CLAIMS:

1. A transport device comprising:

a main body having a handle, a bottom, and a plate at the bottom of the main body;

an interchangeable wheel base separate from the main body, the interchangeable wheel base having at least one wheel and a top surface, wherein an opening is formed in the top surface; and

a locking mechanism coupled to the main body and including:

a rod; and

a spring configured to cause the rod to engage the opening in the top surface automatically in response to alignment of the rod and the opening to releasably couple the main body with the interchangeable wheel base.

2. The transport device of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism further comprises a knob attached to the rod.

3. The transport device of claim 1, wherein the plate of said main body can slide on the top surface of said interchangeable wheel base when said locking mechanism is uncoupled.

4. The transport device of claim 3, further comprising guiderails located on two opposing sides of said interchangeable wheel base, said guiderails guiding the main body as it slides on said interchangeable wheel base.

5. The transport device of claim 1, wherein said transport device is fully autoclavable.

6. The transport device of claim 1, wherein said transport device comprises a cart.

7. The transport device of claim 1, further comprising at least one guide wheel coupled with the plate for slidably supporting said main body on the top surface of said interchangeable wheel base.

8. A cart for transporting items between a controlled environment and an uncontrolled environment, said cart comprising:

a frame having a bottom shelf forming a bottom surface of said frame, a top shelf, and support posts coupling the bottom shelf with the top shelf;

a wheel base separate from the frame, the wheel base having a top plate with a bottom surface and a flat top surface, a plurality of wheels coupled to the bottom surface of the top plate, and wherein the flat top surface slidably receives the bottom surface of the frame, wherein an opening is formed in the top surface; and

a locking mechanism configured to releasably couple the frame with the wheel base and including:

a rod; and

a spring configured to cause the rod to engage the opening in the top surface automatically in response to alignment of the rod and the opening, wherein the locking mechanism is coupled with the frame and has a rod configured to engage an opening in the flat top surface of the top plate to releasably couple the frame to the wheel base.

9. The cart of claim 8, wherein said frame can be selectively uncoupled from the wheel base and coupled to a second wheel base.

10. The cart of claim 8, said bottom shelf having a downwardly-turned side, further comprising at least one guide wheel coupled with the downwardly-turned side of said bottom shelf for slidably supporting said frame on the flat top surface of said wheel base.

11. The cart of claim 10, said wheel base having an upturned side and a top ledge forming a channel, wherein said at least one guide wheel is slidably received in the channel.

12. The transport device of claim 1, wherein the rod is configured to extend from the handle to engage the opening.

13. The transport device of claim 12, wherein the handle is attached to an upper support member of the main body and the rod extends through a hole in the upper support member.

14. The transport device of claim 13, wherein:

an upper stop member is attached to the rod

the spring is wider than the hole in the upper support member;

the upper stop member is wider that the spring; and

the spring is positioned between the upper support member and the upper stop member.

15. The transport device of claim 14, wherein:

a lower stop member is attached to the rod; and

the lower stop member is wider than the opening in the top surface of the interchangeable wheel base.