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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **VAN HERPEN, Maarten** [NL/FR]; c/o Société Civile SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR). **BALISTRERI, Marcello** [NL/FR]; Société Civile SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR). **PRESURA, Cristian** [NL/FR]; Société Civile SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR).
- (74) Agent: **CHAFFRAIX, Jean**; Société Civile SPID, 156 Boulevard Haussmann, F-75008 Paris (FR).

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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

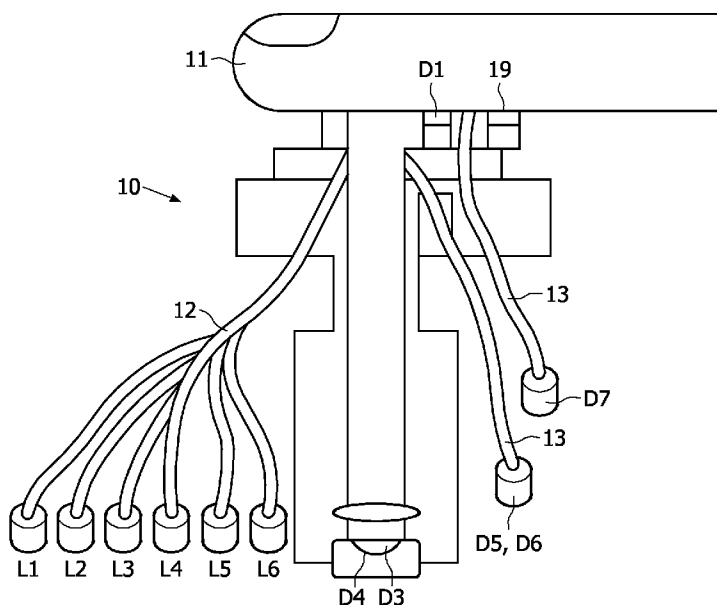
— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: GLUCOSE SENSOR



(57) Abstract: A system for the non-invasive measurement of glucose concentration in a live subject is disclosed. The system exploits the metabolic heat conformation method, and comprises temperature sensing means for measuring the body heat in respect of the subject and means for measuring the concentration of haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin in the blood of the subject. The system further comprises irradiating means for irradiating a portion of the live subject, a detector for collecting the measuring beam reflected by the live subject, means for determining from the reflected measuring beam, the blood flow velocity in respect of the live subject, and means for determining glucose concentration in the live subject as a function of the body heat, the haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin concentrations and the blood flow velocity.

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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.

“Glucose Sensor”

5 The present invention relates to the non-invasive measurement of glucose concentration in a live subject and, more particularly, to the non-invasive measurement of blood glucose concentration using the so-called metabolic heat conformation method.

10 The non-invasive determination of blood glucose concentration using the known Metabolic Heat Conformation (MHC) method relies on the measurement of the oxidative metabolism of glucose, from which the blood glucose concentration can be inferred. Body heat generated by glucose oxidation is based on the subtle balance of capillary glucose and oxygen supply to the cells of a tissue. The MHC method
15 exploits this relationship to estimate blood glucose by measuring the body heat and the oxygen supply. The relationship can be represented in an equation as:

$$[\textit{Glucose concentration}] = \textit{Function}[\textit{Heat generated, Blood flow rate, Hb, HbO}_2]$$

20 where Hb and HbO₂ represent the haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin concentrations, respectively.

The heat generated (i.e. body heat) is measured with a thermometer and the Hb and HbO₂ concentrations are typically determined from the spectral reflectivity of the
25 skin. Using the known MHC method, the blood flow rate is estimated from the thermal conductivity of the skin, and this thermal conductivity is detected by measuring the heat transferred through the skin from the tissue sample, such as a fingertip, to two thermistors.

30 Cho et al. ("*Non-invasive Measurement of Glucose by Metabolic Heat Conformation Method*", *Clinical Chemistry*, 50(10), pp1894-1898, (2004)) have demonstrated that the MHC method can indeed be used for non-invasive glucose detection. The blood flow rate is calculated by determining the heat conductivity and convection. However, measurement of thermal conductivity depends on the water content of the

tissue sample. Unless the water content is determined first, the error associated with the calculated blood flow rate can become quite large.

5 The water concentration of the tissue sample can be measured by looking at the variation of the thermal conductivity during the first 2 seconds of contact. However, the problem of determining blood flow rate then becomes one of accurately determining more than one parameter. Thus, it is an object of the present invention to provide a system for the non-invasive measurement of glucose concentration in a live subject, wherein the determination of blood flow rate is performed directly, and is
10 dependent on a single parameter to improve the accuracy in the measurement of glucose concentration using the MHC method.

In accordance with the present invention there is provided a system for non-invasive measurement of glucose concentration in a live subject, said system comprising
15 temperature sensing means for measuring body heat in respect of said subject, means for measuring the concentration of haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin in the blood of said live subject, irradiating means for generating a measuring beam and irradiating therewith a portion of said live subject, detector means for collecting measuring beam radiation reflected by said live subject, means for determining from
20 said reflected measuring beam radiation blood flow velocity in respect of said live subject, and means for determining glucose concentration in said live subject as a function of said body heat, said haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin concentrations, and said blood flow velocity.

25 In a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention, said means for determining blood flow velocity comprises self-mixing interferometry measurement means wherein said blood flow velocity is determined according to interference of radiation incident on said portion of said live subject with radiation reflected therefrom.

30 In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, using self-mixing interferometry measurement means, means may be provided for determining the rate of oscillation of a signal derived from the measuring beam radiation collected by said detector means, said rate of oscillation being dependent on changes in the speckle pattern derived from said measuring beam radiation collected by said detector means,

and being representative of the heartbeat of said live subject. Thus, beneficially, the heartbeat and blood velocity are measured substantially simultaneously. In this case, the glucose measurement may be more accurate because real time-varying blood flow can be viewed, instead of time-averaged view (as with the prior art MHC method in which the thermal diffusion method is used to determine blood flow velocity).

In an alternative exemplary embodiment of the present invention, said means for determining blood flow velocity comprises optical Doppler tomography measurement means wherein said blood flow velocity is determined according to a change of frequency of radiation reflected from said portion of said live subject.

Beneficially, the means for measuring the concentration of haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin comprises optical means, which may comprise one or more of spectral reflectance spectroscopy means, Raman spectroscopy means, photo-acoustic spectroscopy means, thermal emission spectroscopy or optical coherence tomography means.

Thus, because blood flow rate is determined by optical means, it is dependent on a single parameter, namely the detection signal, such that the blood flow rate and therefore the glucose concentrate, can be measured more quickly and accurately.

Preferably, said irradiating means comprises a laser cavity.

Preferably, said measuring beam comprises a laser beam.

Preferably, said detector means comprises a laser cavity and/or a photodetector.

Preferably, said portion of said live subject is placed in the focal plane of a laser beam.

Preferably, said tissue sample is a finger tip.

Preferably, said measuring beam radiation has a wavelength substantially in the range 470-950nm.

These and other aspects of the present invention will be apparent from, and elucidated with reference to the embodiment described herein.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

5 Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the apparatus for determining the blood glucose concentration in accordance with the present invention; and,

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of the self-mixing interferometric apparatus.

10 Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, there is illustrated schematically a system 10 for performing non-invasive measurement of blood glucose concentration in a live subject. Using thermistors D1 and D4, and thermopile D3, the temperature of the finger tip surface 11 can be measured in order to determine the heat generated. The light emitting diodes (LED's) L1-L6 and photodiodes D5-D7 are used to measure the Hb and HbO₂ concentrations using spectral reflectance spectroscopy, however,
15 Raman spectroscopy, photo-acoustic spectroscopy, thermal emission spectroscopy and optical coherence tomography can also be used.

The light generated by the LED's L1-L6 is communicated to the surface of the finger 11 using a set of optical fibres 12 and the light reflected from the surface of the finger
20 is returned to the photodiodes D5-D7 using a second set of optical fibres 13. The wavelength of the light used in the determination of Hb and HbO₂ concentration is typically in the range 470nm-950nm - a range which includes the visible and infra red regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

25 The blood flow rate can, for example, be determined directly by means of self-mixing interferometry or optical Doppler tomography.

Koelink et al. ("*Signal Processing for a Laser-Doppler Blood Perfusion Meter*", Signal Processing, 38, pp239-252 (1994)) have demonstrated the application of self-
30 mixing interferometry for the direct measurement of blood velocity. Zhao et al. ("*Phase -Resolved Optical Coherence Tomography and Optical Doppler Tomography for Imaging Blood Flow in Human Skin with Fast Scanning Speed and High Velocity Sensitivity*", Opt. Lett., 25(2), pp114-116 (2000)) have demonstrated the use of Doppler tomography to directly determine the blood flow rate.

Self-mixing interferometry and optical Doppler tomography both involve the direct optical determination of blood flow rate. With regards to the former, the optical analysis relies on the interference of the radiation incident upon the tissue sample with that reflected therefrom. Optical Doppler tomography however, exploits the frequency change suffered by radiation reflected off a moving object.

In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1 of the drawings, the blood flow rate is determined using a self-mixing interferometry unit 19, which is shown in more detail in Figure 2. The unit comprises a laser cavity 14, a lens system 15 to focus the laser beam 16 onto the tissue sample, i.e. the finger tip surface 11, and a photodetector 17. The laser beam 16 is focussed onto a focal plane which contains a surface 18 to which the finger 11 is applied. The surface 18 ensures that the surface of the finger 11 is suitably positioned at the focal plane of the lens system 15.

The beam emanating from the laser cavity 14 reflects off the surface of the finger 11 and is entrained back into the laser cavity 14 by the lens system 15. The interference of the laser beam 16 with the reflected beam within the laser cavity 14, sets up power fluctuations in the laser output, which is measured using the photodetector 17. The technique bears the name self-mixing interferometry due to the fact that the light reflected back into the laser cavity 14 interferes with the light resonating within the cavity.

If no blood flows in the finger 11 and the finger 11 is not moved, then everything is static, and the resulting signal from the photodetector 17 will be a constant in time (zero if DC filtered). If the finger 11 moves, or the amount of blood changes in the finger 11, then the amount of reflected light is changed and this will create fluctuations in the laser 14. The measured fluctuations will mirror these movements, and so the heartbeat will be an implicit part of the signal.

The signal on the photodetector 17 can also be understood on the basis of the speckle pattern when the blood flows. If no blood flows in the finger 11, then the speckle pattern will remain constant and the signal will be constant. When the blood flows, the speckle pattern will change in proportion to the blood flow velocity. The larger the

velocity of the blood, the faster it changes the speckle pattern and the faster the signal on the photodetector 17 will oscillate (the oscillation period being typically between 0.1ms and 2ms). Thus, if the pattern is Fourier transformed, then as the signal oscillation rate increases, so will the number of high frequency components in the transform.

By measuring the signal from the photodetector 17, the heartbeat and blood velocity can be measured simultaneously. This allows for a real time-varying rate of blood flow to be viewed, instead of a time-averaged view, as with the thermal diffusion method. More importantly however, the direct optical determination of blood velocity provides a more accurate determination of the blood velocity than the known thermal diffusion method associated with the MHC method and also provides for a more rapid measurement.

Thus, having determined the heat generated, the Hb and HbO₂ concentrations and blood velocity, the blood glucose concentration can be determined. It should be noted however, that whilst the measurement of blood velocity has been described here using a self-mixing interferometric technique, optical Doppler tomography could equally be employed. This technique involves the illumination of a tissue sample and collecting the backscattered radiation at a detector. The reflection of waves off a moving object is known to cause a frequency shift (the typical example being the change in the tone of a police car siren as the car approaches and then moves away), from which the speed of the moving object can be determined. Thus, due to the interaction of the radiation with the moving red blood cells within the radiated tissue sample and maybe the pulsating surface of the tissue sample, some regions of the radiation will suffer a frequency shift causing the intensity of the backscattered light to fluctuate. This fluctuation can then be used to determine blood flow velocity.

The use of self-mixing interferometry to measure blood flow rate, as opposed to the well-known thermal diffusion method, and other spectroscopic methods to measure Hb and HbO₂ concentrations, will speed up the determination of blood glucose levels. Additionally, because the measurement of blood flow rate only depends on the one parameter (namely, the self-mixing interferometric signal), the system will also improve the accuracy of the MHC method.

It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be capable of designing many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. In the claims, any reference signs placed in parentheses shall not be construed as limiting the claims. The word "comprising" and "comprises", and the like, does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in any claim or the specification as a whole. The singular reference of an element does not exclude the plural reference of such elements and vice-versa. The invention may be implemented by means of hardware comprising several distinct elements, and by means of a suitably programmed computer. In a device claim enumerating several means, several of these means may be embodied by one and the same item of hardware. The mere fact that certain measures are recited in mutually different dependent claims does not indicate that a combination of these measures cannot be used to advantage.

CLAIMS:

- 5 1. A system (10) for non-invasive measurement of glucose concentration in a live
subject (11), said system (10) comprising temperature sensing means (D1, D3,
D4) for measuring body heat in respect of said subject (11), means (L1-L6,
D5-D7) for measuring the concentration of haemoglobin and oxygenated
10 haemoglobin in the blood of said live subject (11), irradiating means (14) for
generating a measuring beam (16) and irradiating therewith a portion of said
live subject (11), detector means (14, 17) for collecting measuring beam (16)
radiation reflected by said live subject (11), means for determining from said
reflected measuring beam radiation blood flow velocity in respect of said live
15 subject (11), and means for determining glucose concentration in said live
subject (11) as a function of said body heat, said haemoglobin and oxygenated
haemoglobin concentrations, and said blood flow velocity.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for determining blood
flow velocity comprises self-mixing interferometry.
- 20 3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for determining blood
flow velocity comprises optical Doppler tomography
4. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the heartbeat and blood
25 velocity are measured substantially simultaneously in said live subject (11).
5. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein means for measuring the
concentration of haemoglobin and oxygenated haemoglobin comprises optical
means.
- 30 6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said optical means comprises one or
more of spectral reflectance spectroscopy means, Raman spectroscopy means,
photo-acoustic spectroscopy means, thermal emission spectroscopy or optical
coherence topography means.

7. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said irradiating means comprises a laser cavity (14).
- 5 8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said measuring beam comprises a laser beam (16).
9. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, said detector means comprises a laser cavity (14) and/or a photodetector (17).
- 10 10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said portion of said live subject (11) is placed in the focal plane (18) of a laser beam (16).
11. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said tissue sample is a
15 finger tip (11).
12. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said measuring beam radiation (16) has a wavelength substantially in the range 470-950nm.

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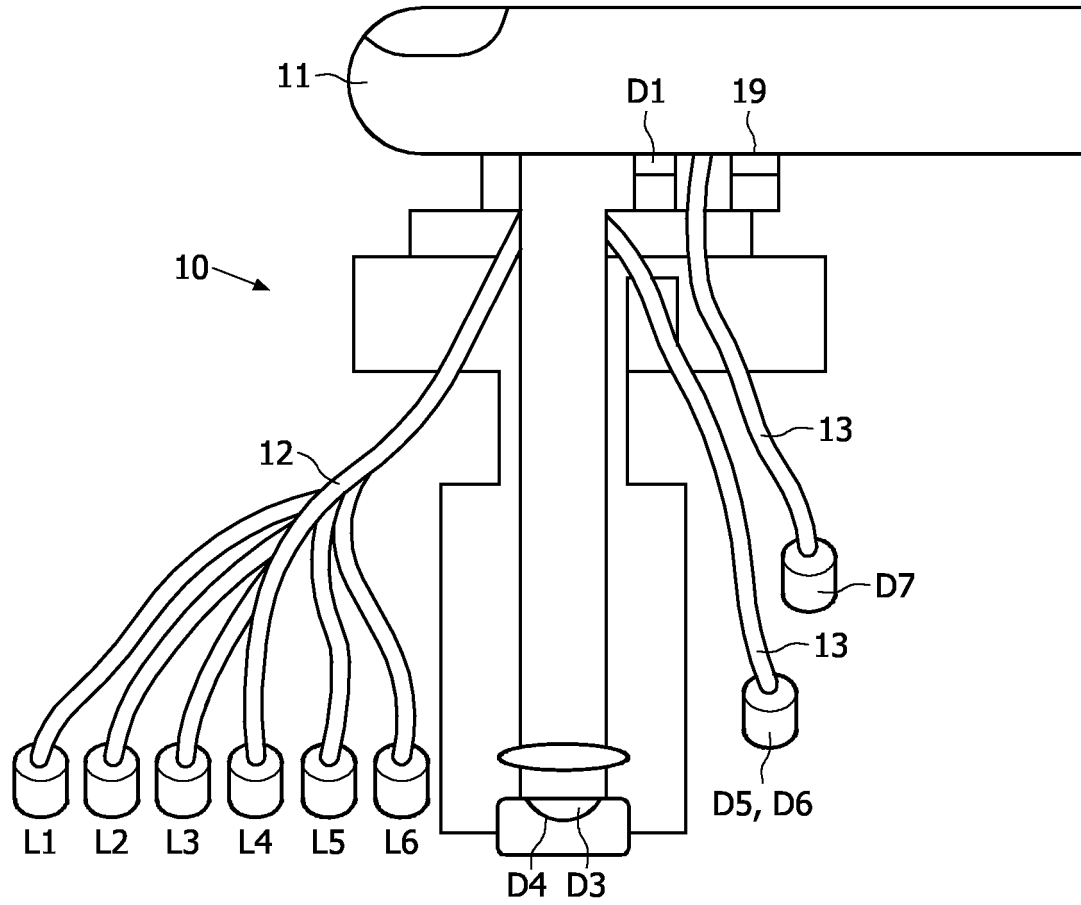


FIG. 1

2/2

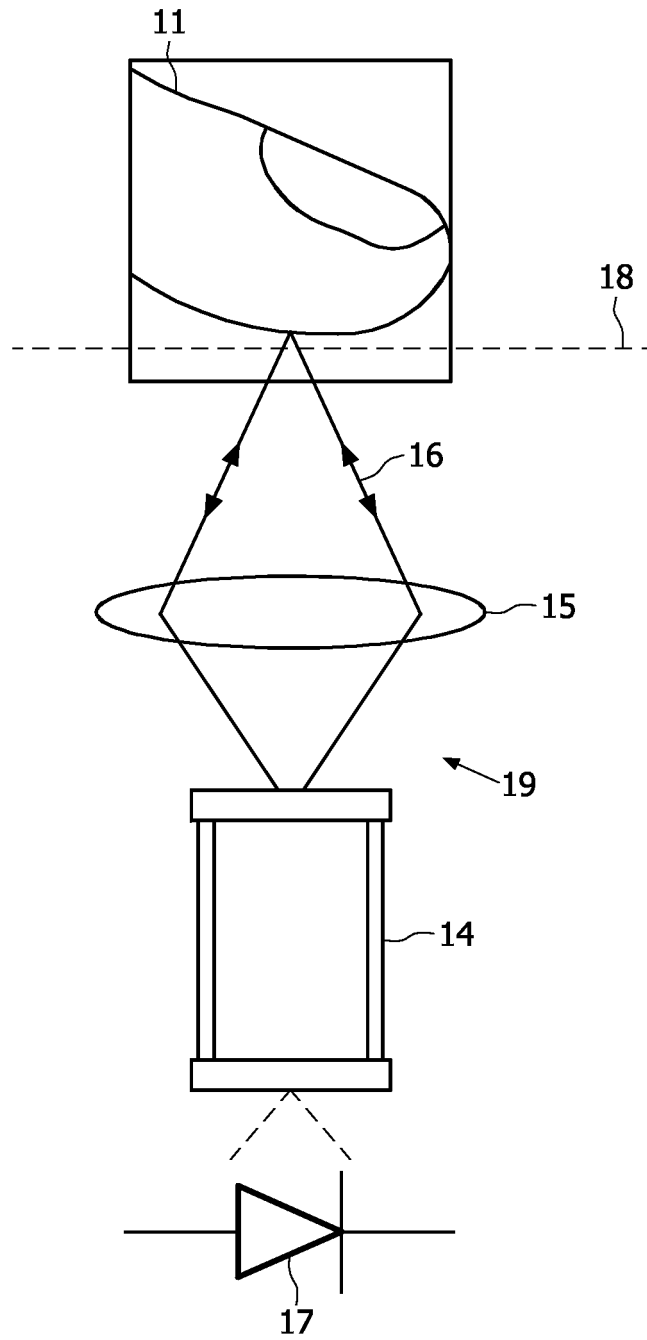


FIG. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2006/051599

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61B5/00

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)
A61B G01N

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>OK KYUNG CHO ET AL: "NONINVASIVE MEASUREMENT OF GLUCOSE BY METABOLIC HEAT CONFORMATION METHOD" CLINICAL CHEMISTRY, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL CHEMISTRY, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 50, no. 10, October 2004 (2004-10), pages 1894-1898, XP001209544 ISSN: 0009-9147 cited in the application figure 4 page 1894 - page 1896</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-12

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 document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *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

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lohmann, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2006/051599

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	MUL F F M DE ET AL: "SELF-MIXING LASER-DOPPLER VELOCIMETRY OF LIQUID FLOW AND OF BLOOD PERFUSION IN TISSUE" APPLIED OPTICS, OSA, OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 31, no. 27, 20 September 1992 (1992-09-20), pages 5844-5851, XP000291288 ISSN: 0003-6935 abstract	1,2,4-12
Y	ZHAO Y ET AL: "PHASE-RESOLVED OPTICAL COHERENCE TOMOGRAPHY AND OPTICAL DOPPLER TOMOGRAPHY FOR IMAGING BLOOD FLOW IN HUMAN SKIN WITH FAST SCANNING SPEED AND HIGH VELOCITY SENSITIVITY" OPTICS LETTERS, OSA, OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 25, no. 2, 15 January 2000 (2000-01-15), pages 114-116, XP000928550 ISSN: 0146-9592 cited in the application abstract	3
A	WO 97/32521 A (ABBOTT LABORATORIES) 12 September 1997 (1997-09-12) page 2, line 16 - page 3, line 38 page 9, line 8 - line 38 page 12 table 1	1-12
A	EP 1 518 493 A (HITACHI, LTD) 30 March 2005 (2005-03-30) paragraphs [0014], [0025], [0026]	1-12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/IB2006/051599

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WO 9732521	A	12-09-1997	CA 2247954 A1	12-09-1997
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			JP 2005102861 A	21-04-2005
			US 2005070777 A1	31-03-2005

专利名称(译)	葡萄糖传感器		
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子N.V.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	皇家飞利浦电子N.V.		
[标]发明人	BALISTRERI MARCELLO SOC CIV SPID		
发明人	VAN HERPEN, MAARTEN C/O SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE SPID BALISTRERI, MARCELLO SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE SPID PRESURA, CRISTIAN SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE SPID		
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优先权	2005300403 2005-05-24 EP		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于无创测量活体受试者中葡萄糖浓度的系统。该系统利用代谢热构象方法，并包括用于测量受试者身体热量的温度传感装置和测量受试者血液中血红蛋白和氧合血红蛋白浓度的装置。该系统还包括用于照射活体对象的一部分的照射装置，用于收集由活体对象反射的测量光束的检测器，用于根据反射的测量光束确定关于活体对象的血流速度的装置，以及装置用于确定活体受试者中的葡萄糖浓度作为体热，血红蛋白和氧合血红蛋白浓度和血流速度的函数。