PATENT LIFT/TRANSPORT WITH POWER ASSIST

(57) Abstract: A patient lift and transport device (10) includes a wheeled chassis (12) with a powered wheel assembly (26). The powered wheel assembly (26) includes a wheel (28) or plurality of wheels which can be permanently or selectively positioned in contact with the floor to provide motive force which propels the device (10) in a forward or reverse direction. Preferably, the wheel or wheels (28) are fixed to allow only linear translation, as this tends to aid in control of the directionality of the caster wheels (16 and/ or 18). An attendant uses a handle bar (42) or other steering mechanism affixed to the mast (32) to direct the movement of the patient lift and transport device (10). A boom (34) connected to the mast (32) is used to raise and lower patients from a reclining or seated position.
European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61G 7/14
US CL : 5/86.1

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)
U.S. : 5/86.1, 81.1, 83.1, 84.1, 85.1, 87.1, 89.1

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category *</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,708,993 A (Campbell et al) 20 January 1998 (20.01.1998), Figs 1 and 2, column 6, lines 1 to 62.</td>
<td>1, 2, 6, 9, 1018, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,758,371 A (VanDyke et al) 02 June 1998 (02.06.1998), Figs. 2 and 4-6, columns 3-10.</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,289534 B1 (Hakamian et al) 18 September 2001 (18.09.2001)</td>
<td>1-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,178,575 B1 (Harada) 30 January 2001 (30.01.2001), Figs. 4-8.</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 20 June 2002 (20.06.2002)

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