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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMAGING CARTRIDGE, PIPETTE, AND METHOD OF USE FOR DIRECT SPUTUM SMEAR MICROSCOPY

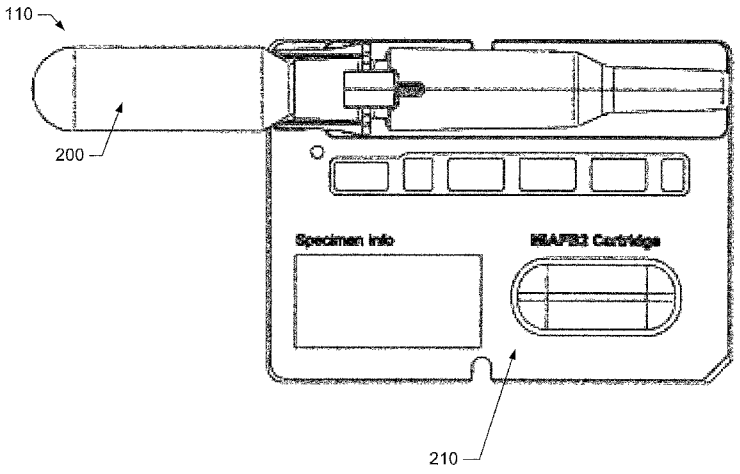


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: An assembly for preparing a specimen is provided that may be configured to determine the presence of at least one microorganism specie in the specimen. The assembly may include a pipette configured to acquire a specimen from a sample and an imaging cartridge configured to be in fluid communication with the pipette. The imaging cartridge and the pipette may be configured to be irreversibly coupled such that the specimen is bio-contained within the imaging cartridge and the pipette when the imaging cartridge and pipette are coupled together. Associated methods of use are also provided.

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