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(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR REPRODUCIBLY MODIFYING LOCALIZED ABSORPTION AND SCATTERING COEFFICIENTS AT A TISSUE MEASUREMENT SITE DURING OPTICAL SAMPLING**

GERÄT UND VERFAHREN ZUR REPRODUZIERBAREN VERÄNDERUNG LOKALER ABSORPTIONS UND STREUUNGS KOEFFIZIENTEN IN EINER GEWEBEMESSSTELLE WÄHREND OPTISCHER ABTASTUNG

APPAREIL ET PROCÉDE PERMETTANT DE MODIFIER DE FAÇON REPRODUCTIBLE DES COEFFICIENTS D'ABSORPTION ET DE DIFFUSION AU NIVEAU D'UN SITE DE MESURE TISSULAIRE PENDANT L'ÉCHANTILLONNAGE OPTIQUE

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Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The invention relates to minimally invasive and non-invasive clinical testing. More particularly, the invention relates to an apparatus and non-invasive method for modifying localized absorption and scattering coefficients at a tissue measurement site during optical sampling.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] Conventional methods of clinical testing have required the use of invasive procedures, such as biopsy and phlebotomy, to sample blood and tissue. Subsequently, the samples were transported to a central location, such as a laboratory, for examination and analysis. There is an increasing trend, however, toward point of care testing and even in-home testing. One of the benefits of this trend is to minimize the turnaround time from when a sample is taken to being able to take action based on the test results. At the same time, sampling procedures are becoming less and less invasive. Since they minimize or eliminate the need to handle blood and tissue specimens, minimally invasive and noninvasive procedures drastically reduce biohazard risk, both to the subject and the practitioner. Additionally, the decreased use of expendable reagents minimizes cost of testing and the environmental and health risks posed by the use of chemical substances.

[0003] Analyzers are being developed for point of care and in home use that either sample in a minimally invasive fashion or are completely noninvasive, often by sampling tissue optically. During use, it is necessary for many of these analyzers to contact the surface of a tissue measurement site directly, in order to control test conditions such as:

- stability of the analyzer during measurement;
- minimization of spectral reflectance;
- avoidance of stray light; and
- reproducibly hitting the targeted sampling area.

[0004] Pressure on the sampled tissue (skin) site induced by contact with the analyzer can result in localized sampling variations. For example, pressure applied to the tissue measurement site forces water from the vicinity of the site, decreasing the water concentration. As water concentration changes, there is a corresponding change in the local absorption coefficient. In addition, decreasing water concentration increases the density of the scattering centers present in the sampled tissue volume, thereby altering the reduced scattering coefficient. It would be desirable to modify local absorption and reduced scattering coefficients in a controlled, reproducible manner,

allowing differential measurements to optimize the signal-to-noise ratio of one or more target analytes.

[0005] WO 99/59464 A discloses devices and methods for non-invasively measuring at least one parameter of a sample, such as the presence or concentration of an analyte, in a body part wherein the temperature is controlled. The known device measures light that is reflected, scattered, absorbed, or emitted by the sample from an average sampling depth, d_{av} , that is confined within a temperature controlled region in the tissue. This average sampling depth is preferably less than 2 mm, and more preferably less than 1 mm. Confining the sampling depth into the tissue is achieved by appropriate selection of the separation between the source and the detector and the illumination wavelengths. In another aspect, the known method and apparatus relate to non-invasively measuring at least one parameter of a body part with temperature stepping. In another aspect, there is disclosed a method and apparatus for non-invasively measuring at least one parameter of a body part with temperature modulation. Furthermore, there is provided an improved method of measuring at least one parameter of a tissue sample comprising the steps of: (a) lowering the temperature of said tissue sample to a temperature that is lower than the normal physiological temperature of the body; and (b) determining at least one optical property of said tissue sample.

[0006] It would also be advantageous to provide sampling devices that either maintain a constant pressure or displacement between the analyzer and the subjects skin or that reproducibly control changes in pressure or displacement over time.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The invention provides a subject interface module as defined in claim 1 for modifying localized absorption and scattering coefficients by controlling the pressure applied to a tissue measurement site by an analyzer during optical sampling; the applied pressure may be maintained at a constant level, or it may be applied in a controlled, reproducible manner as a function of time, so that absorption and reduced scattering coefficients may be varied in a controlled, reproducible manner. The invention is also embodied as a method of modifying localized absorption and scattering coefficients in a controlled and reproducible manner by varying pressure or displacement during optical sampling as defined in claim 40.

[0008] The preferred embodiment of the invention includes a placement device for receiving a body part such as an arm, so that the body part is held in a fixed position and at a fixed elevation. The invention further includes an applied force mechanism for advancing the fiber optic probe of an analyzer until it makes contact with the body part, and maintaining the contact at a constant pressure. The applied force is supplied by a counterweight on a single arm balance. The invention further provides a tem-

perature control, for equilibrating the temperature of the fiber optic probe with the surface temperature in the immediate vicinity of the tissue measurement site.

[0009] Alternate embodiments of the invention provide a means for bringing the fiber optic probe into contact with the surface of the tissue measurement site, and then displacing it by a known distance. In one embodiment, an LED and a detector define a starting location prior to displacement and the fiber optic probe is displaced a given distance after the LED is detected. In another embodiment, the displacement of the probe is dictated by the elimination of spectral reflectance. In a further embodiment, the probe is displaced into the tissue until analysis of the spectral information indicates that the preferred depths of the sample are being probed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010]

Figure 1 provides a three-dimensional view of an arm support guide, according to the invention;

Figure 2 provides a three-dimensional view of the arm support guide of Figure 1 with a wrist guide and hand guide removed, according to the invention;

Figure 3 shows a schematic view of an applied force mechanism for advancing a fiber optic probe, according to the invention;

Figure 4 provides a three-dimensional view of a constant displacement subject interface module, according to the invention; and

Figure 5 provides two noninvasive diffuse reflectance spectra of a tissue measurement site on a human forearm, according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] The application of pressure to a sampling area in a noninvasive measurement may affect the measurement site in a number of ways, including:

- localized changes in analyte concentration;
- localized changes in physical parameters, such as temperature; and
- changes in absorption and scattering coefficients.

[0012] For example, as pressure is applied to a region of the body, the localized water concentration changes due to the applied pressure forcing water out of the area. Subsequently, internal blood pressure is increased to maintain blood flow to the area. Both affects alter the localized water concentration with different time constants. As the water concentration changes, multiple additional localized parameters change. In the near-IR

spectral region, the absorption coefficient, μ_a , decreases as water concentration decreases. With less water, the density of the scattering centers increases, with a resulting increase in the reduced scattering coefficient, μ'_s . Naturally, the μ_a/μ'_s ratio also changes, since both coefficients have changed. In addition, the concentrations of all analytes carried in the blood or interstitial fluid change over a localized volume as they are expelled from the area along with the water. As a result of water movement, non-aqueous analytes will also experience localized concentration changes. For example, as water departs a given volume of tissue, the relative concentration of the remaining non-aqueous analytes increases.

[0013] During a non-invasive measurement, the penetration of photons into the tissue layers is dependent upon the pressure applied to the tissue. As previously indicated, pressure applied to a localized area changes the water concentration, resulting in a localized change in the scattering and absorption coefficients. As the scattering properties of the tissue change, indicated by changes in the scattering coefficient, the depth of penetration of photons changes. As a result, the sampled volume of the tissue changes. Since the tissue measurement site is not of a homogeneous nature, but is rather composed of layers, alterations in sampled volume can have a pronounced affect on the measurement. To a first approximation, the skin comprises a series of layers, starting with the stratum corneum at the surface, followed in turn by the epidermis, the dermis, and a subcutaneous fat layer, with internal structures, such as organs and bone, finally found far beneath the skin. Each layer has a different mean concentration of each analyte and interferent. Accordingly, as the mean depth of penetration of the probing photons changes, so does the mean concentration of analytes and interferents. Thus, for a given sample, application of differing pressures results in spectra that sample different tissue volumes, each containing different concentrations of target analyte and interferents. Pressure on the measurement site must either be kept constant or varied in a controlled, reproducible manner, so that the impact of variation of pressure on the sampling site may be well characterized, allowing appropriate development of algorithms that compensate for or take advantage of the different sampled volumes.

[0014] In noninvasive analysis, pressure effects are most evident in the near-IR and mid-IR regions, which sample the surface layers. Applied pressure changes localized concentrations over a limited radial distance from the point of contact and to limited depths. Thus, photons that predominantly sample the affected area are most affected by pressure. The depth of penetration of near-IR and mid-IR photons is limited by the strong absorbance of water. Scattering centers in the tissue also limit the depth of penetration of light, from the ultraviolet through the visible and into the near-IR range. Since these spectral regions sample depths in tissue where pressure has the most effect, they will be the most sensitive to pressure. It should be noted that the affects will

be observed the most in diffuse reflection based analyzers but will also affect transmittance based measurements and will have some effect on transmission based measurements.

[0015] Advantageously, the foregoing effects on localized absorption and scattering coefficients are applied in a method that utilizes differential spectral measurements during which the applied force is varied by a known amount to modify localized absorbance and scattering coefficients in a controlled manner. The resulting values for the μ_a/μ_s' ratio are then utilized in a differential measurement to enhance the signal-to-noise ratio of a target analyte signal. For example, the observed absorbances of particular components such as water, protein, fat or urea reach a known level or a give ratio versus another component. These ratios may be calibrated at known pressures or displacement levels for individuals or groups of subjects using any of a large number of combined wavelengths with known chemometric techniques.

[0016] In summary, the invented method includes the steps of:

- providing a tissue measurement site;
- providing a spectroscopic analyzer having a subject interface adapted to make direct contact with the tissue measurement site during measurement;
- making an initial spectral measurement, in which the applied pressure or displacement by the analyzer is known and maintained during the measurement;
- calculating the absorbance and scattering coefficients;
- making subsequent measurements in which the applied pressure or displacement is varied by a known amount, and calculating absorbance and scattering coefficients for each measurement; and
- determining an optimal sampling depth for detecting a target analyte based on the ratio of the measured absorption coefficients and scattering coefficients.

[0017] The invention is further embodied as an apparatus for modifying localized absorption and scattering coefficients by varying pressure or displacement on a tissue measurement site in a controlled and reproducible manner. According to a preferred embodiment, the invention provides a subject interface module for adjustably maintaining pressure applied to a tissue measurement site from a fiber optic probe at a constant level during optical sampling. While the preferred embodiment of the invention utilizes a bifurcated fiber optic bundle that couples light from the light source of an analyzer to the tissue measurement site and from the tissue measurement site to the detector element of the analyzer, other means of coupling light from a light source to a target site would be suitable in the invention as well. The constant force subject interface module consists of two major elements: a placement guide for securing the subject's body part upon which the tissue measurement site is located, and an adjustable applied force mechanism.

[0018] While the invention has been described herein with reference to human subjects, this description is exemplary only and not intended to limit the scope of the invention. Additionally, the placement guide has been described with respect to the human arm. The principles of the invention will suggest other guides to those skilled in the art that are applicable to other limbs and body parts, both human and non-human. Referring now to Figure 1, shown is an arm placement guide 10. The arm placement guide is equipped with an elbow guide 11 and a wrist guide 12. While the invented guide also aids in supporting and immobilizing the arm, its primary function is to enable reproducible placement of the tissue measurement site on the analyzer, critical in producing accurate, consistent noninvasive measurements. During use, a subject in a sitting position places the arm to be sampled in the arm placement guide, so that the elbow is received by the elbow guide 11 and the wrist and hand are positioned on the ergonomically shaped wrist guide 12 and hand guide 13. In the resulting position, the sample arm is at the subject's side with the elbow flexed to 90°. In the current embodiment, the arm placement device exhibits handedness; that is, arm placement devices are separately adapted to receive right or left arms, respectively.

[0019] It is preferred that the subject be in a sitting position during actual sampling, to minimize the effects of size difference between subjects. During tests of the invented device, sampling with the subject in a sitting position resulted in only a 2 difference in the height of the arm between an adult male and 10 year old boy, allowing the current embodiment of the invention to be built with a relatively small range of travel being required by the movable fiber optic probe. The wrist / hand guide unit 14 is detachably mounted on a mechanical slide 20 (Figure 2) allowing the wrist support to be positioned directly under the subject's wrist regardless of arm length. For optimal reproducibility in placement of the arm on the analyzer, a custom elbow guide 11 and wrist/hand guide 14 are constructed by creating custom molds of a subject's elbow, wrist and hand. In the preferred embodiment, the molds are formed from a substance such as the 5-minute RTV (room temperature vulcanization) silicone putty supplied by Micro-Mark of Berkeley Heights NJ, which is FDA approved for skin contact. However, other products used for mold making having the appropriate toxicity profile would be equally suitable.

[0020] As previously indicated, a fiber optic probe employs a bifurcated fiber optic cable 15 to deliver light energy to the tissue measurement site from an energy source (not shown). The same probe collects light energy reflected or transmitted from the tissue measurement site and delivers it to detectors (not shown). A subject interface includes a cylindrical housing 16 with the fiber optic probe tip 17 protruding from a terminal surface of the cylindrical housing. An aperture 18 in the arm placement guide provides the subject interface access to the tissue measurement site.

[0021] The subject's arm is positioned in the arm guide

10 such that the lowest point of the suspended forearm is suspended directly over the tip of the fiber optic probe 17. While the arm is being positioned, the fiber probe tip 17 is locked into a down position using the beam movement brake 34 (Figure 3) described in greater detail below.

[0022] Once the arm is positioned, an applied force mechanism 30 incorporating a conventional single arm balance is employed to move the fiber optic probe tip 17 upward until it contacts the arm with a constant upward force 31, shown in Figure 3. In order to apply a very small, known amount of force to the arm with the fiber optic probe, the point of contact between the forearm and the probe should be limited to the tip of the probe. It is preferable that the fiber optic probe be rectangular, with the long side of the rectangle oriented lengthwise on the arm, so that the entire probe may contact the arm with a minimal application of pressure. Additionally, the head of the fiber optic probe needs to be as small as possible; again, in order to minimize the amount of pressure required for complete contact between the probe and the tissue measurement site. In the current embodiment, the applied force is provided by a counterweight 33 on a single arm balance. The balance comprises a hinged beam 32, mounted on an upright mount 37, that rotates about a point of rotation defined by the point of attachment to the upright mount. A bearing 38 allows free movement of the beam about the point of rotation. As the adjustable weight 33 is moved along the axis of the beam, the force 31 applied to the tissue measurement site by the fiber optic probe is changed. An alternative arrangement (not shown) for the adjustable weight incorporates a weight that slides along the arm of the balance, which is provided with gradations for different pressure levels. A screw with a small circular weight mounted on it may be used for fine adjustments to the applied force. In the present embodiment of the invention, the total applied pressure may be varied in a continuous fashion from 0 to 2 kg/in². Additional weights may be added to vary the applied force as required. Once the fiber optic probe is positioned, the probe may be locked into position with the beam movement brake/lock mechanism 34. The beam movement brake functions by means of a friction plate, which is compressed into the upright mount 37 to lock the beam at a desired position. In addition, the subject interface floats on a gimbal mount 35 to insure that the optical axis of the probe is normal to the subject's arm at the point of contact. The gimbal mount includes a gimbal locking mechanism 36 that locks the gimbal by means of a compression or pinch element. The fiber optic probe tip may be locked into position with the gimbal locking mechanism 36 to maintain the stability of the probe against the arm. In order to further assure the reproducibility of arm placement, it is necessary to protect the invented apparatus from structural deformation due to excessive pressure applied by the subject in the event that they lean on the analyzer. The entire structure of the current embodiment is designed, therefore, to withstand a force of 200

pounds exerted upon the arm support structure, without deforming.

[0023] In addition to pressure control, the apparatus is capable of controlling the temperature of the fiber optic probe so that it may equilibrate to the localized temperature in the vicinity of the tissue measurement site. In the current embodiment, the housing 16 is cylindrical and completely surrounds the fiber optic probe, with the probe tip 17 protruding from a terminal surface of the cylindrical housing 16. Within the housing is a metallic core that is maintained at a given temperature by means of a low voltage temperature device (not shown). In the current embodiment, the core is fabricated from aluminum, although other metals that are lightweight and conduct heat readily would also be suitable. The temperature device is equipped with a feedback control, allowing it to maintain a constant temperature. It should be noted that the temperature of the sampled area may be predicted from the near-IR spectra by using the shifts of the water bands, which absorb at 1450, 1950 and 2600 nm. As the temperature of the water increases, these bands shift to higher energy.

[0024] The localized temperature of the forearm may also be measured directly. A thermistor 19 encapsulated in a housing protrudes from the housing 16 into the forearm slightly at a distance of approximately 7mm from the edge of the fiber optic probe tip. In combination with temperature readings inside the housing, the localized forearm temperature at the tissue measurement site may be calculated.

[0025] One skilled in the art will recognize that the pressure may be applied by a variety of other means, including but not limited to: a lever arm, spring force, air pressure or counter weights. While the above system is calibrated with counter weights, one skilled in the art will recognize that the applied pressure may be measured by a variety of means, including but not limited to: balances, air pressure gauges, or by calculation.

[0026] An alternate version of the arm placement guide is reproducibly attached to the arm and has guide rods that couple to the spectrometer to aid in reproducibly coupling the sample to the analyzer.

[0027] While the preferred embodiment described above utilizes an applied force to generate an applied pressure between the analyzer and the tissue measurement site, in an alternate embodiment, the analyzer is brought into contact with the tissue measurement site and subsequently displaced a known distance against the skin at the tissue measurement site. In the current, alternate embodiment of the invention, the fiber optic probe is maintained in a fixed vertical position, as it protrudes from a platform upon which the subject's limb rests. The platform is raised and lowered, allowing the tip of the fiber optic probe to compress the skin at the tissue measurement site by varying amounts. Different versions of the current embodiment, each employing a different method for determining degree of displacement, are provided. First, an LED and detector define a starting

location prior to displacement and the subject interface module may be displaced a given distance after the LED is detected. Second, the analyzer may be moved until spectral reflectance is removed, or, optionally, moved a fixed distance after elimination of spectrally reflected light. In the near-IR this would be when the light intensity at 1950 nm, where water has a strong absorbance, approaches zero. Third, the analyzer may be displaced into the tissue until analysis of the spectral information indicates that the preferred depths of the sample are being probed, indicated by the detection of chemical bands that serve as markers for an individual subject or class of subjects; described in detail in the commonly assigned U.S Patent Application Ser. No. 09/359,191, *An Intelligent System For Noninvasive Blood Analyte Prediction*, S. Malin, T. Ruchti (July 22, 1999) published as US-6280381. Each of these versions is described in greater detail below.

[0028] Referring now to Figure 4, the current embodiment of the invention provides ergonomically designed elbow 11, wrist 12 and hand 13 guides mounted on an arm support platform 40. Protruding through the arm support platform 40 is the fiber optic probe 17. The arm support platform 40 is moved vertically up and down by a linear actuator mechanism composed of an actuator arm 41 and vertical guides 42. The linear actuator mechanism is driven by a conventional electric motor 45, which is, in turn, controlled by a digital processor (not shown). An LED 43 situated at one side of the subject's arm aims directly above the fiber bundle 17 and is detected by a detector 44 situated at the opposite side of the subject's arm. During use, the subject rests their arm on the provided elbow 11, wrist 12, and hand guides 13. The linear actuator lowers the platform bearing the subject's arm toward the fiber optic probe by lowering the arm support platform 40. As the arm breaks the plane defined by the LED 43 and the corresponding detector 44, the LED signal is lost, and the system recognizes that the tissue measurement site is a known distance from the tip of the fiber optic probe 17, the zero position. The arm support plane may be further lowered in a controlled manner allowing known displacements of the fiber optic probe into the subject's forearm. Naturally, the elasticity of living tissue allows varying pressures to be applied to the surface of the tissue measurement site without actual penetration of the fiber bundle into the skin of the arm.

[0029] A second version of the constant displacement subject interface module defines the zero position of the translating arm support plane by detecting spectrally reflected light collected by the fiber optic probe. The zero position constitutes the point at which no spectrally reflected light is detected. When the tissue measurement site is not in contact with the surface of the fiber optic probe, spectrally reflected light may be collected in the probe and detected. This spectrally reflected light is an interferent that hinders analysis. When the tissue measurement site first makes complete contact with the tip of the fiber optic probe, the spectrally reflected light ap-

proaches zero intensity. In a diffuse reflectance based measurement of the skin in the near-IR region, water has several strong absorbance bands located at 1450, 1950 and 2600 nm. Two noninvasive diffuse reflectance spectra of a tissue measurement site on a human forearm are shown in Figure 5. The top curve 50 shows that light is being detected at 1950 and 2500nm, in a region where water has sufficiently high absorbance levels that a zero signal should be observed. The detection of light indicates that spectrally reflected light is being collected and that the fiber optic probe and the tissue measurement site are not in contact. The lower curve 51 shows zero intensity (noise limited intensity) at 1950 and 2500nm, indicating that the fiber optic probe tip and the tissue measurement site are in direct contact. The zero point is defined as the point when intensity at 1950nm first reaches zero. Known displacements beyond this point are determined using the distance of travel of the computerized arm support platform.

[0030] A third version of the constant displacement subject interface module establishes the displacement of the fiber optic probe into the forearm using spectral information. As previously discussed, the scattering and absorption coefficients of the sample change with different degrees of applied pressure. Therefore, the sampled volume and resulting spectra are a function of the displacement of the fiber versus the zero position. Thus, the spectra may be used to create a feedback to the linear drive system as to the desired displacement of the subject interface module.

[0031] Other systems for raising and lowering the arm support platform are possible, including: a hand crank, a lever arm, a scissors jack and drive, a hinge point in conjunction with a linear drive and a worm drive.

[0032] There are many situations in which it is beneficial to control the amount of pressure exerted by an analyzer on the sample being analyzed. In the biomedical field, analyzers are under development for a variety of important analytes; for example, glucose, for monitoring diabetics, urea, for use with dialysis patients, and oxygen. As previously mentioned, point of care testing using minimally invasive and non-invasive methods is rapidly supplanting more conventional methods of sampling and laboratory analysis in the field of clinical testing. The invention finds application in any minimally invasive and non-invasive measurements of this type, in which an analyzer must make contact with a tissue measurement site.

[0033] While the foregoing description has presented the invention in the context of medical applications with human subjects, the invention finds broad application in a number of technical fields where solid samples are analyzed that are not homogeneous at or near the surface and are elastic, or where spectral reflectance must be eliminated by directly contacting a sample with an analyzer. For example, the invention may be readily adapted for veterinary or research use with non-human subjects. Additionally, optical sampling of agricultural products is exceedingly common. For example, analyses of fruits,

vegetable and grains are affected by the degree of pressure applied to the sample by the analyzer. The invention also provides an apparatus for the removal of spectrally reflected light off of a sample in diffuse reflectance mode, which is critical to quantitative analysis of small analyte signals. Within the pharmaceutical and chemical arts, intimate contact of the analyzer with tablets, capsules, pellets, chips and other such items is beneficial in diffuse reflectance based measurements.

Claims

1. An apparatus for varying localized absorption and scattering coefficients at a tissue measurement site in a controlled and reproducible manner during optical sampling comprising:

a subject interface (17) for variably contacting a tissue measurement site;
 means (30) for varying and maintaining contact with said tissue measurement site by said subject interface (17) in a controlled and reproducible manner, comprising a gimbal mount (35) for receiving said subject interface (17); and
 means for reproducibly positioning said tissue measurement site relative to said subject interface(17).

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said subject interface comprises:

a fiber optic probe surrounded by a housing (16), wherein said probe delivers light energy to said tissue measurement site and collects light energy transmitted or reflected from said tissue measurement site.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein a tip (17) of said fiber optic probe contacts said tissue measurement site, where said tissue measurement site is located on a limb of said subject.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein said fiber optic probe is rectangular and wherein said probe tip (17) contacts said limb in a lengthwise manner so that contact of said probe tip (17) with said tissue measurement site is maximized, with a minimum of applied pressure to said tissue measurement site by said probe tip (17) being required.

5. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said housing (16) comprises a cylinder surrounding said fiber optic probe and wherein said probe tip (17) protrudes from a terminal surface of said housing (16).

6. The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said housing (16) is fabricated from a lightweight, heat conductive ma-

terial.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said housing further comprises means for heating said fiber optic probe so that probe temperature is equilibrated with surface temperature at said tissue measurement site.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, said subject interface further comprising means (19) for detecting surface temperature at said tissue measurement site.

9. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said means (30) for varying and maintaining contact with said tissue measurement site by said subject interface in a controlled and reproducible manner comprises:

a single arm balance with a counter weight (33), said single arm balance comprising a hinged beam (32) attached to an upright mount (37) at a point of attachment, wherein a bearing element (38) allows said hinged beam (32) to rotate freely about a point of rotation defined by said point of attachment, and wherein said beam (32) has a first end and a second end; wherein said gimbal mount (35) is attached to said second end for receiving said subject interface;

wherein adjusting said counter weight (33) varies the amount of pressure applied to said tissue measurement site by said fiber optic probe.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said subject interface floats on said gimbal mount (35) so that the optical axis of said fiber optic probe is normal to a limb of said subject whereon the tissue measurement site is located when the fiber optic probe is pressing against said tissue measurement site.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said gimbal mount is equipped with a gimbal locking mechanism (36), said gimbal locking mechanism (36) comprising any of a compression and a pinch element and wherein said gimbal locking mechanism (36) is operative to maintain stability of said fiber optic probe tip (17) against said tissue measurement site.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said counter weight (33) comprises an adjustable weight attached at said first end of said hinged beam (32).

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein said counter weight (33) comprises a larger weight that slides along said beam (32), where said beam (32) has gradations for different pressure levels, and wherein a screw with a smaller weight attached at said first end allows fine adjustments to applied pressure.

14. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a beam movement brake mechanism (34), said beam movement brake mechanism comprising a friction plate, said friction plate being operative to lock said beam into a desired position by being compressed against said upright mount. 5
15. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said means for reproducibly positioning said tissue measurement site (17) relative to said subject interface comprises a limb guide (10) for receiving a limb of said subject, whereon said tissue measurement site is located. 10
16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said limb guide (10) comprises an arm guide (10), said arm guide (10) comprising: 15
- a platform (40) mounted on a support structure; an elbow guide (11); a wrist guide (12) and a hand guide (13), all detachably mounted on said platform; and 20
- an aperture (18) defined by said platform (40).
17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said arm guide (10) receives said subject's arm, so that the subject's elbow is resting in the elbow guide (11), the subject's wrist is resting on the wrist guide (12) and the subject's hand is resting on the hand guide (13) such that a tissue measurement site on a lower surface of said arm is aligned with said aperture (18). 25 30
18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said subject interface, mounted on said means for varying and maintaining contact (30) with said tissue measurement site protrudes upward through said aperture (18) to contact said tissue measurement site. 35
19. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said wrist guide (12) and said hand guide (13) are formed as a single unit (14), and wherein said unit is slideably mounted (20) on said platform (40), so that said unit is positionable according to the length of said subject's forearm. 40
20. The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein said elbow guide (11) and said assembly are ergonomically molded. 45
21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein said elbow guide (11) and said assembly are custom molded according to subject. 50
22. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein said subject's arm is positionable such that the arm is at the subject's side and flexed to an angle of ninety degrees. 55
23. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein said arm guide (10) is adapted to receive one of a right arm and a left arm.
24. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein said means for reproducibly positioning said tissue measurement site (17) relative to said subject interface comprises a platform (40), said platform (40) being supported by and attached to said means for varying and maintaining contact (41, 42) with said tissue measurement site by said subject interface in a controlled and reproducible manner, said means for varying and making contact comprising:
- a system for raising and lowering said platform (41, 42) so that said fiber optic probe may be brought into contact with said tissue measurement site and then displaced into skin at the tissue measurement site by a known amount, where said subject interface is fixedly mounted; 60
- wherein said tissue measurement site is located on an arm of said subject.
25. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein said platform (40) has detachably mounted thereon; an elbow guide (11), a wrist guide (12) and a hand guide (13) for reproducibly positioning said arm, said wrist guide (12) and said hand guide (13) being slideable to accommodate arms of varying length; and wherein said platform (40) has an aperture (18) through which said fiber optic probe protrudes to make contact with the tissue measurement site.
26. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said elbow guide (11), said wrist guide (12) and said hand guide (13) are ergonomically molded.
27. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said guides (11, 12, 13) are custom molded according to subject.
28. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said subject's arm is positionable such that the arm is at the subject's side and flexed to an angle of ninety degrees.
29. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said system for raising and lowering (41, 42) said platform (40) comprises a linear slide mechanism (41, 42), said linear slide mechanism comprising an actuator arm (41) and a plurality of vertical guides (42).
30. The apparatus of Claim 29, said system for raising and lowering (41, 42) said platform (40) further comprising an electric motor (45) for driving said linear slide mechanism.
31. The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein said motor (45) is computer-controlled.
32. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein a zero point constitutes the elevation at which full contact between said arm and said fiber optic probe first occurs.

33. The apparatus of Claim 32, said system further comprising:
- an LED (43) situated at one side of said arm;
a detector (44) situated at the opposite side of said arm;
- wherein a signal from said LED (43) is aimed directly above said fiber optic probe, and detected by said detector (44).
34. The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein said arm is lowered until said zero point is reached, said zero point constituting the elevation at which said LED (43) signal is undetectable.
35. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said zero point is determinable by analyzing successive spectral measurements for spectrally reflected light, and wherein an absence of spectrally reflected light indicates said zero point.
36. The apparatus of Claim 32, wherein said subject's arm is positionable at said zero point and subsequently may be lowered onto said fiber optic probe so that said probe is displaced into the skin of said tissue measurement site by a preferred amount, said preferred amount indicated by target values for absorption and scattering coefficients, said coefficients being calculated for successive spectral measurements.
37. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said system for raising and lowering (41, 42) said platform (40) comprises one of:
- a hand crank;
a lever arm;
a scissors jack
a hinge point in conjunction with a linear drive;
and
a worm drive.
38. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said means for reproducibly positioning (15) said tissue measurement site relative to said subject interface comprises a placement guide, said placement guide being reproducibly attachable to a subject's body part whereon said tissue measurement site is located, said guide having an aperture (18) through which said subject interface protrudes to contact said tissue measurement site, said placement guide also having one or more guide rods for reproducibly coupling an analyzer bearing said subject interface to said tissue measurement site.
39. The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein said body part comprises a limb of said subject.
40. A non-invasive method for varying localized absorption and scattering coefficients at a tissue measurement site in a controlled and reproducible manner during optical sampling of a tissue volume comprising the steps of:
- providing a tissue measurement site;
providing a spectroscopic analyzer having a subject interface adapted to make contact with said tissue measurement site during measurement;
making an initial NIR spectral measurement, for which any of applied pressure to the tissue measurement site by said subject interface and degree of displacement into the tissue of the tissue measurement site by said subject interface is known and maintained during said initial measurement by means comprising a gimbal mount for receiving said subject interface;
calculating local absorbance and scattering coefficients for said measurements;
making one or more subsequent NIR spectral measurements in which any of applied pressure and displacement is varied by a known amount;
calculating absorbance and scattering coefficients for each measurement; and
determining an optimal sampling depth for detecting a target analyte, wherein a ratio of absorption coefficient to scattering coefficient is an indicator of said optimal depth.
41. The method of Claim 40, wherein increased pressure at said tissue measurement site forces water from said sampled tissue volume, and wherein the local absorption coefficient decreases as water concentration within said tissue volume decreases.
42. The method of Claim 41, wherein density of scattering centers within said sampled tissue increases as water concentration decreases, and wherein said scattering coefficient increases as density of scattering centers increases.
43. The method of Claim 42, wherein said tissue measurement site is on a limb of a living subject.
44. The method of Claim 43, wherein said limb is an arm.
45. The method of Claim 42, wherein said subject interface comprises a fiber optic probe having a tip, and wherein said probe delivers light energy to said tissue measurement site and collects light energy transmitted or reflected from said tissue measurement site.
46. The method of Claim 45, wherein said tip contacts said tissue measurement site.

47. The method of Claim 42, wherein a guide positions said tissue measurement site relative to said subject interface in a controlled and reproducible manner.
48. The method of Claim 47, wherein said guide includes an aperture, wherein said subject interface protrudes through said aperture to contact said tissue measurement site.
49. The method of Claim 42, wherein said applied pressure is varied and controlled by means of a single arm balance having an adjustable counter weight, said balance comprising a beam having a first end and a second end, wherein said pressure is controlled and varied by adjusting said counterweight.
50. The method of Claim 49, wherein said balance further comprises said gimbal mount attached to an end of said balance, wherein said subject interface floats on said gimbal mount.
51. The method of Claim 50, wherein said balance further comprises a locking mechanism so that said beam may be locked into a desired position.
52. The method of Claim 42, wherein said degree of displacement is varied and controlled by a platform having one or more guides for reproducibly positioning said tissue measurement site, said platform being supported on and attached to a system for raising and lowering said platform so that said subject interface may contact said tissue measurement site and then be displaced into skin at the tissue measurement site by a known amount, where said subject interface is fixedly mounted.
53. The method of Claim 52, wherein a zero point constitutes the first point of full contact between said subject interface and said tissue measurement site, wherein said tissue measurement site is first lowered to said zero point and subsequently lowered a further known amount to displace said subject interface further into the tissue measurement site.
54. The method of Claim 52, wherein said means for raising and lowering said platform comprises a linear actuator, said linear actuator powered by an electric motor.
55. The method of Claim 54, wherein said electric motor is digitally-controlled
56. The method of Claim 52, wherein said means for raising and lowering said platform comprises one of:
- a hand crank;
 - a lever arm;
 - a scissors jack;

a hinge point in conjunction with a linear drive; and
a worm drive.

Patentansprüche

1. Eine Vorrichtung zum Variieren lokalisierter Absorptions- und Streukoeffizienten an einer Gewebemesstelle auf eine gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise während einer optischen Probenahme, wobei die Vorrichtung folgende Merkmale aufweist:
 - eine Subjektgrenzfläche (17) zum variierbaren Berühren einer Gewebemesstelle;
 - eine Einrichtung (30) zum Variieren und Aufrechterhalten eines Kontakts mit der Gewebemesstelle durch die Subjektgrenzfläche (17) auf gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise, wobei die Einrichtung (30) eine Kardanhalterung (35) zum Aufnehmen der Subjektgrenzfläche (17) aufweist; und
 - eine Einrichtung zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren der Gewebemesstelle relativ zu der Subjektgrenzfläche (17).
2. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 1, bei der die Subjektgrenzfläche folgende Merkmale aufweist:
 - eine faseroptische Sonde, die von einem Gehäuse (16) umgeben ist, wobei die Sonde Lichtenergie an die Gewebemesstelle liefert und Lichtenergie, die von der Gewebemesstelle transmittiert oder reflektiert wird, einfängt.
3. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 2, bei der eine Spitze (17) der faseroptischen Sonde die Gewebemesstelle berührt, wobei die Gewebemesstelle auf einer Gliedmaße des Subjekts angeordnet ist.
4. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 3, bei der die faseroptische Sonde rechteckig ist und bei der die Sondenspitze (17) die Gliedmaße der Länge nach berührt, so dass ein Kontakt der Sondenspitze (17) mit der Gewebemesstelle maximiert wird, wobei ein Minimum eines Drucks, der durch die Sondenspitze (17) auf die Gewebemesstelle ausgeübt wird, erforderlich ist.
5. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 2, bei der das Gehäuse (16) einen Zylinder aufweist, der die faseroptische Sonde umgibt, und bei der die Sondenspitze (17) von einer Endoberfläche des Gehäuses (16) vorsteht.
6. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 5, bei der das Gehäuse (16) aus einem wärmeleitfähigen Material eines geringen Gewichts hergestellt ist.

7. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 6, bei der das Gehäuse ferner eine Einrichtung zum Erhitzen der faseroptischen Sonde aufweist, so dass die Sonden-
temperatur mit der Oberflächentemperatur an der Gewebemessstelle ins Gleichgewicht gebracht wird.
8. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 7, wobei die Subjektgrenzfläche ferner eine Einrichtung (19) zum Erfassen der Oberflächentemperatur an der Gewebemessstelle aufweist.
9. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 2, bei der die Einrichtung (30) zum Variieren und Aufrechterhalten eines Kontakts mit der Gewebemessstelle durch die Subjektgrenzfläche auf gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise folgende Merkmale aufweist:
- eine Einzelarmwaage mit einem Gegengewicht (33), wobei die Einzelarmwaage einen angelenkten Balken (32) aufweist, der an einer senkrechten Halterung (37) an einem Befestigungspunkt befestigt ist, wobei ein Lagerelement (38) ermöglicht, dass sich der angelenkte Balken (32) frei um einen durch den Befestigungspunkt definierten Drehpunkt dreht, und wobei der Balken (32) ein erstes Ende und ein zweites Ende aufweist; wobei die Kardanhalterung (35) an dem zweiten Ende befestigt ist, um die Subjektgrenzfläche aufzunehmen;
- wobei ein Einstellen des Gegengewichts (33) die Höhe des Drucks, der durch die faseroptische Sonde auf die Gewebemessstelle ausgeübt wird, variiert.
10. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 9, bei der die Subjektgrenzfläche an der Kardanhalterung (35) beweglich angeordnet ist, so dass die optische Achse der faseroptischen Sonde senkrecht zu einer Gliedmaße des Subjekts ist, auf der sich die Gewebemessstelle befindet, wenn die faseroptische Sonde gegen die Gewebemessstelle drückt.
11. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 10, bei der die Kardanhalterung mit einem Kardanverriegelungsmechanismus (36) ausgestattet ist, wobei der Kardanverriegelungsmechanismus (36) ein beliebiges eines Kompressions- und eines Einschnürungselements aufweist, und bei der der Kardanverriegelungsmechanismus (36) dahin gehend wirksam ist, eine Stabilität der faseroptischen Sondenspitze (17) bezüglich der Gewebemessstelle aufrechtzuerhalten.
12. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 9, bei der das Gegengewicht (33) ein einstellbares Gewicht aufweist, das an dem ersten Ende des angelenkten Balkens (32) befestigt ist.

13. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 9, bei der das Gegengewicht (33) ein größeres Gewicht aufweist, das sich an dem Balken (32) entlang schiebt, wobei der Balken (32) Abstufungen für verschiedene Druckpegel aufweist, und bei der eine Schraube mit einem geringeren Gewicht, das an dem ersten Ende befestigt ist, Feineinstellungen eines ausgeübten Druckes ermöglicht.
14. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 9, die ferner einen Balkenbewegungs-bremsmechanismus (34) aufweist, wobei der Balkenbewegungs-bremsmechanismus eine Reibungsplatte aufweist, wobei die Reibungsplatte dahin gehend wirksam, ist, den Balken **dadurch** in einer gewünschte Position zu verriegeln, dass sie gegen die senkrechte Halterung gedrückt wird.
15. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 1, bei der die Einrichtung zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren der Gewebemessstelle (17) relativ zu der Subjektgrenzfläche eine Gliedmaßenführung (10) zum Aufnehmen einer Gliedmaße des Subjekts, auf der sich die Gewebemessstelle befindet, aufweist.
16. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 15, bei der die Gliedmaßenführung (10) eine Armführung (10) umfasst, wobei die Armführung (10) folgende Merkmale aufweist:
- eine an einer Tragestruktur angebrachte Plattform (40) ;
eine Ellbogenführung (11); eine Handgelenksführung (12) und eine Handführung (13), die alle auf abnehmbare Weise an der Plattform angebracht sind; und
eine durch die Plattform (40) definierte Apertur (18).
17. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 16, bei der die Armführung (10) den Arm des Subjekts aufnimmt, so dass der Ellbogen des Subjekts in der Ellbogenführung (11) aufliegt, das Handgelenk des Subjekts auf der Handgelenksführung (12) aufliegt und die Hand des Subjekts auf der Handführung (13) aufliegt, so dass eine Gewebemessstelle auf einer unteren Oberfläche des Arms mit der Apertur (18) ausgerichtet ist.
18. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 17, bei der die Subjektgrenzfläche, die an der Einrichtung zum Variieren und Aufrechterhalten eines Kontakts (30) mit der Gewebemessstelle angebracht ist, durch die Apertur (18) nach oben vorsteht, um die Gewebemessstelle zu berühren.
19. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 16, bei der die Handgelenksführung (12) und die Handführung (13)

- als eine einzelne Einheit (14) gebildet sind und bei der die Einheit auf schiebbare Weise an der Plattform (40) angebracht (20) ist, so dass die Einheit gemäß der Länge des Unterarms des Subjekts positionierbar ist.
20. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 19, bei der die Ellbogenführung (11) und die Anordnung ergonomisch geformt sind.
21. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 20, bei der die Ellbogenführung (11) und die Anordnung je nach Subjekt spezifisch geformt sind.
22. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 17, bei der der Arm des Subjekts so positionierbar ist, dass sich der Arm an der Seite des Subjekts befindet und in einem Winkel von neunzig Grad gebeugt ist.
23. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 16, bei der die Armführung (10) dahin gehend angepasst ist, entweder einen rechten Arm oder einen linken Arm aufzunehmen.
24. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 2, bei der die Einrichtung zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren der Gewebemesstelle (17) relativ zu der Subjektgrenzfläche eine Plattform (40) aufweist, wobei die Plattform (40) getragen wird durch die und befestigt ist an der Einrichtung zum Variieren und Aufrechterhalten eines Kontakts (41, 42) mit der Gewebemesstelle durch die Subjektgrenzfläche auf eine gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise, wobei die Einrichtung zum Variieren und Herstellen eines Kontakts folgende Merkmale aufweist:
- ein System zum Anheben und Absenken der Plattform (41, 42), so dass die faseroptische Sonde mit der Gewebemesstelle in Kontakt gebracht und anschließend in einem bekannten Ausmaß in die Haut an der Gewebemesstelle verschoben werden kann, wobei die Subjektgrenzfläche fest angebracht ist;
- wobei sich die Gewebemesstelle an einem Arm des Subjekts befindet.
25. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 24, wobei Folgendes auf abnehmbare Weise an der Plattform (40) angebracht ist:
- eine Ellbogenführung (11), eine Handgelenksführung (12) und eine Handführung (13) zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren des Arms, wobei die Handgelenksführung (12) und die Handführung (13) schiebbar sind, um Arme unterschiedlicher Länge unterzubringen; und
- wobei die Plattform (40) eine Apertur (18) aufweist, durch die die faseroptische Sonde vorsteht, um mit der Gewebemesstelle in Kontakt zu gelangen.
26. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 25, bei der die Ellbogenführung (11), die Handgelenksführung (12) und die Handführung (13) ergonomisch geformt sind.
27. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 25, bei der die Führungen (11, 12, 13) je nach Subjekt spezifisch geformt sind.
28. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 25, bei der der Arm des Subjekts derart positionierbar ist, dass sich der Arm an der Seite des Subjekts befindet und in einem Winkel von neunzig Grad gebeugt ist.
29. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 25, bei der das System zum Anheben und Absenken (41, 42) der Plattform (40) einen linearen Schiebemechanismus (41, 42) aufweist, wobei der lineare Schiebemechanismus einen Betätigungsarm (41) und eine Mehrzahl von vertikalen Führungen (42) aufweist.
30. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 29, wobei das System zum Anheben und Absenken (41, 42) der Plattform (40) ferner einen Elektromotor (45) zum Antreiben des linearen Schiebemechanismus aufweist.
31. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 30, bei der der Motor (45) computergesteuert ist.
32. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 31, bei der ein Nullpunkt die Erhöhung darstellt, bei der zum ersten Mal ein vollständiger Kontakt zwischen dem Arm und der faseroptischen Sonde erfolgt.
33. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 32, wobei das System ferner folgende Merkmale aufweist:
- eine auf einer Seite des Arms befindliche LED (43);
- einen auf der gegenüberliegenden Seite des Arms befindlichen Detektor (44);
- wobei ein Signal von der LED (43) auf eine direkt oberhalb der faseroptischen Sonde befindliche Stelle gerichtet ist und durch den Detektor (44) erfasst wird.
34. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 33, bei der der Arm abgesenkt wird, bis der Nullpunkt erreicht ist, wobei der Nullpunkt die Erhöhung darstellt, bei der das Signal der LED (43) nicht erfassbar ist.
35. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 32, bei der der Nullpunkt **dadurch** ermittelbar ist, dass aufeinander

- folgende Spektralmessungen für spektral reflektiertes Licht analysiert werden, und bei der ein Nichtvorhandensein von spektral reflektiertem Licht auf den Nullpunkt hinweist.
- 5
36. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 32, bei der der Arm des Subjekts an dem Nullpunkt positionierbar ist und anschließend auf die faseroptische Sonde abgesenkt werden kann, so dass die Sonde in einem bevorzugten Ausmaß in die Haut der Gewebemessstelle verschoben wird, wobei das bevorzugte Ausmaß durch Zielwerte für Absorptions- und Streukoeffizienten angegeben wird, wobei die Koeffizienten für aufeinander folgende Spektralmessungen berechnet werden.
- 10
37. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 25, bei der das System zum Anheben und Absenken (41, 42) der Plattform (40) eine beziehungsweise eines beziehungsweise einen der Folgenden aufweist:
- 15
- eine Handkurbel;
 - einen Hebelarm;
 - einen Scherenheber;
 - einen Gelenkpunkt in Verbindung mit einem linearen Antrieb; und
 - einen Schneckenantrieb.
- 20
38. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 1, bei der die Einrichtung zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren (15) der Gewebemessstelle relativ zu der Subjektgrenzfläche eine Platzierungsführung aufweist, wobei die Platzierungsführung reproduzierbar an einem Körperteil des Subjekts, an dem sich die Gewebemessstelle befindet, befestigbar ist, wobei die Führung eine Apertur (18) aufweist, durch die die Subjektgrenzfläche vorsteht, um mit der Gewebemessstelle in Kontakt zu gelangen, wobei die Platzierungsführung ferner eine oder mehrere Führungsstangen zum reproduzierbaren Koppeln eines Analysators, der die Subjektgrenzfläche stützt, mit der Gewebemessstelle aufweist.
- 25
39. Die Vorrichtung gemäß Anspruch 38, bei der das Körperteil eine Gliedmaße des Subjekts umfasst.
- 30
40. Ein nicht-invasives Verfahren zum Variieren lokalisierter Absorptions- und Streukoeffizienten an einer Gewebemessstelle auf eine gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise während einer optischen Probenahme eines Gewebevolumens, wobei das Verfahren folgende Schritte aufweist:
- 35
- Bereitstellen einer Gewebemessstelle;
 - Bereitstellen eines spektroskopischen Analysators, der eine Subjektgrenzfläche aufweist, die dahin gehend angepasst ist, während einer Messung mit der Gewebemessstelle in Kontakt
- 40
41. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 40, bei dem ein erhöhter Druck an der Gewebemessstelle Wasser aus dem als Probe genommenen Gewebevolumen drückt und bei dem der lokale Absorptionskoeffizient abnimmt, wenn die Wasserkonzentration in dem Gewebevolumen abnimmt.
- 45
42. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 41, bei dem eine Dichte von Streuzentren in dem als Probe genommenen Gewebe mit abnehmender Wasserkonzentration zunimmt und bei dem der Streukoeffizient mit zunehmender Dichte von Streuzentren zunimmt.
- 50
43. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 42, bei dem sich die Gewebemessstelle an einer Gliedmaße eines lebenden Subjekts befindet.
- 55
44. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 43, bei dem die Gliedmaße ein Arm ist.
45. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 42, bei dem die Subjektgrenzfläche eine faseroptische Sonde aufweist, die eine Spitze aufweist, und bei dem die Sonde Lichtenergie an die Gewebemessstelle liefert und Lichtenergie, die von der Gewebemessstelle transmittiert oder reflektiert wird, einfängt.
46. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 45, bei dem die Spitze die Gewebemessstelle berührt.
47. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 42, bei dem eine Führung die Gewebemessstelle relativ zu der Subjektgrenzfläche auf eine gesteuerte und reproduzierbare Weise zu gelangen;
- Durchführen einer anfänglichen NIR-Spektralmessung, für die jeglicher eines durch die Subjektgrenzfläche auf die Gewebemessstelle ausgeübten Druckes und eines Ausmaßes einer Verschiebung in das Gewebe der Gewebemessstelle seitens der Subjektgrenzfläche bekannt ist und während der anfänglichen Messung durch eine Einrichtung aufrechterhalten wird, die eine Kardanhaltung zum Aufnehmen der Subjektgrenzfläche aufweist;
- Berechnen von lokalen Absorbanz- und Streukoeffizienten für die Messungen;
- Durchführen einer oder mehrerer nachfolgender NIR-Spektralmessungen, bei der beziehungsweise bei denen beliebige eines ausgeübten Druckes und einer Verschiebung um ein bekanntes Ausmaß variiert wird;
- Berechnen von Absorbanz- und Streukoeffizienten für jede Messung; und
- Bestimmen einer optimalen Probenahmetiefe zum Erfassen eines Zielanalyten, wobei ein Verhältnis von Absorptionskoeffizient zu Streukoeffizient ein Indikator der optimalen Tiefe ist.

bare Weise positioniert.

48. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 47, bei dem die Führung eine Apertur umfasst, wobei die Subjektgrenzfläche durch die Apertur hindurch vorsteht, um die Gewebemesstelle zu berühren. 5
49. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 42, bei dem der ausgeübte Druck mittels einer Einzelarmwaage, die ein einstellbares Gegengewicht aufweist, variiert und gesteuert wird, wobei die Waage einen Balken aufweist, der ein erstes Ende und ein zweites Ende aufweist, wobei der Druck durch ein Einstellen des Gegengewichts gesteuert und variiert wird. 10
50. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 49, bei dem die Waage ferner die Kardanhalterung aufweist, die an einem Ende der Waage befestigt ist, wobei die Subjektgrenzfläche an der Kardanhalterung beweglich angeordnet ist wird. 20
51. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 50, bei dem die Waage ferner einen Verriegelungsmechanismus aufweist, so dass der Balken in eine gewünschte Position verriegelt werden kann. 25
52. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 42, bei dem das Ausmaß der Verschiebung durch eine Plattform variiert und gesteuert wird, die eine oder mehrere Führungen zum reproduzierbaren Positionieren der Gewebemesstelle aufweist, wobei die Plattform getragen wird auf und befestigt ist an einem System zum Anheben und Absenken der Plattform, so dass die Subjektgrenzfläche die Gewebemesstelle berühren kann und anschließend in einem bekannten Ausmaß in die Haut an der Gewebemesstelle verschoben werden kann, wobei die Subjektgrenzfläche fest angebracht ist. 30
53. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 52, bei dem ein Nullpunkt den ersten Punkt eines vollständigen Kontakts zwischen der Subjektgrenzfläche und der Gewebemesstelle darstellt, wobei die Gewebemesstelle zuerst auf den Nullpunkt abgesenkt wird und anschließend in einem weiteren bekannten Ausmaß abgesenkt wird, um die Subjektgrenzfläche weiter in die Gewebemesstelle hinein zu verschieben. 35
54. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 52, bei dem die Einrichtung zum Anheben und Absenken der Plattform ein lineares Betätigungsglied aufweist, wobei das lineare Betätigungsglied durch einen Elektromotor mit Leistung versorgt wird. 40
55. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 54, bei dem der Elektromotor digital gesteuert wird. 45
56. Das Verfahren gemäß Anspruch 52, bei dem die Ein-

richtung zum Anheben und Absenken der Plattform eine beziehungsweise eines beziehungsweise einen der Folgenden aufweist:

- eine Handkurbel;
- einen Hebelarm;
- einen Scherenheber;
- einen Gelenkpunkt in Verbindung mit einem linearen Antrieb; und
- einen Schneckenantrieb.

Revendications

1. Appareil permettant de modifier l'absorption localisée et les coefficients de dispersion à un endroit de mesure de tissu de manière contrôlée et reproductible pendant l'échantillonnage optique, comprenant: 20
- une interface d'individu (17) destinée à venir en contact de manière variable avec un endroit de mesure de tissu;
 - un moyen (30) destiné à modifier et maintenir le contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite interface d'individu (17) de manière contrôlée et reproductible, comprenant un bâti à cardan (35) destiné à recevoir ladite interface d'individu (17); et
 - un moyen destiné à positionner de manière reproductible ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par rapport à ladite interface d'individu (17).
2. Appareil selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu comprend: 35
- une sonde à fibre optique entourée d'un boîtier (16), où ladite sonde fournit l'énergie lumineuse audit endroit de mesure de tissu et collecte l'énergie lumineuse transmise ou réfléchie dudit endroit de mesure de tissu.
3. Appareil selon la revendication 2, dans lequel une pointe (17) de ladite sonde à fibre optique entre en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, où ledit endroit de mesure de tissu est situé sur un membre dudit individu. 40
4. Appareil selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ladite sonde à fibre optique est rectangulaire et dans lequel ladite pointe de sonde (17) entre en contact avec ledit membre de manière longitudinale, de sorte que le contact de ladite pointe de sonde (17) avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu soit maximisé, avec un minimum de pression requise appliquée audit endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite pointe de sonde (17). 45

5. Appareil selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit boîtier (16) comprend une cylindre entourant ladite sonde à fibre optique et dans lequel ladite pointe de sonde (17) ressort d'une surface terminale dudit boîtier (16).
6. Appareil selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ledit boîtier (16) est fabriqué en un matériau thermoconducteur léger.
7. Appareil selon la revendication 6, dans lequel ledit boîtier comprend par ailleurs un moyen pour chauffer ladite sonde à fibre optique de sorte que la température de sonde soit équilibrée avec la température de surface audit endroit de mesure de tissu.
8. Appareil selon la revendication 7, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu comporte par ailleurs un moyen (19) destiné à détecter la température de surface audit endroit de mesure de tissu.
9. Appareil selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit moyen (30) destiné à modifier et maintenir le contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite interface d'individu de manière contrôlée et reproductible comprend:
- un poids de bras unique avec un contrepoids (33), ledit poids de bras unique comprenant une poutre articulée (32) fixée à un bâti vertical (37) en un point de fixation, où un élément de roulement (38) permet que ladite poutre articulée (32) tourne librement autour d'un point de rotation défini par ledit point de fixation, et où ladite poutre (32) présente une première extrémité et une deuxième extrémité; dans lequel ledit bâti à cardan (35) est fixé à ladite deuxième extrémité pour recevoir ladite interface d'individu;
- dans lequel le réglage dudit contrepoids (33) modifie la quantité de pression appliquée sur ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite sonde à fibre optique.
10. Appareil selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu flotte sur ledit bâti à cardan (35) de sorte que l'axe optique de ladite sonde à fibre optique soit normal par rapport à un membre dudit individu sur lequel se situe l'endroit de mesure de tissu lorsque la sonde à fibre optique appuie contre ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.
11. Appareil selon la revendication 10, dans lequel ledit bâti à cardan est équipé d'un mécanisme de verrouillage de cardan (36), ledit mécanisme de verrouillage de cardan (36) comportant l'un ou l'autre parmi un élément de compression et un élément de pincement et dans lequel ledit mécanisme de verrouillage de cardan (36) est opérationnel pour maintenir la stabilité dudit poids de sonde à fibre optique contre ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.
- 5 12. Appareil selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ledit contrepoids (33) comprend un poids réglable fixé à ladite première extrémité de ladite poutre articulée (32).
- 10 13. Appareil selon la revendication 9, dans lequel ledit contrepoids (33) comprend un poids plus grand qui glisse le long de ladite poutre (32), dans lequel ladite poutre présente des graduations pour différents niveaux de pression, et dans lequel une vis avec un poids plus petit fixé à ladite première extrémité permet des réglages fins de la pression appliquée.
- 15 14. Appareil selon la revendication 9, comprenant par ailleurs un mécanisme de frein de mouvement de poutre (34), ledit mécanisme de frein de mouvement de poutre comprenant une plaque de friction, ladite plaque de friction étant opérationnelle pour verrouiller ladite poutre dans une position désirée en étant comprimée contre ledit bâti vertical.
- 20 15. Appareil selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen destiné à positionner de manière reproductible ledit endroit de mesure de tissu (17) par rapport à ladite interface d'individu comprend un guide-membre (10) destiné à recevoir un membre dudit individu, sur lequel se situe ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.
- 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 16. Appareil selon la revendication 15, dans lequel ledit guide-membre (10) comprend un guide-bras (10), ledit guide-bras (10) comprenant:
- une plate-forme (40) montée sur une structure de support;
- un guide-coude (11); un guide-poignet (12) et un guide-main (13), tous montés de manière amovible sur ladite plate-forme; et
- une ouverture (18) définie par ladite plate-forme (40).
17. Appareil selon la revendication 16, dans lequel ledit guide-bras (10) reçoit le bras dudit individu, de sorte que le coude de l'individu repose dans le guide-coude (11), que le poignet de l'individu repose sur le guide-poignet (12) et que la main de l'individu repose sur le guide-main (13), de sorte qu'un endroit de mesure de tissu sur une surface inférieure dudit bras soit aligné sur ladite ouverture (18).
18. Appareil selon la revendication 17, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu, montée sur ledit moyen destiné à modifier et maintenir le contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, ressort vers le haut à travers

- ladite ouverture (18), pour entrer en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.
- 19.** Appareil selon la revendication 16, dans lequel ledit guide-poignet (12) et ledit guide-main (13) sont formés comme une seule unité (14), et dans lequel ladite unité est montée de manière coulissante (20) sur ladite plate-forme (40), de sorte que ladite unité puisse être positionnée selon la longueur de l'avant-bras dudit individu.
- 20.** Appareil selon la revendication 19, dans lequel ledit guide-coude et ledit ensemble sont moulés de manière ergonomique.
- 21.** Appareil selon la revendication 20, dans lequel ledit guide-coude (11) et ledit ensemble sont moulés sur mesure selon l'individu.
- 22.** Appareil selon la revendication 17, dans lequel le bras dudit individu peut être positionné de sorte que le bras se trouve sur le côté de l'individu et soit fléchi suivant un angle de quatre-vingt-dix degrés.
- 23.** Appareil selon la revendication 16, dans lequel ledit guide-bras (10) est adapté pour recevoir l'un parmi un bras droit et un bras gauche.
- 24.** Appareil selon la revendication 2, dans lequel ledit moyen destiné à positionner de manière reproductible ledit endroit de mesure de tissu (17) par rapport à ladite interface d'individu comprend une plate-forme (40), ladite plate-forme étant supportée par et fixée audit moyen destiné à modifier et maintenir le contact (41, 42) avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite interface d'individu de manière contrôlable et reproductible, ledit moyen destiné à modifier et établir le contact comprenant:
- un système pour faire monter et descendre ladite plateforme (41, 42) de sorte que la sonde à fibre optique puisse être amenée en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu et ensuite déplacée dans la peau à l'endroit de mesure de tissu d'une quantité connue, où ladite interface d'individu est montée de manière fixe;
- dans lequel ledit endroit de mesure de tissu se trouve sur un bras dudit individu.
- 25.** Appareil selon la revendication 24, dans lequel ladite plateforme (40) présente, y monté de manière amovible:
- un guide-coude (11), un guide-poignet (12) et un guide-main (13) pour positionner ledit bras de manière reproductible, ledit guide-poignet (12) et ledit guide-main (13) pouvant coulisser
- de manière à recevoir des bras de longueur variable; et
- dans lequel ladite plateforme (40) présente une ouverture (18) à travers laquelle ressort ladite sonde à fibre optique pour établir le contact avec l'endroit de mesure de tissu.
- 26.** Appareil selon la revendication 25, dans lequel ledit guide-coude (11), ledit guide-poignet (12) et ledit guide-main (13) sont moulés de manière ergonomique.
- 27.** Appareil selon la revendication 25, dans lequel lesdits guides (11, 12, 13) sont moulés sur mesure selon l'individu.
- 28.** Appareil selon la revendication 25, dans lequel le bras dudit individu peut être positionné de sorte que le bras se situe sur le côté de l'individu et soit fléchi suivant un angle de quatre-vingt-dix degrés.
- 29.** Appareil selon la revendication 25, dans lequel ledit système destiné à faire monter et descendre (41, 42) ladite plate-forme (40) comprend un mécanisme de coulissement linéaire (41, 42), ledit mécanisme de coulissement linéaire comprenant un bras d'actionnement (41) et une pluralité de guides verticaux (42).
- 30.** Appareil selon la revendication 29, dans lequel ledit système destiné à faire monter et descendre (41, 42) ladite plateforme (40) comprend par ailleurs un moteur électrique (45) destiné à entraîner ledit mécanisme de coulissement linéaire.
- 31.** Appareil selon la revendication 30, dans lequel ledit moteur (45) est commandé par ordinateur.
- 32.** Appareil selon la revendication 31, dans lequel un point zéro constitue l'élévation à laquelle se produit pour la première fois le contact total entre ledit bras et ladite sonde à fibre optique.
- 33.** Appareil selon la revendication 32, ledit système comprenant par ailleurs:
- une LED (43) située d'un côté dudit bras;
- un détecteur (44) situé du côté opposé dudit bras;
- dans lequel un signal de ladite LED (43) est dirigé directement au-dessus de ladite sonde à fibre optique, et détecté par ledit détecteur (44).
- 34.** Appareil selon la revendication 33, dans lequel ledit bras est descendu jusqu'à ce que soit atteint ledit point zéro, ledit point zéro constituant l'élévation à laquelle le signal de ladite LED (43) est indétectable.

35. Appareil selon la revendication 32, dans lequel ledit point zéro peut être déterminé en analysant les mesures spectrales successives de la lumière réfléchie spectralement, et dans lequel une absence de lumière réfléchie spectralement indique ledit point zéro. 5
36. Appareil selon la revendication 32, dans lequel le bras dudit individu peut être positionné audit point zéro et peut ensuite être descendu sur la sonde à fibre optique, de sorte que ladite sonde soit déplacée dans la peau dudit endroit de mesure de tissu d'une quantité préférée, ladite quantité préférée étant indiquée par des valeurs cibles de coefficients d'absorption et de dispersion, lesdits coefficients étant calculés pour les mesures spectrales successives. 10
37. Appareil selon la revendication 25, dans lequel ledit système destiné à faire monter et descendre (41, 42) ladite plate-forme (40) comprend l'un parmi: 15
- une manivelle;
 - un bras de levier;
 - un cric en ciseaux;
 - un point d'articulation conjointement avec un entraînement linéaire; et
 - une commande à vis sans fin. 20
38. Appareil selon la revendication 1, dans lequel ledit moyen destiné à positionner de manière reproductible (15) ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par rapport à ladite interface d'individu comprend un guide de placement, ledit guide de placement pouvant être fixé de manière reproductible à une partie de corps de l'individu sur lequel se trouve ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, ledit guide présentant une ouverture (18) à travers laquelle ressort ladite interface d'individu pour entrer en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, ledit guide de placement présentant également une ou plusieurs tiges de guide destinées à coupler de manière reproductible un analyseur portant ladite interface d'individu audit endroit de mesure de tissu. 25
39. Appareil selon la revendication 38, dans lequel ladite partie de corps comprend un membre dudit individu. 30
40. Procédé non invasif pour modifier les coefficients d'absorption et de dispersion localisés à un endroit de mesure de tissu de manière contrôlée et reproductible pendant l'échantillonnage optique d'un volume de tissu, comprenant les étapes consistant à: 35
- prévoir un endroit de mesure de tissu;
 - prévoir un analyseur spectroscopique présentant une interface d'individu adaptée pour entrer en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu pendant la mesure; 40
- effectuer une première mesure spectrale presque infrarouge, pour laquelle l'un ou l'autre parmi la pression appliquée à l'endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite interface d'individu et le degré de déplacement dans le tissu de l'endroit de mesure de tissu par ladite interface d'individu est connu et maintenu pendant ladite mesure initiale, par un moyen comprenant un bâti à cardan pour recevoir ladite interface d'individu; 45
- calculer les coefficients d'absorbance locale et de dispersion pour lesdites mesures;
 - effectuer une ou plusieurs mesures spectrales presque infrarouges successives dans lesquelles l'un ou l'autre parmi la pression appliquée et le déplacement est modifié d'une quantité connue;
 - calculer les coefficients d'absorbance et de dispersion pour chaque mesure; et
 - déterminer une profondeur d'échantillonnage optimale, pour détecter un analyte cible, où un rapport entre le coefficient d'absorption et le coefficient de dispersion est un indicateur de ladite profondeur optimale. 50
41. Procédé selon la revendication 40, dans lequel une pression accrue audit endroit de mesure de tissu force de l'eau hors dudit volume de tissu échantillonné, et dans lequel le coefficient d'absorption locale diminue au fur et à mesure que diminue la concentration d'eau dans ledit volume de tissu. 55
42. Procédé selon la revendication 41, dans lequel la densité de centres de dispersion dans ledit tissu échantillonné augmente au fur et à mesure que la concentration d'eau diminue, et dans lequel ledit coefficient de dispersion augmente au fur et à mesure que la densité de centres de dispersion augmente.
43. Procédé selon la revendication 42, dans lequel ledit endroit de mesure de tissu se trouve sur un membre d'un individu vivant.
44. Procédé selon la revendication 43, dans lequel ledit membre est un bras.
45. Procédé selon la revendication 42, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu comprend une sonde à fibre optique présentant une pointe, et dans lequel ladite sonde fournit de l'énergie lumineuse audit endroit de mesure de tissu et collecte l'énergie lumineuse transmise ou réfléchie dudit endroit de mesure de tissu.
46. Procédé selon la revendication 45, dans lequel ladite pointe entre en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.

47. Procédé selon la revendication 42, dans lequel un guide positionne ledit endroit de mesure de tissu par rapport à ladite interface d'individu de manière contrôlée et reproductible.
48. Procédé selon la revendication 47, dans lequel ledit guide comporte une ouverture, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu ressort à travers ladite ouverture, pour entrer en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu.
49. Procédé selon la revendication 42, dans lequel ladite pression appliquée est modifiée et contrôlée au moyen d'un seul poids de bras présentant un contrepoids réglable, ledit poids comprenant une poutre présentant une première extrémité et une deuxième extrémité, dans lequel ladite pression est contrôlée et modifiée en ajustant ledit contrepoids.
50. Procédé selon la revendication 49, dans lequel ledit poids comprend par ailleurs ledit bâti à cardan fixé à une extrémité dudit bras, dans lequel ladite interface d'individu flotte sur ledit bâti à cardan.
51. Procédé selon la revendication 50, dans lequel ledit poids comprend par ailleurs un mécanisme de verrouillage, de sorte que ladite poutre puisse être verrouillée dans une position désirée.
52. Procédé selon la revendication 42, dans lequel ledit degré de déplacement est modifié et contrôlé par une plate-forme présentant un ou plusieurs guides destinés à positionner de manière reproductible ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, ladite plate-forme étant supportée sur et fixée à un système destiné à faire monter et descendre ladite plate-forme de sorte que ladite interface d'individu puisse entrer en contact avec ledit endroit de mesure de tissu et ensuite être déplacée dans la peau à l'endroit de mesure de tissu d'une quantité connue, où ladite interface d'individu est montée de manière fixe.
53. Procédé selon la revendication 52, dans lequel un point zéro constitue le premier point de contact total entre ladite interface d'individu et ledit endroit de mesure de tissu, dans lequel ledit endroit de mesure de tissu est tout d'abord descendu audit point zéro et ensuite descendu d'une quantité supplémentaire connue, pour déplacer ladite interface d'individu davantage dans l'endroit de mesure de tissu.
54. Procédé selon la revendication 52, dans lequel ledit moyen destiné à faire monter et descendre la plate-forme comprend un actionneur linéaire, ledit actionneur linéaire étant actionné par un moteur électrique.
55. Procédé selon la revendication 54, dans lequel ledit moteur électrique est à commande numérique.
56. Procédé selon la revendication 52, dans lequel ledit moyen destiné à faire monter et descendre ladite plate-forme comprend l'un parmi:
- 5 une manivelle;
 - un bras de levier;
 - un cric en ciseaux;
 - un point d'articulation conjointement avec un entraînement linéaire; et
 - 10 une commande à vis sans fin.

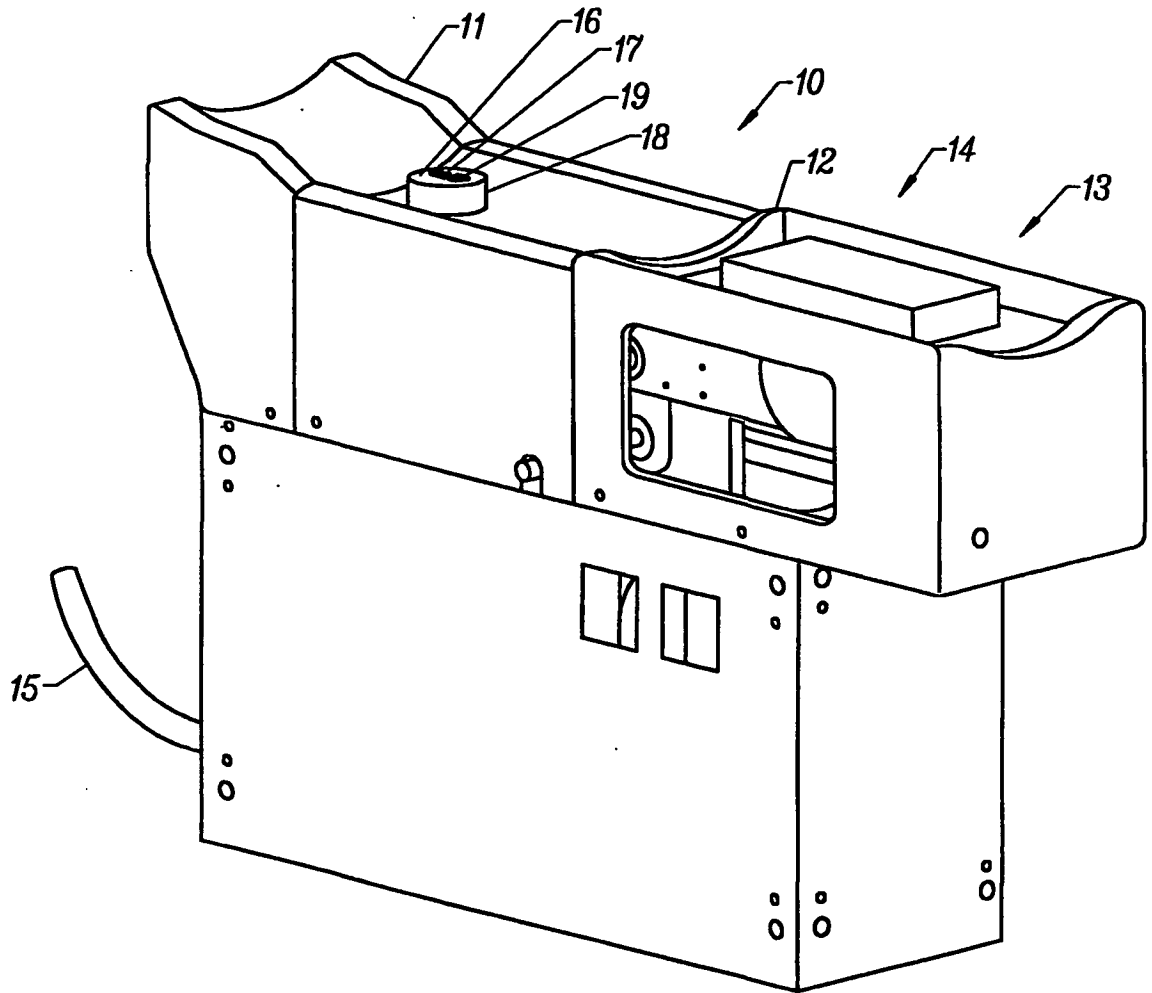


FIG. 1

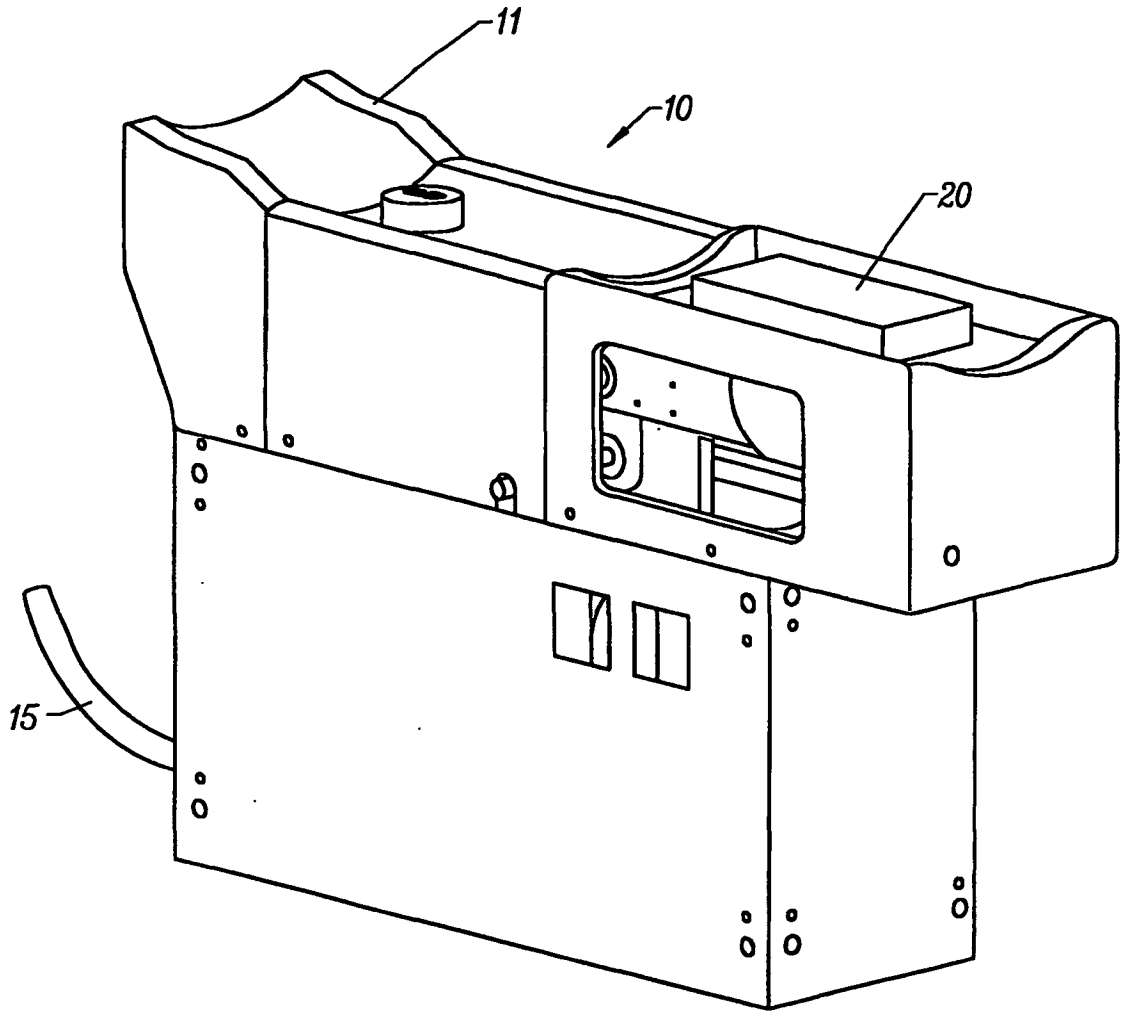


FIG. 2

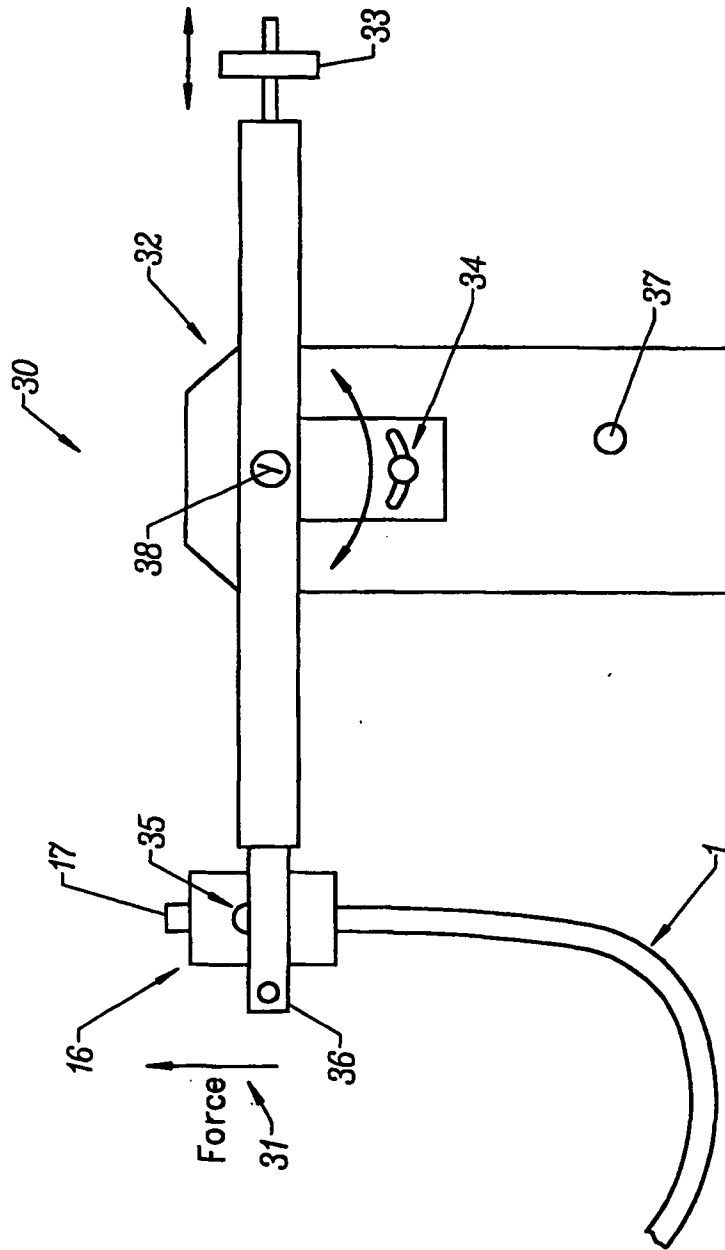


FIG. 3

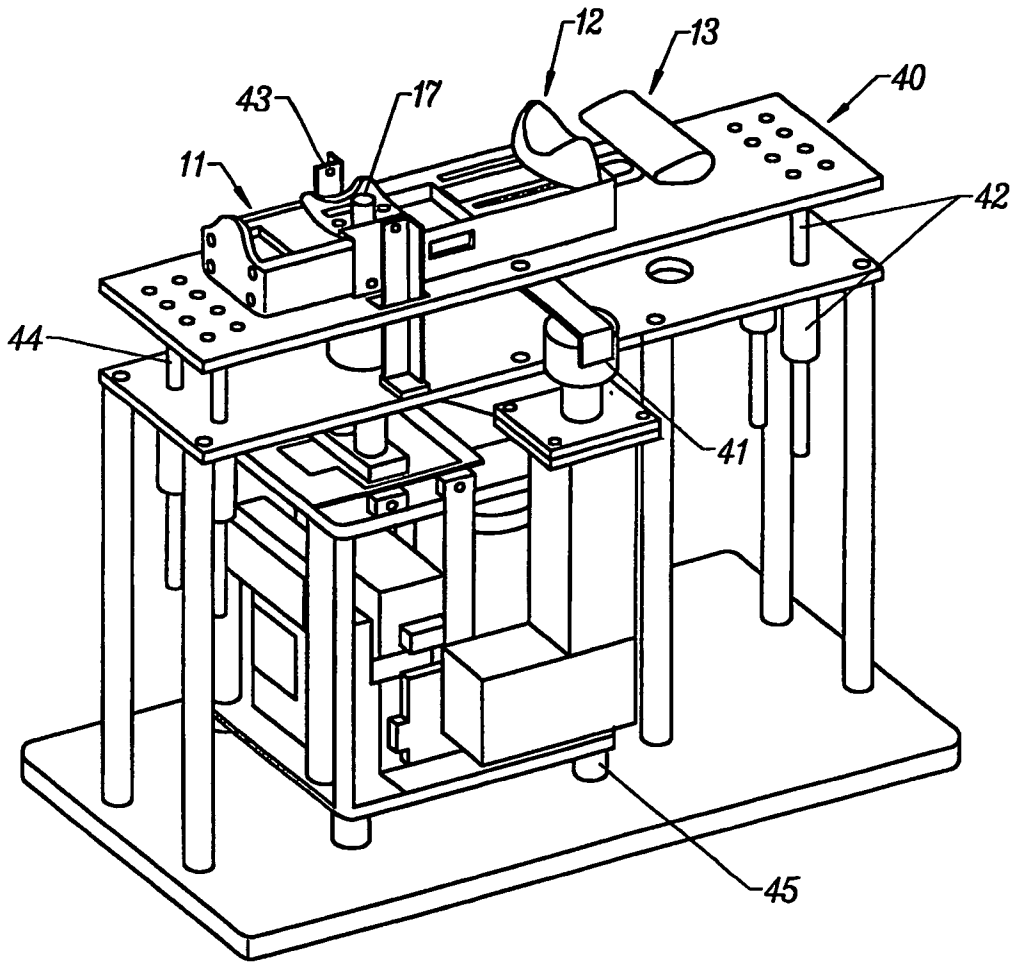


FIG. 4

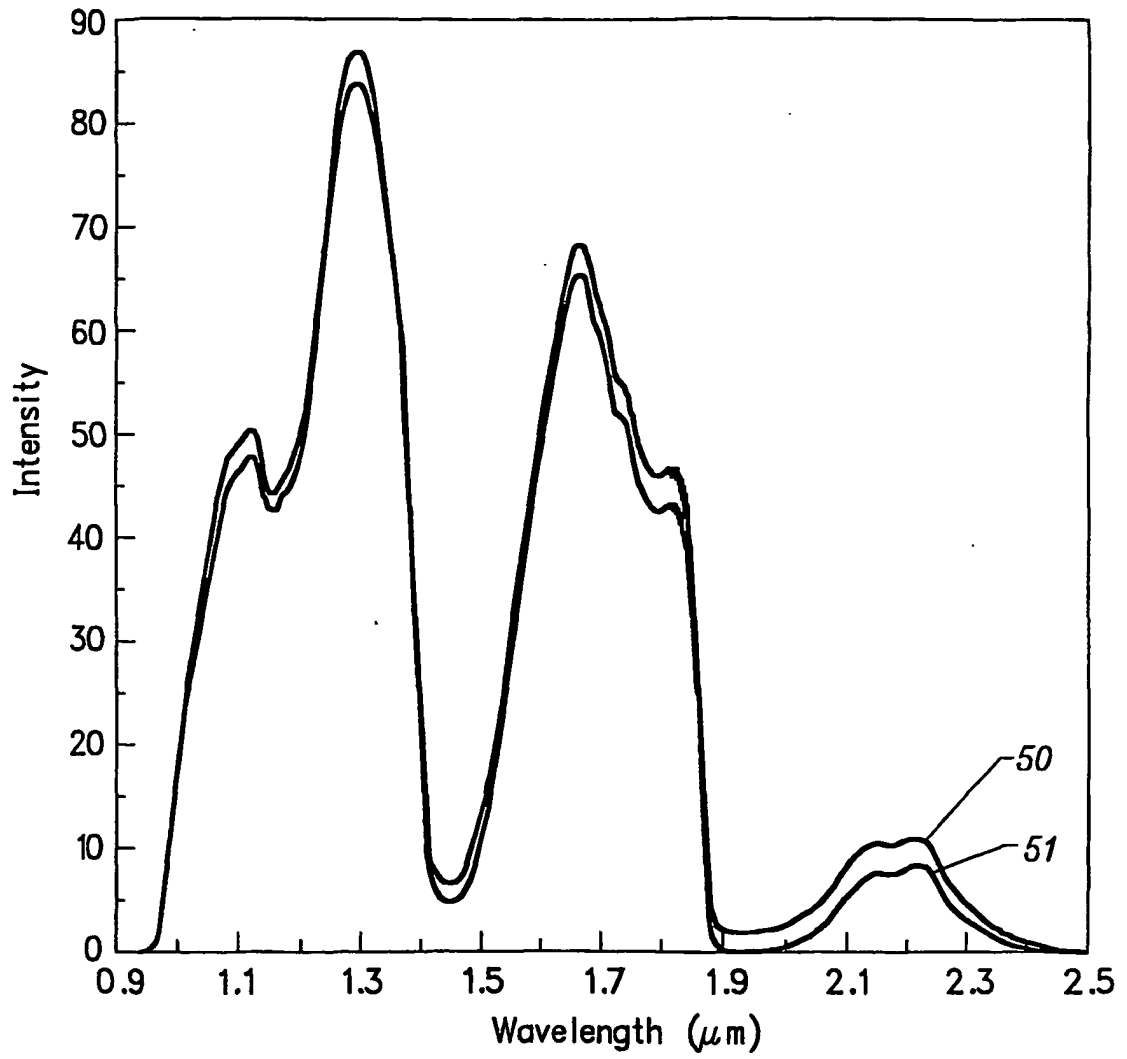


FIG. 5

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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- US 09359191 B [0027]
- US 6280381 B [0027]

专利名称(译)	用于在光学采样期间可重复地改变组织测量部位处的局部吸收和散射系数的装置和方法		
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申请(专利权)人(译)	仪器指标INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	SENSYS MEDICAL , INC.		
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代理机构(译)	SCHOPPE弗里茨		
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其他公开文献	EP1304954A2		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

通过光谱分析仪控制施加到组织测量部位的压力，在组织体积的光学采样期间以受控和可再现的方式改变组织测量部位处的局部吸收和散射系数的装置允许施加的压力保持恒定水平或施加的压力可以作为时间的函数以受控的，可再现的方式变化。用于接收身体部位的支撑件将身体部分保持在固定位置和固定高度。机械系统推进光纤探头，直到它以恒定的压力与身体部位接触。施加的力由单臂平衡上的配重提供。温度控制允许光纤探针的温度与组织测量部位紧邻的温度平衡。替代实施例允许光纤探针与组织测量部位直接接触，并且将已知距离移位到组织中。本发明还体现为一种方法，其中计算连续光谱测量的吸收和散射系数以确定用于检测目标分析物的最佳穿透深度。

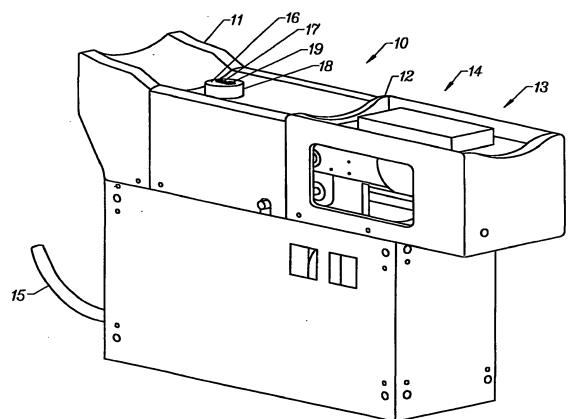


FIG. 1