BIOMONITORING DEVICES, METHODS, AND SYSTEMS FOR USE IN A BATHROOM SETTING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/482,912, filed April 7, 2017, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

The present application generally relates to biomonitoring. More specifically, the application discloses biomonitoring devices and methods that measure medically relevant excreta and health-related characteristics, and assist in health-related tasks.

(2) Description of the related art

It has been recognized that examination of human excreta provides insight into human health. Self-reporting can be performed through diaries, but is subject to interpretation and bias. The ability to objectively and consistently assess excreta on a regular basis can help track symptoms of dysfunction and determine the effects of medications, diet, lifestyle, supplements, and other interventions.

The major components of the American bathroom, including the toilet and mirror, have not fundamentally changed for more than 100 years. In the United States, the toilet mostly lacks any electrical, sensor or network connected capabilities. In Japan, the toilet seat is widely used as an electric bidet for reasons related to hygiene. The vast majority of bathroom mirrors across the world lack any electrical, sensor or network connected capabilities, especially related to health or wellness.

There is thus a need for accurate, convenient and unbiased electronic biomonitoring capabilities that analyze excreta and other health-related characteristics in a bathroom setting. The present invention addresses that need.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to devices, systems and methods for electronic biomonitoring of characteristics of excreta in a bathroom setting.

Thus, in some embodiments, provided is a biomonitoring device that measures a parameter of a material expelled during use of a toilet by a user. The device comprises a sensor that detects electromagnetic radiation or an analyte chemical in the bowl of the toilet.

Also provided is an embodiment of a biomonitoring device that is a bathroom mirror. The device identifies a user, detects a febrile illness in a user, dispenses medications/supplements, connects to electrical device accessories in the bathroom, and provides an interactive user interface.

Additionally provided is a system for measuring a parameter of a material expelled during use of a toilet by a user. The system comprises the above biomonitoring device.

In other embodiments, a method of determining a physiological parameter of a user is provided. The method comprises expelling a material into the bowl of a toilet in the presence of the above biomonitoring device.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a system of the present invention.

FIG. 2 illustrates various views of a seat-integrated toilet device of the present invention. FIG. 2A shows a top perspective view; 2B shows a bottom view; 2C shows an exploded view of an image sensor in the device; 2D shows part of the inside of the device from top perspective cross-section view; 2E is a close-up view of a load cell in the device; 2F shows spectroscopic components in the device.

FIG. 3 illustrates an air duct system in a seat-integrated toilet device of the present invention. FIG. 3A is a perspective view of the air duct system situated on the bottom of the device; 3B close-up view of the exit path of air from the air duct system; 3C is a close-up view of an array of gas sensors in the air duct system.

FIG. 4 illustrates an image sensor embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 4A is a perspective exploded view and 4B is a close-up exploded view of the image sensor embodiment.

FIG. 5 illustrates another image sensor embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5A is a perspective exploded view; 5B is a close-up exploded view of the image sensor embodiment.

FIG. 6 illustrates stool collection embodiments of the present invention. FIG. 6A is a bottom perspective view of an embodiment; 6B is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment; 6C is a bottom perspective view of an alternative attachment method of a stool collection embodiment.

FIG. 7 is an exploded view of a foot scale embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a wall console of the present invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates a mirror embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 9A illustrates a front perspective view of a wall mounted mirror embodiment; 9B illustrates a perspective exploded view of a wall mounted mirror embodiment; 9C illustrates perspective view of the accessories associated with a wall mounted mirror embodiment; 9D illustrates a touchscreen user interface.

FIG. 10 illustrates a portable embodiment of a device of the present invention. FIG. 10A is a perspective view of the embodiment; 10B illustrates components of the embodiment; 10C illustrates the device with wings at 90 degrees; 10D illustrates the device with wings at 180 degrees; 10E illustrates the device being opened and awakened from sleep mode; 10F, 10G, 10H and 10I illustrates representative steps in using the device.

FIG. 11 illustrates an embodiment of a device of the present invention that clips onto the top of a toilet seat. FIG. 11A illustrates a perspective view of the device clipped onto a seat; 11B illustrates a cutaway view of the device; 11C illustrates a cross-sectional view of the device; 11D illustrates an additional cross-sectional view of the device.

FIG. 12 illustrates an embodiment of a device of the present invention that fits between the bottom of a toilet seat and the toilet bowl rim. FIG. 12A illustrates a perspective view of the device installed onto a toilet; 12B illustrates a cutaway view of the device; 12C illustrates a cross-sectional view of the device.

FIG. 13 illustrates an example of a generic computing device that may be used to store, transmit and process data from devices of the present invention.

FIG. 14 is a block diagram that shows an exemplary communications network architecture, devices, and components for operating the devices of the present invention.

FIG. 15 is block diagrams showing exemplary image processing and classification methods for processing data from the devices of the present invention. FIG. 15A shows exemplary image pre-processing tasks; 15B shows one image classification method for classifying stool consistency; 15C shows one image classification method for detecting colors in

the excreta; 15D is a set of labels for stool and urine classification; 15E shows the workflow for estimating the urine voiding volume of a person.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram that shows an exemplary set of steps taken by the user, devices, software, and/or user interfaces during use of the devices of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Additionally, the use of “or” is intended to include “and/or”, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

The present invention is directed to devices, systems and methods for electronic biomonitoring of characteristics of excreta in a bathroom setting.

Thus, in some embodiments, provided is a biomonitoring device that measures a parameter of a material expelled during use of a toilet by a user. The device comprises a sensor or plurality of sensors that detects electromagnetic radiation or an analyte chemical in the bowl of the toilet.

These embodiments are not narrowly limited to any particular biomonitoring device, nor are they limited to the measurement of any particular parameter or any particular expelled material. In various embodiments, the material is feces, urine, flatus, or off-gas from feces or urine.

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary system of the present invention that consists of a toilet **200** where various sensors are integrated into a toilet seat, a foot scale **300**, a wall console **400** and a mirror **500** in a bathroom setting. These various components of this system are further discussed below.

FIG. 2A illustrates the exemplary toilet **200** from FIG. 1. A conductive material **201** is deposited on the apparatus that serves as bioelectrical impedance analysis electrodes. Bioelectrical impedance is determined by applying a sinusoidal current into the body through the electrodes shown in **201**. The sinusoidal current is generated with an internal pattern generator and a digital-analog converter. A voltage-to-current converter applies this sinusoidal current into the body, between pairs of two terminals. The voltage created across these two terminals as a result of the impedance of the body is measured back with a differential amplifier, rectified, and its amplitude is extracted and measured by an analog-to-digital converter (ADC). The measured

voltage is in direct relation to the body impedance. Common calibration methods and established formulas that can be used to derive the body composition, in some instances, are described in Kushner (1982), Kushner and Schoeller (1986), and Janssen et al. (2000).

The conductive material can be applied to the seat by any method known in the art, or later discovered. In some embodiments, a pad-printable, B-stageable, electrically conductive two-part epoxy adhesive containing carbon filler is applied via tampography on a fixtured device and cured at 100 degrees Celsius for one hour. Sheet resistivity of the epoxy adhesive is between 140-200 ohms/sq/mil. The epoxy adhesive has elongation properties that allow for flexibility e.g., when a user sits on the device, and resists solvents such as common toilet cleaning chemicals and abrasives.

FIG. 2A also shows a nozzle **202** for dispensing liquid, operatively connected to a receptacle **203**, that can be replaceable, for containing a liquid, e.g., a deodorizer, chemical reagent, or cleaning agent, to be dispensed into the bowl. A charging port **204** is operatively connected to the battery, which it recharges.

FIG. 2B illustrates the exemplary toilet from a bottom perspective view. Low distortion lenses **205** are provided, which can further comprise hydrophobic and antimicrobial coatings. Electromagnetic radiation can pass through the lenses **205** from the inside of the toilet bowl to an image sensor. An additional or alternative lens **206**, similar in material to **205**, can be utilized in a position that does not change when the seat is lifted. Behind lenses **205** and **206** are light sources that project electromagnetic radiation in the visible and/or invisible range of the electromagnetic spectrum. Load cells **207** are for capturing the weight of the user. In some embodiments, they pivot to accommodate contact with non-level surfaces, and/or contain anti-skid material where in contact with the toilet bowl.

FIG. 2C illustrates an exploded view of the image sensor, light source and lens in an exemplary toilet. The image sensor is in a housing **208**. Lens **209**, upon which hydrophobic and antimicrobial coatings can be applied, allows passage of electromagnetic radiation of various frequency and wavelengths. An electromagnetic radiation source **210** can emit electromagnetic radiation in the visible and invisible range of the electromagnetic spectrum into a toilet bowl. The visible and/or invisible light captured by the lens can be electronically measured by any means known in the art, for example using an active pixel sensor, for example a charge-coupled device (CCD), or a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor (CMOS) **211**. The light passing through the lens can also be measured using a thermographic array comprised of focal plane

arrays that respond to longer wavelengths (mid- and long-wavelength infrared). Illumination of images occurs by turning on the electromagnetic radiation source **210**. Capture of images occurs through the sensor **211**, which obtains illuminated images inside the toilet bowl at configurable time intervals.

FIG. 2D illustrates part of the inside of the example toilet apparatus from top perspective cross-section view. Load cell **212** captures force in multiple vectors. A load cell that captures force in one vector can also be used, such as a thin film load cell. Capacitive sensor **213** detects user presence while a user is seated on the device. The active presence of a user initiates the sensor measurement and can be used to determine the length of time a user is seated.

FIG. 2E is a close-up view of an exemplary load cell. An additional strain gauge **214** is added to a traditional single-sensor bending-moment force gauge **215**. The addition of the strain gauge **214** allows the capture of torque around the sensing beam. This bending moment can be imparted by beam **216** capturing force across the rim of an uneven toilet bowl. The device algorithmically combines torque and bending inputs from the four load cells to calculate the user's weight.

FIG. 2F shows components related to the spectroscopic-based detection of substances such as blood and urine. **217** is a laser diode or photo diode array. **218** is a laser diode, **219** is a prism shape can change position depending on optical requirements, **220** is the top surface of water in the toilet bowl, **211** is an CMOS sensor, **221** is a photosensor or photodetector, **222** is a distance sensor which is intended to reflect off of the top surface of the water in the toilet bowl. Depending on the substance being detected, **218** may emit light at specific wavelengths. The characteristic spectral signature of blood along the near infrared range (760-1500 nm) provides higher selectivity than using solely the visible range (400-780 nm). By utilizing the distance sensor **222** as a power meter, and utilizing Snell's law of reflection by change in index of refraction, the presence and concentration of urine can be measured. **211** may be monochrome with the infrared filter removed. **221** may use single pixel imaging to detect the target substance in the near infrared spectrum. The use of laser diodes compared to a light source such as a light-emitting diodes (LEDs) is the narrower spread in wavelength bandwidth, thus allowing it to be more substance specific. Laser diodes are wavelength specific with full width at half maximum of +-5nm and require a prism or lens to disperse the laser over the target area (i.e. water table).

The device may also be used with or without added chemicals that manipulate the chemical matter in and on biological cells in the excreta, with which may be useful in detecting

the presence of or quantifying blood which may be associated with conditions such as hemorrhoids, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer, Crohn's disease, urinary tract infections, and bladder cancer. Such chemicals may be a combination of reagents, buffers, oxidizers or other chemical agents may be liquid or deposited on a substrate that are dispensed into the toilet bowl before defecating or urinating in order to optically display changes in color versus the substrate or provide a photoluminescent glow that can be detected by sensors **211 or 221**. An example of such a substrate and color-based blood detection system approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use with colorectal cancer screening is EZ Detect (Biomerica, Inc., Irvine, CA, USA).

In various embodiments, gaseous chemicals are detected by gas sensors. FIG. 3A illustrates an exemplary air fan and duct that pulls air from inside the toilet bowl through gas sensors. The path of air being pulled from the inside of the toilet bowl **223** and the path of air exiting the toilet seat **224** is shown. A set of gas sensors **225** can be calibrated to detect volatile organic compounds. The mean free path of air going across the gas sensors **225** may be constrained by a wall.

FIG. 3B is a close-up view of the path of air. Filter **226** cleans the air prior to exiting into the bathroom. The filter can be made of any appropriate material, e.g., charcoal.

Any gas sensor known in the art can be utilized as appropriate to detect the gaseous chemicals. In some embodiments, the gas sensor is a micro hotplate metal-oxide sensor.

FIG. 3C is a close-up view of exemplary gas sensors. Shown is a combination of three micro hotplate metal-oxide sensors **227**, where each blade can have a different spectrum, a transimpedance amplifier **228**, and a control circuit board **229**, with temperature and humidity sensor and microcontroller. Electrochemical gas sensors may also be used. Some metal-oxides can behave as semiconductors at higher temperatures. Metal-oxide sensors are designed with a heater element and a sensor element (sintered metal-oxide with or without catalyst), separated by a very thin isolating membrane. Redox-reactions occurring at the sensor surface result in changes in resistance, which can be measured. These redox-reactions depend on the nature of the metal-oxide/catalyst, the reacting gas(ses), and the temperature. Depending on sensor type and temperature, a very broad range of substances will give a redox reaction. The gas sensor assembly consists of one or more gas sensors that could be broadband sensors that are responsive to a mixture of gases, as well as narrowband sensors that only respond to concentrations of a particular gas or gases. The actual concentrations can then be computed back using Gaussian

mixture models. Because many of the sensors operate with microcurrents and are sensitive to temperature changes, the assembly incorporates a temperature sensor and a chemical sensing front end consisting of a transimpedance amplifier and a cellbias generator. Furthermore, to keep the analog sensing path short, a microcontroller is incorporated in the assembly that converts the readings from the sensors using an ADC to digital signals that can be communicated and processed further through a digital interface as shown.

Any gaseous chemical present in the bowl can be detected in these embodiments. In some of these embodiments, the gaseous chemicals are volatile organic compounds. The volatile organic compounds found in the gut include short-chain fatty acids and branched-chain fatty acids (Gruber et al., 2016). Carbohydrates in the gut are fermented by different bacteria to produce ethanoic, propionic, butanoic, pentanoic, and hexanoic acid acids. Hydrogen sulfide and methanethiol are generated from sulfur-containing substances in the diet. Fermentation of tyrosine and tryptophan leads to the production of phenols and indoles (Zheng et al., 2011). The relative proportions of these different VOCs may reflect the bacterial composition present in the gut.

In some embodiments, the device can be installed with an existing toilet seat (i.e., it does not require replacing the seat). These embodiments are not limited to any particular design, and includes, e.g., a connector that connects a camera or a cellphone to the seat or rim, or any other design. FIGS. 4 and 5 provide exemplary embodiments.

FIGS. 4A and 4B are perspective and close-up exploded views of another embodiment of an image sensor that can work in conjunction with an existing toilet seat (e.g., it does not require replacing the seat). An attachment point **230** is bolted into place with the existing bolts **231** and covered with the existing seat **232**. An attachment point that does not require bolting may also be used. A wire **233** is provided that is capable of transmitting power and communications. Power may also be provided through a battery and communications can be wireless. Processing and communications circuitry **234** are also provided, which may or may not be separate from the image sensor. Also shown is housing **235** for the CMOS sensor **211** and an electromagnetic radiation source **210** providing light at various spectra into the toilet bowl. In some embodiments, multiple CMOS sensors may be used. Components related to spectroscopic-based detection of substances may also be used.

FIGS. 5A and 5B are perspective and close-up exploded views of another embodiment of the image sensor that can work in conjunction with an existing toilet seat. A tray-like apparatus

236 fits into place on top of the toilet bowl rim and is covered with the existing seat **232**. A wire **233** capable of transmitting power and communications, and processing and communications circuitry **234** are also included, along with top cover **237**. Power may also be provided through a battery and communications can be wireless. An electromagnetic radiation source **210** provides light at various spectra into the toilet bowl, which is captured by CMOS sensor **211**. The CMOS sensor is held by apparatus **238**. Components related to spectroscopic-based detection of substances, e.g., as described above, may also be used. This device may be partially or completely sealed.

A flushable stool collection system is also provided. FIGS. 6A and 6B are bottom and cross-section views of such an exemplary system with a toilet seat. Stool collector **239** is constructed with a water-soluble material such as polyvinyl alcohol. Holes **240** in the stool collector attach the stool collector to the toilet seat in conjunction with modified feet on the toilet seat **241**, where the hoes hook over the modified feet. Another view of the feet **242** depicts an exemplary location where the stool collector **239** can be fastened.

An alternative embodiment of fasteners **243** in a stool collection system is shown in FIG. 6C. Those fasteners can be used as an alternative to the fasteners at the toilet seat feet shown in FIGS. 6A and 6B.

In additional embodiments, the system further comprises a foot scale designed to be placed on the floor that performs any or all of the following functions: calculate, measure, assess and/or determine physiologic data.

FIG. 7 is an exploded view of exemplary scale or footstool **300**. Mat **301** is close to the ground and has sloping edges that can prevent users from injuring themselves when using the device and also contains guides where users can place their feet. Thin film pressure sensors **302** can capture the weight placed on the guided area indicated in **301** and transmitted through **303**. In other embodiments, **302** is a load cell. Conductive material **304** serves as bioelectrical impedance electrodes, measuring bioelectrical impedance through the feet. Base **305** can rest on the floor of a bathroom. Processing and communications circuitry **306** includes a battery holder.

In further embodiments, the system comprises an electronic console that performs any or all of the following functions: measure ambient light, determine user presence, identify user, and/or has a user interface to display physiologic information. In various embodiments, the displayed physiologic information is any or all of the following: current information, historical information and/or current information in view of historical information.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of an exemplary console system **400**. Electronic display **401** provides real-time information to the user as he sits on the toilet, such as weight and body composition. Ambient light detection sensor **402** is also included in these embodiments. Speakers **403** are also present, through which audio feedback can be provided, e.g., indicating to the user that he has been successfully identified. Fingerprint sensor **404** is an example of an identification method that uniquely identifies the user. Passive infrared sensor **405** can be used to detect user presence.

Any of the above-described devices may also comprise any other bathroom-related component including but not limited to: an electric or non-electric bidet; a presence-activated night light; ambient lighting of different colors; a heated toilet seat; a foot warmer; a voice- or gesture-activated toilet flush; a toilet cover that opens/closes automatically; and a networked speaker to play music.

Also provided is a bathroom mirror device, which may be non-portable or portable in nature, that performs any or all of the following functions: identify a user through facial recognition; detect a febrile illness in a user; dispense oral medications and supplements; gather data from portable electronic device accessories that may include a core temperature thermometer, toothbrush, shaver, breath sensor, otoscope, ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, pulse oximeter, and blood pressure monitor; and provide an interactive user interface.

FIG. 9A illustrates a front view of an exemplary wall-mounted mirror **500** powered by mains electricity and connected to a private network **20** (FIG. 14). Ambient light sensor **501** detects ambient light conditions. Passive infrared sensor **502** detects user presence. LED lighting **503** illuminates the face and body of a user. An array of laser diodes **504** in combination with image sensor **505** is used to identify a user in a bathroom setting based on facial recognition techniques. A thermal sensor **506** is used to detect elevated temperature in a febrile user. Screen **507** serves as both a mirror and a touch display. Microphone and speakers **508** provide audio input through which a user's voice can be captured and audio output, such as from an artificially intelligent agent, that can interact with the user. Power outlets **509** such as universal serial bus and alternating current sockets are present. Pill pack cartridge **510** contains medications and/or supplements. Pills are combined and dispensed in pre-determined dosages through pill dispenser **511**. Storage **512** is provided, as well as a charging dock **513** for accessories.

FIG. 9B shows an exploded perspective view of the components of mirror **500**. A touchscreen display **514** is placed over a one-way or transparent mirror **515**. A charger **516** for

accessories that connect to **500** may be inductive or wireless in nature. The charging embodiments described herein are not narrowly limited to any particular mechanism or device used for charging.

FIG. 9C shows a more detailed view of the pill dispensing system and exemplary accessories. Pills of a particular medication or supplement are sealed in a pack **517** and placed in cartridge **518**. Pills may be combined in a way that facilitates dispensing the correct dosages. Toothpaste **519** and mouthwash **520** are stored in storage **512**. Exemplary electrical devices shown that connect to the system include a thermometer **521**, toothbrush **522**, breath sensor **523**, and blood pressure monitor **524**.

FIG. 9D shows an interactive user interface **525** in which the user may use a touchscreen to interact with current and/or historical information that is gathered from toilet apparatus 200, scale 300, console 400, mirror 500, electrical device accessories that connect to system, the user themselves, or through any type of data source which can be connected to the system. The user may also interact with the system through voice. The interface may perform, but is not limited to, the following functions: obtaining information from the user; providing current/historical information to the user; alerting the user; dispensing medications/supplements to the correct user; determining user compliance in taking medications/supplements; facilitating the dispensing of medications/supplements at the recommended time; changing dosing of medications/supplements; sharing information about the user to others; and facilitating the provision of telemedicine through remote consultations and information gathered by the system.

FIG. 10A shows a representative portable device **600** comprised of body **601**, sealed from liquid ingress and smooth with minimal crevices for easy cleanability, made out of a polymer with antimicrobial properties; with movable wings **602** comprised of a textured elastomeric material that allows for secure grip.

FIG. 10B shows the components of **600**, with wings **602** in the down position, where the device is ready to be transported. The top area consists of a capacitive touchscreen panel **603**. The middle area includes fingerprint sensor **604** where the user is meant to place his or her finger on to be identified, printed circuit board assembly **605**, module chip **606** containing logic and communications hardware and components, three-axis accelerometer **607**, battery **608**, image sensor assembly **609**, and data storage unit **610**. On the bottom, there is an electromagnetic radiation source **611** capable of emitting electromagnetic radiation in the visible and invisible range of the electromagnetic spectrum into the toilet bowl, a lens **612** of low distortion upon

which hydrophobic and antimicrobial coatings can be applied, and a CMOS sensor **613**. The CMOS sensor **613** may also be a thermographic array comprised of focal plane arrays that respond to longer wavelengths (mid- and long-wavelength infrared). Components for spectroscopic detection and analysis, e.g., as described above, can also be included.

In some embodiments, placing the wings **602** of the device in this down position turns the device off, e.g., when the user finishes the bowel movement and/or urination and wishes to put the device away in order to free his or her hands. A speaker **614** allows sounds to be played and haptic feedback is provided through **615**. A microphone **616** allows the user's voice to be captured.

FIG. 10C shows the device with wings **602** in the 90 degree position, able to be placed on the lap of the user with the body of the device extending below the legs of the user, facing towards the drain hole of the toilet bowl. FIG. 10D shows the device with wings **602** in the 180 degree position, where it can be held by the hands of the user.

FIGS. 10E-I show the steps involved in turning on and using the device. FIG. 10E shows wings **602** being moved upwards from a down position, which is also a sleeping state meant to conserve battery power, towards a 90 degree position, which awakens the device and prompts the user to identify themselves through fingerprint sensor **617**. FIG. 10F shows the device in use with wings **602** placed in a 90 degree position resting on the lap of a female user. FIG. 10G shows the device in use with wings **602** placed in a 180 degree position held in the hands of a male user. FIG. 10H shows a camera viewfinder on the top area of the device with guiding elements **618** and **619** that help the user position the device correctly and manually initiate image captures **620**. Sound from **614** or haptic feedback from **615** is used to inform the user after a single or series of images are captured. FIG. 10I shows a question **621** that includes an area for answers **622**, a way to capture additional images **623**, in case the user needs to relieve himself or herself again, and a way to move forward or backward to different screens **624**. Questions or questionnaires that are displayed to the user can be customized about topics such as urgency, satisfaction, pain, and difficulty of defecation and/or urination which are related to specific diseases or symptoms being tracked.

The device may also be used with or without added chemicals that manipulate the chemical matter in and on biological cells in the excreta, with which may be useful e.g., in detecting the presence of or quantifying blood which may be associated with conditions such as hemorrhoids, ulcerative colitis, colorectal cancer, Crohn's disease, urinary tract infections, and

bladder cancer. Such chemicals may be a combination of reagents, buffers, oxidizers or other chemical agents may be liquid or deposited on a substrate that are dispensed into the toilet bowl before defecating or urinating in order to optically display changes in color versus the substrate or provide a photoluminescent glow that can be detected by the sensor **613**. An example of such a substrate and color-based blood detection system approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use with colorectal cancer screening is EZ Detect (Biomerica, Inc., Irvine, CA, USA).

FIG. 11A shows an alternative embodiment of the portable device **700** installed on top of a toilet seat **232**. The device can be successfully fitted in various positions around the circumference of the seat due to the conformity of features shown in FIGS. 11B-D.

FIG. 11B shows the components of the device in FIG. 11A. There is a printed circuit board assembly **701**, module chip **702**, image sensor assembly **703**, which, in these embodiments, comprise the light source and CMOS sensor, and storage **704**. On the toilet bowl interior side, there is an image sensor comprising an electromagnetic radiation source **705** providing light at various spectra into the toilet bowl, a lens **706** with low distortion that may be made of hydrophobic and/or antibacterial material that allows passage of light in the visible, near-infrared and ultraviolet spectrum, and a housing **707**. The sensor **708** may also be a thermographic array comprised of focal plane arrays that respond to longer wavelengths (mid- and long-wavelength infrared). On the toilet bowl anterior side there is a battery **709** and a spring-loaded feature **710** shown in uncompressed position, that adapts to multiple seat widths to securely hold the device in place yet allows for easy and rapid removal by user.

FIGS. 11C and 11D show section views that identify the features that allow the device shown in FIG. 11A to adapt to different widths and thicknesses of toilet seats. Sliding plunger **711** is a shown in uncompressed and compressed position, backed by spring **712** that applies pressure to the outside of a toilet seat **716** to provide a constant force against surface **713** to hold the device in place. Features **714** serve to resist upward force to keep device in place; feature **715** is positioned on the top of the toilet seat **716** to resist downward force.

FIG. 12A shows an alternative embodiment of device **800** in an in-use position installed below a toilet seat **716**, above the toilet bowl **801** with the optical head able to be manually rotated for orientation to the excreta in the bowl.

FIG. 12B shows device **800** of FIG. 12A comprised of an optical head positioned above the toilet bowl and an angled body intended to fit underneath a closed toilet seat, above the bowl

rim and that has a tapered design **802** such that it can adapt to various height clearances between the top of a toilet bowl and bottom of a toilet seat. Design **802** is molded or covered by a conformal elastomeric material, which may also be antimicrobial, to provide grip to aid in retainment. Additionally, rotating feature **803** allows the optical head to be positioned for optimal alignment to the excreta in the toilet bowl. Internally, there is a printed circuit board assembly **804**, module chip **805**, battery **806**, image sensor assembly **807**, and storage **808**. On the toilet bowl interior side, there is an image sensor comprising a light source **809** providing light at various spectra into the toilet bowl, a lens **810** with low distortion that may be made of hydrophobic material that allows passage of light in the visible, near-infrared and ultraviolet spectrum, a housing **811** for the image sensor assembly, and a CMOS sensor **812**. Sensor **812** may also be a thermographic array comprised of focal plane arrays that respond to longer wavelengths (mid- and long-wavelength infrared). When device is used on potentially unclean toilets, a flushable sanitary bag **813** may be used to protect device **800** from direct contact with the toilet bowl rim and toilet seat.

FIG. 12C shows device **800** of FIG. 12A utilizing design **802** wedge configuration **814** to fit securely between the bottom of a toilet seat **815** and the top of the toilet bowl rim **816**. Optical head **817** is shown over toilet bowl. The wedge shape is covered by a sanitary bag all around surfaces shown in **818** to provide sufficient barrier from allowing device to touch toilet seat **815** or toilet bowl rim **816**.

The embodiments described herein are not narrowly limited to the use of any particular power source. Thus, any of these embodiments may use mains electricity, electric batteries, solar power, etc.

In most embodiments, the device and/or system of the present invention further comprises a data storage and/or transmittal unit that stores and/or transmits data from the sensor via wireless, optical or wired communications to a computing unit, which analyzes data from the sensor.

FIG. 13 shows an example of a generic computing device **900**, that may be used with the techniques described in this disclosure. In various embodiments, any or all of the components featured therein, and the functions performed thereby, can be incorporated into any of the devices described above.

Computing device **900** includes a processor **901**, memory **902**, an input/output device such as a display **903**, a communication interface **904**, and a transceiver **905**, among other

components. The computing device **900** may also be provided with a storage device, such as a microdrive or other device, to provide additional storage. Each of the components **900**, **901**, **902**, **903**, **904**, and **905**, are interconnected using various buses, and several of the components may be mounted on a common motherboard or in other manners as appropriate.

The processor **901** can execute instructions within the computing device **900**, including instructions stored in the memory **902**. The processor may be implemented as a chipset of chips that include separate and multiple analog and digital processors. The processor may provide, for example, for coordination of the other components of the computing device **900**, such as control of user interfaces, applications run by computing device **900**, and wireless communication by computing device **900**.

Processor **901** may communicate with a user through control interface **906** and display interface **907** coupled to a display **903**. The display **903** may be, for example, a Thin-Film-Transistor Liquid Crystal Display (TFT LCD) or an Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) display, or other appropriate display technology. The display interface **907** may comprise appropriate circuitry for driving the display **903** to present graphical and other information to a user. The control interface **906** may receive commands from a user and convert them for submission to the processor **901**. In addition, an external interface **908** may be provided in communication with processor **901**, to enable near area communication of computing device **900** with other devices. External interface **908** may provide, for example, for wired communication in some implementations, or for wireless communication in other implementations, and multiple interfaces may also be used.

The memory **902** stores information within the computing device **900**. The memory **902** can be implemented as one or more of a computer-readable medium or media, a volatile memory unit or units, or a non-volatile memory unit or units. Expansion memory **909** may also be provided and connected to computing device **900** through expansion interface **910**, which may include, for example, a SIMM (Single In Line Memory Module) card interface. Such expansion memory **909** may provide extra storage space for computing device **900** or may also store applications or other information for computing device **900**. Specifically, expansion memory **909** may include instructions to carry out or supplement the processes described above and may also include secure information. Thus, for example, expansion memory **909** may be provided as a security module for computing device **900** and may be programmed with instructions that permit secure use of computing device **900**. In addition, secure applications may be provided via the

SIMM cards, along with additional information, such as placing identifying information on the SIMM card in a non-hackable manner.

The memory may include, for example, flash memory and/or NVRAM memory, as discussed below. In one implementation, a computer program product is tangibly embodied in an information carrier. The computer program product contains instructions that, when executed, perform one or more methods, such as those described above. The information carrier is a computer- or machine-readable medium, such as the memory **902**, expansion memory **909**, memory on processor **901**, or a propagated signal that may be received, for example, over transceiver **905** or external interface **908**.

Computing device **900** may communicate wirelessly through communication interface **904**, which may include digital signal processing circuitry where necessary. Communication interface **904** may in some cases be a cellular modem. Communication interface **904** may provide for communications under various modes or protocols, such as GSM voice calls, SMS, EMS, or MMS messaging, CDMA, TDMA, PDC, WCDMA, CDMA2000, or GPRS, among others. Such communication may occur, for example, through radio-frequency transceiver 1268. In addition, short-range communication may occur, such as using a Bluetooth, WiFi, or other such transceiver (not shown). In addition, GPS (Global Positioning System), receiver module **911** may provide additional navigation- and location-related wireless data to computing device **900**, which may be used as appropriate by applications running on computing device **900**.

Computing device **900** may also communicate audibly using audio codec **912**, which may receive spoken information from a user and convert it to usable digital information. Audio codec **912** may likewise generate audible sound for a user, such as through a speaker, e.g., in a handset of computing device **900**. Such sound may include sound from voice telephone calls, may include recorded sound (e.g., voice messages, music files, etc.) and may also include sound generated by applications operating on computing device **900**.

The computing device **900** may be implemented in a number of different forms.

Implementations of the subject matter and the operations described in this specification can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer software, firmware, or hardware, including the structures disclosed in this specification and their structural equivalents, or in combinations of one or more of them. Implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented as one or more computer programs, i.e., one or more modules of computer program instructions, encoded on computer storage medium for execution

by, or to control the operation of, data processing apparatus. Alternatively or in addition, the program instructions can be encoded on an artificially-generated propagated signal, e.g., a machine-generated electrical, optical, or electromagnetic signal, that is generated to encode information for transmission to suitable receiver apparatus for execution by a data processing apparatus. A computer storage medium can be, or be included in, a computer-readable storage device, a computer-readable storage substrate, a random or serial access memory array or device, or a combination of one or more of them. Moreover, while a computer storage medium is not a propagated signal, a computer storage medium can be a source or destination of computer program instructions encoded in an artificially-generated propagated signal. The computer storage medium can also be, or be included in, one or more separate physical components or media (e.g., multiple CDs, disks, or other storage devices).

The operations described in this specification can be implemented as operations performed by a data processing apparatus on data stored on one or more computer-readable storage devices or received from other sources.

The term "data processing apparatus" encompasses all kinds of apparatuses, devices, and machines for processing data, including by way of example a programmable processor, a computer, a system on a chip, or multiple ones, or combinations, of the foregoing. The apparatus can include special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit). The apparatus can also include, in addition to hardware, code that creates an execution environment for the computer program in question, e.g., code that constitutes processor firmware, a protocol stack, a database management system, an operating system, a cross-platform runtime environment, a virtual machine, or a combination of one or more of them. The apparatus and execution environment can realize various different computing model infrastructures, such as web services, distributed computing and grid computing infrastructures.

A computer program (also known as a program, software, software application, script, or code) can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, declarative or procedural languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, object, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment. A computer program may, but need not, correspond to a file in a file system. A program can be stored in a portion of a file that holds other programs or data (e.g., one or more scripts stored in a markup language resource), in a single file dedicated to the

program in question, or in multiple coordinated files (e.g., files that store one or more modules, sub-programs, or portions of code). A computer program can be deployed to be executed on one computer or on multiple computers that are located at one site or distributed across multiple sites and interconnected by a communication network.

The processes and logic flows described in this specification can be performed by one or more programmable processors executing one or more computer programs to perform actions by operating on input data and generating output. The processes and logic flows can also be performed by, and apparatus can also be implemented as, special purpose logic circuitry, e.g., an FPGA (field programmable gate array) or an ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit).

Processors suitable for the execution of a computer program include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and any one or more processors of any kind of digital computer.

Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for performing actions in accordance with instructions and one or more memory devices for storing instructions and data.

Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to receive data from or transfer data to, or both, one or more mass storage devices for storing data, e.g., magnetic, magneto-optical disks, or optical disks. However, a computer need not have such devices. Moreover, a computer can be embedded in another device, e.g., a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile audio or video player, a game console, a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, or a portable storage device (e.g., a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive), to name just a few. Devices suitable for storing computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, media and memory devices, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, e.g., EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks, e.g., internal hard disks or removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, special purpose logic circuitry.

To provide for interaction with a user, implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented on a computer having a display device, e.g., a CRT (cathode ray tube) or LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor, for displaying information to the user

and a keyboard and a pointing device, e.g., a mouse or a trackball, by which the user can provide input to the computer.

Other kinds of devices can be used to provide for interaction with a user as well; for example, feedback provided to the user can be any form of sensory feedback, e.g., visual feedback, auditory feedback, or tactile feedback; and input from the user can be received in any form, including acoustic, speech, or tactile input. In addition, a computer can interact with a user by sending resources to and receiving resources from a device that is used by the user; for example, by sending web pages to a web browser on a user's client device in response to requests received from the web browser.

Implementations of the subject matter described in this specification can be implemented in a computing system that includes a back-end component, e.g., as a data server, or that includes a middleware component, e.g., an application server, or that includes a front-end component, e.g., a client computer having a graphical user interface or a Web browser through which a user can interact with an implementation of the subject matter described in this specification, or any combination of one or more such back-end, middleware, or front-end components. The components of the system can be interconnected by any form or medium of digital data communication, e.g., a communication network.

Examples of communication networks include a local area network ("LAN") and a wide area network ("WAN"), an inter-network (e.g., the Internet), and peer-to-peer networks (e.g., ad hoc peer-to-peer networks).

The computing system can include clients and servers. A client and server are generally remote from each other and typically interact through a communication network. The relationship of client and server arises by virtue of computer programs running on the respective computers and having a client server relationship to each other. In some implementations, a server transmits data (e.g., an HTML page) to a client device (e.g., for purposes of displaying data to and receiving user input from a user interacting with the client device). Data generated at the client device (e.g., a result of the user interaction) can be received from the client device at the server.

A system of one or more computers can be configured to perform particular operations or actions by virtue of having software, firmware, hardware, or a combination of them installed on the system that in operation causes or cause the system to perform the actions. One or more computer programs can be configured to perform particular operations or actions by virtue of

including instructions that, when executed by data processing apparatus, cause the apparatus to perform the actions.

FIG 14 is a block diagram that shows an example communications network architecture, devices and components, including representations of communication circuitry that may be incorporated in the example biometric monitoring devices according to at least certain embodiments of the present inventions; notably, the communication circuitry may implement or employ any form of communications (for example, wireless, optical, or wired) and/or protocol (for example, standard or proprietary) now known or later developed, all forms of communications and protocols are intended to fall within the scope of the present inventions (for example, Bluetooth, ANT, WLAN, Wi-Fi, power-line networking, all types and forms of Internet based communications, and/or SMS). Large files can be distributed using a peer-to-peer, distributed file sharing protocol which both increases scalability of the networked system's throughput as more nodes are added and adds security due to fingerprinting for data integrity validation, inter-node consensus, and cryptographic shared secrets exchanged as an intrinsic aspect of the protocol. In some cases, an encrypted virtual private network is utilized to provide an extra level of security for all communications, but specifically administrative, maintenance & metric-gathering functions.

In the non-portable image sensor embodiments, before the image classification takes place, the images are conditioned for the classification. The unit takes several non-sample images (baseline images) during the day for calibration. Once the user's presence is detected, the unit can capture multiple images per second. Each image is then assessed for motion. To that end, a Harris & Stephens corner detector or similar is used to find corners in each image. The detected corners for each image are then assessed for motion by comparing a block of pixels around the corner of the current image with the next one in sequence using a motion detector like the Sum of Absolute Differences (SAD) processing. The number of flows above a set displacement threshold are then counted. If flows are counted above a set threshold, the image is deemed to be suboptimal and removed from further processing. The objective of this step is to limit the classification to the images that have a stationary sample. Depending on the analysis objective the image is then analyzed for indicative features.

In order to adapt to different toilets (including unique shapes, cleaning agents, water color conditions, material and porcelain colors) and lighting conditions, a baseline model of the empty toilet bowl may be obtained from the baseline images. To that extent, a training period of

sample images are taken during a training period when no excreta is in the toilet bowl. These baseline images are taken with and without lighting to develop a robust background model that generates moving-average baselines. The background can be eliminated from the detection by frame differencing, a Gaussian mixture model for each pixel, or mean filter for each pixel. In frame differencing, the values of consecutive images without the sample are subtracted from the pixel values of the image with the sample. In the case of a Gaussian Mixture Model, a confidence band for the value of each pixel for the background is developed. As part of pre-processing, pixels that fall within a confidence interval of the modelled mixture are ignored. In case of the mean filter, an arithmetic mean of each pixel value is computed from images that do not contain the sample. This value is subtracted from the pixels of images that contain the sample. All pixels with a threshold close to zero are ignored from the classification, including glare spots and static artifacts that are specific to the environment. Furthermore, to be invariant to lighting changes histogram equalization is performed. This procedure improves contrast in the image and makes the classification robust across different lighting condition. Once defecation and/or urination is complete, which is detected through software-based image detection, the sample collection is disengaged and the images are processed locally or sent through access point **30** to networked computing resources in a cloud computing environment **50**. Locally or remotely through memory **51** and processor **52** the images are then analyzed.

FIG. 15A is an image classification method for the portable device **600** that takes place after the user is identified, seated on the toilet and then points the device into the toilet bowl right before or during defecation and/or urination. As soon as the sample imaging is initiated, the light source is turned on, the application processor samples the image sensor continuously for frames, and the pan, tilt, and rotation angles are measured for each image captured from image sensor **613**. The electromagnetic radiation source **611** projects light of light at various spectra into the toilet bowl. The three-axis accelerometer sampling the pan, tilt, and rotation angles of the unit can be a MEMS-based (such as the Invensense MPU-60x0) or a solid-state accelerometer. The image sensor is a color CCD or a CMOS-based image sensor. Further, the optical stack comprises a non-wide-angle lens (<90 degrees FOV). That sensor and lens combination results in low image distortion. The sensor has a minimum resolution of least 500x500 pixels. The frames and angles are sampled at rates in excess of 2 frames per second and saved locally on the device until the sample collection is disengaged.

Once defecation and/or urination is complete, which is detected through software-based image detection, sound detection, and/or the possible completion of questions such as those shown in FIG. 10I and/or readying the unit for transport, the sample collection is disengaged and the images are processed locally or sent through access point **40** to networked computing resources in a cloud computing environment **50**. Locally or remotely through memory **51** and processor **52** the images are then analyzed.

In device **600** of the present invention (FIG. 10), the first step of the image processing is to rectify the images planar to the sample surface. As such the sampled pan, tilt, and rotation angles as well as the intrinsic camera parameters are used to compute an affine transformation of the image to the planar sample for each image. The images are then individually transformed to the perspective of the planar sample. The locations of known glare reflections of the light fixture are blackened. Each image is then assessed for motion. Similarly to the stationary unit, a Harris & Stephens corner detector or similar is used to find corners in each image. The detected corners for each image are then assessed for motion by comparing a block of pixels around the corner of the current image with the next one in sequence using a motion detector like the SAD processing. The number of flows above a set displacement threshold are then counted. If flows are counted above a set threshold, the image is deemed to be suboptimal and removed from further processing. The objective of this step is to limit the classification to the images that have a stationary sample. Depending on the analysis objective the image is then analyzed for indicative features.

FIG. 15B is an image classification method for determining stool consistency. In embodiments where the image is captured in color, the first step is to convert the captured color image into a grayscale image. The gradient magnitude of the image is then computed using an operator such as Sobel-Feldman Operator. The gradient magnitudes are binned into a histogram of a fixed step size. Each image is encoded as features as a quantized histogram of gradients. These features are then fed into a pre-trained classifier, such as a support-vector machine (SVM), that classifies the feature into a label according to the Bristol stool scale, or other similar clinically accepted scales known in the art. The classifier that assigns the label has been trained to labeled sets of images. Each image of the training set was assigned a discrete label that has been assigned as ground truth. The training of the SVM minimizes classification errors against these ground truth labels. This classification method determines the stool consistency from a range of hard and lumpy to completely unformed and liquid, using standard clinical labels used

in clinical studies to assess bowel consistency. However, instead of relying on patient self-reporting, this method automates or semi-automates the classification with objective images captured from the identified individual. An alternate method to determine stool consistency is to use a shallow neural network (NN). With more data, the NN will be more accurate since the first few layers of the neural network will, naturally with training, evolve into more accurate feature detectors than hand-crafted features such as histogram of gradients. The output of the NN is modeled as independent matrix functions for each desired class-label. The rectified linear unit on the individual output could be sigmoid function-like. The independent outputs are derived to "meta-class labels" such as healthy or unhealthy.

FIG. 15C is an image classification method for blood and urine colors. In pre-processing, the pixels that match a color distribution of stool, or known toilet fixtures, are blackened. From the remaining pixels a color histogram is computed for the red channel for blood, and the joint histogram of red and green for urine. The two histograms form the features for blood and urine classification respectively. From expert-labelled data, the limiting thresholds are obtained for each color channel for blood and urine and histograms for the color channels are cropped accordingly. Now the total count of values of the histogram is normalized to the total number of pixels in the remaining image. From the same historic data set, thresholds are obtained for the normalized count for each channel for true blood and urine samples respectively. Classification is then performed based on these thresholds. Alternatively, the normalized histograms of historic data are used to train an SVM. The pre-trained SVM provides a model to classify the histograms into known class labels. The features for blood and urine are then classified using pre-trained classifiers, such as SVM's. The SVM has been pre-trained with features from expert-labelled images for the desired class-labels. For computational efficiency SVMs are trained to classify the sample into categories. The images used to train the SVM are labelled by experts and features extracted in the same way as the sample for each type of analysis. Representative labels are indicated in FIG 15D.

FIG. 15E shows the workflow for estimating the urine and stool voiding volume of a person. Temporal changes in water level are used to approximate voiding volume for urine and stool. The temporal change in level is a key indicator for density or porosity of the sample. The density estimate provides another input to a machine learning method to achieve a higher classification accuracy with respect to the Bristol stool scale or related methods, when combined with optical features. For each demographic and gender type the average constant voiding rate in

milliliter per second can be specified. To approximate the voiding volume the start and the stop time of the voiding is performed using an image sensor. When the user voids, the water table inside the toilet exhibits motion. Optical motion sensing from pairs of consecutive frames flag if the person is still voiding. The sum of the inter-frame capture time of pairs of frames that exhibit motion is factored with the constant flow rate to model the voiding volume. Motion sensing approaches that pertain to this are background subtraction based on sum-of-absolute differences, motion sensing based on background subtraction of averages, and motion sensing based on background subtraction Gaussian Mixture models. Approaches that do not rely on a background model can also be used, such as thresholding a sum-of-absolute differences of pairs of frames.

To further improve the accuracy of the system the estimation of the voiding volume can be guarded by user detection using other means, such as a capacitive sensor capable of detecting when a user sits on the toilet seat or an ultrasonic sensor capable of detecting a standing user in front of the toilet, for example a male urinating standing up. This guard of the estimation process allows for excluding false sources of motion, and also resets the volume estimate across different users and periods of voiding.

The image classification methods and systems presented can be applied to obtain results from tests that may be performed in a toilet setting involving colorimetric changes. These include urine test strips, lateral flow tests or immunochromatographic assays, or other currently available or future tests where the precise measurement of color changes can be used to obtain quantitative or semi-quantitative results.

Information may also be interactively provided on a personal mobile device **60**, which may be a smartphone or connected device worn on the body such as a wristwatch. After data is stored, analysis may also be conducted through human review, such as verifying flagged images or using information such as weight, body composition, stool consistency, stool frequency, urine color, voiding volume, urine frequency, and presence of visible blood to make a recommendation or provide an alert. In non-portable embodiments of the image sensor device, controlling the parameters and geometry of the lighting and imagers means that the system does not have to account for perspective distortion as a mobile camera would. Further, the fixed setting provides the opportunity to add polarization and wavelength filters to the imagers to limit the ingested light to a spectrum that shows the features needed for the classification more profoundly. By using polarization lenses effects of glare and unwanted reflections can be mitigated that provides a significant noise reduction and improves the overall quality of the classifiable features.

In other embodiments, a method of determining a physiological parameter of a user is provided. The method comprises expelling a material into the bowl of a toilet in the presence of the above biomonitoring device. FIG. 16 shows a typical workflow for these methods.

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In view of the above, it will be seen that several objectives of the invention are achieved and other advantages attained.

As various changes could be made in the above methods and compositions without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

All references cited in this specification are hereby incorporated by reference. The discussion of the references herein is intended merely to summarize the assertions made by the authors and no admission is made that any reference constitutes prior art. Applicants reserve the right to challenge the accuracy and pertinence of the cited references.

What is claimed is:

1. A biomonitoring device that measures a parameter of a material expelled during use of a toilet by a user, the device comprising a sensor that detects electromagnetic radiation or an analyte chemical in the bowl of the toilet.

2. The biomonitoring device of claim 1, wherein the material is feces, urine, flatus, or off-gas from feces or urine.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor is an image sensor.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the image sensor captures visible and/or invisible light.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the image sensor comprises a lens.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the image sensor comprises a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor.

7. The device of claim 3, further comprising components for spectroscopic detection of a substance.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the components for spectroscopic detection comprise a laser diode or photo diode array, a prism, a photosensor or photodetector, and a distance sensor.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein the substance is blood or urine.

10. The device of claim 5, wherein the image sensor comprises a thermographic array.

11. The device of claim 5, wherein the lens is situated such that it does not change position when a seat is lifted.

12. The device of claim 4, further comprising an electromagnetic radiation source that emits electromagnetic radiation into the bowl.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is visible and/or invisible light.

14. The device of claim 1, wherein the sensor detects an analyte chemical in the bowl.

15. The device of claim 5, wherein the analyte chemical is in a liquid in the bowl.

16. The device of claim 14, wherein the analyte chemical is gaseous.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the gaseous chemicals are volatile organic compounds.

18. The device of claim 16, wherein the gaseous chemicals are detected by a gas sensor.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein the gas sensor is operatively connected to an air fan and duct that pulls air from inside the toilet bowl through the gas sensor.

20. The device of claim 18, wherein the gas sensor comprises a micro hotplate metal-oxide sensor.

21. The device of claim 18, wherein the gas sensor comprises an electrochemical sensor.

22. The device of claim 1, further comprising a dispenser that can dispense a solution into the bowl.

23. The device of claim 22, wherein the dispenser is operatively connected to a receptacle containing the solution.

24. The device of claim 22, wherein the solution is a deodorizer, reagent, or cleaning agent.

25. The device of claim 22, wherein the dispenser dispenses a reagent into the bowl that combines with a substance in the bowl to facilitate the sensor's function.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the reagent facilitates the visualization of the substance.

27. The device of claim 26, wherein the substance is blood.

28. The device of claim 1, further comprising a conductive material situated to contact skin of the user that measures bioelectrical impedance.

29. The device of claim 28, wherein the conductive material is applied using tampography.

30. The device of claim 1, further comprising a load cell capable of measuring the weight of the user.

31. The device of claim 1, further comprising a capacitive sensor that detects the presence of the user while seated on the seat of the toilet.

32. The device of claim 31, wherein the sensor also measures the length of time a user is seated on the seat of the toilet.

33. The device of claim 1, further comprising a filter that cleans air from the bowl prior to exiting the bowl.

34. The device of claim 1, further comprising a battery that powers the sensor.

35. The device of claim 34, further comprising a charging port operatively connected to the battery.

36. The device of claim 1, further comprising a data storage and/or transmittal unit that stores and/or transmit data from the sensor.

37. The device of claim 36, comprising a transmittal unit that transmits data via wireless, optical or wired communications to a computing unit.

38. The device of claim 37, wherein the computing unit analyzes data from the sensor.

39. The device of claim 38, wherein the device undergoes a training period where data is analyzed when no excreta is in the bowl.

40. The device of claim 38, wherein the computing unit analyzes electromagnetic radiation data from the sensor.

41. The device of claim 38, wherein the computing unit analyzes an analyte chemical in the bowl.

42. The device of claim 38, wherein the computing unit analyzes the data to determine stool consistency, presence of blood, urine color, urine voiding volume, weight, body composition, stool frequency, or urine frequency.

43. The device of claim 1, integrated into a toilet seat.

44. The device of claim 43, comprising any or all of an image sensor, an electromagnetic radiation source, a gas sensor operatively connected to an air fan and duct that pulls air from inside the toilet bowl through the gas sensor, a dispenser that can dispense a solution into the bowl and operatively connected to a receptacle containing the solution, a conductive material situated to contact skin of the user that measures bioelectrical impedance, a load cell capable of measuring the weight of the user, a capacitive sensor that detects the presence of the user while seated on the seat of the toilet, a filter that cleans air from the bowl prior to exiting the bowl, a charging port operatively connected to a battery, and/or a transmittal unit that transmits data via wireless, optical or wired communications to a computing unit.

45. The device of claim 1, comprising an image sensor and a light source capable of being bolted onto a toilet using bolts that hold a toilet seat onto the toilet.

46. The device of claim 45, wherein the image sensor comprises a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor.

47. The device of claim 45, wherein the image sensor comprises a thermographic array.

48. The device of claim 45, further comprising a wire capable of transmitting power and communications.

49. The device of claim 44, further comprising processing and communications circuitry.

50. The device of claim 1, wherein the device is portable and not (a) fixed to the toilet with a connector, or (b) integrated into the toilet or a toilet seat.

51. The device of claim 50, comprising a body and two wings capable of extending outward at opposing 90-degree angles from the body, which can be placed on the lap of the user with the body extending below the legs of the user, facing towards the drain hole of the toilet bowl.

52. The device of claim 51, wherein the body is sealed from liquid ingress.

53. The device of claim 51, wherein the wings can be folded downward to be parallel and adjacent to the body.

54. The device of claim 51, wherein the wings can be folded to be parallel and extending upward from the body.

55. The device of claim 51, wherein the body comprises any or all of a capacitive touchscreen panel, a fingerprint sensor, a printed circuit board assembly, a module chip

containing logic and communications hardware and components, a three-axis accelerometer, a battery, an image sensor, a data storage unit, an electromagnetic radiation source, a lens, a thermographic array, and/or a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor sensor.

56. The device of claim 50, configured to be installed on top of a toilet seat.

57. The device of claim 56, wherein the device comprises any or all of a printed circuit board assembly, a module chip, an image sensor, a data storage module, a light source, a lens, a housing for the optical sensor, a thermographic array, a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor sensor, and/or a battery.

58. The device of claim 56, further comprising a spring-loaded feature that adapts to multiple seat widths to securely hold the device in place, yet allowing for easy and rapid removal by user.

59. The device of claim 58, wherein the spring-loaded feature comprises a sliding plunger backed by a spring that applies pressure to the outside of a toilet seat.

60. The device of claim 50, configured to be installed below a toilet seat, on a rim of the bowl.

61. The device of claim 60, wherein the device comprises any or all of an optical head, a rotating feature that allows the optical head to be positioned for optimal alignment to the excreta in the toilet bowl, a printed circuit board assembly, a module chip, a battery, an image sensor, a data storage unit, an optical sensor, a light source, a lens, a housing for the optical sensor, a thermographic array, a complementary metal–oxide–semiconductor sensor, and/or a flushable sanitary bag.

62. A mirror that performs any or all of the following functions: identify a user through facial recognition; detect a febrile illness in a user; dispense oral medications and supplements; gather data from portable electronic device accessories that may include a core temperature

thermometer, toothbrush, shaver, breath sensor, otoscope, ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, pulse oximeter, and blood pressure monitor; and provide an interactive user interface.

63. The mirror of claim 62, wherein the mirror is portable.

64. The mirror of claim 62, wherein the mirror is mounted to a wall.

65. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising an ambient light sensor.

66. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising a passive infrared sensor.

67. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising a laser diode and an image sensor.

68. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising a thermal sensor.

69. The mirror of claim 58, further comprising a microphone and a speaker.

70. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising a screen that serves as both a mirror and a touch display.

71. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising a pill pack cartridge and a pill dispenser.

72. The mirror of claim 62, further comprising an interactive user interface.

73. The mirror of claim 62, wherein the interactive user interface can interact with the biomonitoring device of claim 1 or any component of the system of claim 74.

74. A system for measuring a parameter of a material expelled during use of a toilet by a user, the system comprising the biomonitoring device of any one of claims 1-61.

75. The system of claim 74, further comprising the mirror of claim 62.

76. The system of claim 74, further comprising a foot scale designed to be placed on the floor that performs any or all of the following functions: calculate, measure, assess and/or determine physiologic data.

77. The system of claim 75, further comprising an electronic console that performs any or all of the following functions: measure ambient light, determine user presence, identify user, and/or has a user interface to display physiologic information.

78. The system of claim 77, wherein the displayed physiologic information is any or all of the following: current information, historical information and/or current information in view of historical information.

79. The system of claim 74, further comprising an image classification method that processes images from the biomonitoring device.

80. The system of claim 79, wherein the image classification method determines stool consistency, blood and/or urine color, urine and/or stool voiding volume, and/or results of a test that involves colorimetric changes.

81. A method of determining a physiological parameter of a user, the method comprising expelling a material into the bowl of a toilet in the presence of (a) the biomonitoring device of any one of claims 1-61 or (b) the system of any one of claims 75-80.