

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
24 July 2008 (24.07.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/089446 A3

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
A61F 2/06 (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2008/051497
- (22) **International Filing Date:** 18 January 2008 (18.01.2008)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
60/885,700 19 January 2007 (19.01.2007) 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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FT, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW
- (84) **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available):** ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, **DK**, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, **HR**, HU, IE, **IS**, **IT**, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, **RO**, SE, **SI**, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, **BJ**, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, **MR**, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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

Published:

— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

9 October 2008

(54) **Title:** ENDOPROSTHESIS STRUCTURES HAVING SUPPORTING FEATURES

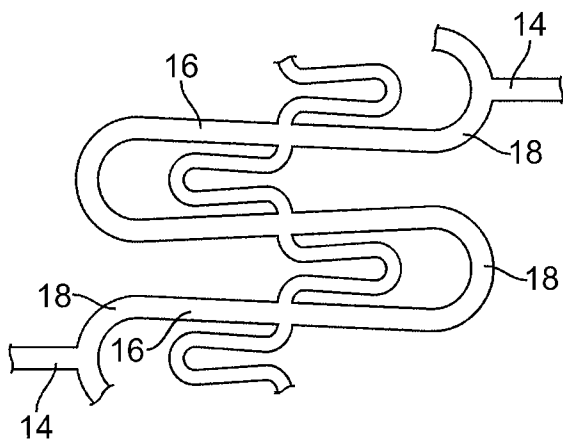


FIG. 2B

(57) **Abstract:** An endoprosthesis includes a plurality of serpentine rings having supporting features which increase hoop strength, inhibit recoil, and provide an increased surface area. The supporting features may be formed between adjacent axial struts of the serpentine rings or may be positioned between axial lengths joining the serpentine rings together.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCTTUS 08/51497

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61 F 2/06 (2008.04)

USPC - 623/1.38, 623/1.17, 606/154

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) - A61F 2/06 (2008 04)

USPC - 623/1 38, 623/1 17, 606/154

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

USPC - 623/1 38, 1 1, 1 49, 1 17, 1 18, 1 15, 1 42, 1 49, 606/154. 153, 151

(Text Search)

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

PubWEST (PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, JPAB), DialogPRO (Engineering) and Google Scholar

Search Terms endoprosthesis, stent, graft, serpentine, ring, expandable, supporting, U, shaped, connector, shape, connecting, strut, biodegradable, metal, elastic, expand, expanding, ring, core, spiral, center, disk, disc, W, box connector

C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
Y	US 2005/0070991 A1 (PIENKNAGURA) 31 March 2005 (31 03 2005) fig 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, para [0004], [0006], [0017], [0049], [0055], [0060], [0065], [0067]	1-26
Y	US 6,773,455 B2 (ALLEN et al) 10 August 2004 (10 08 2004) fig 7A, 7B, 7E, 7G, 7H, 8, 10A, 10B, col 2, ln 20-30, ln 37-53, col 4, ln 41-61, col 6, ln 1-22, 37-41, col 7, ln 1-26	1-26
Y	US 2005/0075716 A1 (YAN) 07 April 2005 (07 04 2005) fig 1A, para [0014], [0033]	8 and 25
Y	US 2001/0016769 A1 (HOJEIBANE) 23 August 2001 (23 08 2001) claim 6, fig 3, para [0031]	9-11
Y	US 2003/0144726 A1 (MAJERCAK et al) 31 July 2003 (31 07 2003) fig 1, 3, para [0029]	13
Y	US 5,441,483 A (AVITALL) 15 August 1995 (15 08 1995) col 4 ln 5-49	19 and 20
Y	US 2003/0144729 A1 (BICEK et al) 31 July 2003 (31 07 2003) fig 1, para [0030]	23

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 July 2008 (26 07 2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

Q1 AUG 2008

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PCT Melpd [sk 571-272-4300
PCTOSP 571-272-7774