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(71) Applicant: **COASTAL GENOMICS** [CA/CA]; 182-4664
Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, BC V5C 5T5 (CA).

(72) Inventors: **EVERS-STAPLES, Ben**; 4959 Manor Street,
Vancouver, BC V5R 3Y1 (CA). **SLOBODAN, Jared**; 133
Pryde Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9S 4P9 (CA).

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(54) Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHODS FOR HANDLING LABWARE

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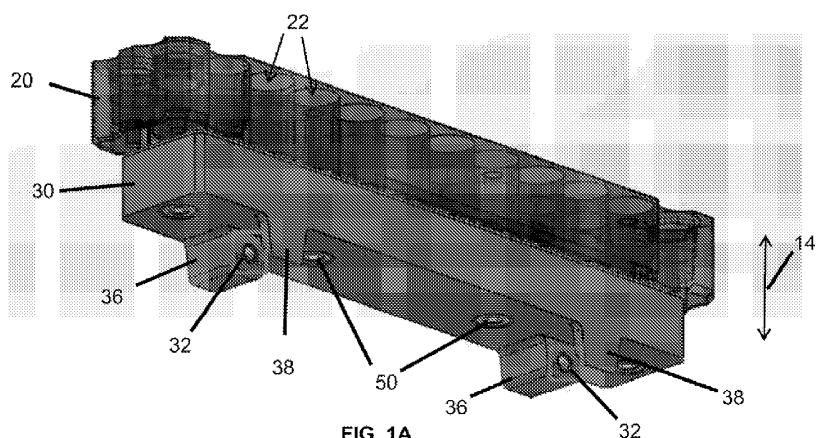


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: An apparatus configured to complementarily engage a pipetting head of a liquid handling system such that movement of the pipetting head effects a corresponding movement of the apparatus. The apparatus includes at least one engagement feature that is configured to mechanically and releasably engage a surface of a lab ware item as a means of releasably coupling the labware item to the apparatus. The labware item has at least one complementary engagement feature and optionally at least one release feature. With the labware item secured within a receptacle, the apparatus can translate relative to the labware item so that the engagement features of the apparatus are in engagement with the release features of the labware item, thereby permitting release of the labware item upon movement of the apparatus relative to the labware item.

[Continued on next page]

WO 2022/084743 A1

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