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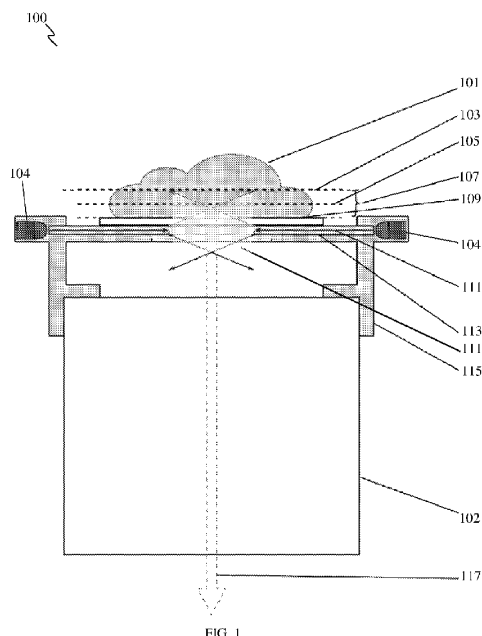
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(54) Title: MICROSCOPY APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPERFICIAL IMAGING OF A SAMPLE



(57) Abstract: According to embodiments of the present invention, a microscopy apparatus for superficial imaging of a sample is provided. The microscopy apparatus includes an objective lens; a surface illuminator configured to illuminate into the sample at a depth less than or equal to a depth of field of the objective lens; and a stage module configured to receive, adjust and position the sample for repeatable imaging. The surface illuminator includes a light source configured to emit light to illuminate the sample, the light source arranged adjacent to and on a same side as the objective lens; and an adjustment mechanism configured to adjust an angle and/or an intensity of the light directed at the sample. According to further embodiments, a method for superficial imaging of a sample, a surface illuminator, and a stage module are also provided.

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