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(71) Applicant: **BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY**
[US/US]; 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey
07417 (US).

(72) Inventors: **BLANCHARD, Curtis, H.**; 14156 S. Mt Ogden Peak Drive, Riverton, Utah 84096 (US). **BURKHOLZ, Jonathan, Karl**; 1971 South Wasatch Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108 (US). **SCHERICH, Megan**; 253 Wilson Avenue S, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115 (US). **HARDING, Weston, F.**; 2421 N 910 W, Lehi, Utah 84043 (US). **MA, Yiping**; 2220 North 2300 East, Layton, Utah 84040 (US). **HOPWOOD, Benjamin**; 2950 S 2000 E, Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 (US).

(74) Agent: **QUEEN, Lara, Northrop et al.**; The Webb Law Firm, One Gateway Center, 420 Fort Duquesne Blvd., Ste. 1200, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222 (US).

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(54) Title: INTRAVENTOUS CATHETER DEVICE HAVING A PROBE ASSEMBLY WITH AN INTEGRATED FLUID FLUSHING MECHANISM

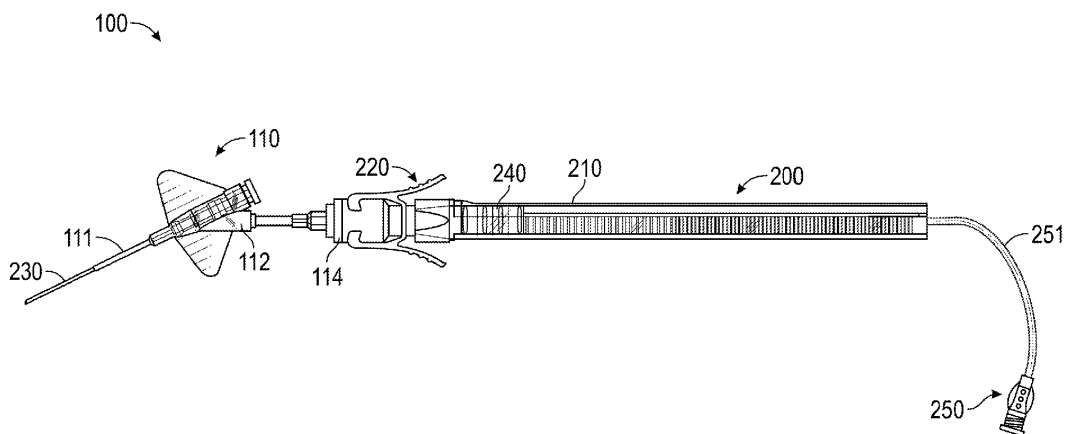


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: An IV catheter device can include or being configured to employ a probe assembly having an integrated fluid flushing mechanism. The probe assembly can be configured in a variety of ways to cause flushing fluid to be injected through a fluid permeable structure of the probe as the probe is advanced distally from a catheter. In this way, the fluid permeable structure can be kept clear of any occlusion that may otherwise form. With the probe extending distally from the catheter, a blood sample may be collected.

[Continued on next page]

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