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- (54) **Title:** MICROARRAYS, HYBRIDIZATION SEALS, AND RELATED METHODS

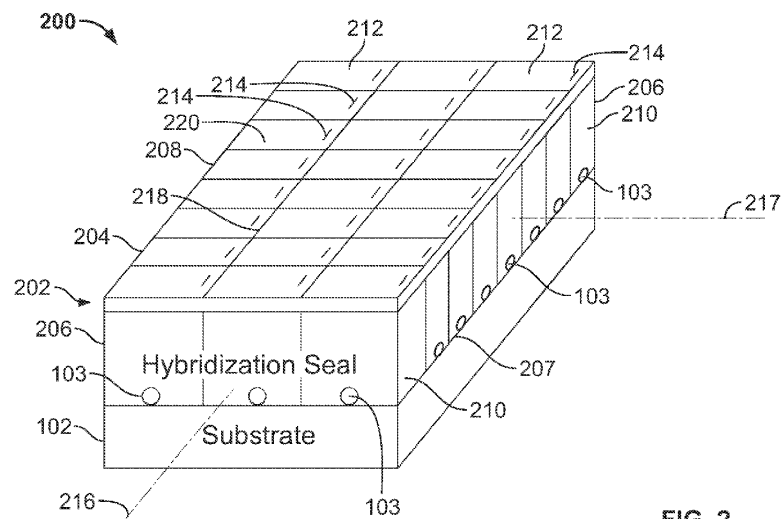


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** Microarrays, hybridization seals and related methods. An apparatus includes a substrate including a plurality of probes and a hybridization seal. The hybridization seal includes an evaporation barrier and a layer including walls that form a grid pattern and define a plurality of sample chambers that are to receive fluid. The layer includes a first side removably coupled to the substrate and a second side that is coupled to the evaporation barrier. The evaporation barrier includes barrier sections that cover the probes and include one or more slits that allow the barrier sections to have a convex profile or a concave profile depending on an amount of the fluid within the corresponding sample chamber.

[Continued on next page]

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