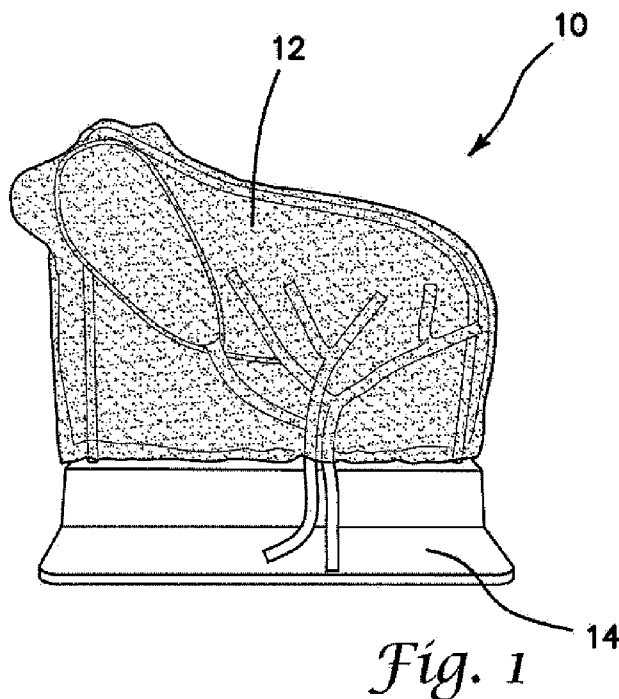




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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: GALLBLADDER MODEL FOR TEACHING AND PRACTICING SURGICAL PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: An anatomical model for surgical training includes a first layer simulating a liver and a second layer including a simulated gallbladder. A third layer having an inner surface and an outer surface is provided between the first and second layer. The outer surface of the third layer is adhered to the first layer at location around the simulated gallbladder and the simulated gallbladder is adhered to the inner surface of the third layer. A fourth layer is provided that overlays both the second layer and the simulated gallbladder. A frame is embedded within the first layer and is connectable to a support. The model provides a substantially upright projection of a simulated gallbladder and liver in a retracted orientation ideally suited for practicing laparoscopic cholecystectomy when inserted inside a simulated insufflated cavity of laparoscopic trainer.



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26 February 2015

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2014/042998

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
INV. G09B23/34  
ADD.  
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)  
G09B  
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96/42076 A1 (SIMULAB CORP [US]; YOUNKER SCOTT B [US]) 27 December 1996 (1996-12-27)	1-14
Y	page 3, line 2 - line 6 page 5, line 30 - line 36 page 6, line 23 - line 34 page 10, line 21 - page 11, line 17 figures 1,2,6,7	32-36
Y	----- WO 98/58358 A1 (LIMBS & THINGS LTD [GB]; MCMAHON MICHAEL JOHN [GB]; COOPER CAROLYN MAR) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23)	32-36
A	page 4, line 24 - page 5, line 6; figures 7-11	2-5,12, 14
A	----- US 2012/015339 A1 (HENDRICKSON DEAN A [US] ET AL) 19 January 2012 (2012-01-19) the whole document	1-14, 32-36
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2014/042998

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

please see additional sheet(s)

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2014/042998
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date	
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			US 2014072941 A1	13-03-2014
			US 2014186809 A1	03-07-2014
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**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-14, 32-36

The potential special technical features in Group 1 are directed to aid the simulation by connecting the first and second layer at least partially around the location of the at least one second simulated anatomical structure. (description, paragraph [0036])  
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2. claims: 15-21

The potential special technical features in Group 2 are directed to hold an anatomical portion including a peak and a gallbladder in a substantially upright but flexible position.  
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3. claims: 22-31

The potential special technical features in Group 3 are directed to hold the anatomical portion in a substantially upright position by a frame at least partially embedded within the first layer. Thus the frame is not visible to the user.  
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4. claims: 37-47

The potential special technical features in Group 4 are directed to aid the simulation by a fourth layer and selective adherence (first and second layer connected along at least part of a first perimeter).  
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