

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

First Named Inventor: SCHNELL, WILLIAM J.

Art Unit: 3761

Appln. No.: 11/270,080

Examiner: Leslie R. Deak

Filed: November 9, 2005

Confirmation No.: 6531

For: DIAPHRAGM PRESSURE POD FOR
MEDICAL FLUIDS

* * *

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST
FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the commencement of continued examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 8 (canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A tubular blood flow set which comprises a pressure sensing pod defining a chamber, said pod being connected in flow-through relation to blood flow tubing of said set, said set defining a length of pressure tubing connected at one end with said chamber, for connection at the other pressure tubing end with a pressure measuring equipment connector with said pod being spaced from said connector; and a flexible diaphragm sealingly mounted within said pod between connections of said blood flow tubing and said pressure tubing, said diaphragm being moveable between first and second positions, the diaphragm in said first position bowing outwardly to substantially maximize volume in said chamber that communicates with said blood flow tubing, the diaphragm in said second position bowing inwardly to substantially minimize but not eliminate the blood volume in said chamber that is inside of said diaphragm, said diaphragm in use being in contact on one side thereof with flowing blood;

wherein the pressure tubing is flexible and elongate and integrally attached to the chamber to permit the pod to be positioned remotely from the pressure measuring equipment connector and to permit the pod and blood flow tubing set to be connected to

blood treatment machines with pressure measuring equipment connectors in various locations of the blood treatment machines.

10. (Previously Presented) The blood flow set of Claim 9 in which said diaphragm occupies substantially said second position when the interior of said flow set is filled with negatively pressurized blood.

11. (Previously Presented) The blood flow set of Claim 9 in which said flexible pressure tubing is attached to said pressure sensing pod and carries at said other pressure tubing end a connector for sequential connection with (1) a pressure sensing device and (2) a device to apply positive pressure through said outlet port to said chamber, to drive said diaphragm to the second position.

12. (Original) The blood flow set of Claim 11 in which said pressure tubing is flexible and carries a flow clamp to retain said positive pressure at said diaphragm.

13. (Original) The blood flow set of Claim 9 in which said pod has a bottom wall facing said chamber, which bottom wall defines a transverse channel having a wall of U or V-shaped cross-section, whereby the diaphragm in the second position does not block flow through the channel.

14. (Original) The blood flow set of Claim 13 in which said channel wall is U-shaped and substantially contiguous with a wall portion of said flow tubing of said set.

15. (Original) The blood flow set of Claim 9 in which said chamber connects to flow tubing which is pump segment tubing.

Claims 16 - 17 (canceled)

18. (Original) The blood flow set of Claim 9 in which an access port is provided to communicate with the chamber interior at a side of said diaphragm opposed to said pressure tubing.

Claims 19 - 32 (canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A pressure transmitting pod defining a chamber, said pod being for connection in flow-through relation to fluid flow tubing of a fluid flow set, said pod having a flexible, fluid impermeable diaphragm dividing the pod into separate compartments, a first of said compartments communicating with flow connectors for said fluid flow tubing, a second of said compartments communicating with a connection port for connection with a length of pressure tubing at one end thereof, which tubing is integral with said pod and is configured for sealed connection at its other end to a remote pressure connector of a pressure sensing machine, to transmit pressure from the second of said compartments through the pressure tubing to the pressure sensing machine for pressure monitoring, and to allow flexible positioning of said pod relative to the remote pressure sensing machine, said diaphragm having a dome shape, and being sufficiently flexible to easily distort in a manner reflective of pressure changes, to vary the volumes of said one and other compartments.

34. (Original) The pressure pod of claim 33 in which said diaphragm of dome shape can vary the volume of said compartments at a pressure variation of 500 mm Hg by at least 2.5 cc.

35. (Original) The pressure pod of claim 33 in which said pressure tubing is permanently connected to said connection port of the pod, said pressure tubing having at its other end a remote tubing connector for connection to said machine remote pressure port during medical treatments.

36. (Original) The pressure pod of claim 33 in which said pressure tubing is capable of disconnection from the connection port of the pod.

37. (Previously Presented) The pressure pod of claim 38 in which said pod connection port is sealed from the atmosphere by an internal partition, said seal being operable by sealing attachment with a connector of said pressure tubing.

38. (Previously Presented) The pressure pod of claim 2Z 36 in which said partition is irreversibly opened by a connection of said pod connection port to a connector of said pressure tubing.

39. (Original) The pressure pod of claim 33 in which said pod defines a chamber which has a length at least twice its width.

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