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(54) **PROCESSING METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING PHYSIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS USING PHYSIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS PRESENT WITHIN AN AUDITORY CANAL**

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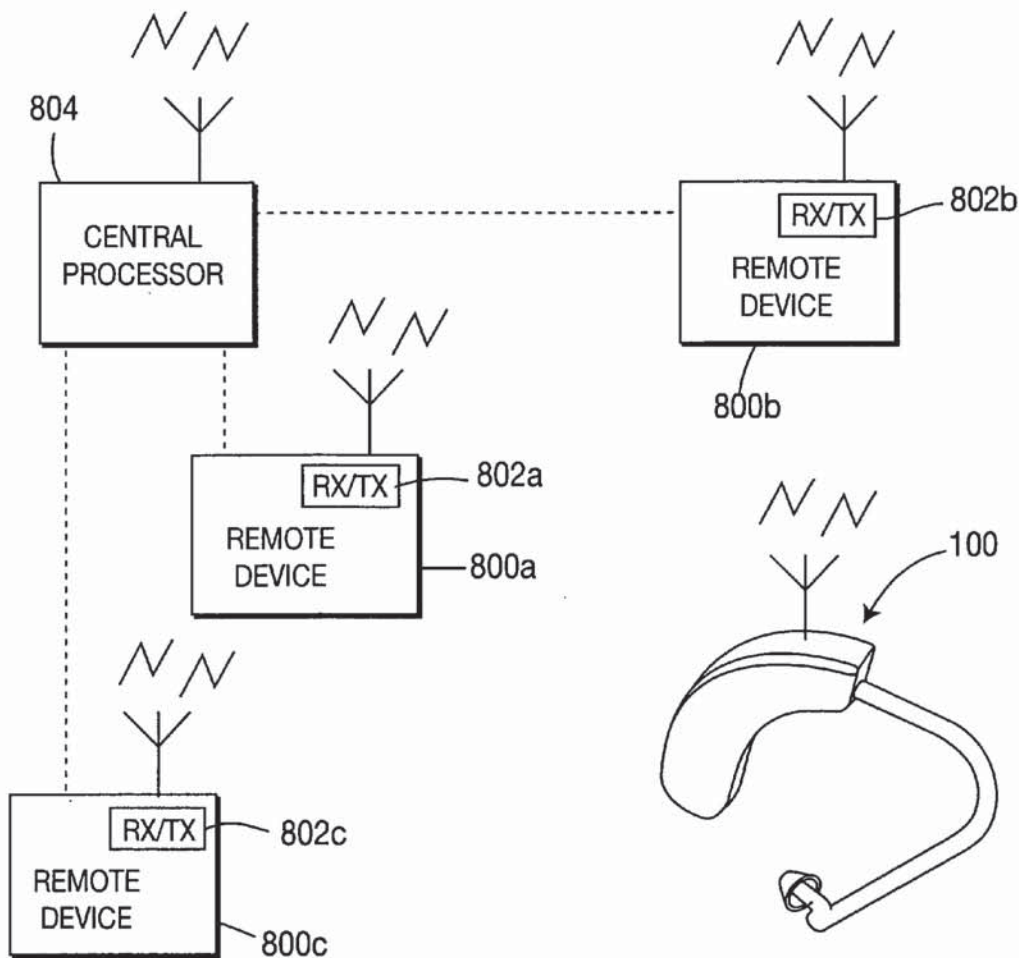
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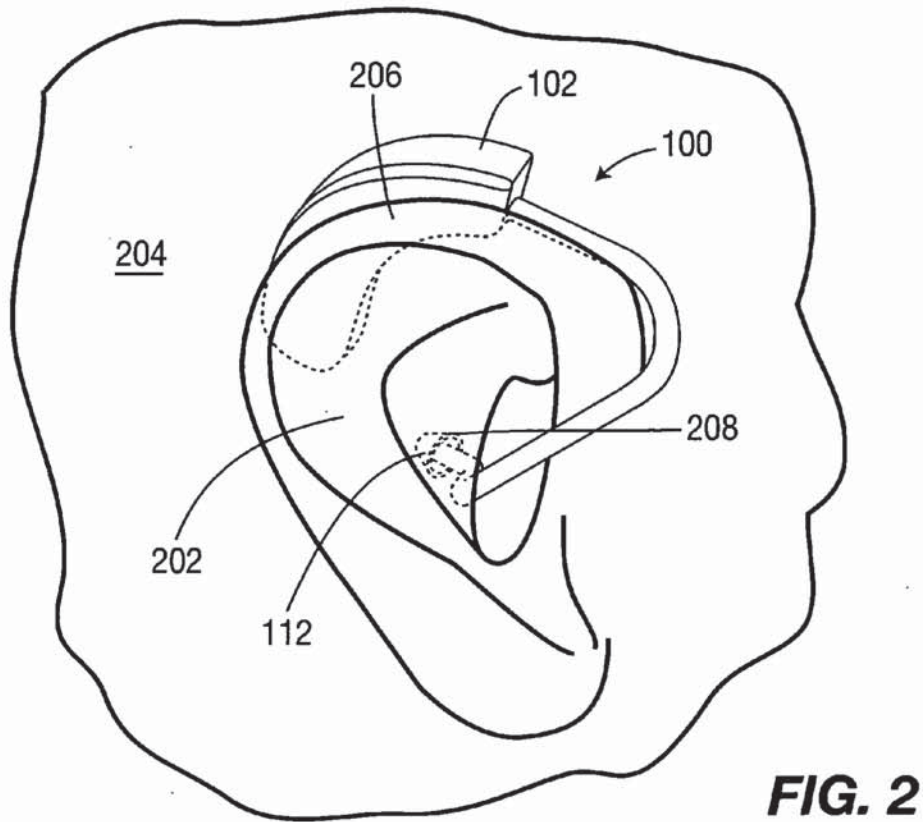
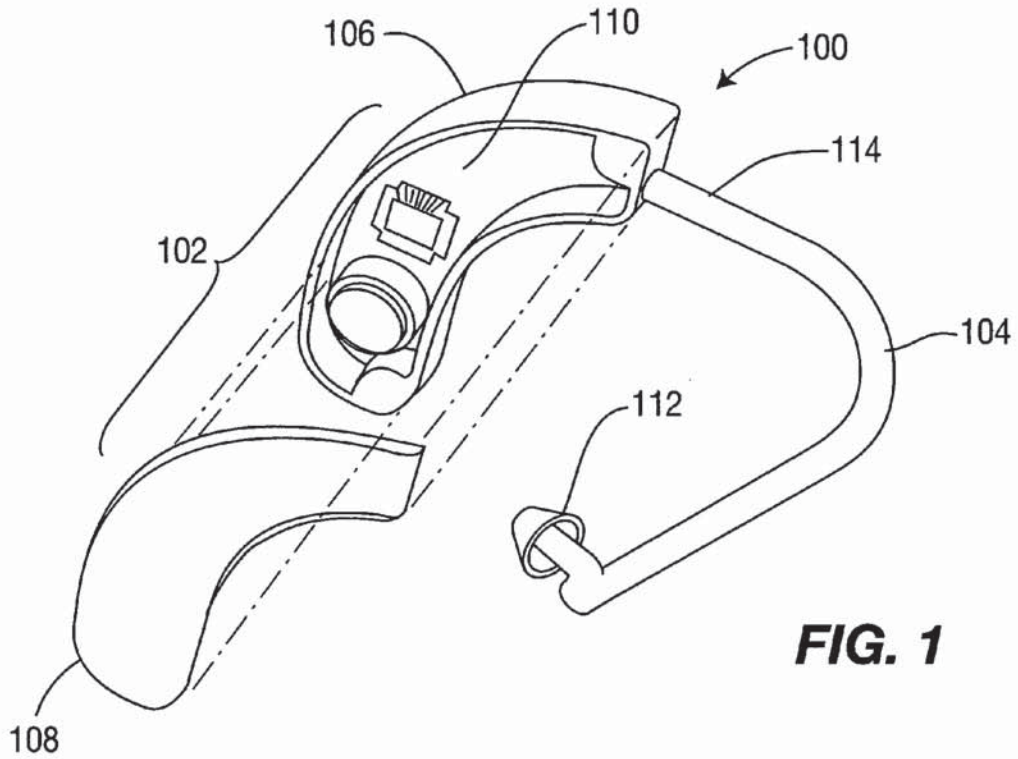
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus for monitoring at least one physiological parameter of an animal from one or more physiological characteristics present within an auditory canal of the animal. Physiological parameters are measured by sensing at least one physiological characteristic present within the auditory canal of the animal, the at least one physiological characteristic associated with a physiological parameter, and processing the at least one sensed physiological characteristic at a device positioned remotely from the auditory canal to determine the physiological parameter.





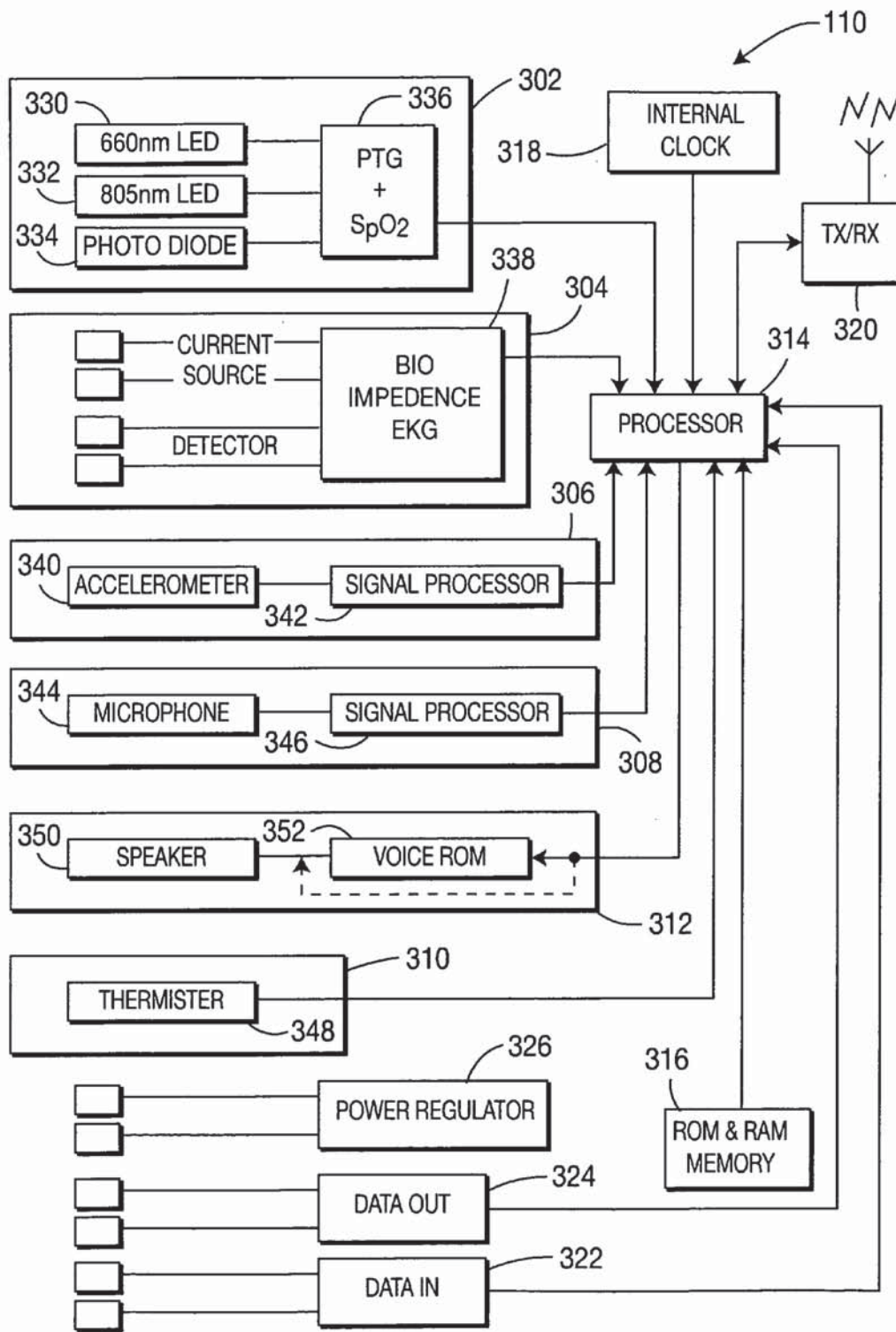
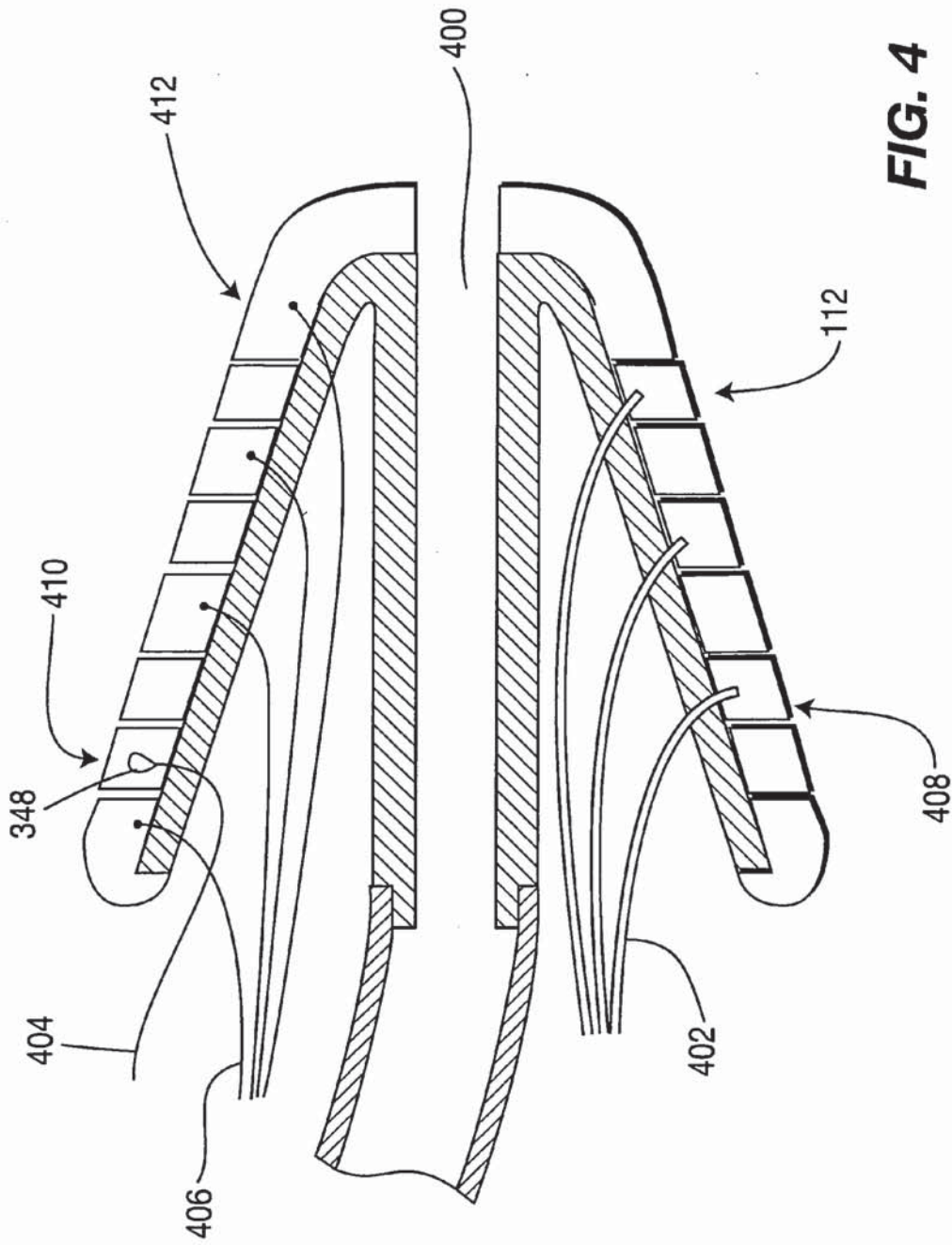


FIG. 3



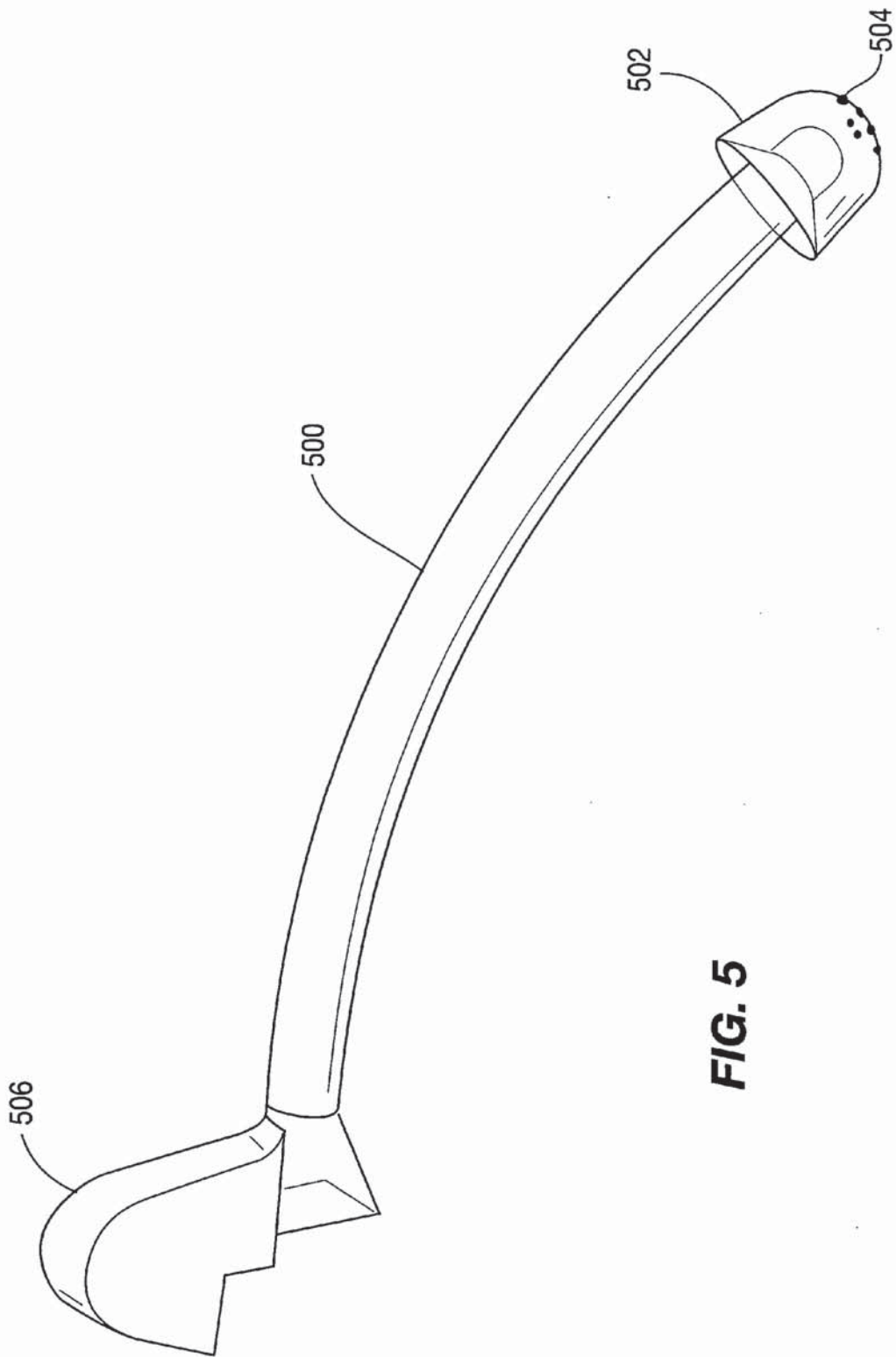


FIG. 5

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