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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AN-
GIOTECH PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [CA/CA];
1618 Station Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6A
1B6 (CA).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GORALTCHOUK,
Alexei [CA/US]; 106-115 Willow Springs Lane, Goleta,
CA 93117 (US). DRUBETSKY, Lev [CA/CA]; 2948
Waterford Place, Coquitlam, British Columbia, V3E 2S9
(CA). CUMMINGS, Gerald, F. [CA/CA]; 239 April
Road, Port Moody, British Columbia, V3H 3V3 (CA).
HERRMANN, Robert, A. [US/CA]; 1082 Seymour
Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1X9 (CA).
NAIMAGON, Alexander [CA/CA]; 11-8711 General
Currie Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V6Y 1M3
(CA).

(74) Agents: PHINNEY, David, D. et al.; Angiotech, P.O.
Box 2840, North Bend, WA 98045 (US).

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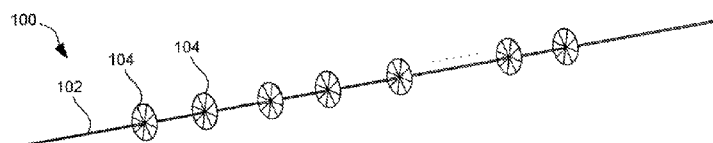


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Provided herein are sutures for use in a procedure applied to tissue, and methods for forming such sutures. Some sutures include bi-directional retainers, each of which can be deployed in two directions, but once deployed in one direction, resist motion in the opposite direction. Other sutures include uni-directional retainers that are conical in shape, and include tissue engaging protrusions that extend from edges and/or angled walls of the conical retainers.