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(71) Applicant: **EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORPORATION** [US/US]; One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

(72) Inventors: **FINE, Maxwell, Harrison**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **TAMIR, Iian**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **LEE, Jeong, Soo**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **TRAN, Sonny**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **GAFFNEY, Leah, Paige**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **BULMAN, Erik**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US). **SALEH, Nasser, William**; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Legal Department, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

(74) Agent: **GERMAN, Joel B.** et al.; Edwards Lifesciences, One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE SHEATH FOR INTRODUCING AN ENDOVASCULAR DELIVERY DEVICE INTO A BODY

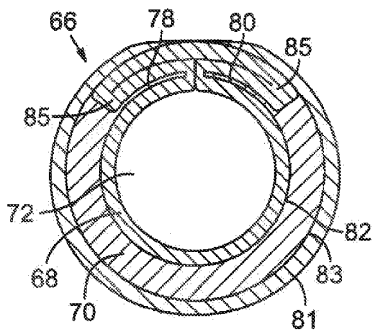

FIG. 27B

(57) Abstract: Examples of an expandable sheath can be used in conjunction with a catheter assembly to introduce a prosthetic device, such as a heart valve, into a patient. Such examples can minimize trauma to the vessel by allowing for temporary expansion of a portion of the introducer sheath to accommodate the delivery apparatus, followed by a return to the original diameter once the prosthetic device passes through. Some examples can include a sheath with inner and outer layers, where a folded portion of the inner layer extends through a slit in the outer layer and a portion of the outer layer overlaps the folded portion of the inner layer. Some examples include an elastic outer cover positioned outside the outer layer. Examples of the present expandable sheath can avoid the need for multiple insertions for the dilation of the vessel, thus offering advantages over prior art introducer sheaths.

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