Abstract: An expandable stent includes a generally tubular structure made of a plurality of separately expandable elements. The elements are arranged such that expansion of an element of the separately expandable elements incrementally expands a transverse dimension of the stent.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - A61F 2/06 (2009.01)
USPC - 623/1.18
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
US: 623/1.18

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
U.S.: 623/1.18, 1.1, 1.15, 1.18, 1.19, 1.22, 1.3
IPC(8): A61F 2/06 (2009.01)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PubWEST (PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, JPAB); GOOGLE Scholar; GOOGLE Patents for stent, expand$, restrain$, lact$, shape, memory, activat$, temperature, heat, magnet$, piezo$, actuator, separat$, segment$, biodegrade$, drug, elut$.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,545,210 A (Hess et al.) 13 August 1996 (13.08.1996); Fig 1-3; col 4, In 8-67; col 5, In 5-22; col 6, In 33-52; col 7, In 52-58.</td>
<td>1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2007/0083258 A1 (Falotico et al.) 12 April 2007 (12.04.2007); Fig 1; para [0133], [0155].</td>
<td>2, 3, 6-8, 11, 12, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2008/0004528 A1 (FitzSimons et al.) 03 January 2008 (03.01.2008); para [0018], [0019], [0047], [0048], [0053].</td>
<td>2, 3, 11, 12, 6-8, 15, 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

Date of the actual completion of the international search
06 July 2009 (06.07.2009)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer: Lee W. Young
PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774