

EXHIBIT 2108

LIGHT-GUIDING DEVICES AND MONITORING DEVICES INCORPORATING SAME RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of and priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/208,567 filed 02/25/2009, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/208,574 filed 02/25/2009, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/212,444 filed 4/13/2009, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/274,191 filed 8/14/2009, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in their entireties.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to headsets and, more particularly, to headset earbuds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

There is growing market demand for personal health and environmental monitors, for example, for gauging overall health and metabolism during exercise, athletic training, dieting, daily life activities, sickness, and physical therapy. However, traditional health monitors and environmental monitors may be bulky, rigid, and uncomfortable – generally not suitable for use during daily physical activity. There is also growing interest in generating and comparing health and environmental exposure statistics of the general public and particular demographic groups. For example, collective statistics may enable the healthcare industry and medical community to direct healthcare resources to where they are most highly valued. However, methods of collecting these statistics may be expensive and laborious, often utilizing human-based recording/analysis steps at multiple sites.

As such, improved ways of collecting, storing and analyzing

physiological information are needed. In addition, improved ways of seamlessly extracting physiological information from a person during everyday life activities, especially during high activity levels, may be important for enhancing fitness training and healthcare quality, promoting and facilitating prevention, and reducing healthcare costs.

SUMMARY

It should be appreciated that this Summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form, the concepts being further described below in the Detailed Description. This Summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of this disclosure, nor is it intended to limit the scope of the invention.

According to some embodiments of the present invention, a headset configured to be attached to the ear of a person includes a base, an earbud housing extending outwardly from the base that is configured to be positioned within an ear of a subject, and a cover surrounding the earbud housing. The base includes a speaker, an optical emitter, and an optical detector. The cover includes light transmissive material that is in optical communication with the optical emitter and the optical detector and serves as a light guide to deliver light from the optical emitter into the ear canal of the subject wearing the headset at one or more predetermined locations and to collect light external to the earbud housing and deliver the collected light to the optical detector. The optical emitter, via the light-guiding cover, directs optical energy towards a particular region of ear and the optical detector detects secondary optical energy emanating from the ear region. In some embodiments, the optical detector may include an optical filter configured to pass secondary optical energy at selective wavelengths. In some embodiments, the light transmissive material of the cover may be configured, for example via the use of cladding and/or light reflective material, such that the cover serves as a light guide that is coupled in parallel to the optical emitter and detector. In some embodiments, the light transmissive material of the cover may be configured, for example via the use of cladding and/or light reflective material, such that the cover serves as a light guide that is coupled perpendicular to the optical emitter and detector.

In some embodiments, the headset may include various electronic

components secured to the base. For example, the headset may include one or more environmental sensors configured to detect and/or measure environmental conditions in a vicinity of the headset. The headset may include a signal processor configured to receive and process signals produced by the optical detector. For example, in some embodiments, a signal processor may be configured to extract secondary optical energy and remove optical noise or environmental noise. The headset may include a signal processor configured to receive and process signals produced by the one or more environmental sensors. In addition, the headset may include a transmitter configured to transmit signals processed by the signal processor to a remote device in real time. Headsets according to embodiments of the present invention may utilize, for example, Bluetooth®, Wi-Fi, ZigBee, or other wireless transmitters.

In some embodiments, a housing is secured to and overlies the base so as to enclose and protect the speaker, optical emitter and optical detector, as well as other electronic components secured to the base (e.g., sensors, processor, transmitter etc.).

The earbud housing is in acoustical communication with the speaker and has at least one aperture through which sound from the speaker can pass. The light-guiding cover surrounding the earbud housing also includes at least one aperture through which sound from the speaker can pass. The cover may be formed from a soft, resilient material, such as silicone which deforms when inserted within an ear canal of a subject. In some embodiments, the cover includes an alignment member that facilitates alignment of the earbud housing within an ear canal of a subject.

Light directed into the ear of a subject from a light emitter and the subsequent collection of light at a light detector, according to embodiments of the present invention, may be utilized for detecting and/or measuring, among other things, body temperature, skin temperature, blood gas levels, muscle tension, heart rate, blood flow, cardiopulmonary functions, etc.

In some embodiments of the present invention, the light-guiding cover may include a lens that is in optical communication with the optical emitter and/or optical detector. The lens may be configured to focus light emitted by the optical emitter and/or to focus collected light toward the optical detector. In some embodiments, multiple lenses may be incorporated into a light-guiding cover.

In some embodiments, the light-guiding cover may include a light diffusion region in optical communication with the light transmissive material that diffuses light emitted by the optical detector.

In some embodiments, the light-guiding cover may include a luminescence-generating region, such as a phosphor-containing region, that is in optical communication with the light transmissive material. The luminescence-generating region may be embedded within the light-guiding cover and/or on a surface of the light-guiding cover. The luminescence-generating region is configured to receive light emitted by the optical emitter and convert at least a portion of the received light to light having a different wavelength from that of the received light.

In some embodiments, the light-guiding cover includes one or more grooves formed therein. Each groove is configured to direct external light to the optical detector.

In some embodiments, the light transmissive material of the light-guiding cover is configured to direct light from the optical emitter to a plurality of locations at an outer surface of the cover for delivery into an ear canal of a subject.

In some embodiments, the light transmissive material of the light-guiding cover is a translucent material or includes translucent material in selected locations.

In some embodiments, a light reflective material is on at least a portion of one or both of the inner and outer surfaces of the light-guiding cover.

According to some embodiments of the present invention, a light-guiding earbud for a headset includes light transmissive material that is in optical communication with an optical emitter and optical detector associated with the headset. The light transmissive material is configured to deliver light from the optical emitter into the ear canal of a subject at one or more predetermined locations and to collect light external to the earbud housing and deliver the collected light to the optical detector. In some embodiments, the light emitter and light detector may be integral with the earbud. For example, in some embodiments, a flexible optical emitter is incorporated within the earbud and is in optical communication with the light transmissive material.

In some embodiments, an earbud includes at least one lens in



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