

(12) **United States Patent**
Na

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,775,774 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Oct. 3, 2017**

(54) **METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMATOLOGICAL TREATMENT**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/096,686**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 12, 2016**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0361229 A1 Dec. 15, 2016

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Aug. 6, 2008 (KR) 10-2008-0076993

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61H 39/00 (2006.01)
A61H 39/08 (2006.01)
A61H 15/02 (2006.01)
A61M 37/00 (2006.01)
A61N 5/06 (2006.01)
A61N 1/05 (2006.01)
A61N 1/32 (2006.01)
A61N 1/36 (2006.01)
A61H 23/02 (2006.01)
A61H 15/00 (2006.01)
A61B 17/34 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *A61H 39/086* (2013.01); *A61H 15/02* (2013.01); *A61H 39/002* (2013.01); *A61H 39/007* (2013.01); *A61M 37/00* (2013.01); *A61N 1/0502* (2013.01); *A61N 1/328* (2013.01); *A61N 1/36017* (2013.01); *A61N 5/062* (2013.01); *A61N 5/0616* (2013.01);

A61N 5/0624 (2013.01); *A61B 2017/3409* (2013.01); *A61H 23/02* (2013.01); *A61H 2015/0014* (2013.01); *A61H 2039/005* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/0153* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/105* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/1207* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/1604* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/169* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/5007* (2013.01); *A61H 2201/5097* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/022* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/04* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/06* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/065* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/084* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/10* (2013.01); *A61H 2205/12* (2013.01); *A61M 2037/0007* (2013.01); *A61M 2037/0023* (2013.01); *A61M 2205/8206* (2013.01); *A61N 2005/0644* (2013.01); *A61N 2005/0652* (2013.01); *A61N 2005/0659* (2013.01); *A61N 2005/0661* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC *A61B 17/320068*; *A61B 1/06*; *A61B 1/20*; *A61N 1/30*; *A61N 5/0616*; *A61M 37/00*; *A61M 37/0015*; *A61M 2037/0007*; *A61M 2037/0046*; *A61M 2037/0061*
USPC 600/246; 601/2; 604/20, 21, 46, 117; 606/9; 607/102, 189; 424/1.11
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Pedro Philogene

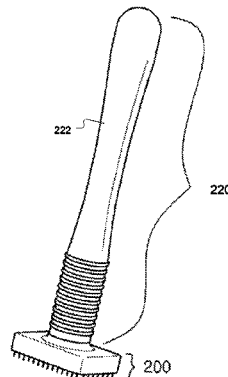
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of dermatological cell treatment are described generally herein. Other embodiments may be described and claimed.

20 Claims, 21 Drawing Sheets



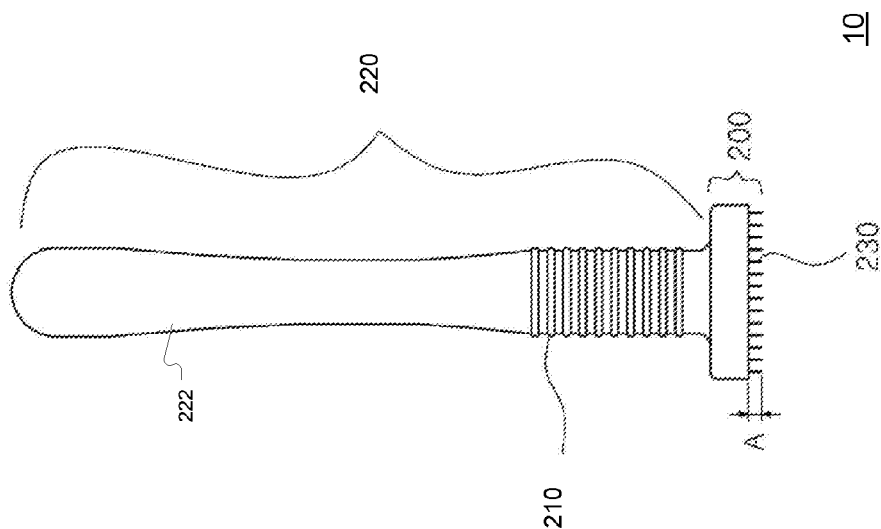


FIGURE 1A

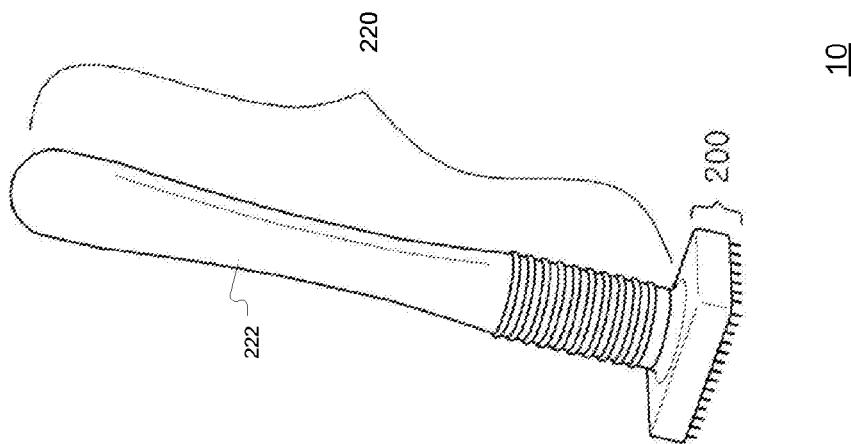


FIGURE 1B

200

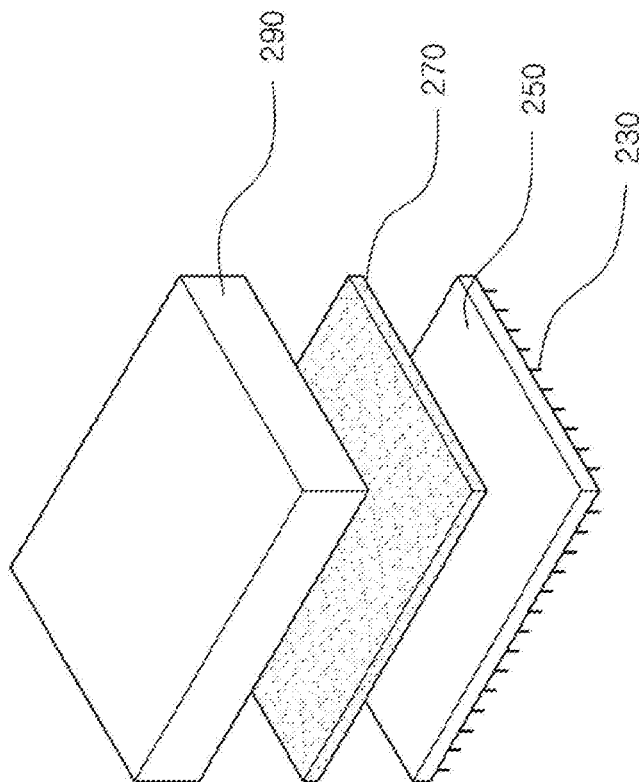


FIGURE 1C

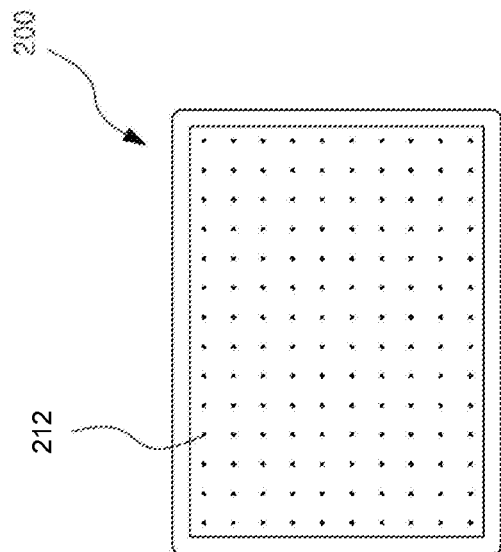


FIGURE 1D

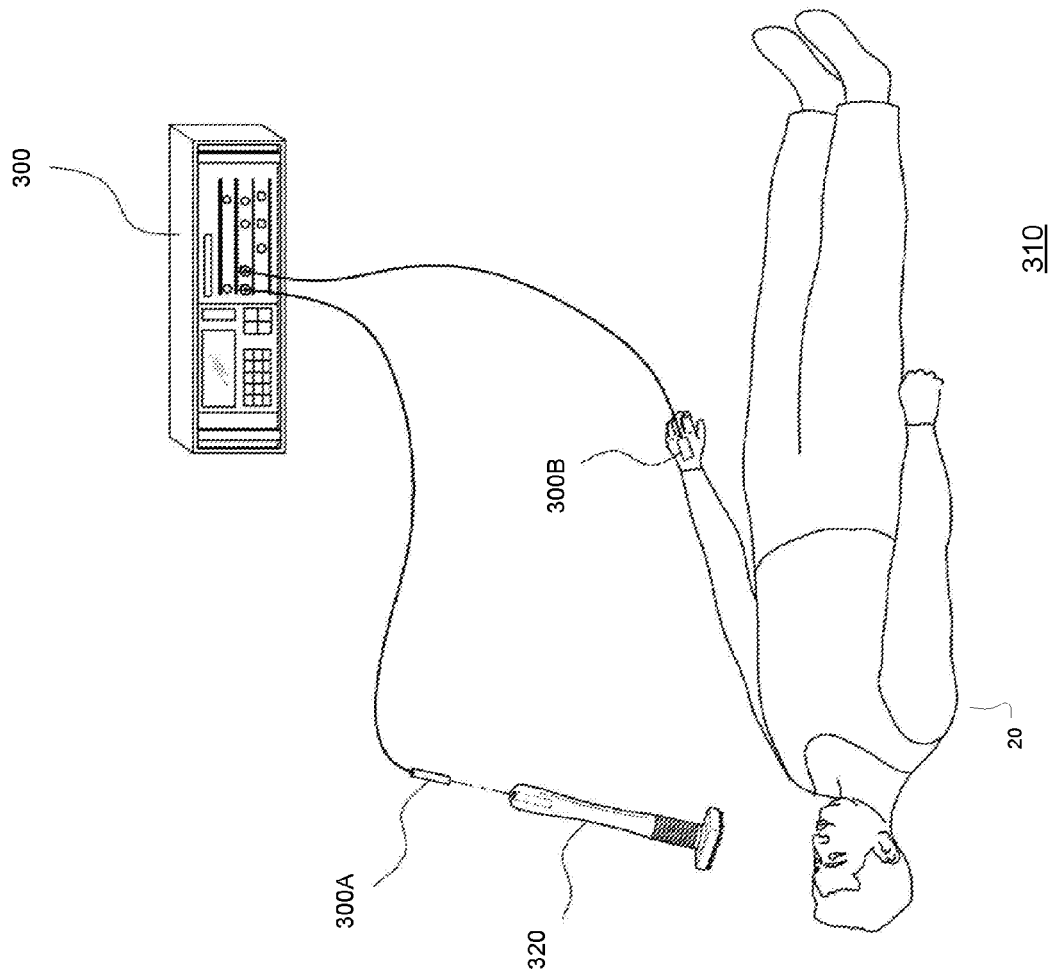


FIGURE 2A

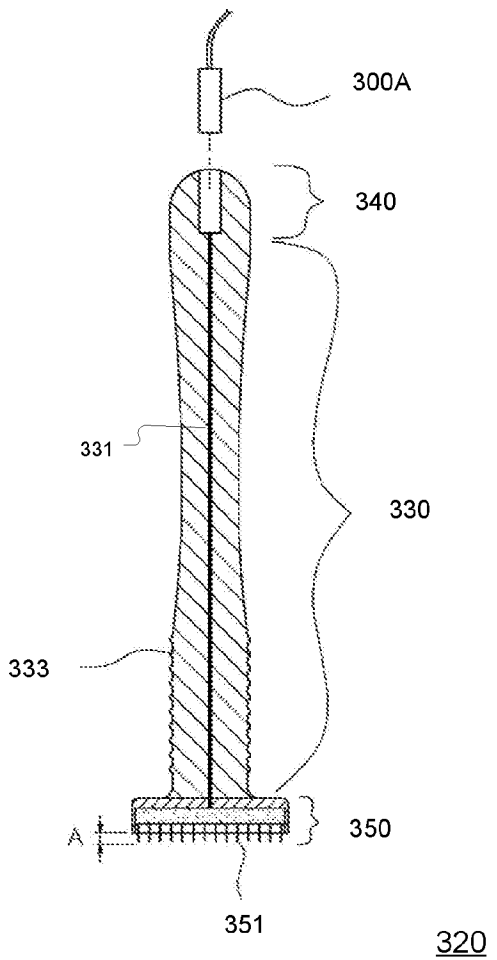


FIGURE 2B

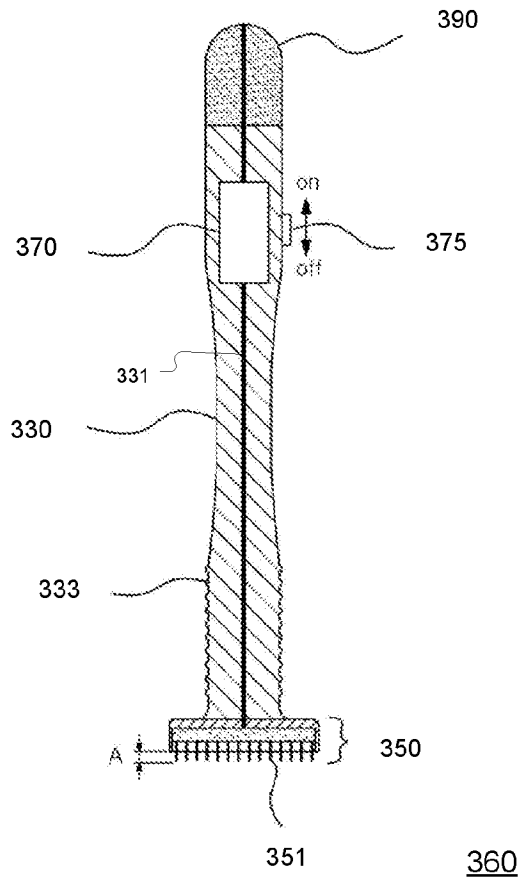


FIGURE 2C

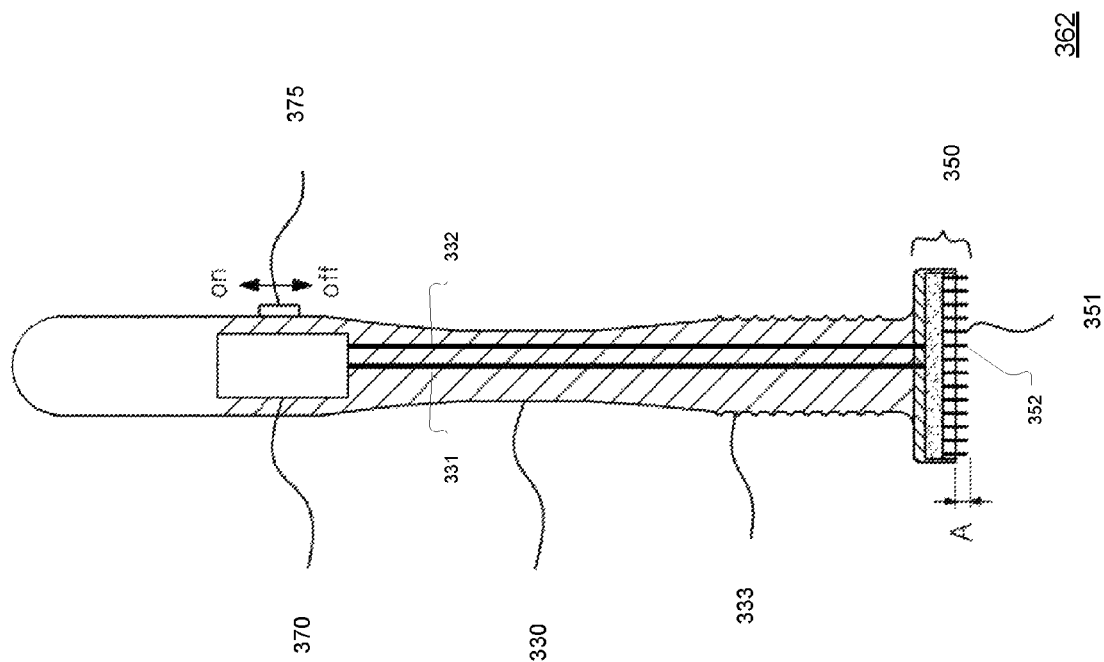
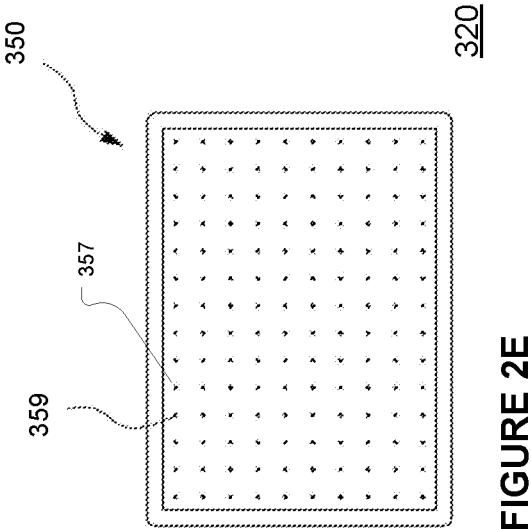
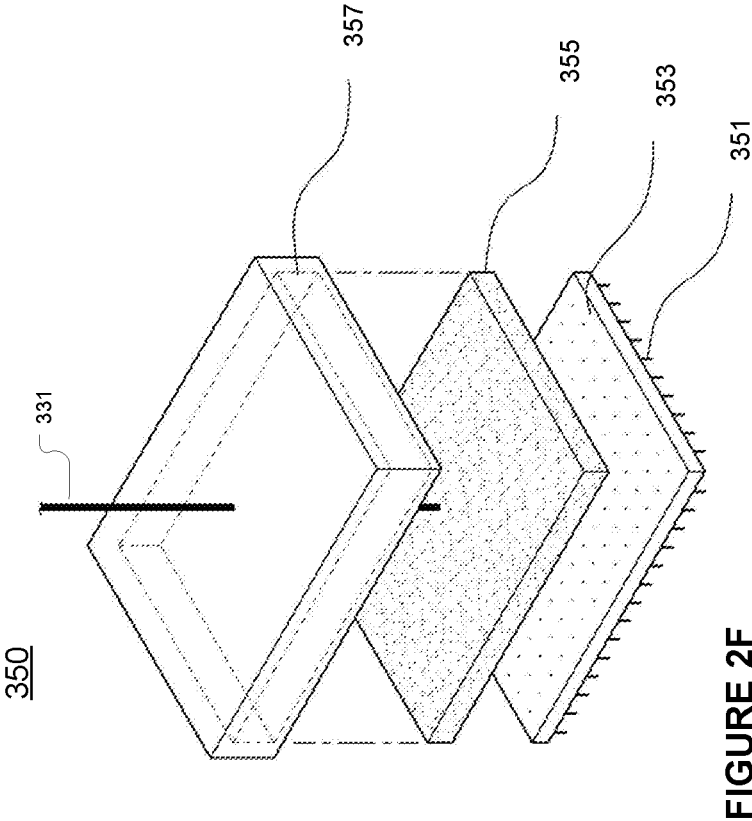


FIGURE 2D



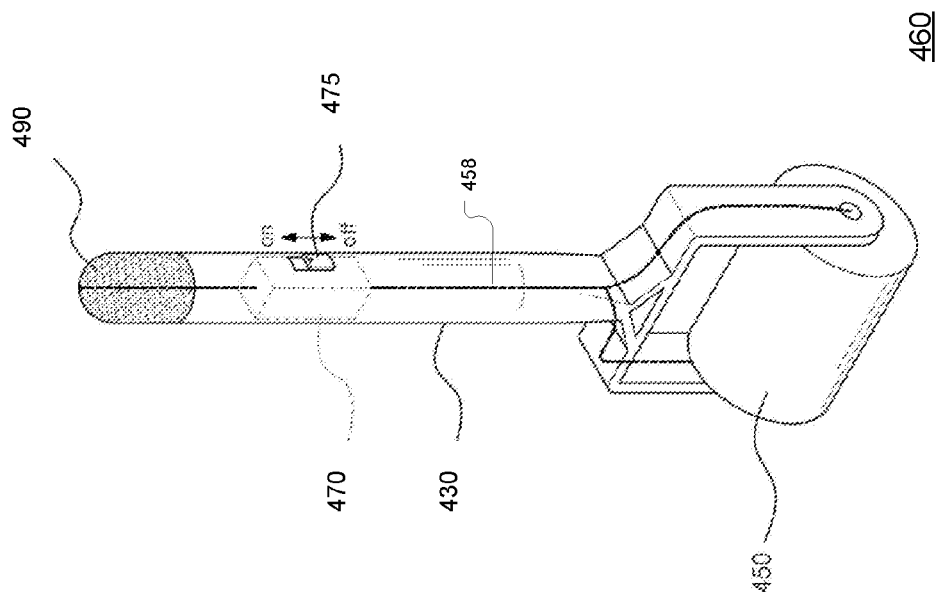


FIGURE 3B

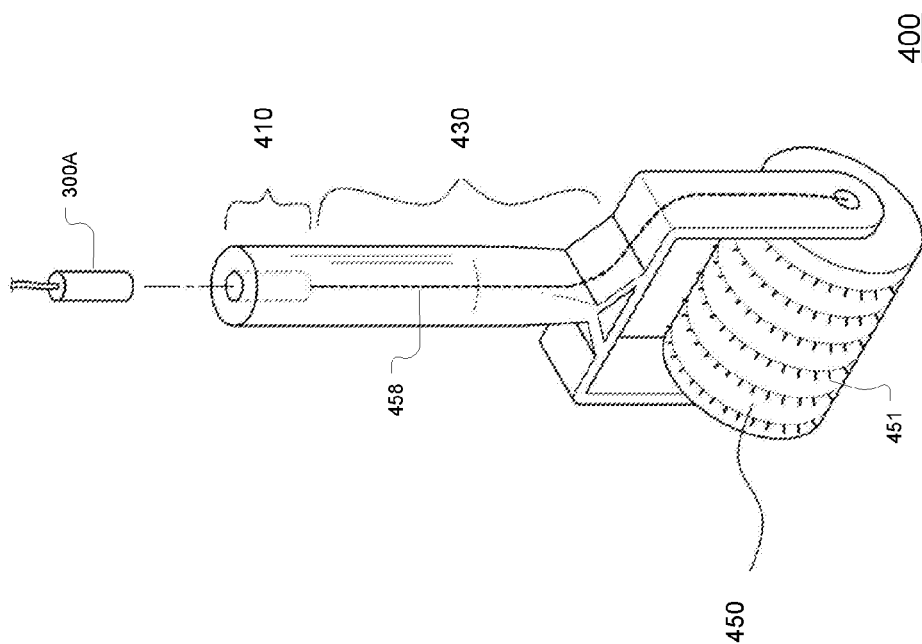


FIGURE 3A

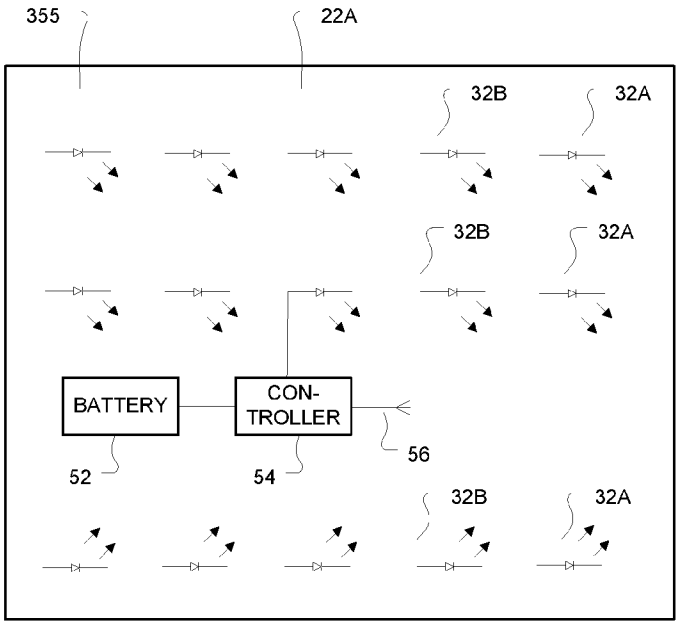


FIGURE 4A 520

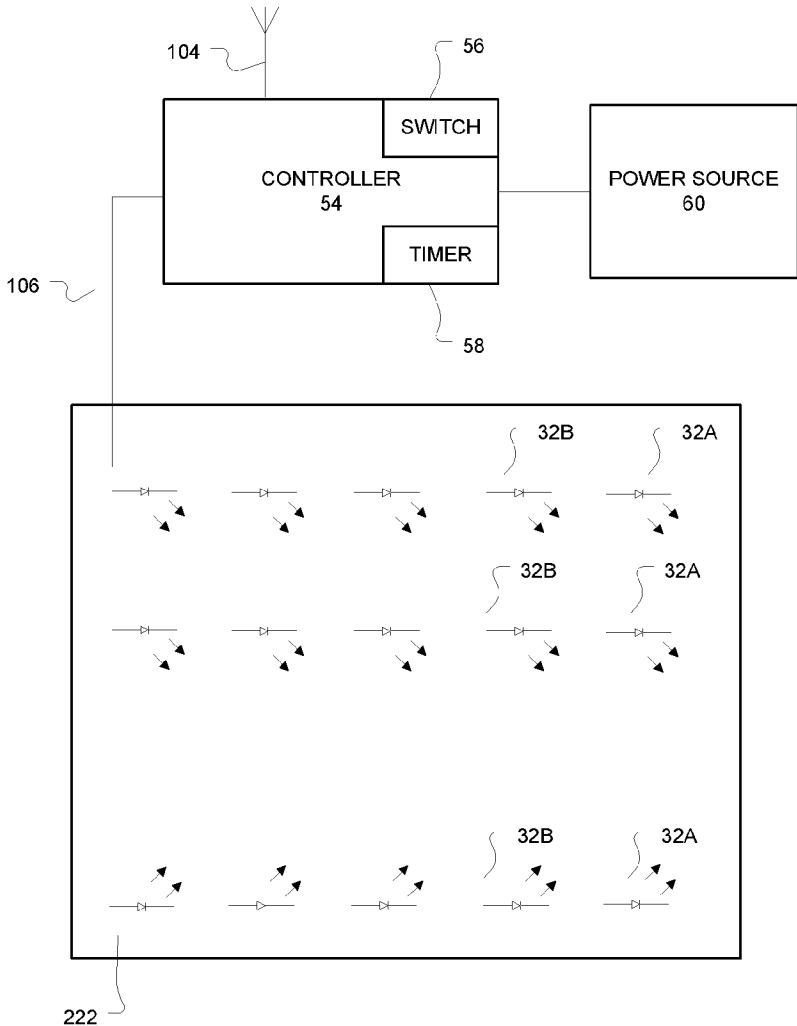
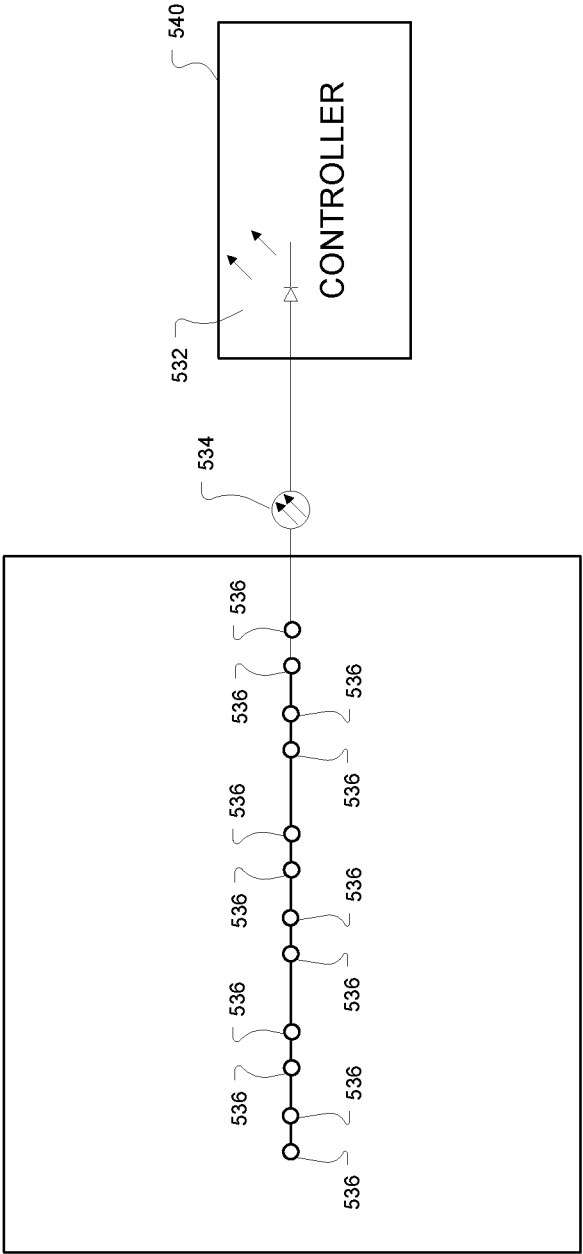
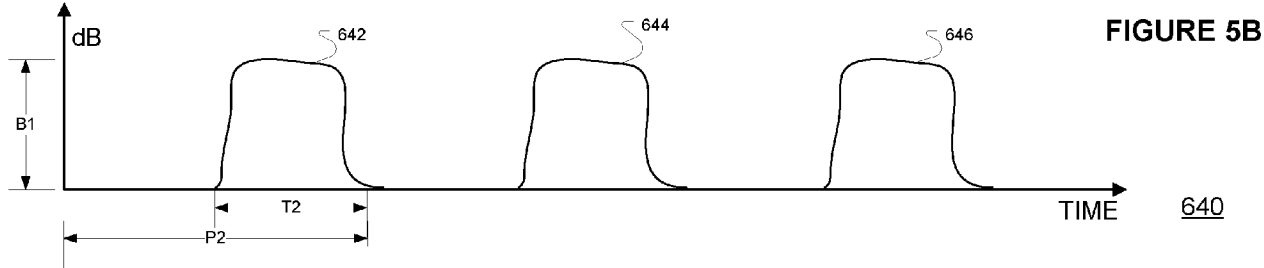
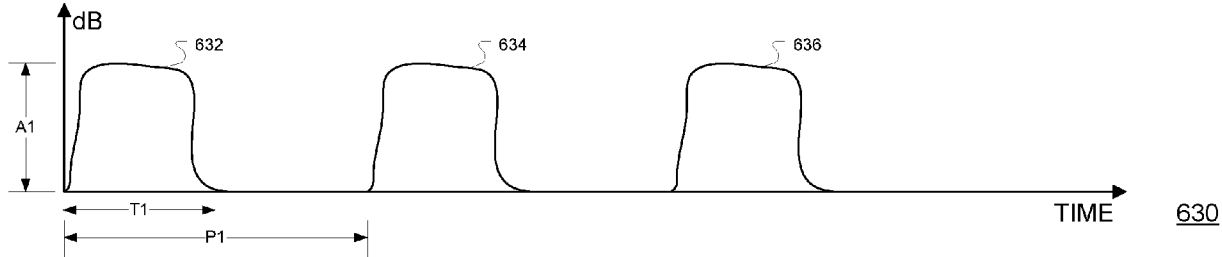
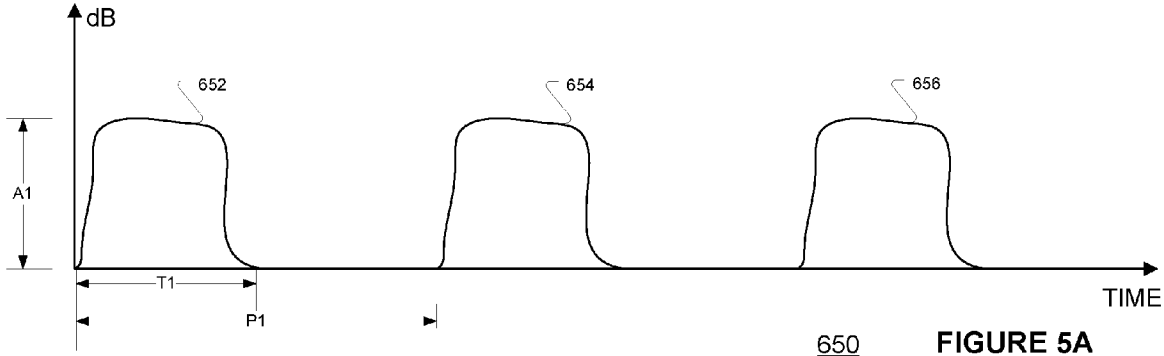


FIGURE 4B 510



530

FIGURE 4C



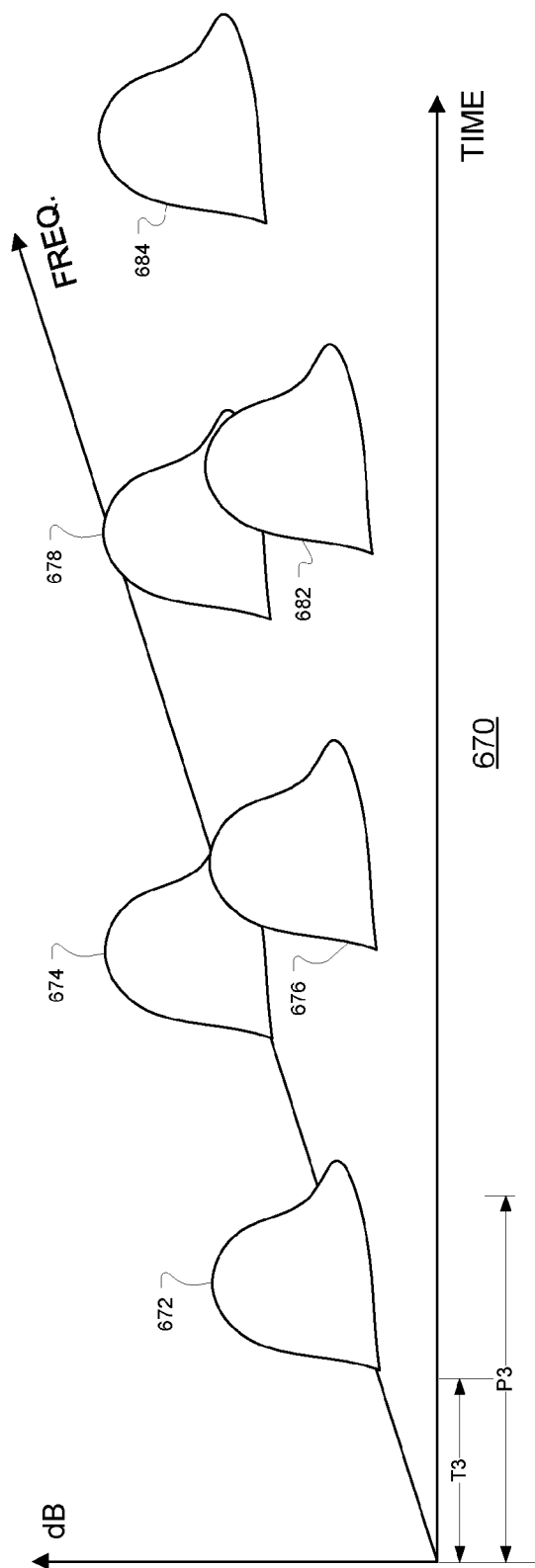


FIGURE 6

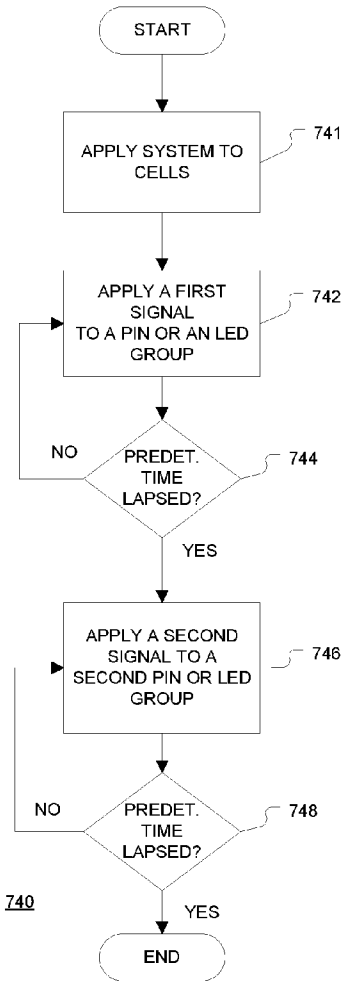


FIGURE 7A

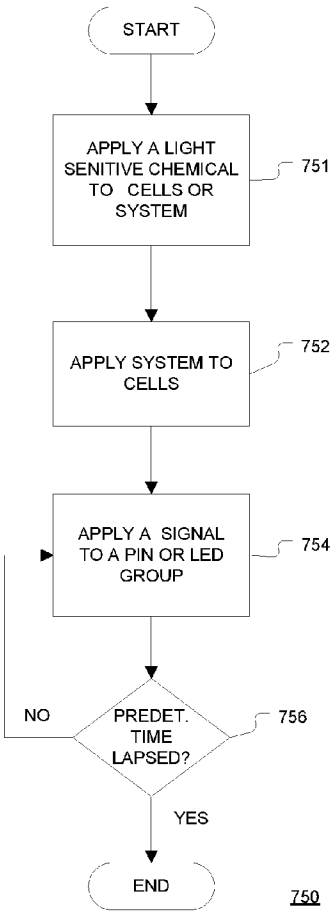


FIGURE 7B

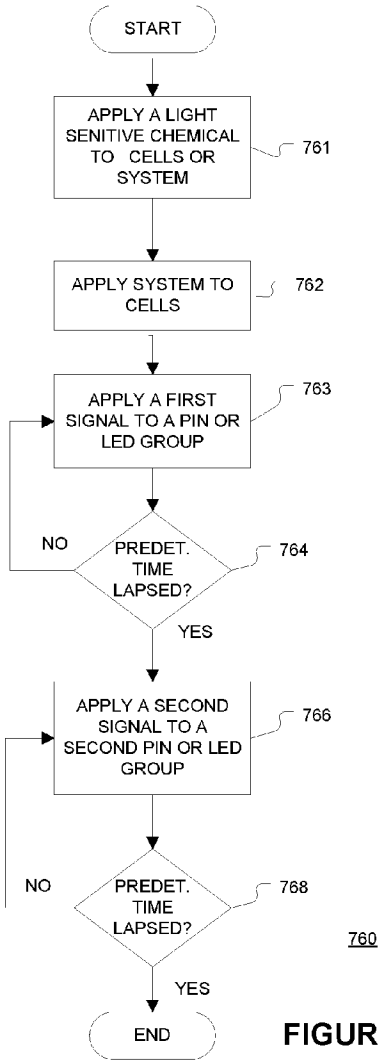


FIGURE 7C

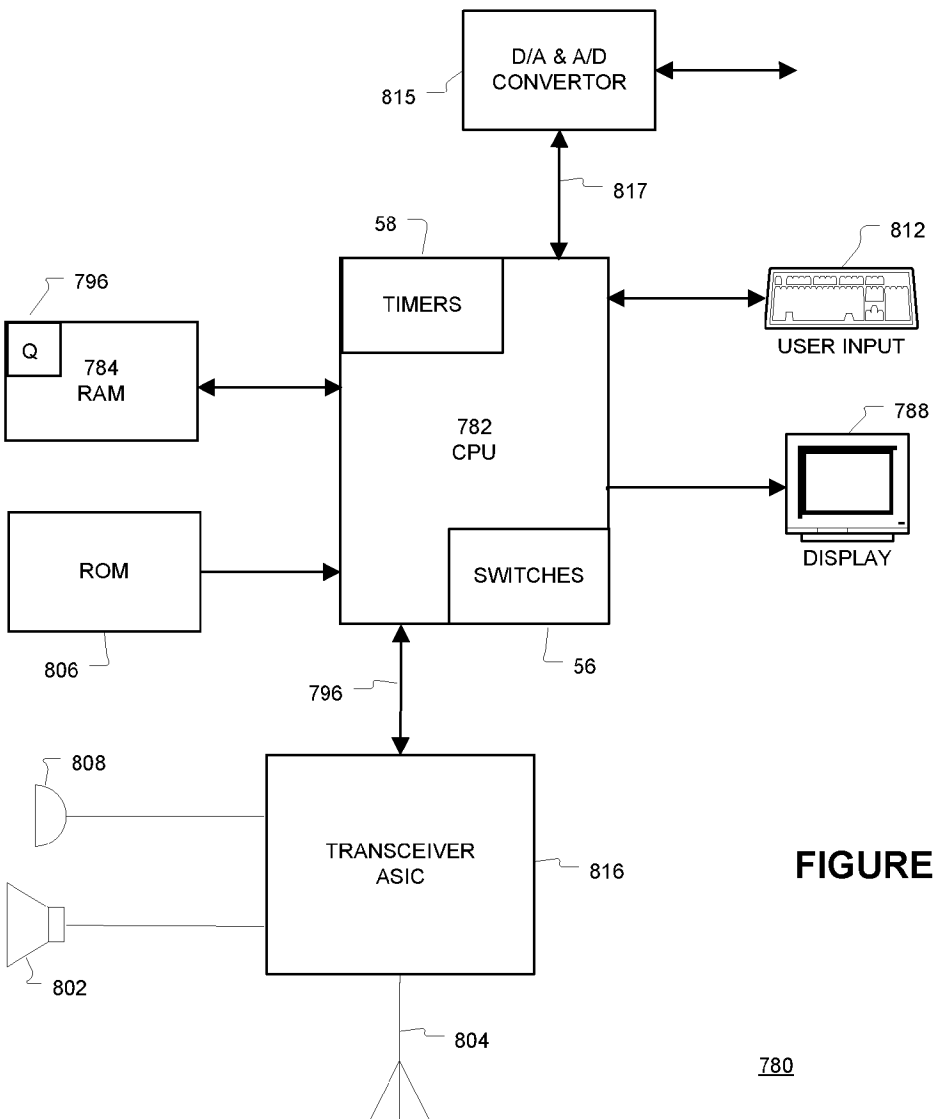


FIGURE 8

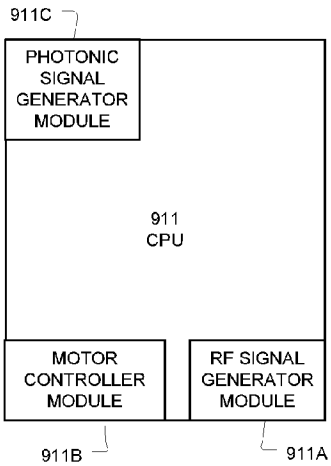


FIGURE 9B

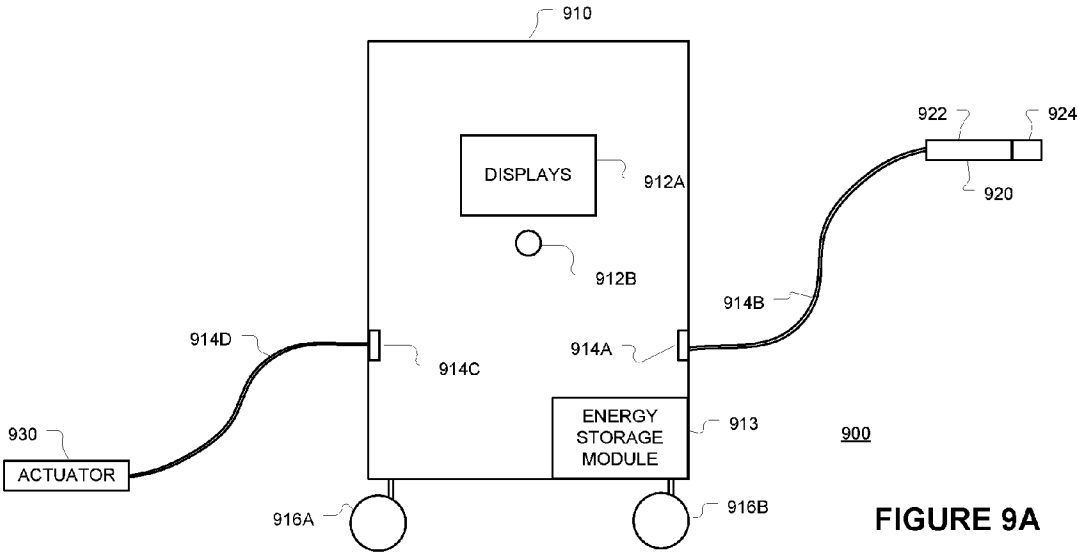
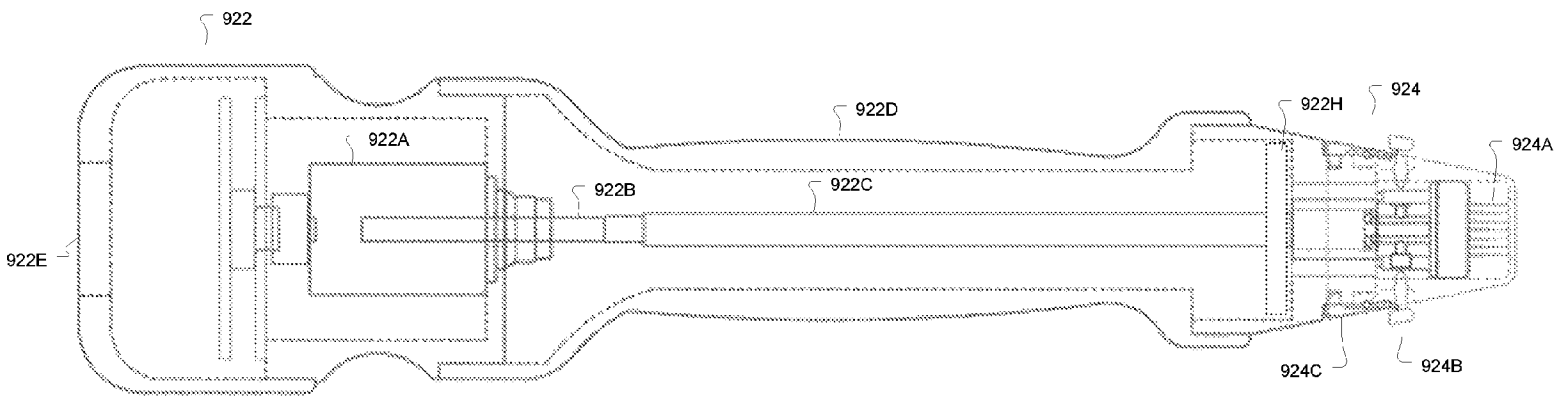
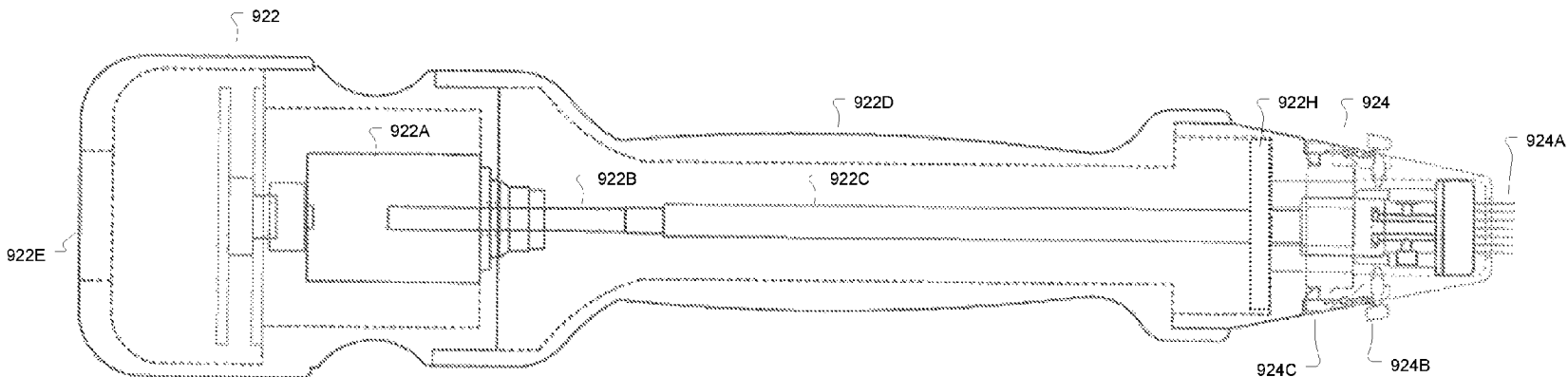


FIGURE 9A



920

FIGURE 9C



920

FIGURE 9D

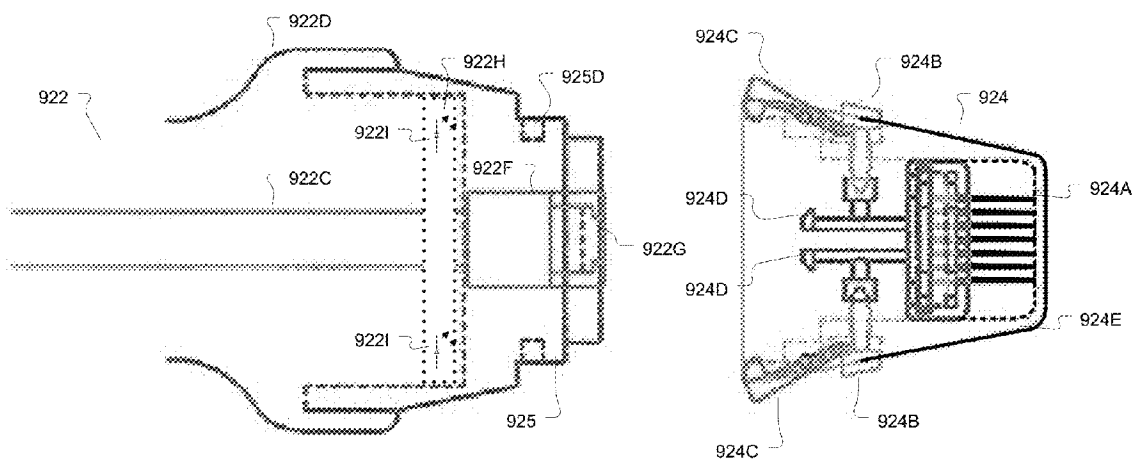


FIGURE 10A

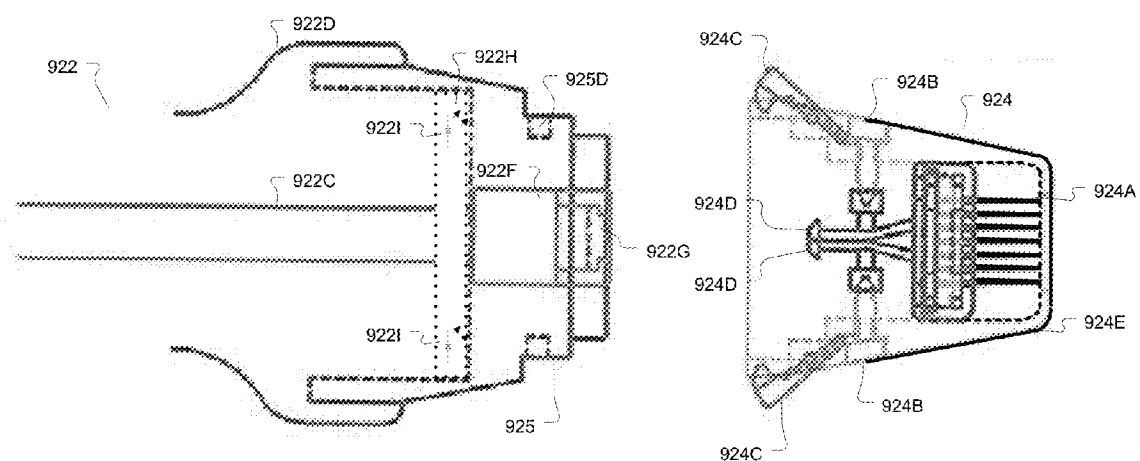
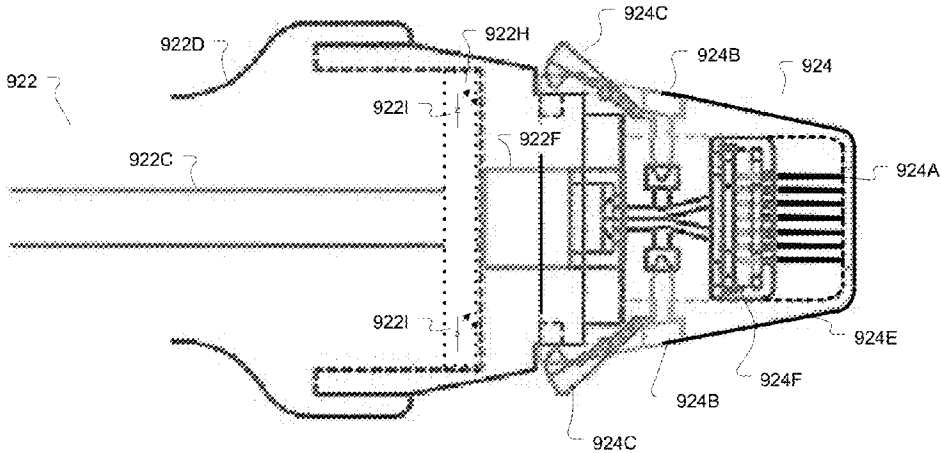
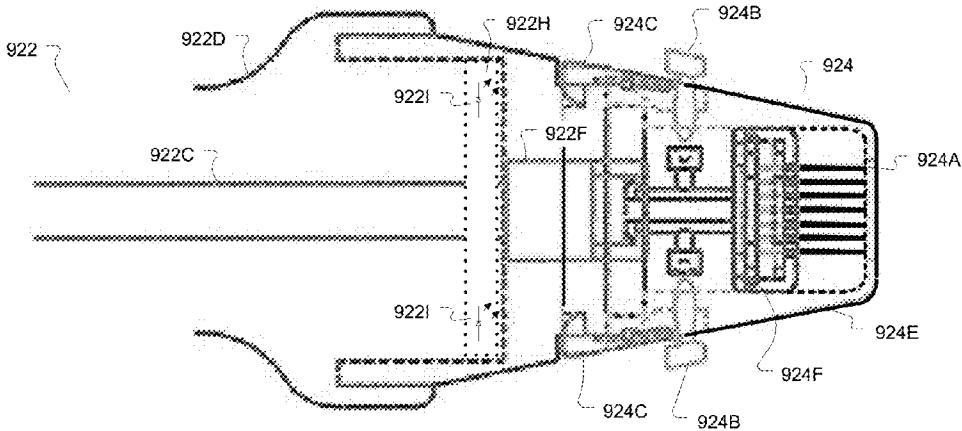


FIGURE 10B



920
FIGURE 10C



920
FIGURE 10D

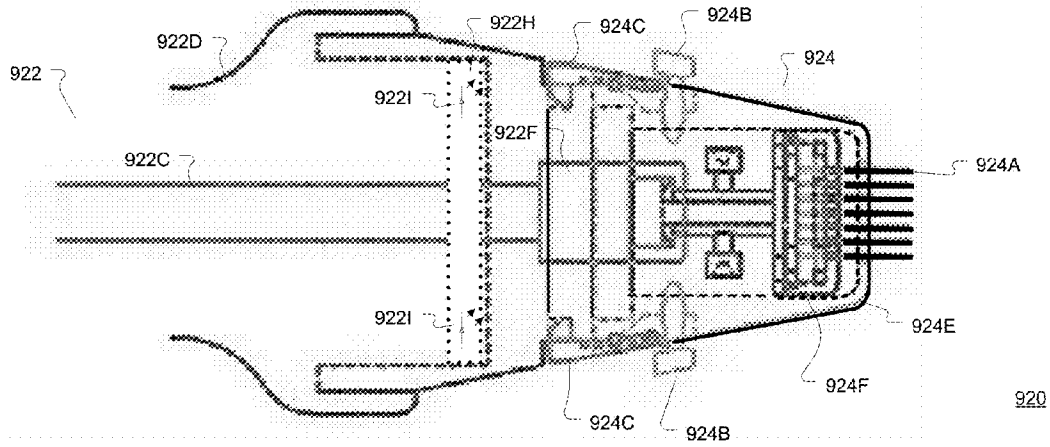


FIGURE 10E

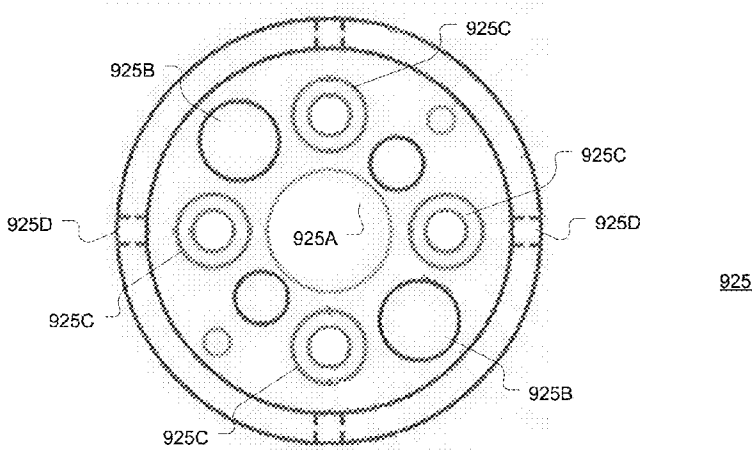


FIGURE 10F

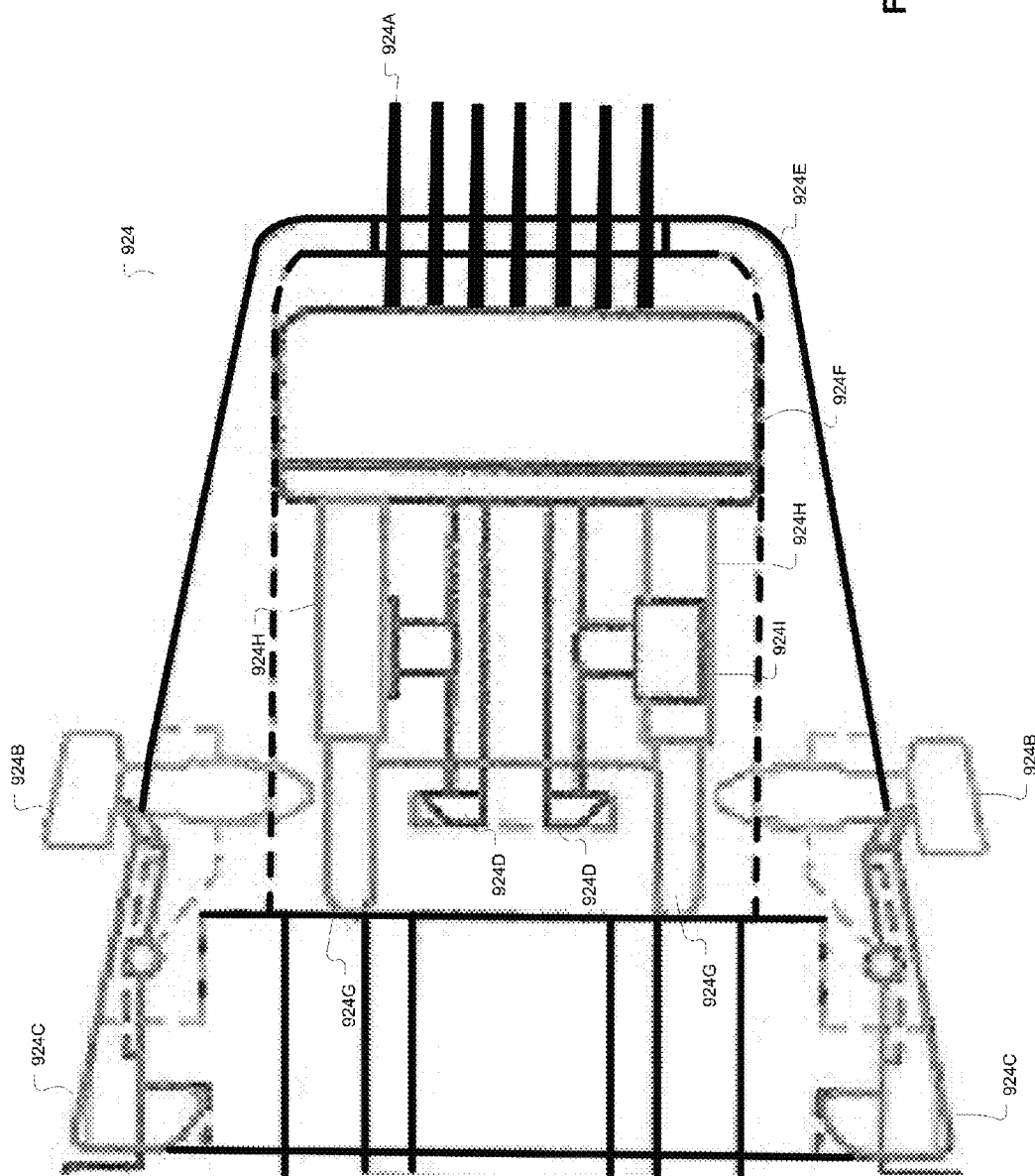


FIGURE 11A

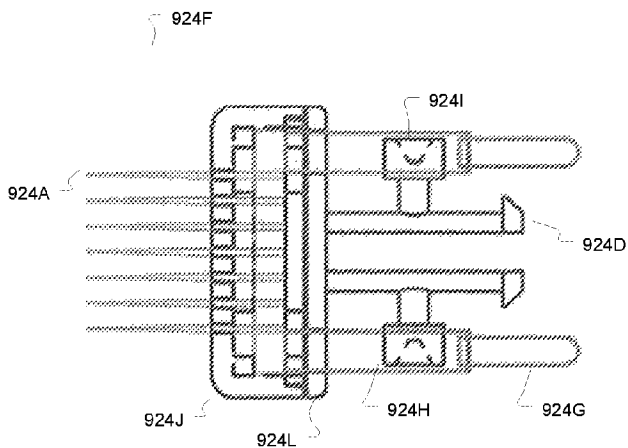


FIGURE 11B

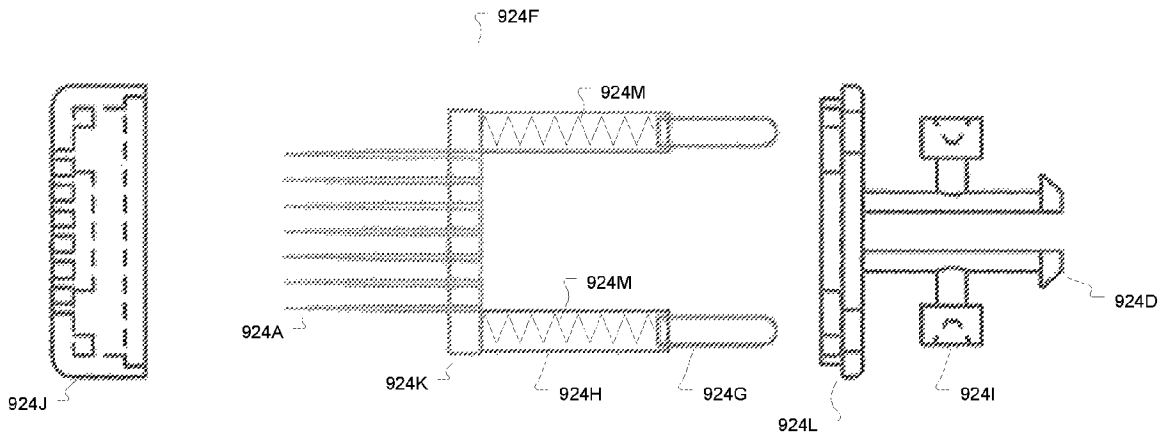


FIGURE 11C

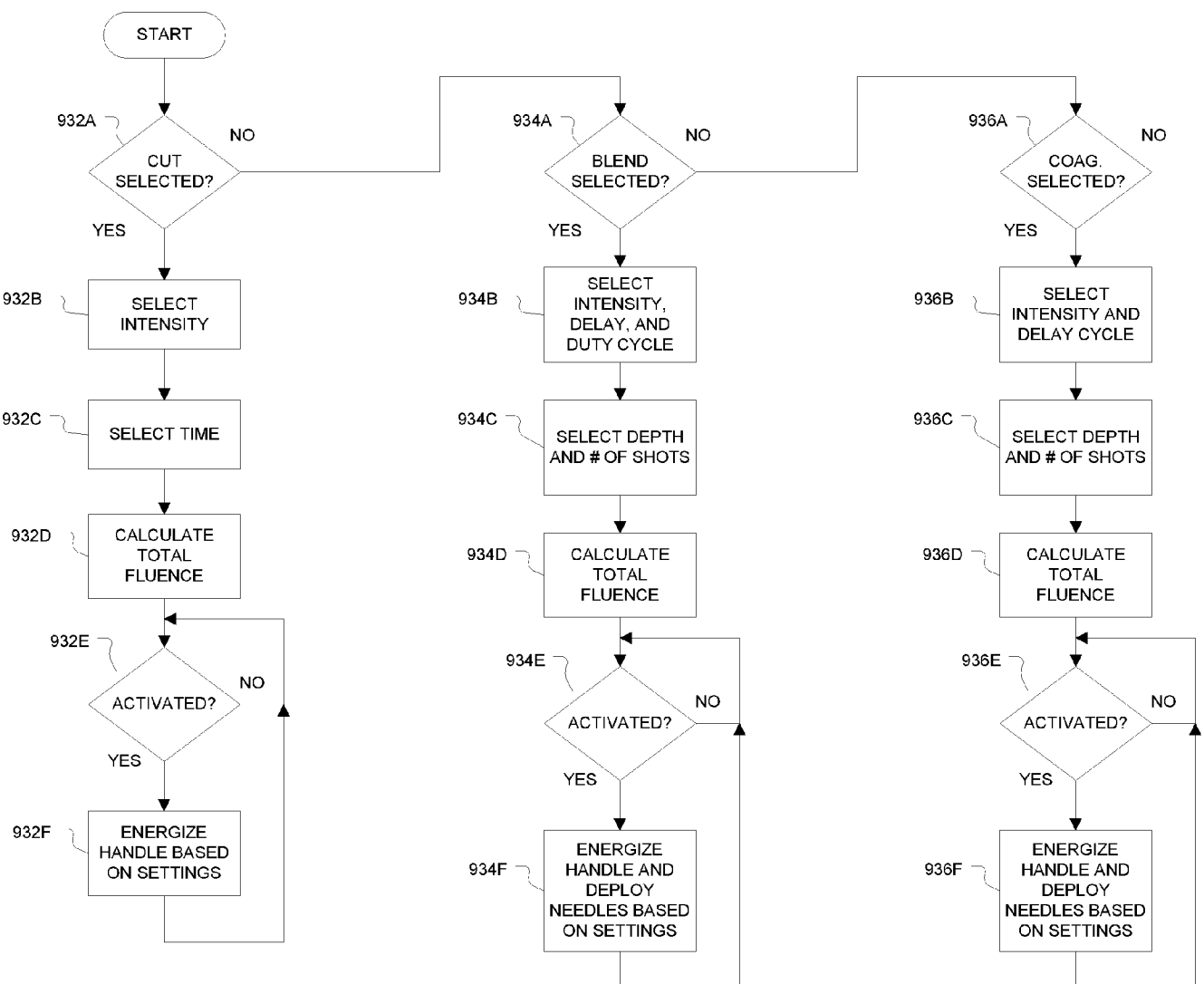


FIGURE 12

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METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMATOLOGICAL TREATMENT

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/825,083, entitled "METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMALOGICAL TREATMENT", filed on Jan. 20, 2014, which a National Stage entry of PCT/KR2012/001335, filed on Feb. 22, 2012, which claims priority to U.S. Application No. 61/449,080, entitled "METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMALOGICAL TREATMENT", filed on Mar. 3, 2011 and U.S. application Ser. No. 13/060,274, U.S. Pat. No. 8,979,912, entitled "METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMALOGICAL TREATMENT", filed on Feb. 22, 2011, which is a National Stage entry of PCT Application Number PCT/US2008/074131, entitled "METHOD, SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS FOR DERMALOGICAL TREATMENT", filed on Aug. 22, 2008, which claims priority to Republic of Korea Application Number 10-2008-0076993, entitled "Electrical system, skin, skin care and cosmetic electricity," filed on Aug. 6, 2008, the entirety of each is incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

Various embodiments described herein relate generally to treating dermatological tissue, including systems, and methods used in treating dermatological tissue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It may be desirable to treat dermatological tissue; the present invention provides such treatment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is a simplified isometric diagram of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 1B is a simplified, side diagram of the dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 1C is a simplified, exploded layer view of the dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 1D is a simplified view of a layer of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2A is a simplified isometric diagram of a dermatological treatment architecture according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2B is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2C is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of another dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2D is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of another dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2E is a simplified view of a layer of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 2F is a simplified, exploded view of layers of the dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

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FIG. 3A is a simplified isometric diagram of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 3B is a simplified isometric diagram of another dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 4A is a simplified view of a layer of a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 4B is a simplified view of a layer and apparatus of a dermatological treatment system according to various embodiments.

FIG. 4C is a simplified view of a layer and apparatus of a dermatological treatment system according to various embodiments.

FIGS. 5A-6 are diagrams of signals that may be applied to one or more dermatological treatment systems according to various embodiments.

FIG. 7A-7C are flow diagrams illustrating dermatological treatment system processing algorithms according to various embodiments.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an article according to various embodiments.

FIG. 9A is a simplified block diagram of a dermatological treatment architecture according to various embodiments.

FIG. 9B is a block diagram of an article according to various embodiments that may be employed in architecture of FIG. 9A.

FIG. 9C is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge based dermatological treatment apparatus with the needles retracted according to various embodiments.

FIG. 9D is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge based dermatological treatment apparatus with the needles deployed according to various embodiments.

FIG. 10A-10D are simplified, partial, cross-sectional diagrams of a cartridge in various stages of attachment to a dermatological treatment apparatus according to various embodiments.

FIG. 10E is a simplified, partial, cross-sectional diagram of a dermatological treatment apparatus with needles deployed according to various embodiments.

FIG. 10F is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge based dermatological treatment apparatus cartridge interface according to various embodiments.

FIG. 11A is a simplified, partial, cross-sectional diagram of a dermatological treatment apparatus cartridge coupled to a handle with needles deployed according to various embodiments.

FIG. 11B is a simplified, cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge needle assembly according to various embodiments.

FIG. 11C is a simplified, cross-sectional, exploded diagram of a cartridge needle assembly according to various embodiments.

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrating a dermatological treatment system processing algorithms according to various embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1A is a simplified isometric diagram and FIG. 1B is a simplified side view of a dermatological treatment apparatus 10 according to various embodiments. The apparatus 10 may include a user handle 220 coupled to an acupuncture plate 200. In an embodiment the plate 200 may be elastically coupled to the handle segment 222 via an elastomeric section 210. The elastomeric section may be comprised of a combination of elastomeric materials and non-elastomeric

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materials. The elastomeric materials may include plastics, rubber (synthetic or natural), and spring(s).

FIG. 1C includes a simplified exploded view of an embodiment of an acupuncture plate 200 according to various embodiments. The plate 200 may include an upper, substantially rigid section or layer 290, deformable or elastic section 270 or layer, and acupuncture section or layer 250. The acupuncture section 250 may include a plurality of acupuncture pins or needles 230. FIG. 1D is a simplified bottom view of the plate 200 showing the location or holes 212 for the pins or needles 230. In an embodiment the plate 200 may have a rectangular cross section having a dimensional about 1 to 4 cm in width and about 1 to 6 cm in length. The plate 200 may any shape including circular, elliptical, polygon, or other shape where the shape may be particular to a dermatological area to be treated.

In an embodiment the plate may include about 140 pins or needles 230 uniformly separated. Each needle may be about 0.1 to 0.4 mm in diameter and 0.2 mm to 1.4 mm in length including 0.3 mm diameter and 0.8 mm in length in an embodiment. The elastic section or layer 270 may be comprised of a combination of elastomeric materials and non-elastomeric materials. The elastomeric materials may include plastics, rubber (synthetic or natural), and spring(s). The pin section 250 may be coupled directly or indirectly to the upper section 290 via the elastic section 270, including via glues, screws, welds, or other connection. In an embodiment the pin section 250 may include elastomers to enable at least partial deformation of the pin section 250 about the pins 230.

In operation a user may employ the apparatus 10 to create a plurality of micro-wounds or holes in dermatological layers of a mammal's 20 skin or dermis. The micro-wound or hole creation may improve the absorption or application of one or more chemicals applied on or about the micro-wounds or holes.

FIG. 2A is a simplified diagram of a dermatological treatment architecture 310 according to various embodiments. Architecture 310 includes an acupuncture apparatus 320 and an electrical signal generation system 300. The electrical signal generation system 300 may be electrically coupled to the acupuncture apparatus 320 via one or more wires 300A and to a mammal 20 to be treated via one or more wires 300B. FIG. 2B is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of the acupuncture apparatus 320 according to various embodiments. The apparatus 320 may include a handle 330, elastic section 333, electrical interface 340, internal wire(s) 331 and plate 350. The pins 351 may have a length A (0.3 mm to 2.1 mm in an embodiment) where at least one pin 351 is electrically coupled to the electrical interface 340 via the internal wire 331. The electrical interface 340 may be removably connected to the system 300 wire 300A.

The electrical signal generation system 300 may generate a variety of signals (such as shown in FIGS. 5A to 6) to vibrate one or more pins 351 electrically coupled to the system 300 via the internal wire 331 and lead 300A. A pin vibration 351 may increase the micro-wound or cut formed in dermis by the pin 351. FIG. 2C is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of an acupuncture apparatus 360 according to various embodiments. The apparatus 360 may include a handle 330, an elastic section 333, an electrical conductive interface 390, internal wire(s) 331, signal generator 370, switch 375, and plate 350. The signal generator 370 may be coupled to at least one pin 351 via internal wire 331 and coupled to the conductive interface 390.

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The signal generator or module 370 may generate a variety of signals (such as shown in FIGS. 5A to 6) to vibrate one or more pins 351 electrically coupled to the system 300 via the internal wire 331 and the conductive interface 390. In operation a user 20 may touch the conductive interface 390 and place one or more electrically coupled pins 351 in contact with their dermis to form an electrical pathway from the pin 351 to the electrical conductive interface 390. The signal generator 370 may include a battery to supply energy to generate one or more electrical signals. The switch 375 coupled to the generator 370 may cause the generator to produce one or more electrical signals for a predetermined time interval or until the switch 375 is triggered again. As noted a pin vibration 351 may increase the micro-wound or cut formed in dermis by the pin 351.

FIG. 2D is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of an acupuncture apparatus 362 according to various embodiments. The apparatus 362 may include a handle 330, an elastic section 333, internal wire(s) 331, 332, signal generator 370, switch 375, and plate 350. The signal generator 370 may be coupled to at least one pin 351 via internal wire 331 and coupled to at least one other pin 352 via internal wire 332. When active the pins 351, 352 may form at least one dipole pair. The signal generator or module 370 may generate a variety of signals (such as shown in FIGS. 5A to 6) to vibrate one or more dipole pair or bipolar pins 351, 352.

FIG. 2F includes a simplified exploded view of an embodiment of an acupuncture plate 350 including at least one electrically coupled pin 351 according to various embodiments. The plate 350 may include an upper, substantially rigid section or layer 357, deformable or elastic section 355 or layer, and acupuncture section or layer 353. The acupuncture section 353 may include a plurality of acupuncture pins or needles 351 where at least one pin 351 is electrically coupled to the wire 331. In a bipolar configuration a second wire 332 may be coupled to at least one other pin 351. FIG. 2E is a simplified bottom view of the plate 350 showing the pins or needles 359, 357 where the pins may be electrically coupled to a first wire 331 and a second wire 332 to form dipole pair (bipolar pins).

In an embodiment the plate 350 may have a rectangular cross section having a dimensional about 1 to 4 cm in width and about 1 to 6 cm in length. The plate 350 may any shape including circular, elliptical, polygon, or other shape where the shape may be particular to a dermatological area to be treated.

In an embodiment the plate may include about 140 pins or needles 351 uniformly separated. Each needle may be about 0.1 to 0.4 mm in diameter and 0.2 mm to 1.4 mm in length including 0.3 mm diameter and 0.8 mm in length in an embodiment. The elastic section or layer 355 may be comprised of a combination of elastomeric materials and non-elastomeric materials. The elastomeric materials may include plastics, rubber (synthetic or natural), and spring(s). The pin section 353 may be coupled directly or indirectly to the upper section 357 via the elastic section 355, including via glues, screws, welds, or other connection. In an embodiment the pin section 353 may include elastomers to enable at least partial deformation of the pin section 353 about the pins 351.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are simplified isometric diagrams of acupuncture apparatus 400, 460 including at least one pin 451 that may be coupled to an electrical signal via an internal wire 458. Each apparatus 400, 460 includes curved roller 450 having a plurality of acupuncture pins 451 where the pins 451 may be similar to pins 351. In apparatus 400, the electrical lead wire 300A may be coupled to an electrical

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interface 410 in the apparatus handle 430 where the interface 410 is electrically coupled to the internal wire 458. In apparatus 460, the handle 430 may include a signal generator 470 similar to generator 370, switch 475, and conduction surface 490. Apparatus 460 may operate similar to apparatus 360 in operation other than the rolling capability of the apparatus 460, 400. In an embodiment the rollers 450 may have various configurations to conform to a dermal area to be treated.

In any of the above apparatus 10, 320, 350, 360, 400, 460, the plate or roller 200, 350, 450 may include a plurality of embedded LEDs 32A, 32B, a battery 52, a controller 54, and an antenna 56 as shown in FIG. 4A. In an embodiment the LED 32A may be configured to emit energy of a first particular frequency range and the LED 32B may be configured to emit energy of a second particular frequency range. The surface 22 of a roller 450, plate 200, 350, 450 may also be embedded with a chemical 22A that may be used to treat dermatological cells. The chemical 22A may be reactive to the first and the second frequency ranges. Further dermatological cells may be reactive to the first and the second frequency ranges. In addition, the combination of the chemical 22A and the application of the first and the second frequency ranges to the chemical 22A and dermatological cells may have a synergetic effect.

In an embodiment the chemical 22A may be applied directly to the dermatological cells to be treated. In a further embodiment a chemical 22A may not be employed in addition to the apparatus 10, 320, 350, 360, 400, 460. In an embodiment the pin section 250, 353, may be translucent and comprised of polyurethane, medical silicon, or other pliable, translucent, hypoallergenic material.

In an embodiment the local controller 54 and battery 52 may also be embedded in the upper section 290, 357, pin section 230, 351, or the handle 220, 330, or separately between these sections. The controller 54 may be electrically coupled to the one or more LEDs 32A, 32B. The controller 54 may also be coupled to a battery 52. The controller 54 may generate one or more signals for LEDs 32A, 32B as a function of a user switch 75, 56. The signals may vary as a function of the first and second frequency ranges. The controller 54 may include one or more timers 58 that may limit the application of energy to the LEDs 32A, 32B to predetermined time intervals. In an embodiment the controller may also be coupled to an antenna 56 to receive or transmit one or more signals related to the transmission of energy to one or more LEDs 32A, 32B. In an embodiment the system 10 may be configured to treat a particular segment of dermatological cells such as a face. The apparatus 10 may be configured to conform to a user's anatomy so that emitted light is focused on dermatological cells. In another embodiment 200, the system 200 may be configured to treat another anatomical region including dermatological cells on an arm, leg, chest, hands, feet, neck, or other region.

In an embodiment 510 shown in FIG. 4B, a controller 54, an antenna 104, and a power source 60 may be located external to the apparatus 10, 320, 360. The power source 60 may be coupled to the controller 54. The controller 54 may be coupled to one or more LEDs 32A, 32B via one or more electric wires 106. The controller 54 may generate one or more signals for LEDs 32A, 32B as a function of the user switch 56. The signals may vary as a function of the first and second frequency ranges. The controller 54 may include one or more timers 58 that may limit the application of energy to the LEDs 32A, 32B to predetermined time intervals. In an embodiment the controller may also be coupled to an

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antenna 104 to receive or transmit one or more signals related to the transmission of energy to one or more LEDs 32A, 32B.

As shown in FIG. 4C, in any of the above apparatus 10, 320, 350, 360, 400, 460, the plate or roller 200, 350, 450 may include a plurality of embedded LED lens 536, a fiber optic pathway 534, and an LED 532. In this embodiment, system 530 LED 532 shown in FIG. 4C may be coupled to lens 536 via the fiber optic pathway 534. The controller 540 may generate an LED signal via the LED 532 that is transmitted to dermatological cells via the lens 536 and the fiber optic pathway 534.

FIGS. 5A-5B are diagrams of electrical signal waveforms 650, 630, 640 that may be applied to one or more LEDs 32A, 32B, 532 and to the pins 230, 351, 451 according to various embodiments. The signal waveform 650 includes several square-wave pulses 652, 654, 656 that may be applied to an LED 32A, 32B, 532. Each pulse 652, 654, 656 may have a similar magnitude and envelope. The waveform 650 may be used to energize an LED 32A, 32B, 532 and to the pins 230, 351, 451 periodically P1 for a predetermined interval T1 where each pulse 652, 654, 656 has an amplitude A1. In an embodiment, A1 may be about 0.1 milliamperes (mA) to 10 mA, the pulse width T1 may be about 100 microseconds (μ s) to 500 μ s and the period P1 may from 100 ms to 500 ms as a function of the energy required to create capacitance in a liquid. In another embodiment, A1 may be about 0.5 milliamperes (mA) to 5 mA, the pulse width T1 may be about 200 microsecond (μ s) and the period P1 may about 250 ms as a function of the energy to drive an LED or cause one or more pins 230, 351, 451 to vibrate.

In FIG. 5B a signal waveform 630 may be applied to a first LED 32A, 32B, 532 module or group and to the pins 230, 351, 451 and a second waveform 640 may be applied or used to energize a second LED 32A, 32B, 532 module and the pins 230, 351, 451, 352. The signal waveform 630 includes several square-wave pulses 632, 634, and 636 and the signal waveform 640 includes several square-wave pulses 642, 644, and 646. Each pulse 632, 634, 636, 642, 644, 646 may have a similar magnitude and envelope. The waveform 630 may be used to energize a first LED 32A, 32B, 332 module and the pins 230, 351, 451 periodically P1 for a predetermined interval T1 where each pulse 632, 634, 636 has an amplitude A1. The waveform 640 may be used to energize a second LED 32A, 32B, 332 module and the pins 230, 351, 451 periodically P2 for a predetermined interval T2 where each pulse 642, 644, 646 has an amplitude B1. The pulse width T1, T2 may be about 100 microseconds (μ s) to 500 μ s and the period P1, P2 may from 100 ms to 500 ms as a function of the energy to affect dermatological cells or chemicals 22A. In another embodiment, A1, A2 may be about 0.5 milliamperes (mA) to 5 mA, the pulse width T1, T2 may be about 200 microsecond (μ s) and the period P1, P2 may about 250 ms as a function of the energy required to affect dermatological cells or chemicals 22A. In an embodiment the pulses 632, 634, 636 do not substantially overlap the pulses 642, 644, 646. In an embodiment T1>T2 and P2 is an integer multiple of P1.

FIG. 6 depicts a waveform 670 that includes multiple pulses 672, 674, 676, 678, 682, and 684 that may not overlap in the time or the frequency domain. In an embodiment each pulse 672, 674, 676, 678, 682, and 684 may have a pulse width T3, and frequency spectrum width F1 and period P3. The pulse 672 is frequency offset from the pulse 674, the pulse 676 is frequency offset from the pulse 678, and the pulse 682 is frequency offset from the pulse 684. The pulses 672, 674, 676, 678, 682, and 684 may be applied to an LED

module to affect dermatological cells or chemicals 22A and the pins 230, 351, 451. Pulses 672, 674 having different frequency spectrums may enable different LED stimulation. In an embodiment the pulses 672, 676, 682 may be applied to a first LED module and the pulses 674, 678, 684 may be applied to a second LED module. The frequency separation between the respective pulses may enable simultaneous energization of a first and a second LED module and the pins 230, 351, 451 and subsequent and independent spectrum generation.

In an embodiment the invention may employ the algorithm 740 shown in FIG. 7A to apply therapy to dermatological cells. A user, clinician, or equipment may place an apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 on dermatological cells to be treated (activity 741) including pressing the apparatus against the cells firmly enough to embed one or more pins 251, 351, 451 in the cells. A first signal such as shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6 may be applied to a first LED module or group (32A) and the pins 230, 351, 451 of a dermatological apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 (activity 742) for a predetermined time period (activity 744). A second signal such as shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6 may be applied to a second LED module or group (32B) and the pins 230, 351, 451 of a dermatological apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 (activity 746) for a predetermined time period (activity 748). The signals applied to the groups may be selected to stimulate dermatological cells or chemicals 22A or cause vibration of one or more pins 251, 351, 451.

In another embodiment the invention may employ the algorithm 750 shown in FIG. 7B to apply therapy to dermatological cells. A user, clinician, or equipment may apply a light sensitive chemical on an apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 or on dermatological cells to be treated (activity 751). The user, clinician, or equipment may place apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 on dermatological cells to be treated (activity 752). A signal such as shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6 may be applied to a LED module or group (32A or 32B) and the pins 230, 351, 451 (activity 354) for a predetermined time period (activity 356).

In another embodiment the invention may employ the algorithm 760 shown in FIG. 7C to apply therapy to dermatological cells. A user, clinician, or equipment may apply a light sensitive chemical on an apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 or on dermatological cells to be treated (activity 761). The user, clinician, or equipment may place an apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 on dermatological cells to be treated (activity 762). A first signal such as shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6 may be applied to a first LED module or group (32A) and one or more pins 251, 351, 451 of a dermatological apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 (activity 763) for a predetermined time period (activity 764). A second signal such as shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6 may be applied to a second LED module or group (32B) and one or more pins 251, 351, 451 of a dermatological apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 (activity 766) for a predetermined time period (activity 768).

The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 may be used to employ cosmetic or medications or other chemicals directly on dermatological cells such as skin with the addition of light of specific frequencies for treatment and healing of epidermal cells of the skin or tissue below the skin with the object of assisting the agents used in delivery, uptake, action and function more effectively. The LEDs 32A, 32B may create the specific frequencies of light. The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460, light application may enable cosmetic or medication or other active chemicals 22A on dermatological cells for longer time periods while prevent-

ing dehydration of the applied substances. Such light application may improve the efficacy of cosmetic or medication or other active chemical as a function of the selected wavelengths or frequencies.

Further the dermatological system application may increase cellular activity and help heal tissue faster and facilitate the delivery, uptake and use in the cell of the cosmetics, medications, or chemicals 22A used. The LED light of specific frequencies may increase fibroblast production and collagen as well as other activities of the cell including stimulating the organelles and mitochondria to produce ATP for cell energy for functioning, decreasing treatment time and facilitate healing. The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 make the agents used on the body more efficacious and useful to the body on a cellular level.

The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 may stimulate the basic energy processes in the mitochondria (energy compartments) of each cell, particularly when near-infrared light is used to activate the color sensitive chemicals (chromophores, cytochrome systems) inside but not limited to these spectrum alone as the UV, other visible and IR spectrums may also be usable. In an embodiment optimal LED wavelengths for skin repair may include 640, 680, 730 nanometers (nm) wavelengths to IR 880 nm. Further application of blue light 400 nm to 490 via the apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 may inhibit the growth and kill bacteria, fungus in and on dermatological cells. The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 may be employed to apply cosmetics, medications and/or other actives directly to the skin and maintain their presence long-term while using LED or other actinic light to increase their effect on the cells and tissue in the body. The apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 are also highly portability and enable user mobility during treatment.

Chemicals 22A may include cosmetics, medications and other actives appropriate for dermatological cells including AHA's (alpha hydroxy acid), natural oils, aloe vera compounds, collagen boosters, bt, chitosan, daeses, endorphins, photodynamic drugs (PDT) like (Photofrin or ALA), vitamins A, C E or others, kojic acid, retinols or other exfoliant, salicylic acid, anti oxidants or other youth boosters and anti aging cosmetic or medications, antiseptic, antibiotics, anti-cancer agents, aroma therapy agents, fruit and vegetable extracts, anti-inflammatory agents, pain relievers, hormones, depilatories, and others, but the scope of this invention is not limited to these alone but can include any helpful medication, herbal formula or active compound for the skin and/or other tissues.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of an article 780 according to various embodiments. The article 780 shown in FIG. 8 may be used in various embodiments as a part of apparatus 10, 320, 360, 360, 400, 460 where the article 780 may be any computing device including a personal data assistant, cellular telephone, laptop computer, or desktop computer. The article 780 may include a central processing unit (CPU) 782, a random access memory (RAM) 784, a read only memory (ROM) 806, a display 788, a user input device 812, a transceiver application specific integrated circuit (ASIC) 816, a digital to analog (D/A) and analog to digital (A/D) convertor 815, a microphone 808, a speaker 802, and an antenna 804. The CPU 782 may include an OS module 814 and an application module 813. The RAM 784 may include switches 56 and timers 58.

The ROM 806 is coupled to the CPU 782 and may store the program instructions to be executed by the CPU 782. The RAM 784 is coupled to the CPU 782 and may store temporary program data, overhead information, and the queues 798. The user input device 812 may comprise an

input device such as a keypad, touch pad screen, track ball or other similar input device that allows the user to navigate through menus in order to operate the article **780**. The display **788** may be an output device such as a CRT, LCD, LED or other lighting apparatus that enables the user to read, view, or hear user detectable signals.

The microphone **808** and speaker **802** may be incorporated into the device **780**. The microphone **808** and speaker **802** may also be separated from the device **780**. Received data may be transmitted to the CPU **782** via a bus **796** where the data may include signals for an LED **32A**, **32B**, **332** or optical module or wires **331**, **458**. The transceiver ASIC **816** may include an instruction set necessary to communicate data, screens, or signals. The ASIC **816** may be coupled to the antenna **804** to communicate wireless messages, pages, and signal information within the signal. When a message is received by the transceiver ASIC **816**, its corresponding data may be transferred to the CPU **782** via the serial bus **796**. The data can include wireless protocol, overhead information, and data to be processed by the device **780** in accordance with the methods described herein.

The D/A and A/D convertor **815** may be coupled to one or more optical modules to generate a signal to be used to energize one of the optical modules. The D/A and A/D convertor **815** may also be coupled to one devices such as LEDs **32A**, **32B** and the pins **251**, **351**, **451**. Any of the components previously described can be implemented in a number of ways, including embodiments in software. Any of the components previously described can be implemented in a number of ways, including embodiments in software. Thus, the LEDs **32A**, **32B**, pins **251**, **351**, **451**, controllers **54**, switch **56**, timers **58**, controller **320** may all be characterized as "modules" herein. The modules may include hardware circuitry, single or multi-processor circuits, memory circuits, software program modules and objects, firmware, and combinations thereof, as desired by the architect of the system **10**, **30**, **50**, **60** and as appropriate for particular implementations of various embodiments.

FIG. 9A is a simplified block diagram of a dermatological treatment architecture (DTA) **900** according to various embodiments. As shown in FIG. 9A, architecture **900** includes a signal generation and control module (SGC) **910**, a handle module **920**, and an actuator module **930**. In an embodiment the handle module **920** may include a deployable needle module **924** and a motor and LED module **922**. In an embodiment the deployable needle module **924** may be releasably coupled to the motor and LED module **922**. In a further embodiment the deployable needle module **924** may be a disposable cartridge module **924** to be removed and disposed after one or more treatments or for each patient, client, or user.

The SGC **910** may include one or more displays **912A**, user input device **912B**, handle module interface **914A**, and actuator module interface **914C**, electrical energy storage module **913**, and one or more wheels **916A**, **916B**. In an embodiment the SGC **910** may be moveable and the wheels **916A**, **916B** may be lockable to prevent unintentional movement of the SGC **910** once positioned where desired by a user. In another embodiment the SGC **910** may also be coupled to the external power source including an alternating current (AC) grid source.

In an embodiment the displays **912A** may indicate operational parameters for a hand module **920** to be coupled or coupled to the SGC **910**. The displays **920** may be touch sensitive so a user may configure one or more operational parameters. In an embodiment the operational parameters may include electrical energy signal intensity to be applied

the hand module **920**, timing of such energy application, needle deployment timing and depth(s), LED intensity and timing, and number of cycles or shots to be conducted for each actuation via the actuator **930**. In an embodiment the actuator **930** may be integral to the SGC **910** or a separate device wireless coupled or wired to the SGC **910** via a cable **914D** and the SGC **910** actuator module interface **914C**.

In an embodiment the actuator **930** may be a mechanical device including a foot actuator or hand based actuator. The actuator **930** may also be an electronic device having an ASIC or running an application on a device (such as a computer, laptop, PDA, cellphone, or other electronic device) such as the module **780** shown in FIG. 8. In an embodiment the application may enable a user to set or control any of the possible operational parameters of the SGC **910** and initiate actuation a device **920** coupled to the SGC **910**. FIG. 9B is a block diagram of a CPU module **911** that may be employed in the SGC **910** according to various embodiments.

The CPU module **911** may include a radio frequency (RF) signal generator (RFSG) module **911A**, a needle deployment motor controller (NDMC) module **911B**, and a photonic signal generator module (PSG) **911C**. In an embodiment the photonic signal generator module **911C** may be an LED signal generator or controller module **911C**. In an embodiment a hand module **920** may include one or more photonic generation devices or modules (**922I** in FIG. 10A, 10B) where the PSG **911C** may generate control or energy signals that cause the photonic modules **922I** to generate photons of one or more frequencies with a desired intensity.

The NDMC **911B** may control the deployment of one or more needles **924A** of a deployable needle module **924** (FIG. 9C) based on one or more user selected operational parameters. The parameters may determine the depth and duty cycle related to the needle(s) **924A** deployment in an embodiment. The signals generated by the NDMC **911B** to control needle deployment may vary as a function of motor(s) (**922A**, FIG. 9C) employed to drive one or more needles **924A**. As described above an electrical signal may also be applied to the needle(s) **924A** to cause vibration of the needles or enable cutting, blending, and coagulation of the tissue in which the needles **924A** are deployed. The RFSG **911A** may generate one or more electrical signals to be applied to one or more needles **924A** based on the selected operational parameters. An electrical signal may be applied to a single needle **924A**, group of needles **924A** (mono-polar configuration) or pair(s) of needles **924A** (bipolar configuration) in an embodiment. In an embodiment the RFSG **911A** may apply signals **650**, **630**, **640**, **670** shown in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 6, a combination thereof, or other signals.

In an embodiment the CPU module **911** via the RFSG **911A**, NDMC **911B**, and PSG **911C** may create various therapy solutions including various combinations of photonic, electrical, and mechanical (needle deployment) therapy. In a further embodiment the CPU module **911** may control the generation of photonic energy to particular modules **922I**, individual or group of needle(s) **924A** deployment via one or more motors **922A**, and control electrical signal(s) applied to individual or group of needles **924A**. Accordingly the DTA **900** may apply various therapies based on user selections via the displays **912A**, user selection device **912B**, and actuator **930**. The CPU **911** may employ the algorithm **930** (FIG. 12) or variations thereof to control the operation of the DTA **900**.

FIG. 9C is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge based dermatological treatment apparatus or hand module **920** with one or more needles **924A** retracted

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according to various embodiments. FIG. 9D is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a cartridge based dermatological treatment apparatus or hand module 920 with one or more needles 924A deployed according to various embodiments. The handle module 920 may include a deployable needle module (DNM) 924 and a motor and LED module (MLM) 922. In an embodiment the DLM 924 may be a releasably couplable cartridge module. In a further embodiment the DLM 924 may be a detachable cartridge module (DCM) 924 where the DCM may be changed between therapy application(s) or client(s). In a further embodiment, the DCM 924 may be disposed after usage or cleaned via an autoclave or chemical process.

As shown in FIGS. 9C and 9D, the MLM 922 may include one or more motors 922A, longitudinally extendable drive arms 922B, drive shaft 922C, outer casing 922D, signal interface 922E, photonic generator module 922H, and DCM 924 interface 925 (shown in FIGS. 10A to 10F). The motor(s) 922A and photonic generator module 922H may be electrically coupled to the signal interface 922E to received control signals and energy to operate one or more motors 922A and photonic devices or modules 922I of the photonic generator module 922H. The drive arm(s) 922B may be coupled to one or more drive shafts 922C so the drive shafts may be moved longitudinally to deploy and retract one or more needles 924A when the MLM 922 is operatively coupled to the DNM 924.

As shown in FIGS. 9C and 9D the deployable needle module 924 may include at least one deployable needle 924A, MLM connecting arm and drive coupling tabs 924B, and MLM connecting/locking arms 924C. The MLM connecting/locking arms 924C may be configured to engage and lock to DCM 924 interface 925 recesses 925D (FIG. 10F). The MLM connecting arm and drive coupling tabs 924B may be configured to disengage connecting/locking arms 924C from the MLM interface 925 when the tabs 924B are depressed inward in an embodiment (as shown in FIG. 10B). The tabs 924B may further displace drive shaft connecting arms 924D (FIG. 10A) inward or centrally when the tabs 924B are depressed inwardly (as also shown in FIG. 10B). When the connecting/locking arms 924C are depressed inwardly or centrally (FIGS. 9C and 9D) from an outward position (FIG. 10B). The arms 924C may engage the interface 925 recesses 925D to securely hold the DNM 924 to the MLM 922. The arms 924C may also displace the tabs 924B outwardly and cause the drive shaft connecting arms 924D to return outwardly.

The drive shaft connecting arms 924D may securely engage the drive shaft 922C tip 922F (FIG. 10E) recess 922G (FIG. 10E) when they return to an outward position as shown in FIGS. 10D and 10E. In this configuration the DNM 924 is securely coupled to the MLM 922 via the arms 924C and 924D. In this configuration the motor(s) 922A via drive shaft(s) 922C coupled to the motor 922A shaft 922B may reliably drive one or more needles 924A of the DNM 924 (from a retracted or deployed position such as shown in FIGS. 9C and 9D, respectively). Further the motor(s) 922A may include steps or infinite drive extension 922B control to enable precise needle deployment depth or extension beyond the DNM 924 shell (924E, FIG. 10A).

FIG. 10A-10D are simplified, partial, cross-sectional diagrams of the DNM 924 in various stages of attachment to the MLM 922 via the arms 924C and 924D according to various embodiments. As shown in FIG. 10A the DNM or DCM 924 is decoupled from the MLM 922. The MLM 922 includes the photonic generator module (PGM) 922H, interface 925, and drive shaft tip 922F in a distal portion. As shown in FIG.

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10A the PGM 922H may include one or more photon modules 922I. The photon modules 922I may be LED modules and emit photon with various frequencies and intensities based on the PSG 911C control signal.

As shown in FIG. 10A the DNM or DCM 924 may include the connecting arms 924C, deflecting tabs 924B, drive shaft coupling arms 924D, outer shell 924E, and one or more needles 924A. In an embodiment the drive shaft coupling arms 924D may include tabs that may securely engage the drive shaft tip 922F recess 922G. The drive shaft coupling arms 924D may be returnably deflectable inwardly (as shown in FIG. 10B) via inward depression of the tabs 924B. Such inward depression of the tabs 924B may deflect the coupling arms 924C outward. Similarly, inward depression of the coupling arms 924C to engage the interface 925 recesses 925D securely may deflect the tab arms 924B outwardly (relative the central axis of the DNM 920). Such outward movement may enable the drive shaft coupling arms 924D to return to a non-deflected state as shown in FIG. 10A.

In an embodiment a DNM or DCM 924 may be securely coupled to a MLM 922 by first completely compressing the arms or tabs 924B as shown in FIG. 10B. As noted above such inward compression may cause the coupling arms 924C to deflect outwardly and the drive shaft coupling arms 924D to be deflected inwardly towards each other. The drive shaft coupling arms 924D may be compressed so they may fit within the drive shaft 922C tip 922F recess 922G as the DNM or DCM 924 is advanced toward the MLM 922 distal end to securely couple the DNM 924 to the MLM 922 (as shown in FIG. 10D). After the DNM or DCM 924 is placed over the MLM 922 distal end so the drive shaft coupling arms 924D are located within the drive shaft 922C tip 922F recess 922G and the coupling arms 924C are adjacent the MLM 922 interface 925 recesses 925D as shown in FIG. 10C.

To complete the coupling of a DNM 924 to the MLM 922, the coupling arms 924C may compressed inwardly as shown in FIG. 10D. The compression of the coupling arms 924C may deflect the tabs or arms 924B outwardly. Such outward deflection of the arms 924B may enable the drive shaft coupling arms 924D to return to a non-deflected state and securely engage the MLM 922 drive shaft 922C tip 922F recess 922G (as shown in FIG. 10D). In an embodiment a single coupling arm 924C, drive shaft coupling arm 924D, and tab 924B may be employed in an DNM 924. After the secure coupling of the DNM 924 to the MLM 922, the MLM 922 via the motor(s) 922A may controllably deploy one or more needles 924A as shown in FIG. 10E. FIG. 10F is a simplified cross-sectional diagram of a DNM interface 925 according to various embodiments.

As noted the interface 925 may include one or more recesses 925D to be securely engaged to DNM 924 coupling arms 924C. The interface 925 may also include several fenestrations or openings 925A, 925B, 925C (FIG. 10F). The central fenestration 925A may be sized to enable passage of the MLM 922 drive shaft 922C tip 922F. The fenestrations 925C may be sized and located above one or more photon modules 922I to enable photons generated by the photon modules 922I to pass into the DNM 924. In an embodiment the DNM 924 outer casing 924E may be translucent and act as a waveguide to communicate photons to the needle area of the DNM 924. The fenestrations 925B may be sized and configured to enable electrical coupling pins 924G (FIG. 11A) passage from the DNM 924 to electrical couplings of the MLM 922. The pins 924G may

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communicate electrical signals from the RFSG 911A to one or more needles 924A via the wires 914B and MLM 922.

FIG. 11A is a simplified, partial, cross-sectional diagram of DNM 924 coupled to a MLM 922 with needles 924A deployed according to various embodiments. As shown in FIG. 11A, the DNM 924 may further include electrical coupling pins 924G set with a spring loaded base 924H (in an embodiment). As noted the pins 924G may extend to electrical contacts in the MLM 922 via the interface 925 fenestrations 925B. Although a pair of pins 924G is shown, one or more pins 924G may be employed in a DNM 924 according to various embodiments. A drive shaft coupling arm 924D may include an offset 924I where the offset may be configured to engage a tab or arm 924B.

As shown in FIG. 11A when the needle array or assembly 924F is deployed depression of the tabs 924B inwardly will not engage the drive shaft coupling arms 924D (via the offsets 924I). Such a configuration may prevent unintentional decoupling of the DNM 924 to the MLM 922 when the needle assembly 924F is at least partially deployed. As shown in FIG. 11A, the electrical contact pin 924G is sized to fit within the spring loaded base 924H. In an embodiment the internal spring 924M (FIG. 11C) may force extension of the pin 924G to maintain electrical conduction with the MLM 922 as the needle assembly 924F is moved (recessed and deployed to various depths). FIG. 11B is a simplified, cross-sectional diagram of a DNM 924 needle assembly 924F according to various embodiments. FIG. 11C is a simplified, cross-sectional, exploded diagram of the DNM 924 needle assembly 924F according to various embodiments. As shown in FIGS. 11B and 11C, the needle assembly 924F may include a pin cover 924J, drive arm module 924L, needles 924A, pins 924G with bases 924H, and needle printed circuit board (PCB) 924K.

In an embodiment the PCB 924K may couple one or more needles 924A to a first pin 924G base 924H and another one or more needles 924A to another pin 924G based 924H. The first pin 924G and second pin 924H may couple alternating rows or columns of needles 924A to form one or more dipoles between such needles 924A. The drive shaft coupling arms 924D may have a base 924L where the cover 924J includes fenestrations for the needles 924A, a recess for the PCB 924K, and an outer recess for the coupling arm base 924L (as shown assembled in FIG. 11B).

FIG. 12 is a flow diagram illustrating a DTA 900 processing algorithms 930 according to various embodiments. As noted the DTA 900 SGC 911 RFSG 911A, NDMC 911B, and PSG 911C may enable a user or clinician to select a variety of operational parameters to deliver a desired combination of electrical, light (photonic), and mechanical (needle) therapy to dermatological tissue. In the algorithm 930, a user may select different operational modes including cut (activities 932A to 932F), blend (activities 934A to 934F), and coagulation (activities 936A to 936F) in an embodiment. In a cut operational mode, a user may select the electrical signal intensity (activity 932B) and application time (activity 932C). The CPU 911 may determine the total energy that will be applied for each activation based on the selected intensity and time (total fluence—activity 932D). Then, upon activation (activity 932E, 932F) the DTA 900 may energize the MLM 922 based on the operational parameters.

In a blend operational mode (activity 934A), a user may select the electrical signal intensity, start delay, and duty cycle (activity 934B) and needle deployment depth and number of shots per activation (activity 934C). The duty cycle may include the delay before energy and needle

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deployment, the time the energy and needles are deployed, and the subsequent off or rest time before the next possible duty cycle. As noted above the motor(s) 922A may enable precise needle extension (effective depth) control. In an embodiment the motor(s) 922A may include a transverse motor that converts rotational force to longitudinal force. The motor may be a Haydon model number: 21H4AB-05-049 having a motor speed of about 0.005 mm/msec and motor power of about 1000 Hz approximately 40N (Newton) (described in detail at www.haydonkerk.com and whose specifications are incorporated by reference).

The CPU 911 may determine the total energy that will be applied for each activation based on the selected intensity and duty cycle (total fluence—activity 934D). Then, upon activation (activity 934E, 934F) the DTA 900 may energize the MLM 922 based on the operational parameters and deploy the needle assembly 924F to a desired extension beyond the DNM 924 shell 924E to enable a desired depth of needle 924A penetration within tissue when the shell 924E is placed adjacent the tissue.

In a coagulation operational mode (activity 936A), a user may select the electrical signal intensity and start delay (activity 936B) and needle deployment depth and number of shots per activation (activity 936C). As noted above the motor(s) 922A may enable precise needle extension (effective depth) control. The CPU 911 may determine the total energy that will be applied for each activation based on the selected intensity (total fluence—activity 936D). Then, upon activation (activity 936E, 936F) the DTA 900 may energize the MLM 922 based on the operational parameters and deploy the needle assembly 924F to a desired extension beyond the DNM 924 shell 924E to enable a desired depth of needle 924A penetration within tissue when the shell 924E is placed adjacent the tissue.

Applications that may include the novel apparatus and systems of various embodiments include electronic circuitry used in high-speed computers, communication and signal processing circuitry, modems, single or multi-processor modules, single or multiple embedded processors, data switches, and application-specific modules, including multilayer, multi-chip modules. Such apparatus and systems may further be included as sub-components within a variety of electronic systems, such as televisions, cellular telephones, personal computers (e.g., laptop computers, desktop computers, handheld computers, tablet computers, etc.), workstations, radios, video players, audio players (e.g., mp3 players), vehicles, medical devices (e.g., heart monitor, blood pressure monitor, etc.) and others. Some embodiments may include a number of methods.

It may be possible to execute the activities described herein in an order other than the order described. Various activities described with respect to the methods identified herein can be executed in repetitive, serial, or parallel fashion.

A software program may be launched from a computer-readable medium in a computer-based system to execute functions defined in the software program. Various programming languages may be employed to create software programs designed to implement and perform the methods disclosed herein. The programs may be structured in an object-orientated format using an object-oriented language such as Java or C++. Alternatively, the programs may be structured in a procedure-orientated format using a procedural language, such as assembly or C. The software components may communicate using a number of mechanisms well known to those skilled in the art, such as application program interfaces or inter-process communication tech-

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niques, including remote procedure calls. The teachings of various embodiments are not limited to any particular programming language or environment.

The accompanying drawings that form a part hereof show, by way of illustration and not of limitation, specific embodiments in which the subject matter may be practiced. The embodiments illustrated are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the teachings disclosed herein. Other embodiments may be utilized and derived therefrom, such that structural and logical substitutions and changes may be made without departing from the scope of this disclosure. This Detailed Description, therefore, is not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of various embodiments is defined only by the appended claims, along with the full range of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

Such embodiments of the inventive subject matter may be referred to herein individually or collectively by the term "invention" merely for convenience and without intending to voluntarily limit the scope of this application to any single invention or inventive concept, if more than one is in fact disclosed. Thus, although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, any arrangement calculated to achieve the same purpose may be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This disclosure is intended to cover any and all adaptations or variations of various embodiments. Combinations of the above embodiments, and other embodiments not specifically described herein, will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the above description.

The Abstract of the Disclosure is provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), requiring an abstract that will allow the reader to quickly ascertain the nature of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. In the foregoing Detailed Description, various features are grouped together in a single embodiment for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. This method of disclosure is not to be interpreted to require more features than are expressly recited in each claim. Rather, inventive subject matter may be found in less than all features of a single disclosed embodiment. Thus the following claims are hereby incorporated into the Detailed Description, with each claim standing on its own as a separate embodiment.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating dermatological tissue, comprising: placing a device surface on or near dermatological tissue to be treated, the surface including a plurality of needles one of extending or extendable a desired distance from the surface; and directing a signal generator electrically coupled to the plurality of extended needles to produce pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles to affect dermatological tissue near the plurality of needles.
2. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including placing a device end surface on or near dermatological tissue to be treated, the end surface including a plurality of needles extendable a desired distance from the end surface.
3. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 2, further including causing the plurality of the extendable needles to extend a desired distance from the end surface.
4. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 2, further including energizing a motor coupled to the

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plurality of extendable needles to cause the plurality of the extendable needles to extend a desired distance from the end surface.

5. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including placing a device inner surface on or near dermatological tissue to be treated, the inner surface including a plurality of needles extending a desired distance from the inner surface.

6. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including placing a device inner surface on or near dermatological tissue to be treated, the inner surface including a plurality of needles extending a desired distance from the inner surface with a force sufficient to cause the plurality of needles to penetrate the dermatological tissue.

7. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including directing a signal generator electrically coupled to the plurality of needles to produce pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles to form a bipolar pair.

8. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 7, wherein the predetermined time interval is about 100 ms to 500 ms and the pulse width is about 100 microseconds to 500 microseconds.

9. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including directing a signal generator electrically coupled to the plurality of needles to produce pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles, the plurality of needles to form a bipolar pair and affect dermatological tissue near the bipolar pair.

10. The method of treating dermatological tissue of claim 1, including directing the signal generator to produce periodic pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles for a predetermined time interval, each pulse having a width.

11. An apparatus for treating dermatological tissue, comprising:

- a device including a plurality of needles one of extending or extendable a desired distance from a surface, the desired distance selected to enable the plurality of needles to penetrate dermatological tissue; and
- a signal generator electrically coupled to the plurality of extended needles to produce pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles to affect dermatological tissue near the plurality of needles.

12. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 11, wherein the device includes an end surface configured to be placed on or near dermatological tissue to be treated, the end surface including a plurality of needles extendable a desired distance from the end surface.

13. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 12, further including a mechanism for causing the plurality of the extendable needles to extend a desired distance from the end surface.

14. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 12, further including a motor coupled to the plurality of extendable needles that may be directed to cause the plurality of the extendable needles to extend a desired distance from the end surface.

15. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 11, wherein the device includes an inner surface including a plurality of needles extending a desired distance from the inner surface.

16. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 11, wherein the signal generator produces pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles to form a bipolar pair.

17. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim 11, wherein the signal generator produces pulsed radio

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frequency signals across the plurality of needles to form a bipolar pair and affect dermatological tissue near the bipolar pair.

18. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim **11**, wherein the signal generator produces periodic pulsed radio frequency signals across the plurality of needles for a predetermined time interval, each pulse having a width. 5

19. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim **18**, wherein the predetermined time interval is about 100 ms to 500 ms. 10

20. The apparatus for treating dermatological tissue of claim **18**, wherein the pulse width is about 100 microseconds to 500 microseconds.

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