxidation potential that overlaps with hydrogen peroxide).

[0530] In preferred embodiments, the sensor system includes a computer system including programming configured to determine calibration information and calibrate a signal associated with a biological sample there from. In general, calibration of the signal includes initial calibration, update calibration and/or re-calibration of the sensor signal. Although some systems and methods for calibrating a sensor are described in more detail elsewhere herein, for example in the section entitled, "Sensor Electronics," additional and alternative methods for providing calibration information and calibrating the sensor's signal are provided in the following description and can be used in combination with and/or alternative to the methods described elsewhere herein.

[0531] The term "calibration information" generally refers to any information, such as data from an internal or external source, which provides at least a portion of the information necessary to calibrate a sensor. In some embodiments, calibration information includes steady state information, such as baseline information and/or sensitivity information obtained by processing reference data from an internal and/or external reference source, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, calibration information includes transient information, such as rate of change information and/or impulse response information obtained by processing a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change (e.g., sudden or nearly sudden change) in analyte concentration, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0532] In some embodiments, steady state information includes reference data from an external source, such as an analyte sensor other than the sensor of the sensor system configured to continuously measure the biological sample, also referred to as external reference data or external reference value(s). In some embodiments, calibration information includes one, two, or more external reference values (e.g., from self-monitoring blood glucose meters (finger stick meters), YSI Glucose Analyzer, Beckman Glucose Analyzer, other continuous glucose sensors, and the like). In some embodiments, one or more external reference values are requested and/or required upon initial calibration. In some embodiments, external reference value(s) are requested and/or required for update calibration and/or re-calibration. In some embodiments, external reference values are utilized as calibration information for calibrating the sensor; additional or alternatively, external reference values can be used to confirm the accuracy of the sensor system and/or to detect drifts or shifts in the baseline and/or sensitivity of the sensor.

[0533] In one exemplary embodiment, at least one external reference value in combination with at least one internal reference value together provide calibration information useful for calibrating the sensor; for example, sensitivity of a sensor can be determined from an external reference value and baseline can be at least partially determined from an internal reference value (e.g., a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein).

[0534] In another exemplary embodiment, calibration information includes two or more external reference values that provide calibration information useful for calibrating the sensor; for example, at least two SMBG meter values can be

used to draw a calibration line using linear regression, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0535] In yet another exemplary embodiment an external reference value is utilized to confirm calibration information otherwise determined (e.g., using internal reference values).

[0536] In some embodiments, steady state information includes reference data obtained from the analyte sensor to be calibrated, also referred to as internal reference data or internal reference values. In one exemplary embodiment, internal reference data includes a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to one or more reference solutions (e.g., calibration solutions), which is described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0537] In some embodiments, the sensor system includes one or more reference solutions (e.g., calibration solutions in some embodiments), wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the one or more reference solution(s) to provide calibration information, such as baseline and/or sensitivity information for the sensor. In one exemplary embodiment, a reference solution including a known analyte concentration is provided, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the system is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution, as described in more detail elsewhere herein. In general the system can be configured to obtain internal reference values at one or more time points, intermittently, and/or continuously. Although much of the description focuses on the use of a reference calibration solution to provide an internal reference value, other sensor technologies, such as optical sensing methods, are known to provide one or more internal reference standards (e.g., of known absorbance, reflectance, fluorescence, etc) to determine baseline and/or sensitivity information, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art; accordingly, the systems and methods described herein can be implemented with other types of internal reference values.

[0538] In some embodiments, the sensor system is configured to use a steady state measurement method, from which steady state information can be obtained. Steady state information can be obtained during exposure of the sensor to an analyte concentration when the signal has reached a "plateau" wherein the signal is representative of the analyte concentration; the term plateau does not limit the signal to a flat signal, rather the plateau represents a time point or time period during which the signal is substantially stable and a data point that represents the analyte concentration can be reliably obtained.

[0539] FIG. 10 is a graph that schematically illustrates a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration, in one exemplary embodiment. The x-axis represents time; the y-axis represents sensor signal (e.g., in counts). In general, a step change occurs when a sensor is sequentially exposed to first and second different analyte concentrations, wherein the signal (after the change from exposure of the sensor to the first analyte concentration to exposure of the sensor to the second analyte concentration) includes a measurable rate of change (transient information) that subsequently "plateaus" or substantially "plateaus" to a signal that substantially represents the analyte concentration to which the sensor is exposed (steady state information). As one example, a step change occurs when a sensor is exposed to a reference solution of a first analyte concentration and then subsequently exposed to a reference solution of a second,

different, analyte concentration. As another example, a step change occurs when a sensor is exposed to a reference solution of a known analyte concentration and then subsequently exposed to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0540] Referring to FIG. 10, at a first time point 1002, a sensor is exposed to a step change in analyte concentration, for example, from a zero concentration reference analyte solution to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration. During the initial signal response to the step change, a rate of change 1004 of the signal can be measured for a time period. In some embodiments, for example when the step change is between two known reference solutions, the rate of change information can provide transient information useful for calibrating the sensor, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein. However, if either of the first and/or second analyte concentrations of the step response is not known, the rate of change information, alone, cannot provide sufficient calibration information necessary to calibrate the sensor.

[0541] Point 1006 represents a point in time that the signal response shifts from transient information (e.g., rate of change) to steady state information (e.g., plateau), in some embodiments. Namely, the signal, beginning at point 1006, substantially accurately represents the analyte concentration and can be used in steady state equations to determine an analyte concentration, in some embodiments. In one exemplary embodiment of steady state equations useful for calibrating the sensor system, the calibration information is obtained by solving for the equation $y = mx + b$, wherein: "y" represents the sensor data value (e.g., digitized in "counts") determined at a single point (or averaged value over a window of data where signal is indicative of analyte concentration, for example); "b" represents baseline (e.g., unrelated to the analyte); "m" represents sensitivity (e.g., for a glucose sensor, counts/mg/dL); and "x" is the concentration of the reference solution (e.g., known analyte concentration in a reference calibration solution (e.g., glucose in mg/dL)). In this exemplary embodiment, steady state information includes sensitivity and baseline.

[0542] In some embodiments, the sensor data value (y) can be obtained from a moving window that intelligently selects a plateau during exposure of the sensor to an analyte concentration. In some embodiments, the sensor system is configured to be exposed to two or more known reference calibration solutions from which steady state information (sensitivity and baseline) can be processed to calibrate the sensor system; namely, by providing two known analyte concentrations, the steady state equation described above can be utilized to solve for baseline and sensitivity of the sensor, which can be utilized to define a conversion function or calibration factor, such as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0543] Referring again to FIG. 10, point 1006 is a point that can be used as "y" in the steady state equation described above. In some embodiments, the point 1006 is easily determinable as it is the beginning of a signal plateau 1008 (represented by a dashed line); accordingly, the system includes programming to process the data signal to determine the signal plateau and/or a time point therein. In general, a step change produces a signal plateau in the signal response, which is indicative of a steady state response to the analyte concentration measurement. In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to determine the time

period (window) during which the signal has reached a plateau and choose a single point or average point from that window.

[0544] In some situations, however, the point 1006 and/or plateau 1008 may not be easily determinable. For example, in some sensor systems, the diffusion of certain non-analyte species (e.g., baseline, background and/or interfering species), which may diffuse more slowly than the analyte (e.g., through a membrane system that covers the analyte sensor), do not reach a steady state during the same time period that the analyte reaches a steady state. In these situations, the signal may not "plateau" in a measurable manner because of the reaction of the lagging species through the membrane system, which generate additional signal over the actual analyte plateau 1008. In other words, while the analyte concentration may have reached a plateau, the baseline has not. Dashed line 1010 represents the signal response to a step change in such a situation, for example, wherein the signal does not substantially "plateau" due to the lagging diffusion of certain non-analyte species, resulting in a non-measurable analyte plateau. In these situations, additional information is required in order to provide calibrated analyte sensor data. Systems and methods for providing additional information and/or to provide sufficient calibration information to calibrate an analyte sensor in such situations are described in more detail below, with reference to conjunctive measurements, for example.

[0545] In some embodiments, the sensor system is exposed to a reference solution with a known analyte concentration of about zero, and wherein the steady state information comprises baseline information about the sensor in the reference solution. For example, a glucose sensor system can be exposed to a 0 mg/dL glucose solution (e.g., saline solution without any glucose concentration) and the signal associated with the zero glucose concentration in the reference solution provides calibration information (steady state) indicative of at least a portion of the baseline of the sensor. However, the signal associated with the zero glucose concentration in a reference solution (such as saline) may not be equivalent to the baseline signal when the sensor is exposed to a biological sample (e.g., blood) from which the sensor is configured to obtain its analyte concentration measurement; accordingly, additional calibration information may be required in order to determine baseline of a biological sample (e.g., blood) in some embodiments. In some embodiments, the calibration solution includes additional components provided to overcome baseline in blood, for example. In some embodiments, a factor can be determined (e.g., from historical data) to determine an adjustment factor for a difference between baseline in the biological sample (e.g., blood) and baseline in the reference solution. In some embodiments, the difference in baseline of a biological sample (e.g., blood) and the baseline of the reference solution, also referred to as b_{offset} herein, can be determined using other techniques, such as described in more detail below.

[0546] In general, the calibration information described above, including a known baseline and sensitivity, can be used to determine a conversion function or calibration factor applied to convert sensor data ("y") into blood glucose data ("x"), as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0547] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured to obtain transient measurement information associated with exposure of the sensor to a reference solution of known analyte concentration and/or a biological fluid of

unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration. In some embodiments, the system is configured obtain transient information by exposing the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration and process the rate of change of the associated signal. In some embodiments, the system is configured to obtain transient information by exposing the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration and processing the impulse response of the associated signal.

[0548] In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor is exposed to a first reference solution of a known analyte concentration and then to a second reference solution of a known analyte concentration to determine the rate of change of the signal response. In these embodiments, the equation ($\Delta y / \Delta t = r \cdot \Delta x$) can be used to obtain the transient information, wherein " Δx " is the difference between the two known solutions that are being measured (e.g., 0 mg/dL to 100 mg/dL in an exemplary glucose sensor), " Δy " is the measured difference between the sensor data (e.g., in counts) corresponding to the analyte concentration difference in known reference solutions (Δx), " Δt " is the time between the two "y" sensor measurements referenced with Δy , and "r" represents the rate of change calibration factor, or rate of change conversion function, that can be applied for that particular sensor to obtain calibrated blood glucose measurements from sensor rate of change data.

[0549] In some embodiments, transient information can be obtained from the rate of change of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration. In some embodiments, transient information can be obtained from the step and/or impulse response of a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change in analyte concentration.

[0550] In some embodiments, neither steady state information, nor transient calibration measurements are used in isolation in calibrating the sensor system, but rather steady state and transient information are combined to provide calibration information sufficient to calibrate sensor data such as described in more detail, below. For example, in some embodiments, wherein baseline is not completely known (e.g., b_{offset} must be determined), wherein a rate of change calibration factor is not easily determinable (e.g., when multiple known reference solutions cannot be pushed substantially immediately adjacent to each other to provide a rate of change indicative of the step or impulse response), wherein the a steady state measurement cannot be obtained (e.g., due to lagging species affecting the analyte signal plateau), and the like. In some embodiments, both steady state information and transient information are processed by the system to provide sensor calibration, confirmation, and/or diagnostics. In some embodiments, transient sensor information from unknown or uncalibrated blood glucose measurements can be processed to provide calibration information for the sensor system, such as described in more detail below.

[0551] In some embodiments, once at least a portion of the calibration information is determined, the sensor system is configured to expose the sensor to a biological sample and measure a signal response thereto. In some embodiments, the sensor can be continuously exposed to the biological sample, wherein at least some external reference values are used as calibration information for calibrating the sensor system. In some embodiments, the sensor can be intermittently exposed to the biological sample, wherein at least some internal reference values are used as calibration information for calibrat-

ing the sensor system, also referred to as auto-calibration in some exemplary embodiments.

[0552] In some embodiments, the sensor system is calibrated solely using steady state information, such as described in more detail elsewhere herein. In one such embodiment, the sensor system is configured to be exposed to a biological sample and a value (y) determined from the signal plateau, which is used in combination with a conversion function (calibration factor) that uses steady state information (e.g., sensitivity and baseline) to obtain a calibrated analyte concentration (e.g., glucose concentration in mg/dL or mmol/L) equivalent to the measured sensor data value y.

[0553] In general, the sensor system of the preferred embodiments can be configured to utilize any combination the steady state information (e.g., from external and/or internal sources) described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on one, two, or more external reference values. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on one or more external reference values, which calibration can be confirmed using an internal reference value (e.g., zero analyte concentration reference solution). In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on one external reference value in combination with one internal reference value to determine baseline and sensitivity information. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on internal reference values, also referred to as auto-calibration. In general, auto-calibration includes the use of one or more reference solution to calibrate the sensor system. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on prior information, which is described in more detail elsewhere herein. In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on dual working electrodes, by substantially eliminating the baseline component of the steady state calibration equation (e.g., $y=mx$)).

[0554] In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based solely on transient information (e.g., rate of change, decay, impulse response, etc) described in more detail elsewhere herein. In one exemplary embodiment, analyte concentration can be determined from the change in sensor data responsive to a step change (Δx), the time (Δt) elapsed between the sensor data measurements Δy , and the rate of change calibration factor/rate of change conversion function, such as described in more detail above.

[0555] In some embodiments, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on conjunctive information, wherein the calibration information used to calibrate the sensor system includes both steady state information and transient information.

[0556] In one exemplary embodiment, the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based on a rate of change (transient information) associated with a signal produced during exposure of the sensor to a step change between a reference solution of known analyte concentration (e.g., 0 mg/dL glucose) and a biological sample; in this exemplary embodiment, a reference value (steady state information) from an external analyte sensor (e.g., blood glucose meter) can be obtained for the analyte concentration

in the biological sample, thereby providing sufficient information to solve for calibration using rate of change of the signal response to the step change there between. One advantage of using rate of change calibration methods includes its insensitivity to baseline and interfering species.

[0557] In one preferred embodiment, a system is provided for monitoring analyte concentration in a biological sample of a host, the system including: a substantially continuous analyte sensor configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample; a reference solution including a known analyte concentration, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the sensor is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution; and a computer system including programming configured to determine calibration information and calibrate a signal associated with a biological sample there from, wherein the calibration information includes steady state information and transient information. In some embodiments, the calibration information is determined from a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the reference solution and a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample.

[0558] One situation wherein steady state information and transient information are useful together for calibrating a sensor system includes a situation where a baseline measurement obtained from an internal reference ($b_{reference}$) provides only a portion of the baseline information necessary for calibrating the sensor system. As one example, the baseline of blood is different from the baseline of saline (e.g., reference) and compounds or molecules that make up the baseline in blood can create artifacts (e.g., b_{offset}), which can make calibration using internally derived steady state information alone, difficult. Namely, plateau 1008 (FIG. 10) in the signal responsive to the step change in analyte concentration does not occur in blood, in some embodiments, due to slow diffusion of baseline-causing compounds/molecules to the sensor electroactive surface; instead, an artifact 1010 (FIG. 10) is observed in the signal. Accordingly, in some embodiments, baseline information useful for calibration of a sensor system includes both $b_{reference}$ and b_{offset} . A variety of systems and methods of determining b_{offset} , which can be useful in providing calibration information and/or diagnostics and fail-safes, has been discovered, as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0559] In some embodiments, b_{offset} can be determined from transient information derived from a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0560] In one preferred embodiment, a system for monitoring analyte concentration in a biological sample of a host is provided, the system including: a substantially continuous analyte sensor configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in a host during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample; a reference solution including a known analyte concentration, wherein the system is configured to expose the sensor to the reference solution, and wherein the system is configured to produce a data signal indicative of an analyte concentration in the reference solution during exposure of the sensor to the reference solution; and a computer system including programming configured to determine calibration information and calibrate a signal asso-

ciated with a biological sample there from, wherein the calibration information is determined from a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to the reference solution and a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.

[0561] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured to process an impulse response of a signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, wherein the biological sample is of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration, in order to determine an offset between a baseline measurement associated with a reference solution and a baseline measurement associated with a biological sample (e.g., b_{offset}).

[0562] FIG. 11 is a graph that schematically illustrates a derivative of the step response shown in FIG. 10. FIG. 11 can also be described, as the impulse response of the signal associated when a sensor is exposed to a step change to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration, in one exemplary embodiment. In this embodiment, the impulse response can be defined by a sum of two exponentials functions (e.g., $(ae^{-k1*t} - ae^{-k2*t})$), where $k1$ and $k2$ are time constants characteristic of the sensor), wherein the impulse response starts at 0 at $t=0$ and is expected to decay to 0 as t becomes large (as time passes). The impulse response reaches a peak, shown as point 1050 in FIG. 11, which represents the maximum rate of change of the associated signal (see FIG. 10, for example). Additionally, although it is expected that the signal will decay to 0 as t becomes large, FIG. 11 illustrates a plateau 1052 above the y-axis; namely, wherein the plateau 1052 does not hit 0.

[0563] It has been discovered that the positive value 1054 of the plateau substantially represents the slope of the b_{offset} artifact 1010 (FIG. 10). Accordingly, when the slope is drawn from $t=0$ of the step response (see line 1012 of FIG. 10), the "y" value 1016 of that slope line at the end of the step response 1014, represents b_{offset} . Accordingly, b_{offset} can then be added to the equation $y=m \times + b$ (where $b=b_{reference} + b_{offset}$) and a conversion function (calibration factor) can be determined to calibrate the sensor system (i.e., using both steady state information and transient information and including using the signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.)

[0564] In some alternative embodiments, systems and methods are configured to process an impulse response (such as shown in FIG. 11) associated with a step change (such as shown in FIG. 10) to determine a time point of a steady state measurement during which an analyte concentration can be obtained. As described above, in some circumstances, it can be difficult to determine a steady state time point (e.g., 1006 in FIG. 10) at which time point the signal accurately represents the analyte concentration. Accordingly, systems and methods configured to determine the time point (e.g., 1006 in FIG. 10) in the step response associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration have been discovered, which time point accurately represents the analyte concentration in the biological sample. Because the impulse response can be defined by exponentials (discussed above), systems and methods can be configured to process the exponential equation (s) with variable parameters to determine a best-fit to the impulse response curve determined from exposure of the sensor to the biological sample. It has been discovered that this best fit of the impulse response provides sufficient information to deter-

mine the time point **1056** (FIG. 11) at which the decay curve should have decayed to the y-intercept; namely, the time point **1056** where the decay curve should have hit $y=0$ indicates the (steady state) time point in the step response (e.g., **1006** in FIG. 10) that accurately represents the analyte concentration without the b_{offset} artifact **1010**. Accordingly, ($y=m \times + b$) can then be used to calibrate the sensor system, including the signal value “y” at the time indicated by the extrapolated impulse response curve (e.g., and using sensitivity and baseline information determined from one or more reference calibration solutions, such as described in more detail elsewhere herein.

[0565] In some other alternative embodiments, systems and methods are configured to compare steady state information and transient information for a plurality of time-spaced signals associated with biological samples of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration to determine an offset between a baseline measurement associated with a reference solution and a baseline measurement associated with the biological samples.

[0566] In some exemplary embodiments, b_{offset} is determined by plotting level (i.e., the point at which the step response plateaus or ends) vs. rate (i.e., maximum rate of change of the step response determined from the peak of the impulse response curve) for a plurality of step responses (e.g., time-spaced signals) and drawing a regression line of the plotted points, such as described in more detail with reference to FIG. 12.

[0567] FIG. 12 is a graph that illustrates level vs. rate for a plurality of time-spaced signals associated with exposure of the sensor to biological samples of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration. The y-axis represents maximum rate of change for each step response; the x-axis represents level (signal level (e.g., in counts) obtained at the plateau of the signal and/or the end of the step response.) Each point **1080** on the plot represents level vs. rate for each of the plurality of time-spaced signals. A regression line **1082** is drawn using known regression methods, as is appreciated by one skilled in the art. The point **1084** at which the line **1082** crosses the y-axis represents the signal associated with a reference (e.g., 100 mg/dL calibration solution) plus b_{offset} . Accordingly, b_{offset} can be determined by subtracting the signal associated with the reference from the point **1084** at which the line **1082** crosses the y-axis. Thus, b_{offset} determined from the plot as described above, can be included in the equation $y=m \times + b$ (where $b=b_{reference}+b_{offset}$) and a conversion function (calibration factor) can be determined to calibrate the sensor system (i.e., using both steady state information and transient information and including using the signal associated with exposure of the sensor to a biological sample of unknown or uncalibrated analyte concentration.)

[0568] In some embodiments, b_{offset} is an adjustable parameter, wherein the sensor system includes systems and methods configured to determine b_{offset} with each measurement cycle (each time the sensor is exposed to the biological sample) and to adjust the calibration factor (conversion function), including b_{offset} with each measurement cycle, responsive to a change in b_{offset} above a predetermined threshold, and/or responsive to external information, for example.

[0569] In some embodiments, systems and methods are provided to detect a shift in the baseline and/or sensitivity of the signal based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information, such as described in more detail with reference to FIG. 12. In some embodiments, systems and

methods are provided to correct for a shift in the baseline and/or sensitivity of the signal based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information. In some embodiments, systems and methods are provided to initiate a calibration responsive to detection of a shift in the baseline and/or sensitivity of the signal based on a comparison of steady state information and transient information.

[0570] Referring again to FIG. 12, regression line **1082** is shown for a selected plurality of time spaced signals. In some embodiments, multiple regression lines can be drawn for a plurality of different windows of time spaced signals (e.g., time-shifted windows). In these embodiments, a comparison of a regression line from a first window of time spaced signals as compared to a regression line drawn from a second window of time spaced signals can be used to diagnose a shift and/or drift in sensor sensitivity and/or baseline. For example, in FIG. 12, line **1082** represents a regression line drawn for a first window of data over a first period of time; dashed line **1086** represents a regression line drawn for a second window of data over a second period of time; and dashed line **1088** represents a regression line drawn for a third window of data over a third period of time. In this example, dashed line **1086** is shifted along the y-axis from the first line **1082**, indicating a drift or shift in the sensor's baseline from the first time period to the second time period; dashed line **1088** is shifted along the x-axis from the first line **1082**, indicating a drift or shift in the sensor's sensitivity from the first time period to the third time period. Accordingly, a shift in the regression line can be used to diagnose a shift or drift in the sensor's signal and can be used to trigger a corrective action, such as update calibration and/or re-calibration using any of the methods described herein. Additionally or alternatively, the shift in the line can be used to correct a shift or drift in the sensor's signal; for example, the amount of shift in the line can be used to update calibration accordingly (e.g., the change in y-value between two regression lines can be representative of a corresponding change in baseline between two time periods, and the calibration information updated accordingly). One skilled in the art appreciates that some combination of shift or drift of the baseline and sensitivity can occur in some situations, which can be similarly detected and/or corrected for.

Diagnostics and Fail-Safes

[0571] In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to diagnose a condition of at least one of the sensor and the host responsive to calibration information. In some embodiments, the system intermittently or continuously determines at least some calibration information (e.g., sensitivity information, b_{offset} , and the like), each time the sensor is exposed to a reference solution and/or a biological sample.

[0572] In one embodiment, systems and methods are configured to find a plateau and/or stable window of data in response to exposure of the sensor to at least one of a reference solution and a biological sample. In some embodiments, if the system cannot find the plateau and/or stable window of data, the system is configured to “fail-safe;” for example, in some circumstances, a lack of plateau and/or stable window of data may be indicative of dilution and/or mixture of the reference solution (e.g., calibration solution) with the biological sample (e.g., blood), and/or interruption/disruption of expected/desired fluid flow. Additionally, in some circumstances, a lack of plateau and/or stable window of data may be indicative of interfering species in the signal.

[0573] In general, the term “fail-safe” includes modifying the system processing and/or display of data in some manner responsive to a detected error, or unexpected condition, and thereby avoids reporting and/or processing of potentially inaccurate or clinically irrelevant analyte values.

[0574] In another embodiment, systems and methods are configured to process a signal responsive to exposure of the signal to a reference and/or biological sample to determine whether the signal is within a predetermined range; if the signal falls outside the range, the system is configured to fail-safe.

[0575] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured to determine calibration information including sensitivity information, wherein the system includes programming configured to diagnose an error responsive to a change in sensitivity above a predetermined amount. For example, in a sensor system as described in more detail with reference to the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. 8A to 8C, the system can be configured to determine a sensitivity value during each calibration phase; and wherein the system can be configured to fail-safe when the sensitivity of a calibration phase differs from the previously stored sensitivity by more than a predetermined threshold. In this exemplary embodiment, fail-safe can include not using the sensitivity information to update calibration, for example. While not wishing to be bound by theory, the predetermined threshold described above allows for drift in the sensitivity of the sensor, but prevents large fluctuations in the sensitivity values, which may be caused by noise and/or other errors in the system.

[0576] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured to diagnose error in the sensor system by ensuring the sensor signal (e.g., raw signal of the reference solution(s)) is within a predetermined range. In some embodiments, the sensor signal must be within a predetermined range of raw values (e.g., counts, current, etc.). In some embodiments, one or more boundary lines can be set for a regression line drawn from the calibration phase. For example, subsequent to performing regression, the resulting slope and/or baseline are tested to determine whether they fall within a predetermined acceptable threshold (boundaries). These predetermined acceptable boundaries can be obtained from in vivo or in vitro tests (e.g. by a retrospective analysis of sensor sensitivities and/or baselines collected from a set of sensors/patients, assuming that the set is representative of future data). Co-pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/360,250, filed on Feb. 22, 2006 and entitled, “ANALYTE SENSOR,” which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, describes systems and methods for drawing boundaries lines. In some embodiments, different boundaries can be set for different reference solutions.

[0577] In some embodiments, systems and methods are configured for performing diagnostics of the sensor system (e.g., continuously or intermittently) during exposure of the sensor to a biological sample, also referred to as the measurement phase, for example, such as described in more detail above with reference to FIGS. 8A to 8C. In some embodiments, diagnostics includes determination and/or analysis of b_{offset} . In some embodiments, systems and methods are provided for comparing sequential b_{offset} values for sequential measurement phases. In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to diagnose an error and fail-safe responsive to a change in the b_{offset} above a predetermined amount. In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to re-calibrate the sensor responsive

to changes in the b_{offset} above a predetermined amount. In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to detect an interfering species responsive to a change in the b_{offset} above a predetermined amount.

[0578] In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to diagnose a condition of the host's metabolic processes responsive to a change in b_{offset} above a predetermined amount. In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to display or transmit a message associated with the host's condition responsive to diagnosing the condition. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that changes in b_{offset} can be the result of an increase (or decrease) in metabolic by-products (electro-active species), which may be a result of wounding, inflammation, or even more serious complications in the host; accordingly, changes in b_{offset} can be useful in diagnosing changes in the host's health condition.

[0579] In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to detect sensor error, noise on the sensor signal, failure of the sensor, changes in baseline, and the like, responsive to a change in b_{offset} above a predetermined amount.

[0580] In some embodiments, the system includes programming configured to determine a time constant of the sensor. One method of calculating a time constant for a sensor includes determining an impulse response to a step change, wherein time at the peak of the impulse response represents a time constant for the sensor. While not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that the time constant determined from the peak of the impulse response should remain substantially the same throughout the life of the sensor. However, if a shift in the time constant (between step changes and their associated impulse response curves) above a predetermined range is detected, it can be indicative of an unexpected sensor condition or error, for example. Accordingly, by comparing time constants from a plurality of impulse response curves (derived from a plurality of step responses), programming can be configured to diagnose a sensor condition or error and initiate programming (e.g., fail-safe), accordingly.

[0581] Accordingly, the system can “fail-safe,” including performing one or more of the following fail-safe responses: temporarily or permanently suspending (e.g., discontinuing) display of analyte data, updating calibration or re-calibrating the sensor, requesting external reference values, using external reference value(s) as confirmation of a detected condition, using external reference value(s) to update calibration or re-calibrate the sensor, shutting the system down, processing the sensor data to compensate for the change in b_{offset} , transmitting one or more messages to the user interface or other external source regarding the sensor condition, and the like.

Auto-Calibration

[0582] Some preferred embodiments are configured for auto-calibration of the sensor system, wherein “auto-calibration” includes the use of one or more internal references to calibrate the sensor system. In some embodiments, auto-calibration includes systems and methods configured to calibrate the sensor based solely on internal reference values. However, in some alternative embodiments of auto-calibration, one or more external reference values can be used to complement and/or confirm calibration of the sensor system.

[0583] In some preferred embodiments, the system is configured to intermittently expose the sensor to a biological sample; however configurations of the sensor system that

allow continuous exposure of the sensor to the biological sample are contemplated. In some embodiments, the system is configured to intermittently or periodically expose the sensor to a reference, however configurations of the sensor system that allow one or more independent or non-regular reference measurements initiated by the sensor system and/or a user are contemplated. In the exemplary embodiment of a sensor system such as described with reference to FIGS. 8A to 8C, the system is configured to cycle between a measurement phase and calibration phase (with optional other phases interlaced therein (e.g., flush and KVO)).

[0584] In general, timing of auto-calibration can be driven by a variety of parameters: preset intervals (e.g., clock driven) and/or triggered by events (such as detection of a biological sample at a sensor). In some embodiments, one or more of the phases are purely clock driven, for example by a system configured to control the timing housed within a flow control device, remote analyzer, and/or other computer system. In some embodiments, one or more of the phases are driven by one or more events, including: exposure of the sensor to a biological sample (e.g., blood) exposure of sensor to a reference (e.g., calibration solution), completion of calibration measurement, completion of analyte measurement, stability of signal measurement, sensor for detecting a biological sample, and the like.

[0585] In one exemplary embodiment, calibration and measurement phases are driven by cleaning of sensor; namely, systems and methods are configured to detect when the sensor is in the biological sample and/or in the reference solution (e.g., calibration solution), wherein the system is configured to switch to appropriate phase responsive to detection of that sample/solution.

[0586] In another exemplary embodiment, an AC signal is placed on top of a DC signal (e.g., in an amperometric electrochemical analyte sensor), wherein systems and methods are configured to analyze an impedance response to the AC signal and detect a biological sample thereby.

[0587] In yet another exemplary embodiment, systems and methods are configured for analyzing the sensor's signal, wherein a change from a known reference solution (e.g., a known analyte concentration) can be detected on the signal, and the switch from the calibration phase to the measurement phase occur responsive thereto; similarly, the system can be configured to switch back to the calibration phase responsive to detection of the known signal value associated with the reference solution.

[0588] In yet another exemplary embodiment, systems and methods are configured to switch between phases responsive to one or more sensors configured to detect the biological sample and/or reference solution at a particular location.

[0589] In some embodiments, the sensor system is partially or fully controlled by a clock (e.g., predetermined time intervals), which timing can be confirmed by any of the events (e.g., triggers or sensors) described above.

[0590] In one exemplary embodiment, systems and methods are provided to enable auto-calibration of an integrated glucose sensor system with minimal user interaction. In this exemplary embodiment, the integrated sensor system is provided with the components described above, including a fluids bag, a flow control device, IV tubing, a flow control device, a remote analyzer, a local analyzer and a sensor/ catheter, for example. At system start-up, a health care worker inserts the catheter and sensor into a host and injects a first reference solution (e.g., zero glucose saline solution) into the

IV tubing, wherein the system is configured to allow a pre-determined time period (e.g., 20 minutes) for the first reference solution to pass through the IV tubing and into the catheter. Subsequently, the health care worker couples the fluids bag to the IV tubing, wherein the fluids bag includes a second reference solution (e.g., 100 mg/dl glucose solution) configured to follow the first reference solution in the IV line. After injecting the first reference solution and coupling the second reference solution, the health care worker initiates the integrated sensor system (e.g., through the remote analyzer touch screen) after which the integrated sensor system automatically calibrates and functions for 24 hours without necessary user interface (for system calibration and/or initiation). In some embodiments, the sensor system is re-calibrated every 24 hours by injection of a new first reference solution (e.g., zero glucose saline solution).

[0591] In the above-described exemplary embodiment, the system is configured to calibrate the sensor with the first and second reference solution and using the methods described in the section entitled, "Systems and Methods for Processing Sensor Data." Additionally, the system is configured to automatically detect the difference in signal associated with the first and second reference solutions, for example, through steady state detection of a difference in signal level.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Glucose Sensor System Trial in Dogs

[0592] Referring now to FIG. 4, glucose sensor systems of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 were tested in dogs. The glucose sensors were built according to the preferred embodiments described herein. Namely, a first sensor (Test 1) was built by providing a platinum wire, vapor-depositing the platinum with Parylene to form an insulating coating, helically winding a silver wire around the insulated platinum wire (to form a "twisted pair"), masking sections of the electroactive surface of the silver wire, vapor-depositing Parylene on the twisted pair, chloridizing the silver electrode to form a silver chloride reference electrode, and removing a radial window on the insulated platinum wire to expose a circumferential electroactive working electrode surface area thereon, this assembly also referred to as a "parylene-coated twisted pair assembly."

[0593] An electrode domain was formed over the electroactive surface areas of the working and reference electrodes by dip coating the assembly in an electrode solution and drying. An enzyme domain was formed over the electrode domain by subsequently dip coating the assembly in an enzyme solution and drying. A resistance domain was formed over the enzyme domain by spraying the resistance domain solution on the sensor construct.

[0594] After the sensor was constructed, it was placed in the protective sheath and then threaded through and attached to the fluid coupler.

[0595] A second sensor (Test 2) was constructed in the same manner as the first, except that the silver wire was disposed within (e.g., coiled within) the fluid coupler. Accordingly, only the platinum working electrode (a single wire) was inserted into the catheter during the experiment.

[0596] Prior to use, the sensors were sterilized using electron beam.

[0597] The forelimb of an anesthetized dog (2 years old, 40 pounds) was cut down to the femoral artery and vein. An

arterio-venous shunt was placed from the femoral artery to the femoral vein using 14 gauge catheters and $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch IV tubing. A pressurized arterial fluid line was connected to the sensor systems at all times. The test sensor systems (test 1 and test 2) included a 20 gauge \times 1.25-inch catheter and took measurements every 30 seconds. The catheter was aseptically inserted into the shunt, followed by insertion of the sensor into the catheter. A transcutaneous glucose sensor (control) of the type disclosed in U.S. Publ. No. US-2006-0155180-A1 was built and placed in the dog's abdomen according to recommended procedures. The dog was challenged with continuous incremental IV infusion of a 10% dextrose solution ("glucose challenge") until the blood glucose concentration reached about 400 mg/dL.

[0598] FIG. 4 shows the experimental results. The thick line represents data collected from the Test 1 sensor. The thin line represents data collected from the Test 2 sensor. Diamonds represent data collected from a hand-held blood glucose meter (SMBG) sampled from the dog's abdomen. Raw glucose test data (counts) are shown on the left-hand Y-axle, glucose concentrations for the "SMBG" controls are shown on the right-hand y-axle, and time is shown on the X-axle. Each time interval on the X-axle represents 29-minutes (e.g., 10:04 to 10:33 equals 29 minutes). Immediately upon insertion into a catheter, each test sensor began collecting data with substantially no sensor equilibration time (e.g., break-in time). Each test sensor responded to the glucose challenge substantially similarly to the control sensor. For example, each device shows the glucose signal increasing from about 3200 counts at 10:33 to about 6000-6700 counts at 11:31. Then, each device showed a rapid decrease in glucose signal, to about 4700 counts at 12:00. Additionally, the response of the test sensors and the control sensor were substantially similar (e.g., the majority of the test data was substantially equivalent to the SMBG data at each time point). From these experimental show that an indwelling glucose sensor system (as described herein) in contact with the circulatory system can provide substantially continuous glucose monitoring in a clinical setting.

Example 2

Glucose Sensor System Trial in Pigs

[0599] Referring now to FIG. 5, four glucose sensor systems of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 were tested in a pig (~104 lb), using the protocol described for Example 1, above. Glucose was continuously infused at increasing rates through a distally placed IV catheter until a readout of 300-400 mg/dL blood glucose was achieved (total 300 ml of a 10% dextrose IV solution). FIG. 5 shows the experimental results. Lines indicated the data from the four sensors (Test 1 through Test 4). Diamonds represent control measurements made with a hand-held glucose meter (SMBG). Raw glucose test data (counts) are shown on the left-hand Y-axle, glucose concentrations for the "SMBG" controls are shown on the right-hand y-axle, and time is shown on the X-axle. Test results show that though the sensors varied in sensitivity, each test sensor responded to glucose challenge substantially similarly to the control sensor (SMBG). These experimental results show that an indwelling glucose sensor system (of the pre-

ferred embodiments) in contact with the circulatory system can substantially continuously track glucose in a clinical setting.

Example 3

Glucose Sensor System with Flow Control Device Trial in Pigs

[0600] Referring now to FIG. 13, a glucose sensor was built according to the preferred embodiments described herein. Namely, a test sensor was built by providing a platinum wire, vapor-depositing the platinum with Parylene to form an insulating coating, helically winding a silver wire around the insulated platinum wire (to form a "twisted pair"), masking sections of the electroactive surface of the silver wire, vapor-depositing Parylene on the twisted pair, chloridizing the silver electrode to form a silver chloride reference electrode, and removing a radial window on the insulated platinum wire to expose a circumferential electroactive working electrode surface area thereon, this assembly also referred to as a "parylene-coated twisted pair assembly."

[0601] An electrode domain was formed over the electroactive surface areas of the working and reference electrodes by dip coating the assembly in an electrode solution and drying. An interference domain was formed over the electrode domain by subsequently dip coating the assembly in an interference domain solution and drying. An enzyme domain was formed over the interference domain by subsequently dip coating the assembly in an enzyme solution and drying. A resistance domain was formed over the enzyme domain by spraying the resistance domain solution on the sensor construct.

[0602] The test sensor was then located within a 20 gauge catheter and inserted in the femoral vein of a non-diabetic pig. The catheter was connected to an integrated sensor system 600 of the preferred embodiments. The flow control device 604 (e.g., a roller valve as depicted in FIGS. 8A-8C) was configured to move between steps one and two, as described in the section entitled "Flow Control Device Function," above. A 107-mg/dL glucose solution was used to calibrate the sensors (e.g., flows from the reservoir 602, through the tubing 606, to the catheter 12). To mimic a diabetic's hyperglycemic state, a gradual infusion of 26% dextrose was given, until the pig's blood glucose was about 600 mg/dL. Then to mimic a hypoglycemic state, 10 U Humulin N was given, until the pig's blood glucose was about 50 mg/dL. Then, the pig's blood glucose was raised to about 100 mg/dL by a second 26% dextrose infusion.

[0603] FIG. 13 is a graphical representation showing uncalibrated glucose sensor data and corresponding blood glucose values over time in a pig. Raw counts are represented on the left Y-axis. Glucose concentration is shown on the right Y-axis. Time is shown on the X-axis. Test measurements (e.g., measurements of blood glucose concentration obtained with the test sensor, raw counts) are shown as small, black dots. Control measurements (e.g., jugular vein blood samples analyzed on a Yellow Springs Instrument (YSI) glucose analyzer) are shown as diamonds.

[0604] During the experiment, the system was configured to alternate between calibration measurements (with the 107 mg/dL glucose solution) and blood glucose measurements, as described in the sections entitled "Step one: Contacting Sensor with Calibration Solution and Calibration" and "Step Two: Sample Collection and Measurement," respectively.

Accordingly, as the experiment proceeded the test signal oscillated between calibration solution (107 mg/dl) and blood glucose measurements. The sensor (test) blood glucose measurement correlated tightly with the control blood glucose measurements. For example, as the pig's blood glucose concentration increased (due to infusion of glucose), so did the test measurements, reaching about 550 mg/dl at about 12:20. Similarly, as the pig's blood glucose concentration decreased (due to infusion of insulin), so did the test measurements, decreasing to about 50 mg/dl at about 14:45.

[0605] From these data, it was concluded that a glucose sensor system of the preferred embodiments (including a valve as described with reference to FIGS. 8A to 8C) accurately and sensitively measures intravenous glucose concentration over a wide dynamic range.

Example 4

Glucose Sensor System with Flow Control Device Trial in Humans

[0606] Referring now to FIG. 14, a glucose sensor, constructed as described in Example 3, and an integrated sensor system (as described in Example 3) were tested in a volunteer, diabetic host. The flow control device was configured as shown in FIGS. 8A-8C. The system was configured to alternate between a calibration phase and a blood glucose measurement phase, as described elsewhere herein. At sensor/catheter initialization, a 0 mg/dl glucose saline solution filled syringe was injected into the IV tubing and the fluids bag including 100 mg/dl glucose heparinized saline solution was subsequently coupled to the tubing. The system was then turned on (e.g., sensor initialized). The 0 mg/dl glucose saline solution passed over the sensor, after which the 100 mg/dl glucose heparinized saline solution subsequently passed over the sensor allowing for initial calibration information to be collected. The system, including a flow control device as described with reference to FIGS. 8A to 8C, then oscillated between exposure of the sensor to a blood sample and exposure of the sensor to the 100 mg/dl glucose heparinized saline solution. The sensor auto-calibrated by a combination of calibration information obtained from measurement of the 0 mg/dl-glucose and 100 mg/dl-glucose saline solutions and the step-change-response of the sensor to the blood sample, according to the methods described in the section entitled "Systems and methods for Processing Sensor Data." No external measurements (e.g., blood glucose measurements by YSI or finger stick) were used to calibrate the system in this example. During the experiment, the flow control device cycled between step one (measuring the 100 mg/dl-glucose solution) and step two (blood sample take up and measuring the blood glucose concentration), such that one cycle was completed every 5-minutes. The experiment was conducted for a period of about 2.5 days. The host followed her usual schedule of meals and insulin injections.

[0607] FIG. 14 is a graphical representation showing calibrated venous blood glucose sensor measurements (test, black dots) and corresponding control blood glucose measurements (YSI, large circles) over time in the volunteer diabetic host. Glucose concentration is shown on the Y-axis and time on the X-axis. Test measurements tracked closely with control measurements, ranging from about 350 mg/dl, at about 10:00 and about 15:30, to about 50 mg/dl, at about 11:45. From these data, it has been concluded that 1) the sensor calibration methods of the preferred embodiments

accurately calibrate the sensor and 2) the glucose sensor system of the preferred embodiments accurately measures intravenous glucose concentration over a wide dynamic range, for two or more days, in humans.

[0608] Methods and devices that are suitable for use in conjunction with aspects of the preferred embodiments are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,994,167; U.S. Pat. No. 4,757,022; U.S. Pat. No. 6,001,067; U.S. Pat. No. 6,741,877; U.S. Pat. No. 6,702,857; U.S. Pat. No. 6,558,321; U.S. Pat. No. 6,931,327; U.S. Pat. No. 6,862,465; U.S. Pat. No. 7,074,307; U.S. Pat. No. 7,081,195; U.S. Pat. No. 7,108,778; and U.S. Pat. No. 7,110,803.

[0609] Methods and devices that are suitable for use in conjunction with aspects of the preferred embodiments are disclosed in U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0176136-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0251083-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0143635-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0181012-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0177036-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0124873-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0115832-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0245799-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0245795-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0242479-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0182451-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0056552-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0192557-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0154271-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2004-0199059-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0054909-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0112169-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0051427-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2003-0032874-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0103625-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0203360-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0090607-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0187720-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0161346-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0015020-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0043598-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2003-0217966-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0033132-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0031689-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2004-0186362-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0027463-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0027181-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2005-0027180-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020187-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036142-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020192-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036143-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036140-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0019327-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020186-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020189-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036139-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020191-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020188-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036141-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0020190-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036145-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036144-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0016700-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0142651-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No.

US-2006-0086624-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0068208-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0040402-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036142-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036141-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036143-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036140-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036139-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0142651-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036145-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0036144-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0200022-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0198864-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0200019-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0189856-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0200020-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0200970-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0183984-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0183985-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0195029-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0229512-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2006-0222566-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0032706-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0016381-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027370-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0027384-A1; U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0032717-A1; and U.S. Patent Publication No. US-2007-0032718 A1.

[0610] Methods and devices that are suitable for use in conjunction with aspects of the preferred embodiments are disclosed in U.S. application Ser. No. 09/447,227 filed Nov. 22, 1999 and entitled "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/515,342 filed Sep. 1, 2006 and entitled "SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/654,135 filed Jan. 17, 2007 and entitled "POROUS MEMBRANES FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/675,063 filed Feb. 14, 2007 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,734 filed Oct. 4, 2006 and entitled "DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/654,140 filed Jan. 17, 2007 and entitled "MEMBRANES FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/654,327 filed Jan. 17, 2007 and entitled "MEMBRANES FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,396 filed Oct. 4, 2006 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,490 filed Oct. 4, 2006 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/543,404 filed Oct. 4, 2006 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR"; U.S. application Ser. No. 11/681,145 filed Mar. 1, 2007 and entitled "ANALYTE SENSOR"; and U.S. application Ser. No. 11/690,752 filed Mar. 23, 2007 and entitled "TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR".

[0611] All references cited herein, including but not limited to published and unpublished applications, patents, and literature references, are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and are hereby made a part of this specification. To the extent publications and patents or patent applications incorporated by reference contradict the disclosure contained in the specification, the specification is intended to supersede and/or take precedence over any such contradictory material.

[0612] The term "comprising" as used herein is synonymous with "including," "containing," or "characterized by," and is inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps.

[0613] All numbers expressing quantities of ingredients, reaction conditions, and so forth used in the specification are to be understood as being modified in all instances by the term "about." Accordingly, unless indicated to the contrary, the numerical parameters set forth herein are approximations that may vary depending upon the desired properties sought to be obtained. At the very least, and not as an attempt to limit the application of the doctrine of equivalents to the scope of any claims in any application claiming priority to the present application, each numerical parameter should be construed in light of the number of significant digits and ordinary rounding approaches.

[0614] The above description discloses several methods and materials of the present invention. This invention is susceptible to modifications in the methods and materials, as well as alterations in the fabrication methods and equipment. Such modifications will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of this disclosure or practice of the invention disclosed herein. Consequently, it is not intended that this invention be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed herein, but that it cover all modifications and alternatives coming within the true scope and spirit of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for measuring an analyte, the system comprising:

a vascular access device configured to be in communication with a circulatory system of a host; and
an analyte sensor configured to reside within the vascular access device, wherein the analyte sensor is configured to measure a concentration of an analyte within the circulatory system.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a flow control device.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the flow control device comprises at least one of a pump and a valve.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample from the circulatory system.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the sample has a volume of about 500 microliters or less.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the sample has a volume of about 50 microliters or less.

7. The system of claim 4, wherein the flow control device is configured to draw back the sample at a rate of from about 0.001 ml/min to about 2.0 ml/min.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the rate is from about 0.01 ml/min to about 1.0 ml/min.

9. The system of claim 4, wherein the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample substantially no farther than the vascular access device.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the flow control device is configured to draw back a sample substantially no farther than a plane defined by skin of the host.

11. The system of claim 2, wherein the flow control device is configured to infuse a fluid through the vascular access device and into the circulatory system.

12. The system of claim **11**, wherein the flow control device is configured to infuse the fluid at a rate such that a temperature of the fluid substantially equilibrates with a temperature of the host.

13. The system of claim **12**, wherein the fluid has a known concentration of the analyte and the sensor comprises electronics configured to measure a signal associated with the known concentration of the analyte.

14. The system of claim **1**, wherein an in vivo portion of the analyte sensor has a width of less than about 0.020 inches.

15. The system of claim **14**, wherein the in vivo portion of the analyte sensor has a width of less than about 0.010 inches.

16. The system of claim **1**, wherein the vascular access device comprises a single lumen.

17. The system of claim **1**, wherein the vascular access device comprises an 18 gauge or smaller catheter.

18. The system of claim **17**, wherein the vascular access device comprises a 22 gauge or smaller catheter.

19. The system of claim **1**, wherein the vascular access device comprises a sidewall and at least one orifice disposed within the sidewall, wherein the orifice is configured to allow blood to pass therethrough.

20. The system of claim **19**, wherein the orifice is configured to allow blood to contact at least a portion of the sensor.

21. The system of claim **1**, wherein the sensor comprises a tip, and wherein the tip of the sensor is disposed within the vascular access device.

22. The system of claim **21**, wherein the tip of the sensor is disposed about 2 cm or less from a tip of the vascular access device.

23. The system of claim **1**, wherein at least a portion of the sensor is configured to extend out of the vascular access device.

24. The system of claim **1**, wherein at least a portion of the sensor is configured to intermittently protrude out of the vascular access device.

25. The system of claim **1**, wherein the analyte sensor further comprises a bioinert material or a bioactive agent incorporated therein or thereon.

26. The system of claim **24**, wherein the bioactive agent comprises at least one agent selected from the group consisting of vitamin K antagonists, heparin group anticoagulants, platelet aggregation inhibitors, enzymes, direct thrombin inhibitors, Dabigatran, Desfibrotide, Dermatan sulfate, Fondaparinux, and Rivaroxaban.

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