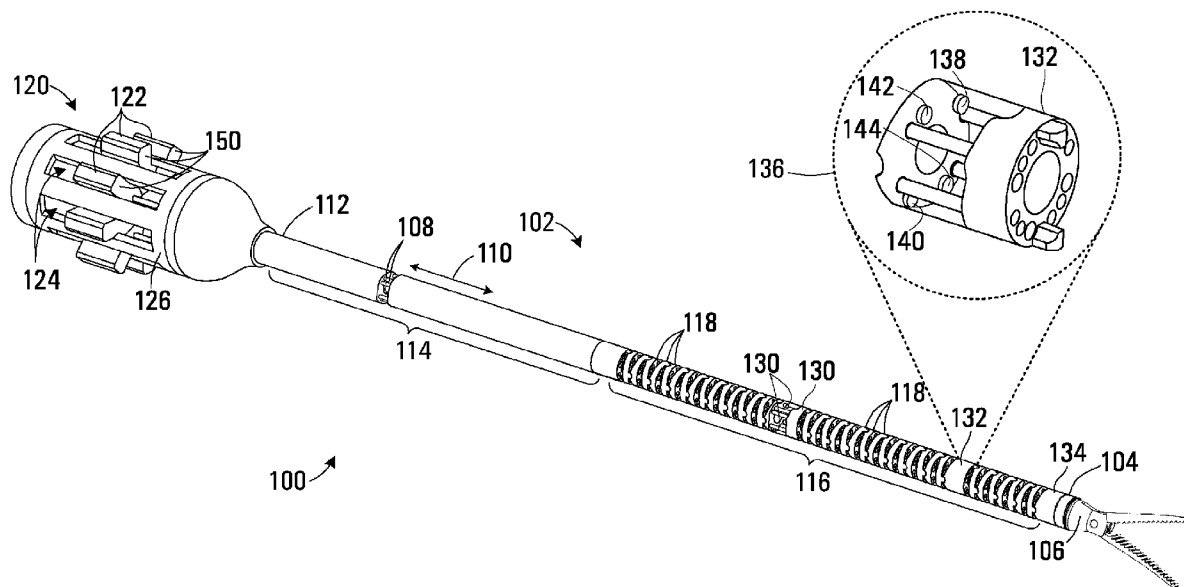




- (51) International Patent Classification:  
*A61B 34/00* (2016.01)      *A61B 34/30* (2016.01)  
*A61B 17/29* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/CA2020/050755
- (22) International Filing Date:  
01 June 2020 (01.06.2020)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
16/427,164      30 May 2019 (30.05.2019)      US
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- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,  
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,  
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,  
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,  
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,  
KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,  
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,  
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,

(54) Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT APPARATUS, ACTUATOR, AND DRIVE



**FIG. 1**

(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient is disclosed and includes an elongate manipulator having a distal end for receiving an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator operable to cause movement of the distal end in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction. An actuator chassis is disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator and includes a plurality of actuators slidingly mounted within the actuator chassis for linear movement in the longitudinal direction. Each actuator is coupled to a control link and adjacently disposed about a curved periphery of the actuator chassis. An outwardly oriented portion couples a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link. A proximate end of the manipulator may be laterally offset to facilitate location of the surgical instrument apparatus closely adjacent to another surgical instrument apparatus. The manipulator may include an unactuated articulated portion



SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,  
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

**(84) Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

**SURGICAL INSTRUMENT APPARATUS, ACTUATOR, AND DRIVE****Technical Field**

5 This disclosure relates generally to a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient.

**Description of Related Art**

10 Surgical instruments used in laparoscopic and/or robotic surgery generally have a proximally located actuator that may be used to actuate a distal end effector for performing a surgical task within a body cavity of a patient. Such instruments may be used in applications where there is an area of limited access for an operator. The distal end of the instrument may be inserted into the area of limited access and the operator may remotely manipulate the instrument via the actuator. The actuator may be located outside the area of limited access, but there may still be constraints placed on the extents of the actuator. There  
15 remains a need for actuators and drivers that are suitable for laparoscopic and/or robotic instruments.

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with one disclosed aspect there is provided a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient. The apparatus can include an elongate manipulator  
20 with a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator. The apparatus can also include an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators slidingly mounted within the actuator  
25 chassis and configured to move linearly in a direction aligned with the longitudinal direction, each actuator being coupled to one of the control links. The actuators are adjacently disposed about a curved periphery of the actuator chassis and including an outwardly oriented portion configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link.

30 The curved periphery of the actuator chassis may be cylindrically shaped and the plurality of actuators may be mounted within slots extending longitudinally along the periphery and radially arranged about the periphery.

The actuator chassis periphery may include a curved portion and a flat portion and the plurality of actuators may be mounted within slots extending longitudinally along the curved portion and radially arranged about the curved portion, the flat portion facilitating location of the surgical instrument apparatus adjacent (for  
5 example, closely adjacent) to another apparatus including a corresponding flat portion.

The another apparatus including the corresponding flat portion may include another of the surgical instrument apparatus and the respective flat portions may facilitate location of the respective elongate manipulators in proximity (for example, close proximity) for insertion through a common access port  
10 inserted or positioned to provide access to the body cavity of the patient.

The outwardly oriented portions of the plurality of actuators may be each shaped to engage a corresponding drive coupler configured to couple the drive force to the actuator.

15 The actuator coupling portion of the actuator may include a protrusion that extends outwardly beyond the curved periphery of the actuator chassis.

The apparatus may include a drive chassis including a respective plurality of drive couplers configured to couple drive forces to the plurality of actuators, the drive couplers arranged about the periphery of the  
20 actuator chassis, each drive coupler may include an open channel portion configured to receive the respective actuator protrusions when the actuator chassis is inserted into the drive chassis, and a retaining portion configured to receive and retain the respective actuator protrusions when the drive chassis and the actuator chassis are rotated thorough an angle to cause the retaining portions to engage the respective actuator protrusions.

25 The drive chassis may be configured to permit the manipulator to be inserted through the drive chassis to cause the open channel portions to receive the respective actuator protrusions.

The actuator chassis may include a transition portion between the manipulator and the actuator chassis,  
30 the transition portion configured to laterally displace the control links for coupling to the respective actuators.

The manipulator may include at least one end effector control link configured to couple to an end effector and the actuator chassis may include at least one end effector actuator coupled to the end effector control link to actuate movements of the end effector.

- 5 The at least one end effector actuator may be mounted within the actuator chassis to permit at least one of longitudinal movement configured to actuate opening or closing of an end effector, or rotational movement configured to cause a corresponding rotation of the end effector.

10 The at least one end effector actuator may include a single end effector actuator configured to perform both the longitudinal movement and the rotational movement.

The at least one end effector control link may be routed along a central bore of the actuator chassis and the end effector actuator may be mounted at a distal portion of the actuator chassis.

- 15 The manipulator may include a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis, and an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to the longitudinal movement of the control links.

20 The apparatus may include an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and the chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

In accordance with another disclosed aspect there is provided a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient. The apparatus can include an elongate  
25 manipulator with a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of a distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator. The apparatus can also include an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators mounted within the actuator chassis,  
30 each actuator being coupled to one of the control links configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link. The proximate end of the manipulator can be laterally offset to facilitate location or positioning of the surgical instrument apparatus adjacent (such as, closely adjacent) to

-4-

another surgical instrument apparatus for insertion or positioning through a common access port inserted to provide access to the body cavity of the patient.

5 The manipulator may include a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis, and an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to longitudinal movement of the control links.

10 The apparatus may include an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and the actuator chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

15 The proximate end of the manipulator can be laterally offset to facilitate positioning of the surgical instrument adjacent to the another surgical instrument apparatus so that spacing between the manipulator and another manipulator of the another surgical instrument is between about 10 millimeters and about 35 millimeters.

20 In accordance with another disclosed aspect there is provided a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient. The apparatus can include an elongate manipulator with a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of a distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator. The apparatus can also include an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators mounted within the actuator chassis,  
25 each of the plurality of actuators being coupled to one of the control links configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link. The manipulator can include a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis, and an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to longitudinal movement of the control links. The apparatus can further include an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and  
30 the chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

Other aspects and features will become apparent to those ordinarily skilled in the art upon review of the following description of specific disclosed embodiments in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

5 In drawings which illustrate disclosed embodiments,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient;

10 Figure 2 is a partially cut away perspective view of an actuator chassis of the surgical instrument apparatus shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3A is a perspective view of an actuator of the actuator chassis shown in partial engagement with a drive coupler;

15

Figure 3B is a perspective view of the actuator shown in full engagement with the drive coupler;

Figure 4A is a perspective view of a drive chassis including a plurality of the drive couplers shown in Figures 3A and 3B and the actuator chassis of Figure 2 being inserted into the drive chassis;

20

Figure 4B is a perspective view of the drive chassis of Figure 4A showing the actuator chassis in partial engagement with the drive chassis;

Figure 4C is a perspective view of the drive chassis of Figure 4B showing the actuator chassis in full engagement with the drive chassis;

25

Figure 5A is a perspective view of a surgical instrument apparatus in accordance with another embodiment;

30 Figure 5B is a perspective view of a pair of the surgical instrument apparatus shown in Figure 5A disposed adjacently for insertion through a common access port;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a pair of surgical instruments disposed adjacently for insertion through a common access port operation in accordance with another embodiment; and

Figure 7 is a perspective view a surgical instrument apparatus in accordance with another embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to Figure 1, a surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient is shown generally at **100**. The apparatus **100** includes an elongate manipulator **102** having a distal end **104** for receiving an end effector **106**. The manipulator **102** includes a plurality of control links **108** extending through the manipulator. The plurality of control links **108** are operable to cause movement of the distal end **104** of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction **110** generally aligned with a length of the manipulator. The apparatus **100** also includes an actuator chassis **120** disposed at a proximal end **112** of the manipulator **102**. The actuator chassis **120** includes a plurality of actuators **122** slidingly mounted within the actuator chassis for linear movement in a direction aligned with the longitudinal direction **110**. In the embodiment shown, the actuators **122** are adjacently mounted within respective slots **124** disposed on a curved periphery **126** of the actuator chassis **120**.

In the embodiment shown, the manipulator **102** includes a rigid portion **114** connected to the actuator chassis **120** and an articulated portion **116** that is actuatable to cause the movement of the distal end **104** of the manipulator in response to the longitudinal movement of the control links **108**. The articulated portion **116** includes a plurality of coupled guides **118** mounted end-to-end and operable to move in response to pulling or pushing of the plurality of control links **108** as described in commonly owned PCT patent publication WO2014/201538 entitled "ARTICULATED TOOL POSITIONER AND SYSTEM EMPLOYING SAME" filed on December 20, 2013 and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In other embodiments, the manipulator **102** may include structures other than the coupled guides **118** for causing movement of the distal end **104** of the manipulator.

Referring to Figure 2, the proximal end **112** of the manipulator **102** and the actuator chassis **120** are shown with the actuator chassis partially cut away. In one embodiment, the plurality of control links **108** are implemented as wires routed through respective bores **200** extending through the manipulator **102**. The

-7-

actuator chassis **120** has a transition portion **202** between the proximal end **112** of the manipulator **102** and the actuator chassis. In this embodiment the transition portion **202** includes a bulkhead **204** having openings **206** that cause the respective control links **108** to be laterally displaced toward the curved periphery **126** of the actuator chassis **120**. The transition portion **202** facilitates the movement of the control links **108** along their respective axes while preventing drift of the control links **108**. In one embodiment, the transition portion **202** may include curved conduit (not shown) extending between the proximal end **112** of the manipulator **102** and the bulkhead **204** for receiving and guiding control links **108** through the transition portion. Each actuator **122** is coupled to one of the control links **108**. The control links **108** may be implemented using nitinol wire, which is capable of bending through an arc while still transmitting force in tension or compression. Nitinol is an alloy of nickel and titanium having shape memory and superelasticity and is capable of transmitting forces of about **200N**. In other embodiments, the control links **108** may be implemented using other commonly used wires such as stranded cables used in laparoscopic instruments.

One actuator **208** of the plurality of actuators **122** is shown displaced longitudinally within the slot **124**. The longitudinal displacement of the actuator **208** causes the coupled control link **108** to be correspondingly pulled rearwardly within the actuator chassis **120**. Other actuators **122** such as the adjacent actuators **210** and **212** are similarly moveable within the respective slots **124** to push or pull the associated control link **108**. In the embodiment shown, the curved periphery **126** of the actuator chassis **120** is cylindrically shaped and the slots **124** are radially arranged about the curved periphery.

Referring back to Figure **1**, in one embodiment pairs of the control links **108** are coupled to coupler segments **130**, **132**, and **134**. Actuation of the control links **108** by the actuators **122** causes the coupled guides **118** between each of the coupler segments to be displaced laterally to cause the distal end **104** and the end effector **106** to be moved into a desired position and orientation. A portion of the coupler segment **132** is shown cut away in an insert **136**. In this embodiment a first pair **138**, **140** of the plurality of control links **108** terminate within the coupler segment **132** and when the control link **138** is pushed by advancing the associated actuator **122** while the control link **140** is pulled by rearwardly retracting the associated actuator **122** within its slot, the coupler segment **132** is moved laterally. Similarly, a second pair **142**, **144** of the plurality of control links **108** terminate within the coupler segment **132** and when the control link **142** is pushed by advancing the associated actuator **122** within its slot while the control link **144** is pulled by rearwardly retracting the associated actuator **122** within its slot, the coupler segment **132** is moved

-8-

vertically upward. Reversal of the pushing and pulling of the respective actuators **122** causes a respective lateral movement to the opposite side or downward movement.

In another embodiment, the first pair **138, 140** of the plurality of control links **108** may be respectively used  
5 for pulling motions without a corresponding pushing motion. In this embodiment when the control link **140**  
is pulled by rearwardly retracting the associated actuator **122** within its slot (while the control link **138** is let  
out by a corresponding amount, such as, for example, by advancing the associated actuator **122** or by  
allowing the actuator **122** to feely float), the coupler segment **132** is moved laterally. Similarly, in another  
embodiment, for the second pair **142, 144** of the plurality of control links **108** when the control link **144** is  
10 pulled by rearwardly retracting the associated actuator **122** within its slot (while the control link **142** is let  
out by a corresponding amount, such as, for example, by advancing the associated actuator **122** or by  
allowing the actuator **122** to freely float), the coupler segment **132** is moved vertically upward. Reversal of  
the pulling of the respective actuators **122** causes a respective lateral movement to the opposite side or  
downward movement.

15 Combinations of lateral and vertical movement will cause the **132** to move in any direction within a working  
volume of the manipulator **102**. The coupler segment **134** may be similarly moved via other pairs of control  
links **108** actuated by the respective actuators **122** to point in any direction within the working volume.  
Further as described in commonly owned PCT patent publication WO2014/201538, the coupled guides **118**  
20 between the rigid portion **114** and the coupler segment **130** and the coupled guides between the coupler  
segment **130** and the coupler segment **132** may be configured to maintain the orientation of the coupler  
segment **132** substantially the same as the rigid portion **114**. In this case, the guides **118** within these  
portions of the articulated portion **116** are constrained to move as a two-dimensional parallelogram by a  
set of wire links extending between the rigid portion **114** and the coupler segment **132**.

25 Still referring to Figure **1**, each of the actuators **122** includes an outwardly oriented portion **150** that  
facilitates coupling a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the coupled control link. In this  
embodiment, the outwardly oriented portions **150** also protrude outwardly with respect to the curved  
periphery **126**. Referring to Figure **3A**, one of the actuators **122** is shown in isolation in engagement with a  
30 drive coupler **300**. The drive coupler **300** may be part of an instrument drive of a robotic surgery system  
(not shown). The drive coupler **300** includes a curved outer wall **302** and a first end wall **304** extending  
radially inwardly from the curved outer wall and defining an open channel **306** in the drive coupler. The

open channel **306** is sized to receive the protruding portion **150** of the actuator **122** when slid into the drive coupler **300** in the direction indicated by the arrow **308** in Figure **3A**. Once received within the opening **306**, the drive coupler **300** is rotated in the direction of the arrow **310** to engage the outwardly oriented portion **150** of the actuator **122** as shown in Figure **3B**.

5

Referring to Figure **3B**, the drive coupler **300** further includes a second end wall **312** extending over the full length of the curved outer wall **302**. The outwardly oriented portion **150** of the actuator **122** is engaged between the first end wall **304** and the second end wall, which define a retaining portion for receiving and retaining the actuator protrusion **150** when the drive coupler **300** is rotated through an angle to cause the retaining portions to engage the actuator protrusion. Once the drive coupler **300** is engaged, a force *F* applied to the drive coupler **300** is transmitted to the outwardly oriented portion **150** to cause longitudinal motion of the actuator **122** within the associated slot **124**.

10

Referring to Figure **4A**, in the embodiment shown a plurality of the drive couplers **300** shown in Figure **3A** and **3B** are arranged to provide a drive chassis **400**. The drive couplers **300** are annularly arranged about the periphery **126** of the actuator chassis **120** with the open channels **306** aligned with the outwardly oriented portions **150** of the actuators **122**. The drive chassis **400** is configured to permit the manipulator **102** to be inserted through the drive chassis when loading the surgical instrument apparatus **100**. The open channels **306** of the drive couplers **300** receive the respective actuator protrusions **150** as shown in Figure **4B**. Referring to Figure **4B**, the drive chassis **400** and/or actuator chassis **120** is then rotated through an angle in a direction indicated by the arrow **402** to cause the retaining portions (i.e. first and second end walls **304** and **312**, shown in Figures **3A** and **3B**) to engage the respective actuator protrusions **150** as shown in Figure **4C**. Referring to Figure **4C**, once the drive couplers **300** are engaged, each drive coupler is able to independently move back and forward in the longitudinal direction **110** to couple drive forces to the respective actuators **122**. In one embodiment the drive chassis **400** is part of an instrument drive (not shown) that generates and couples individual drive forces to the respective drive couplers **300**. The instrument drive may be implemented as part of a robotic surgery system in which operator input received at an input device is used to generate drive signals, which are used to control the instrument drive for causing manipulation of the manipulator **102** via the drive chassis **400** and actuator chassis **120**.

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In the embodiment shown in Figure **1**, eight actuators **122** and associated control links **108** are provided. Four of these actuators **122** cause movement of the coupler segment **132**, while the remaining four

-10-

actuators cause movement of the coupler segment **134**. Referring back to Figure **2**, the manipulator **102** further includes a central bore **220** that in this embodiment accommodates an end effector control link **222**. The end effector control link **222** is coupled to the end effector **106** for causing opening of the actuator jaws and/or causing rotation of the actuator about a longitudinal axis of the manipulator **102**. The end effector control link **222** is routed through the actuator chassis **120** and coupled to an end cap **224** at a distal end of the actuator chassis. In one embodiment, the end cap **224** is able to rotate in the direction of the arrow **226**, which rotates the end effector control link **222** causing corresponding rotation of the end effector at the distal end **104** of the manipulator **102**. Additionally, the end cap **224** may also be configured to move in the longitudinal direction **110** to actuate longitudinal back and forth movement of the end effector control link **222** for opening and closing the end effector. The single end effector control link **222** may thus be operable to actuate both rotation and opening/closing movements of the end effector **106**. In other embodiments, the end effector control link **222** may be configured as a hollow torque tube that provides the rotational actuation to the end effector **106**, while an additional control link may be routed through the central bore **220** to actuate the opening and closing movements of the end effector **106**.

Referring to Figure **5A**, an actuator chassis in accordance with another embodiment is shown generally at **500**. The periphery of the actuator chassis **500** includes a curved portion **502** and a flat portion **504**. The actuator chassis **500** includes a plurality of actuators **506** configured generally as described above. The plurality of actuators **506** are mounted in respective slots **508** extending longitudinally along the curved portion **502** of the actuator chassis **500**. The actuators **506** are radially arranged about the curved portion **502** and the actuator chassis **500** is coupled to a manipulator **102** (shown in part) as generally described above.

In many cases two or more of the surgical instrument apparatus **100** may be used during a surgical procedure performed through a single common access port (i.e. a single incision or opening to a body cavity of a patient). Referring to Figure **5B**, the flat portion **504** of the actuator chassis **500** facilitates closely spacing the actuator adjacent to a second actuator chassis **510** having a corresponding flat portion **512**. The close spacing has the advantage of spacing the manipulator **102** and a manipulator **514** coupled to the actuator chassis **510** in relatively close proximity for insertion through a common access port and/or trocar (not shown). The spacing  $D$  between the manipulators may be less than about 10 millimeters, about 10 millimeters, about 20 millimeters, about 21.5 millimeters, about 35 millimeters, about 40 millimeters, or greater than about 35 millimeters or 40 millimeters, such as about 50 millimeters or 60 millimeters. The

-11-

spacing  $D$  between the manipulators may be between about 10 millimeters (or less) and about 20 millimeters (or more), between about 10 millimeters (or less) and about 35 millimeters (or more), between about 10 millimeters (or less) and about 40 millimeters (or more), between about 20 millimeters (or less) and about 35 millimeters (or more), or between about 20 millimeters (or less) and about 40 millimeters (or more). The further off-center the manipulator **102** and the manipulator **514** are from the respective actuator chassis **500** and **510** such that the spacing  $D$  is reduced, the smaller the diameter of the common access port/trocar. Each of the actuator chassis **500** and the actuator chassis **510** would be received within a drive chassis (not shown) configured to accommodate and provide drive forces for operating the side-by-side surgical instruments.

10

Referring to Figure **6**, an alternative arrangement for side-by-side surgical instrument operation includes a first actuator chassis **600** disposed spaced apart from a second actuator chassis **602**. Each actuator chassis **600**, **602** has a respective manipulator **604** and **606** coupled to the chassis. The manipulators **604** and **606** have respective actuatable articulated portions **608** and **610** configured generally as described above in connection with the Figure **1** embodiment. The manipulators **604** and **606** each have respective rigid portions **612** and **614**. The rigid portion **612** of the manipulator **604** has a leftward laterally offset portion **620** while the manipulator **606** has a rightward laterally offset portion **622**. The left and right laterally offset portions **620** and **622** facilitate closely adjacent location of the respective articulated portions **608** and **610** of the manipulators **604** and **606** for insertion through a common access port.

20

Referring to Figure **7**, a surgical instrument apparatus in accordance with another embodiment is shown generally at **700**. The surgical instrument apparatus **700** includes an actuator chassis **702** configured generally as disclosed above. The actuator chassis **702** is coupled to a manipulator **704** including a rigid portion **706** and an actuatable articulated portion **708** also configured generally as disclosed above. In this embodiment, the surgical instrument apparatus **700** further includes an articulated portion **712** disposed between the rigid portion **706** and the actuator chassis **702**. The articulated portion **712** permits the manipulator to be bent as shown in Figure **7** to reduce an overall length of the instrument (i.e. manipulator and actuator chassis). The articulated portion **712** may be actuated during a surgical procedure or may be a passive portion that is not actuated during the procedure.

30

In many cases the surgical instrument apparatus **700** may be reusable and cleaning and sanitization following use in a surgical procedure is thus required. The overall length of the surgical instrument

-12-

apparatus **100** shown in Figure **1** may prohibit its accommodation within the conventional sanitization equipment. The articulated portion **712** facilitates bending of the instrument to reduce the overall dimensions that may make the instrument more readily accommodated in a decontamination sink or a chamber of a washer/disinfector commonly used for cleaning and sanitization in surgical environments.

5 Additional bending to accommodate limited space constraints during cleaning and sanitization may be enabled by having the actuatable articulated portion **708** at least partially bendable/flexible during cleaning and sanitization (i.e. when not in surgical use). This additional bending and/or the bending of articulated portion **712** may be facilitated by may allowing the control links extending through the manipulator **704** to move into a relaxed state, for example by maneuvering the actuators (such as actuators **506** shown in  
10 Figure **5A**).

Language of degree used herein, such as the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” as used herein represent a value, amount, or characteristic close to the stated value, amount, or characteristic that still performs a desired function or achieves a desired result. For example,  
15 the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” may refer to an amount that is within less than 10% of, within less than 5% of, within less than 1% of, within less than 0.1% of, or within less than 0.01% of the stated value.

While specific embodiments have been described and illustrated, such embodiments should be considered  
20 illustrative only and not as limiting the disclosed embodiments as construed in accordance with the accompanying claims.

**What is claimed is:**

1. A surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient, the apparatus comprising:

5 an elongate manipulator comprising a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator; and

10 an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators slidingly mounted within the actuator chassis and configured to move linearly in a direction aligned with the longitudinal direction, each actuator being coupled to one of the control links, the actuators being adjacently disposed about a curved periphery of the actuator chassis and including an outwardly oriented portion configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link.

- 15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the curved periphery of the actuator chassis is cylindrically shaped, and wherein the plurality of actuators are mounted within slots extending longitudinally along the periphery and radially arranged about the periphery.
- 20 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the actuator chassis periphery includes a curved portion and a flat portion, and wherein the plurality of actuators are mounted within slots extending longitudinally along the curved portion and radially arranged about the curved portion, the flat portion facilitating location of the surgical instrument apparatus adjacent to another apparatus including a corresponding flat portion.
- 25 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the another apparatus including the corresponding flat portion comprises another of the surgical instrument apparatus, and wherein the respective flat portions facilitate location of the respective elongate manipulators in proximity for insertion through a common access port positioned to provide access to the body cavity of the patient.

-14-

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outwardly oriented portions of the plurality of actuators are each shaped to engage a corresponding drive coupling configured to couple the drive force to the actuator.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the actuator coupling portion of the actuator comprises a protrusion that extends outwardly beyond the curved periphery of the actuator chassis.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising a drive chassis including a respective plurality of drive couplers configured to couple drive forces to the plurality of actuators, the drive couplers arranged about the periphery of the actuator chassis, each drive coupler comprising:

an open channel portion configured to receive the respective actuator protrusions when the actuator chassis is inserted into the drive chassis; and

a retaining portion configured to receive and retain the respective actuator protrusions when the drive chassis and the actuator chassis are rotated through an angle to cause the retaining portions to engage the respective actuator protrusions.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the drive chassis is configured to permit the manipulator to be inserted through the drive chassis to cause the open channel portions to receive the respective actuator protrusions.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the actuator chassis includes a transition portion between the manipulator and the actuator chassis, the transition portion configured to laterally displace the control links for coupling to the respective actuators.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the manipulator comprises at least one end effector control link configured to couple to an end effector, and wherein the actuator chassis comprises at least one end effector actuator coupled to the end effector control link to actuate movements of the end effector.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the at least one end effector actuator is mounted within the actuator chassis to permit at least one of:

longitudinal movement configured to actuate opening or closing of an end effector; or

-15-

rotational movement configured to cause a corresponding rotation of the end effector.

**12.** The apparatus of claim **11** wherein the at least one end effector actuator comprises a single end effector actuator configured to perform both the longitudinal movement and the rotational movement.

5 **13.** The apparatus of claim **10** wherein the at least one end effector control link is routed along a central bore of the actuator chassis and the end effector actuator is mounted at a distal portion of the actuator chassis.

**14.** The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the manipulator further comprises:

a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis; and

10 an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to the longitudinal movement of the control links.

**15.** The apparatus of claim **14** further comprising an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and the chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during  
15 cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

**16.** A surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient, the apparatus comprising:

20 an elongate manipulator including a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of a distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator; and

25 an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators mounted within the actuator chassis, each actuator being coupled to one of the control links configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link,

-16-

wherein the proximate end of the manipulator is laterally offset to facilitate positioning of the surgical instrument apparatus adjacent to another surgical instrument apparatus for insertion through a common access port positioned to provide access to the body cavity of the patient.

5    **17.**    The apparatus of claim **16** wherein the manipulator comprises:

          a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis; and

          an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to longitudinal movement of the control links.

10   **18.**    The apparatus of claim **17** further comprising an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and the actuator chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

15   **19.**    The apparatus of claim **16** wherein the proximate end of the manipulator is laterally offset to facilitate positioning of the surgical instrument adjacent to the another surgical instrument apparatus so that spacing between the manipulator and another manipulator of the another surgical instrument is between 10 millimeters and 35 millimeters.

20   **20.**    A surgical instrument apparatus for performing a surgical procedure within a body cavity of a patient, the apparatus comprising:

          an elongate manipulator including a distal end configured to receive an end effector and including a plurality of control links extending through the manipulator and configured to cause movement of a distal end of the manipulator in response to movement of the control links in a longitudinal direction generally aligned with a length of the manipulator;

          an actuator chassis disposed at a proximal end of the manipulator, the actuator chassis including a plurality of actuators mounted within the actuator chassis, each of the plurality of actuators being coupled to one of the control links configured to couple a drive force to the actuator to cause movement of the control link;

25           wherein the manipulator comprises:

-17-

a rigid portion connected to the actuator chassis; and

an actuatable articulated portion configured to cause the movement of the distal end of the manipulator in response to longitudinal movement of the control links; and

- 5 an unactuated articulated portion disposed between the rigid portion and the chassis, the unactuated articulated portion configured to permit the manipulator to be bent to reduce an overall length of the manipulator and actuator chassis during cleaning and sanitizing of the apparatus.

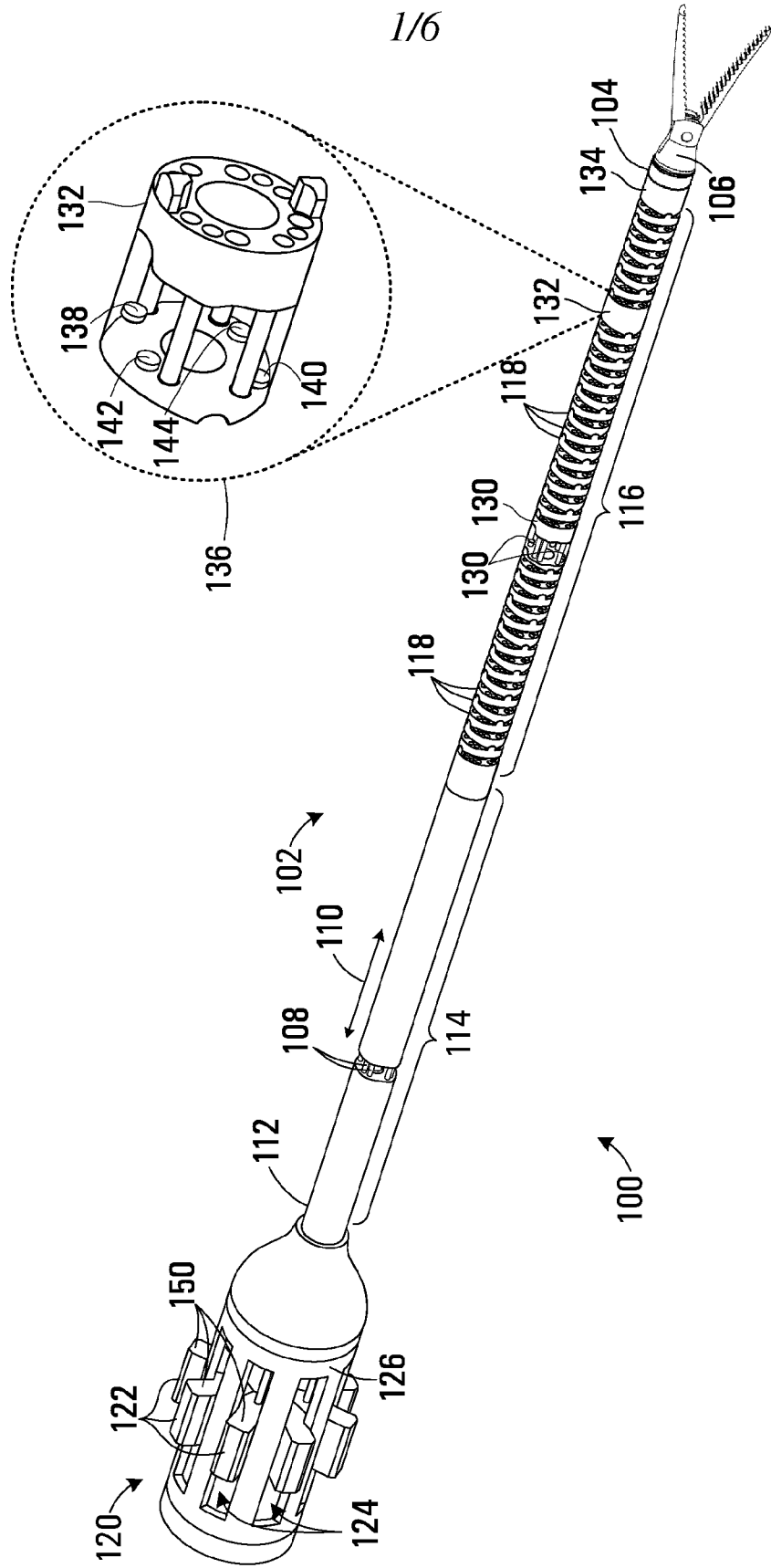


FIG. 1

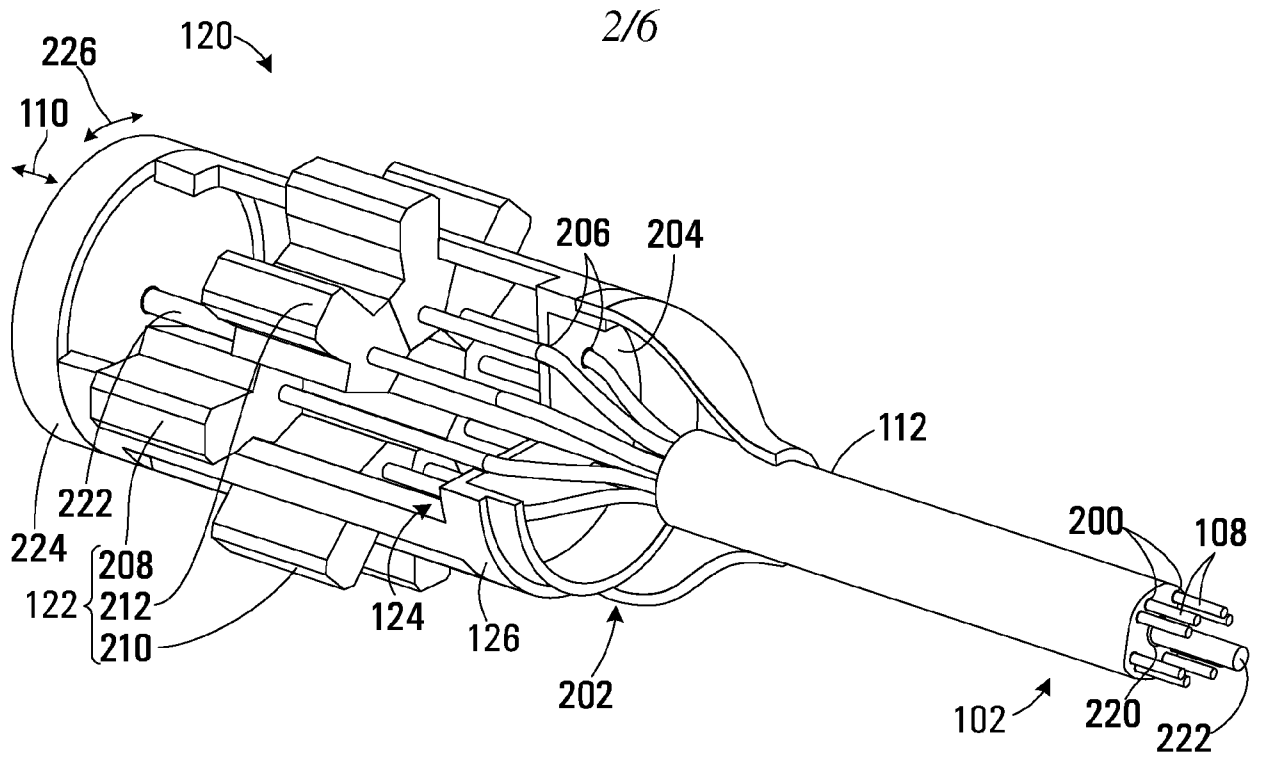


FIG. 2

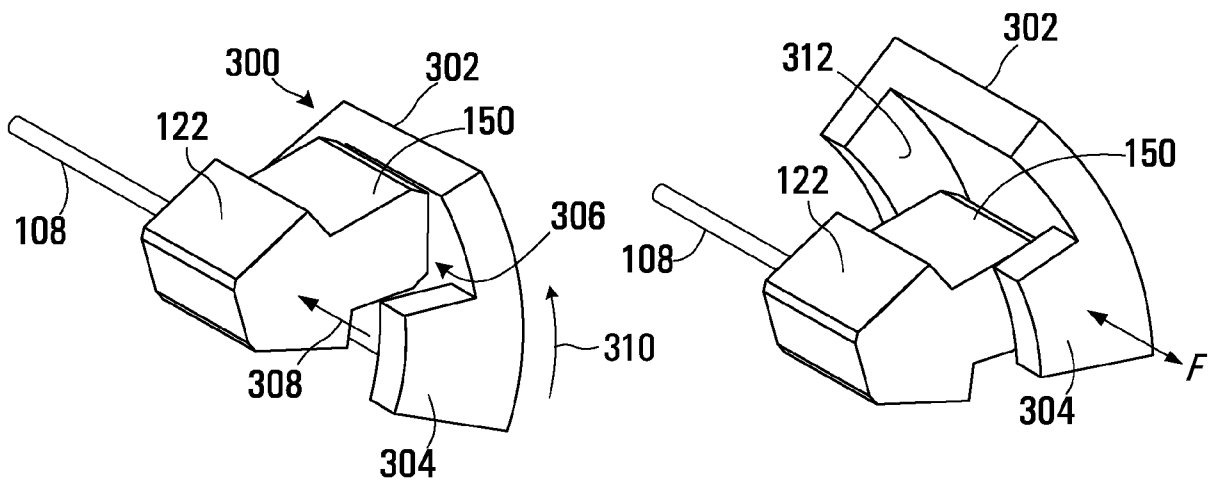
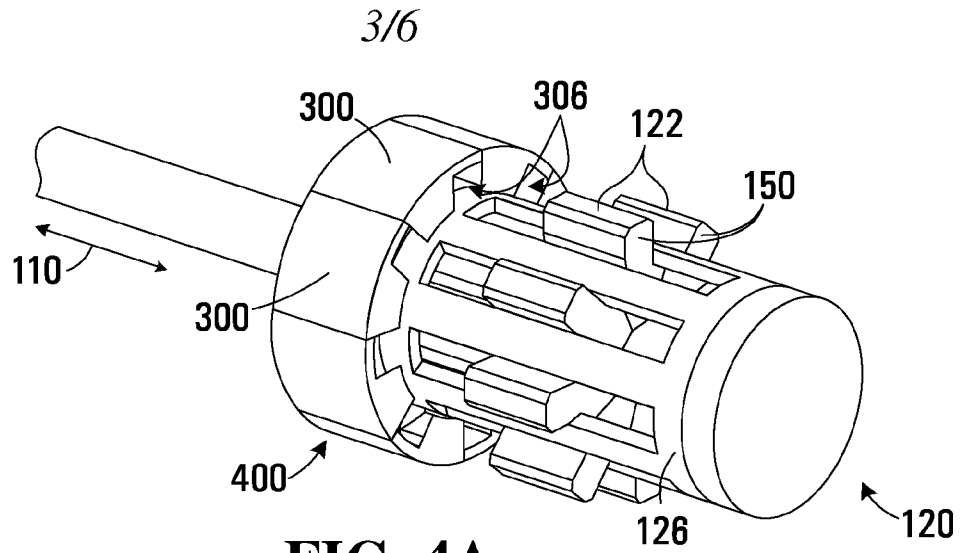
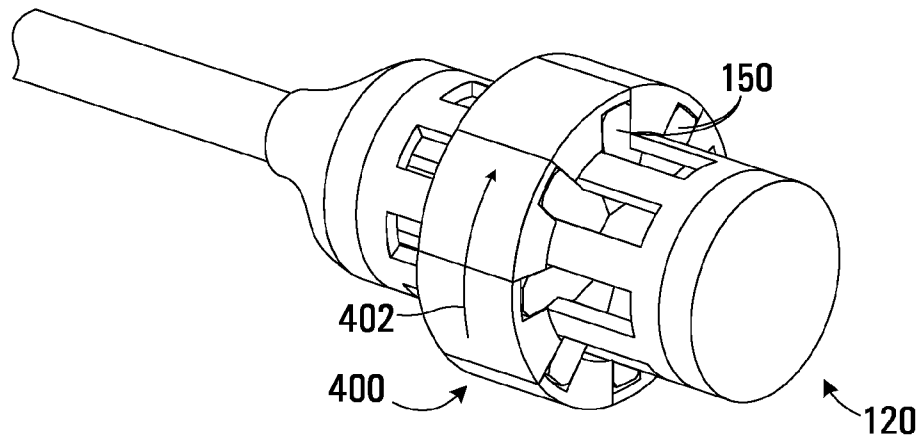


FIG. 3A

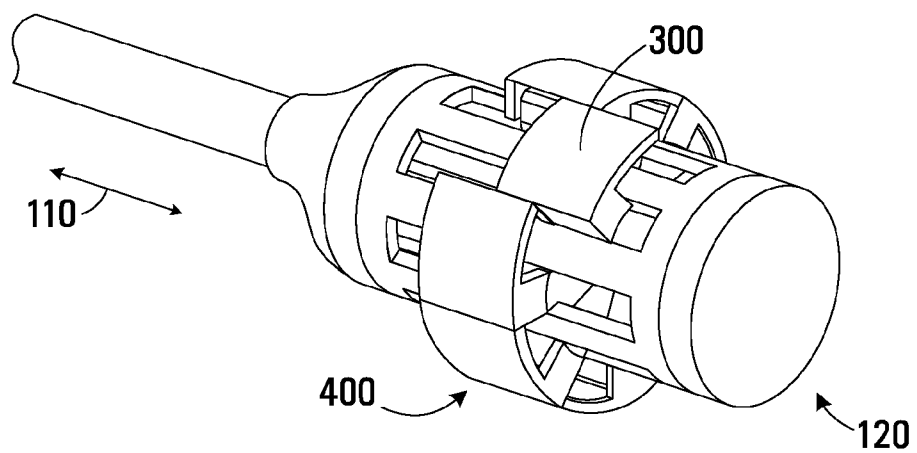
FIG. 3B



**FIG. 4A**

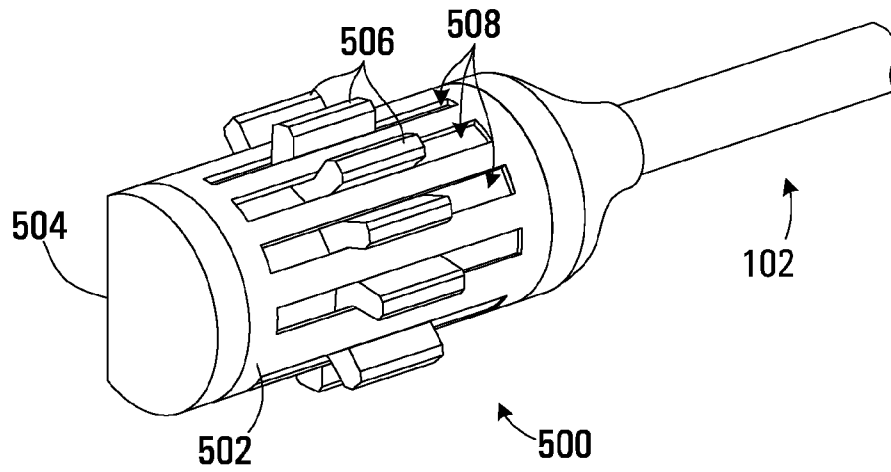


**FIG. 4B**

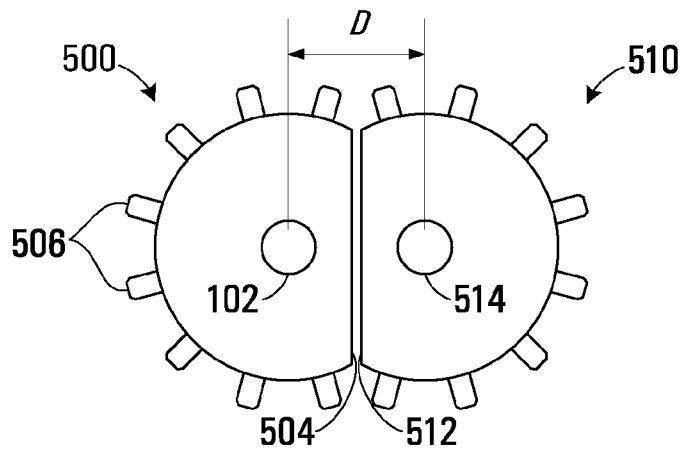


**FIG. 4C**

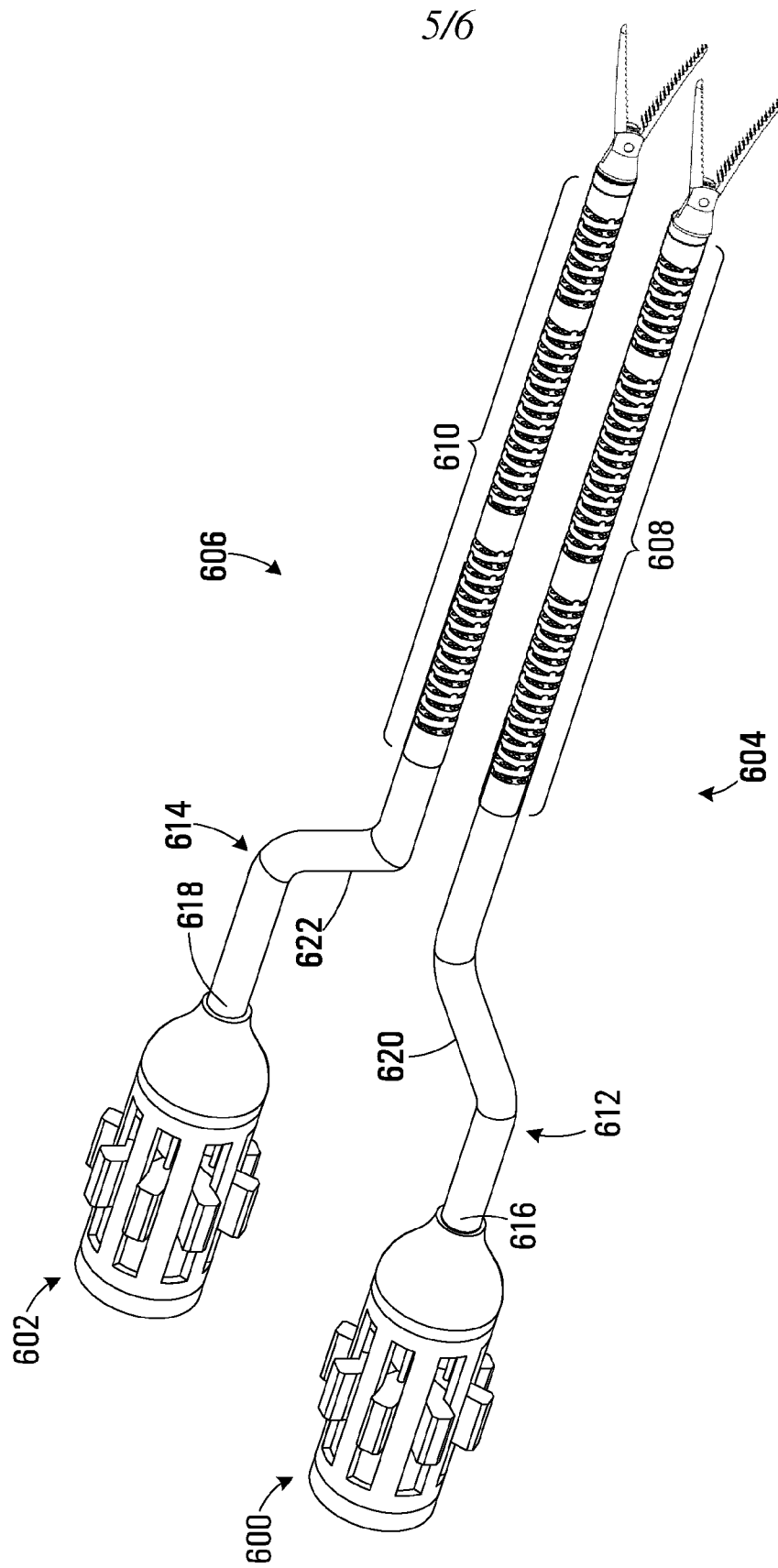
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**FIG. 5A**

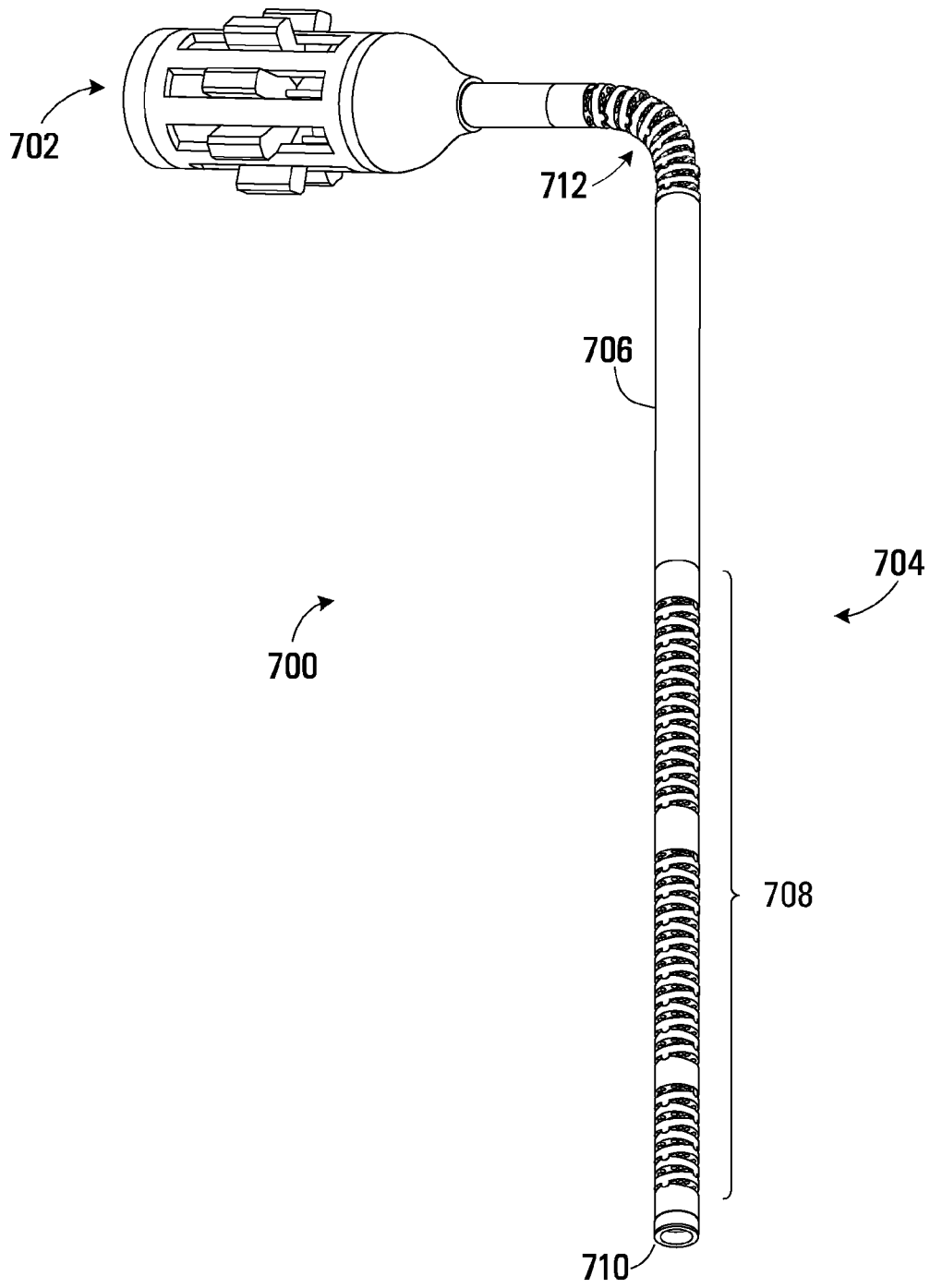


**FIG. 5B**



**FIG. 6**

6/6



**FIG. 7**

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
**PCT/CA2020/050755**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC: *A61B 34/00* (2016.01), *A61B 17/29* (2006.01), *A61B 34/30* (2016.01)

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: A61B 34/00 (2016.01), A61B 17/29 (2006.01), A61B 34/30 (2016.01)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

Database: Questel Orbit

Keywords: *actuat\**, *control\**, *manipul\**, *link\**, *end*, *effector\**, *articulat\**, *slid\**, *linear\**, *wir\**, *cable?*, *surgical*, *instrument\**

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**PCT/CA2020/050755**

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