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(54) Title: **EXTERNAL ILLUMINATOR, A MICROSCOPE, AND A MICROSCOPY METHOD**

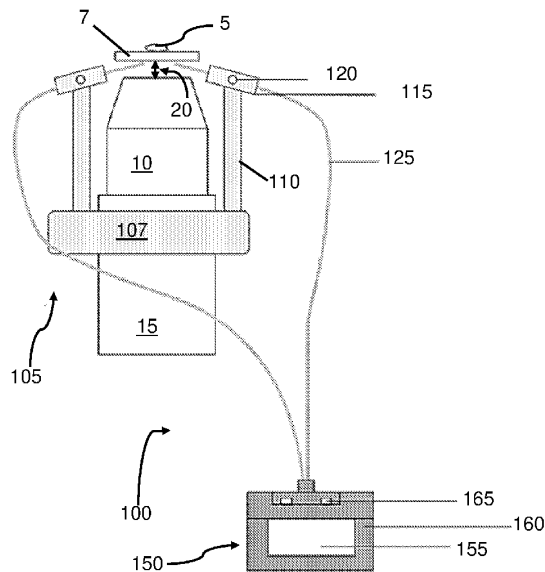


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** An external illuminator for a microscope, a microscope, and a microscopy method is described. The external illuminator includes a light source; at least one optical fibre optically coupled to the light source, the at least one optical fibre configured to deliver and direct light from the light source along an illumination path to a sample being observed through an objective lens of the microscope, the objective lens having a working distance of 2mm or less; and an adjustment module couplable to a portion of the microscope and arranged to support the at least one optical fibre, wherein the adjustment module is configured to adjust the at least one optical fibre spatially and/or angularly relative to the objective lens in a manner such that the illumination path is separate from a detection path of the objective lens, and the objective lens is movable to the working distance of the objective lens.

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