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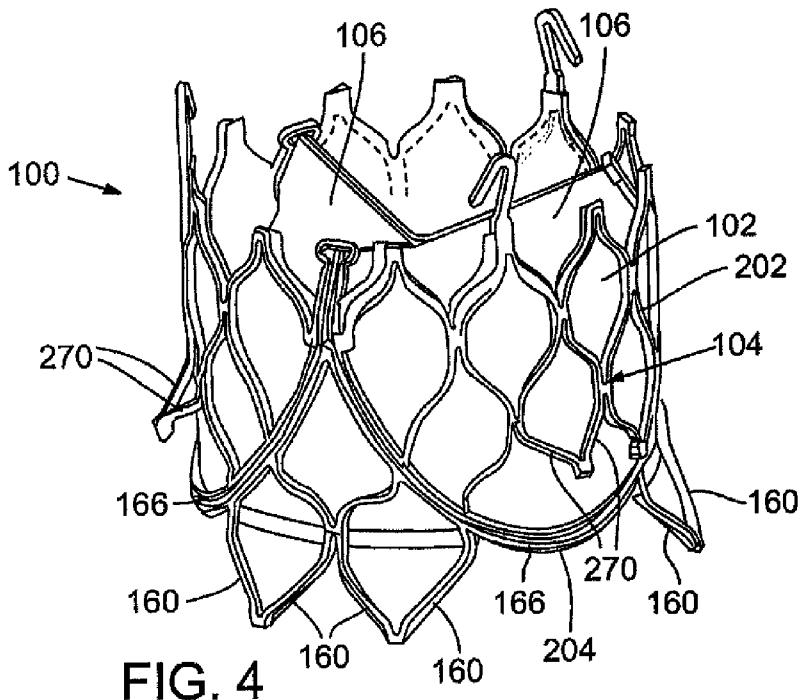
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LEAFLET ATTACHMENT FRAME FOR A PROSTHETIC VALVE



(57) Abstract: An implantable prosthetic valve (100) has an upper frame section and a lower frame section. The upper frame section has a plurality of struts (160) and a first leaflet receiving surface (166) at a lower portion of the upper frame section. The lower frame section has a second leaflet receiving (204) surface at an upper portion of the lower frame section. An edge of a flexible leaflet (102) is disposed between the first and second leaflet receiving surfaces to attach the leaflet to the upper and lower frame sections.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2008/086872

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/229719 A1 (MARQUEZ SALVADOR [US] ET AL) 12 October 2006 (2006-10-12) paragraphs [0036], [0043] - [0046], [0052] - [0061]; figures 3-9	1-4
X	US 2002/173842 A1 (BUCHANAN ERIC S [US]) 21 November 2002 (2002-11-21) the whole document	1,2
X	EP 1 570 809 A (SORIN BIOMEDICA CARDIO S R L [IT]) 7 September 2005 (2005-09-07) paragraphs [0026] - [0068]; figures 1,2	1,5,7,13
P,X	WO 2008/150529 A (ST JUDE MEDICAL [US]; BRAIDO PETER N [US]; ALKHATIB YOUSEF F [US]) 11 December 2008 (2008-12-11) paragraphs [0004] - [0006], [0077], [0078]; figure 8	1,2,5-7
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*8* document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 March 2009	Date of mailing of the international search report 06/07/2009
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Steiner, Bronwen
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	WO 2008/147964 A (MEDICAL ENTREPRENEURS II INC [US]; YANG JUN [US]; HUYNH VAN [US]; ESTE) 4 December 2008 (2008-12-04) page 9, line 1 - page 10, line 30; figures 3A-4 -----	1,2
A	US 2005/234546 A1 (NUGENT ALAN [US] ET AL) 20 October 2005 (2005-10-20) paragraphs [0109] - [0114]; figures 22-26 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2008/086872

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

"see additional sheet(s)"

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-7,13,14

Claims 1 - 7, 13 and 14 essentially define an implantable prosthesis comprising an upper frame section having a plurality of struts and a first leaflet receiving surface at a lower portion of the frame section, a lower frame section having a second leaflet receiving surface at an upper portion of the lower frame section, and at least one leaflet with a first edge portion being disposed between the first and second leaflet receiving surfaces. Claims 13 and 14 define a method of assembling the prosthesis.

2. claims: 8-12

Claims 8 - 12 essentially define: an implantable prosthesis comprising a frame with a plurality of frame sections, each section having a lower portion with a scalloped shape and a flexible membrane comprising a plurality of flexible leaflets, each leaflet having a lower portion with a scalloped shape where the lower portion of each flexible leaflet is attached to the lower portion of each frame section.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/086872

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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