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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MAGNETIC RESONANCE ELASTOGRAPHY CURVED PASSIVE ACOUSTIC DRIVER

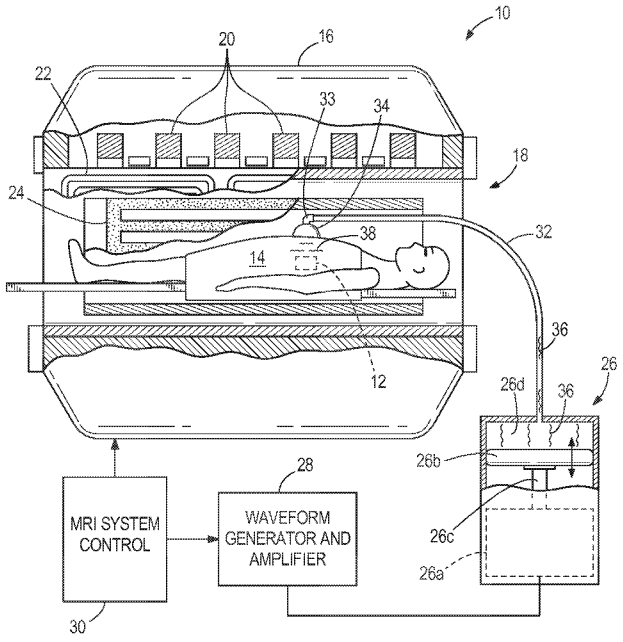

FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An acoustic driver system includes an active acoustic driver and a passive acoustic driver. The active acoustic driver is configured to produce oscillating acoustic energy. The passive acoustic driver is acoustically connected to the active acoustic driver and is configured to receive the oscillating acoustic energy and to convert it into shear waves. The passive acoustic driver includes a housing member and a vibrating member. The housing member includes a housing member cavity. The vibrating member is disposed at least partially within the housing member cavity. The vibrating member permanently retains a curved shape while disposed within the housing member cavity.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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USPC - 600/410, 411, 421
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) : A61B 5/055; A61B 8/00; A61B 6/02 (2013.01)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
MicroPatent (US Granted, US Applications, EP-A, EP-B, WO, JP, DE-G, DE-A, DE-T, DE-U, GB-A, FR-A): magnetic resonance elastography, coil, gel, passive driver, acoustic, hemisphere; Proquest: magnetic resonance elastography; Google Scholar: shear wave generation; Google: signal to noise ratio.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,350,847 A (POLK, M) September 21,1982; abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 62-63	1, 10, 11 --- 2-9, 12-44
Y	US 2005/0227364 A1 (MADSEN, E et al.) October 13, 2005; [0069-0071]	3, 4, 16-17, 29, 30
Y	US 2009/0299168 A1 (EHMAN, R et al.) December 3, 2009; figure 1, [0011]	14-44
Y	US 2011/0130660 A1 (CLOUTIER, G et al.) June 2, 2011; figures 23a-23d	2, 5-8, 15, 18-21, 31-34, 41, 42
Y	University of Chicago, Computation Institute. Factors Affecting the Signal-to-Noise Ratio [online], December 17, 2006. [retreived on December 6, 2013]. Retreived from the internet: <URL: http://wiki.ci.uchicago.edu/pub/HNL/DifficultQuestion/howdoesmriwork.pdf page 37	12, 13, 25, 26, 38-40
Y	US 2008/0130937 A1 (PERKINS, N et al.) June 5, 2008; paragraph [0071]	9, 22, 35

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