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[54] **METHODS FOR DISEASE DIAGNOSIS FROM STOOL SAMPLES**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **435/6**; 435/7.1; 435/7.2; 435/91.1; 435/91.2

[58] **Field of Search** 435/6, 7.1, 7.2, 435/91.1, 91.3

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides methods for preparing a stool sample in order to screen for the presence of indicators of a disease, for example a subpopulation of cancerous or precancerous cells. The methods take advantage of the recognition that cellular debris from cancerous and precancerous cells is deposited onto only a longitudinal stripe of stool as the stool is forming in the colon. Accordingly, methods of the invention comprise obtaining a representative sample, such as a circumferential or cross-sectional sample of stool in order to ensure that any disease indicator, such as cellular debris that is shed by colonic cells, is obtained in the sample.

18 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

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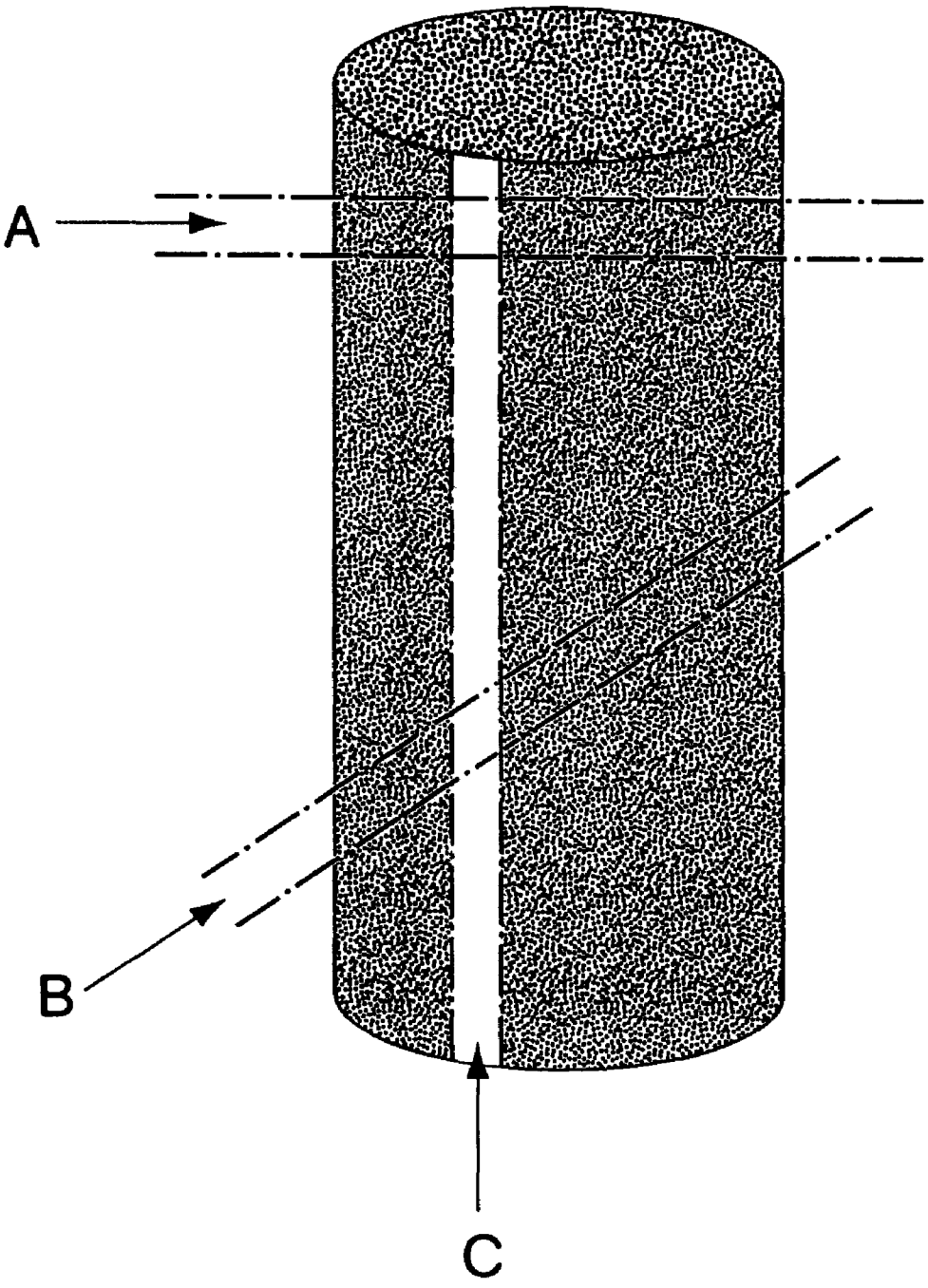

Fig. 1

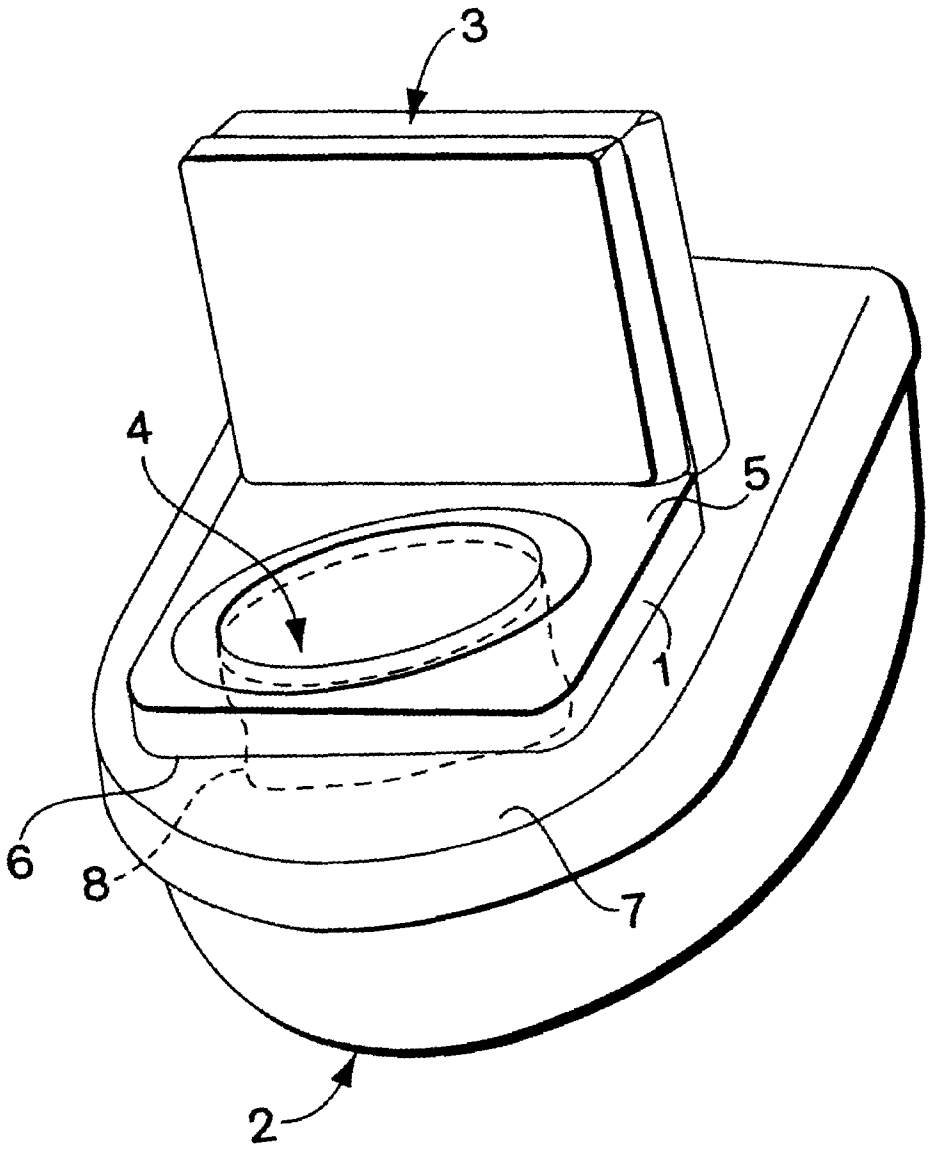

Fig. 2

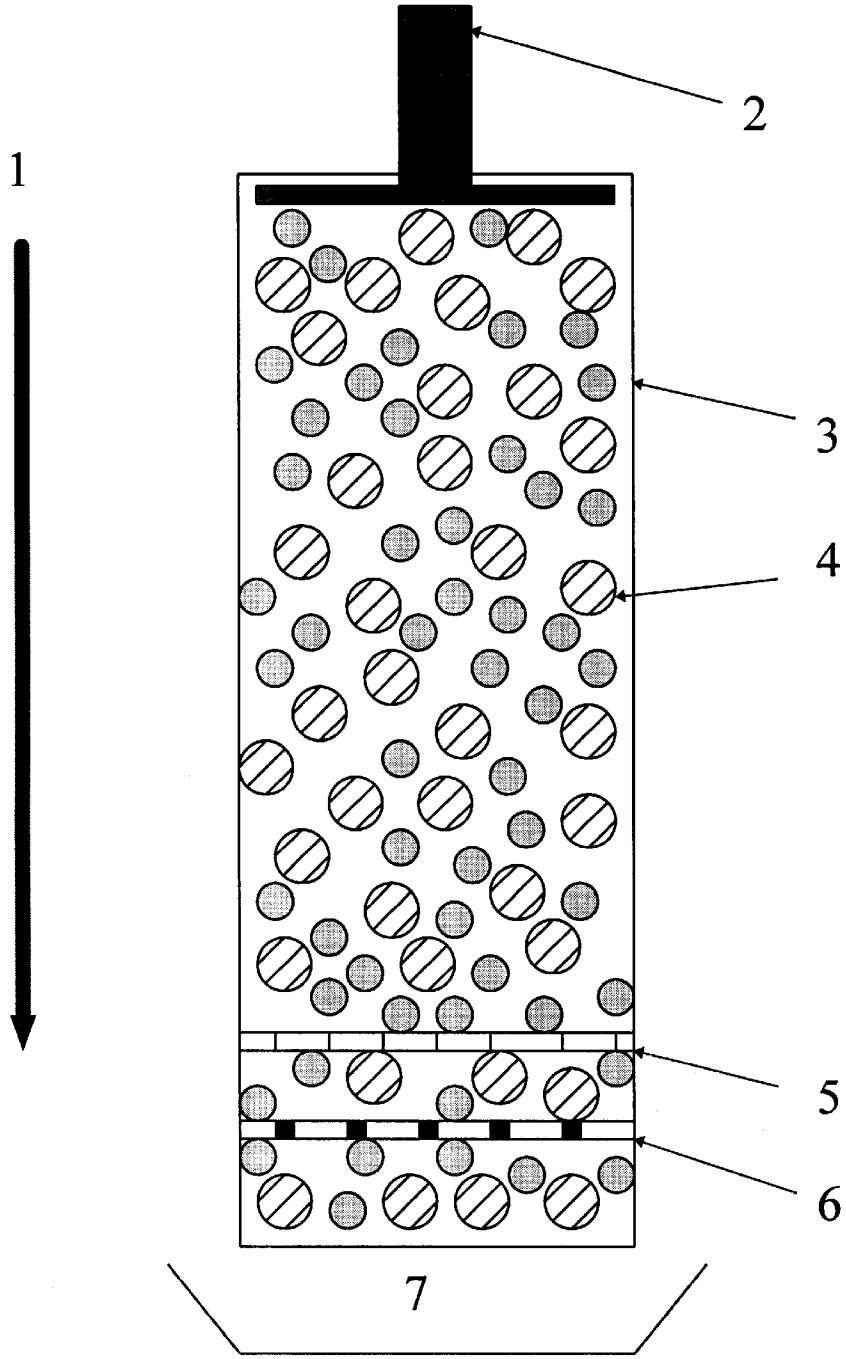

FIG. 3

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