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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): BURSTEIN LABORATORIES, INC. [US/US]; 33601 Avenida Calita, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (US). Rt to 306.

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): VIRTANEN, Jorma [US/US]; 5005 Paseo Segovia, Irvine, CA 92612 (US).

(74) Agent: HALLUIN, Albert, P.; Howrey & Simon, 1299 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Box 34, Washington, DC 20004–2402 (US).

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(54) Title: LABORATORY IN A DISK

(57) Abstract

An apparatus is described that includes an optical disk, adapted to be read by an optical reader, comprising a first sector having substantially self–contained assay means for localizing an analyte suspected of being in a sample to at least one, predetermined location in the first sector and a second sector containing control means for conducting the assay and analyte location information, with respect to one or more analytes suspected of being in a sample, accessible to the reader, wherein the presence or absence of the analyte at said location is determinable by the reader using the control means and the location information. Depending on the nature of the assay, the disk will include fluid storage means, fluid transfer means, such as one or more capillary ducts, valves, batteries, dialyzers, columns, filters, sources of electric fields, wires or other electrical conductive means such as metallic surface deposits and the like.