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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT OF THE EUSTACHIAN TUBE AND SINUS CAVITY

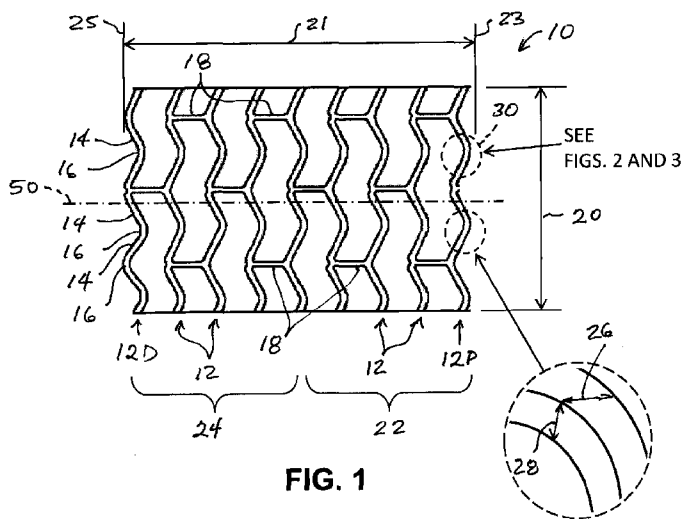


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A polymeric stent can be implanted for treatment of the Eustachian tube. The stent can be designed to have length-dependent radial strength to allow it to stay within the Eustachian tube and to allow normal closing and opening of the Eustachian tube. A balloon can be used to implant the stent, and the balloon can be coated with a therapeutic agent. A coated balloon can also be used to transfer therapeutic agents to the sinus cavity during a balloon sinus dilation procedure.





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- *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/US2015/027939

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F11/00
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)
A61F

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	DE 10 2010 043332 B3 (UNIV ROSTOCK [DE]) 20 October 2011 (2011-10-20)	1
Y	paragraph [0003] - paragraph [0023]; claims; figures	2-10
Y	----- CA 2 370 180 A1 (SMART THERAPEUTICS INC [US]) 26 October 2000 (2000-10-26) page 15, line 28 - page 16, line 15; claims; figures	2-10
Y	----- EP 1 229 863 A1 (SCIMED LIFE SYSTEMS INC [US]) 14 August 2002 (2002-08-14) paragraph [0020] - paragraph [0028]	2-10
Y	----- US 2006/135985 A1 (COX DANIEL L [US] ET AL) 22 June 2006 (2006-06-22) paragraph [0129]; figure 29	2-10
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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	Date of mailing of the international search report
2 November 2015	16/11/2015

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Serra i Verdaguer, J
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2015/027939

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2011/184507 A1 (FISCHER JR FRANK J [US] ET AL) 28 July 2011 (2011-07-28) the whole document	2-10
A	----- EP 0 447 719 A1 (MINNESOTA MINING & MFG [US]) 25 September 1991 (1991-09-25) the whole document	1-10
X	----- US 2010/198191 A1 (CLIFFORD ANTON G [US] ET AL) 5 August 2010 (2010-08-05)	11,22
Y	paragraph [0065] - paragraph [0075]; claims; figures	12-21, 23-33
X	----- US 2006/095066 A1 (CHANG JOHN Y [US] ET AL) 4 May 2006 (2006-05-04)	11,22
Y	the whole document	12-21, 23-33
X	----- US 2005/240147 A1 (MAKOWER JOSHUA [US] ET AL) 27 October 2005 (2005-10-27)	11,22
Y	claims; figures	12-21, 23-33
X	----- US 2007/208301 A1 (EVARD PHILIP [US] ET AL) 6 September 2007 (2007-09-06)	11,22
Y	the whole document	12-21, 23-33
X	----- WO 2013/130464 A1 (SINUSYS CORP [US]) 6 September 2013 (2013-09-06)	11,22
Y	the whole document	12-21, 23-33

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2015/027939

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.: **34-50**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

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.:

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 34-50

The subject-matter of claims 34 to 50, discloses a method of treating a Eustachian tube with a stent. The method comprises the step of placing a stent in a Eustachian tube of a patient. The International Searching Authority is not required to search methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy (Rule 39.1(iv) PCT).

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-10

A stent

2. claims: 11-21

A system for delivering a stent

3. claims: 22-33

A catheter

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2015/027939

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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