CLAIMS

1. A sensor reader, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a wireless signal transmitted from a sensor;

a user interface for displaying information to a user of the sensor reader, wherein the information is related to information contained within said wireless signal;

a photodetector for detecting the intensity of ambient light;

a processor in communication with the receiver, photodetector and user interface, wherein

the processor is configured to: (a) determine an amount of ambient light in response to the occurrence of a certain event and (b) energize the sensor in response to the occurrence of the event if, and only if, the determined amount of ambient light does not exceed a threshold.

2. The sensor reader of claim 1, further comprising a housing for housing the receiver, user interface and photodetector.

3. The sensor reader of claim 2, further comprising an opaque wrist band, wherein the housing is attached to the opaque wrist band.

4. The sensor reader of claim 1, further comprising a processor in communication with the receiver, photodetector and user interface.

5. The sensor reader of claim 4, wherein the processor is programmed to receive from the photodetector data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light and is further programmed to issue an alert to the user if the data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light indicates that the intensity is greater than a predetermined threshold.

6. The sensor reader of claim 4, wherein the processor is programmed to (a) receive from the photodetector data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light, (b) receive from the receiver data transmitted from the sensor, (c) compute a value that is based on the data received from the photodetector and the data received from the receiver; and (d) display the value on the user interface.

7. In a sensor reader having a photodetector, a receiver for receiving a signal from an optical sensor, and a user interface for receiving input from a user of the sensor reader and for providing the user with information, a method, comprising:

determining the intensity of ambient light;

determining whether the intensity of the ambient light is greater than a predetermined threshold intensity; and

issuing a warning to the user if it is determined that the intensity of the ambient light is greater than the predetermined threshold intensity.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising activating

the sensor if it is determined that the intensity of the ambient light is less than the predetermined threshold intensity.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising receiving a signal transmitted from the optical sensor, wherein the signal contains information relating to an analyte.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising using information contained in the signal and the determined intensity of the ambient light to compute a value relating to the analyte.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising outputting information to the user via the user interface, wherein the outputted information is a function of the information contained in the signal received from the optical sensor.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the signal is transmitted wirelessly.

13. A sensor reader, comprising:

a photodetector;

a receiver for receiving a signal from an optical sensor;

a user interface for receiving input from a user of the sensor reader and for providing the user with information:

means for determining the intensity of ambient light;

means for determining whether the intensity of the ambient light is greater than a predetermined threshold intensity; and

means for issuing a warning to the user if it is determined that the intensity of the ambient light is greater than the predetermined threshold intensity.

14. The sensor reader of claim 13, further comprising means for activating the sensor in response to the determining means determining that the intensity of the ambient light is less than the predetermined threshold intensity.

15. The sensor reader of claim 14, wherein, after the sensor is activated, the receiver receives a signal transmitted from the optical sensor, wherein the signal contains information relating to an analyte.

16. The sensor reader of claim 15, further comprising means for using information contained in the signal and the determined intensity of the ambient light to compute a value relating to the analyte.

17. The sensor reader of claim 15, further comprising means for outputting information to the user via the user interface, wherein the outputted information is a function of the information contained in the signal received from the optical sensor.

18. The sensor reader of claim 15, wherein the signal is transmitted wirelessly.

19. The sensor reader of claim 13, further comprising a housing for housing the receiver, user interface and photodetector.

20. The sensor reader of claim 19, further comprising an opaque wrist band, wherein the housing is attached to the opaque wrist band.

21. A sensor reader, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a wireless signal transmitted from a sensor;

a user interface for displaying information to a user of the sensor reader, wherein the information is related to information contained within said wireless signal;

a photodetector for detecting the intensity of ambient light; and

a processor in communication with the receiver, photodetector and user interface, wherein

the processor is programmed to receive from the photodetector data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light and is further programmed to issue an alert to the user if the data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light indicates that the intensity is greater than a pre-determined threshold.

22. The sensor reader of claim 21, further comprising a

housing for housing the receiver, user interface, photodetector, and processor.

23. The sensor reader of claim 22, further comprising an opaque wrist band, wherein the housing is attached to the opaque wrist band.

24. The sensor reader of claim 21, wherein the processor is further programmed to (a) receive data transmitted from the sensor, (b) compute a value that is based on the data received from the photodetector and the data transmitted from the sensor; and (c) display the value on the user interface.

25. A sensor reader, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a wireless signal transmitted from a sensor;

a user interface for displaying information to a user of the sensor reader, wherein the information is related to information contained within said wireless signal;

a photodetector for detecting the intensity of ambient light; and

a processor in communication with the receiver, photodetector and user interface, wherein

the processor is programmed to (a) receive from the photodetector data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light, (b) receive data transmitted from the sensor, (c) compute a value that is based on the data received from the photodetector and the data transmitted from the sensor; and (c) display the value on the user

interface.

26. The sensor reader of claim 25, further comprising a housing for housing the receiver, user interface, photodetector, and processor.

27. The sensor reader of claim 26, further comprising an opaque wrist band, wherein the housing is attached to the opaque wrist band.

28. The sensor reader of claim 25, wherein the processor is further configured to issue an alert if the data corresponding to the intensity of said ambient light indicates that the intensity is greater than a pre-determined threshold.

29. The sensor reader of claim 1, wherein the certain event is a user requesting to obtain a reading from the sensor.

30. The sensor reader of claim 1, wherein the certain event is an end of a time interval.