CLAIM(S):

1. A tube retainer comprising:

a block comprising:

a top wall;

a bottom wall;

a first side wall;

a second side wall;

a third side wall; and

a fourth side wall;

a first opening comprising a tube slot having a first slot end and a second slot end, and

a second opening having a generally annular shape, the first opening communicating with the second opening, the first and second openings passing through the top wall and the bottom wall;

wherein at least the first side wall and the second side wall each include

a male block connector comprising an outwardly extending member having a first rounded end and a second rounded end, the first rounded end and the second rounded end facing in opposite directions and being spaced from and arranged generally parallel to, the side wall; ~~and/or~~ and

a female block connector comprising a recess comprising a first pocket having an open end and a closed end, and a second pocket having an open end and a closed end, wherein the first pocket and the second pocket are arranged generally parallel to the side wall, and the open end of the first pocket faces the open end of the second pocket;

wherein the third wall or the fourth wall includes the first slot end of the tube slot.

~~2. The tube retainer of claim 1, wherein the first side wall and the second side wall each include a male block connector and a female block connector.~~

~~3~~2. A tube retainer set comprising at least two tube retainers according to claim 1 ~~and/or claim 2~~, wherein the at least two tube retainers are interlocked with each other such that the first rounded end and the second rounded end of the outwardly extending member of the male block connector included in the first or second wall of one of the at least two tube retainers are engaged in the first pocket and the second pocket in the recess of the female block connector included in the first or second wall of the other of the at least two tube retainers and the outwardly extending member of the male block connector included in the first or second wall of one of the at least two tube retainers closes off the first slot end of the tube slot of the other of the at least two tube retainers.

~~4~~3. A tube management system comprising:

~~at least one~~ the tube retainer set according to claim ~~1 or 2 and/or at least one tube retainer set according to claim~~ ~~3~~2; and,

a mounting bar for the at least ~~one~~ two tube ~~retainer,~~ retainers, the mounting bar comprising a front wall and at least two female block connectors, each female block connector comprising a recess comprising a first pocket having an open end and a closed end, and a second pocket having an open end and a closed end, wherein the first pocket and the second pocket are arranged generally parallel to the front wall and the open end of the first pocket faces the open end of the second pocket.

~~5~~4. The tube management system of claim ~~4~~3, wherein the mounting bar includes a flange for attachment to a bioprocessing system.

~~6~~5. A method of assembling tube retainers, the method comprising:

interlocking a first tube retainer ~~including a top wall; a bottom wall; a first side wall; a second side wall; a third side wall; and a fourth side wall; a first opening comprising a tube slot having a first slot end and a second slot end, and a second opening having a generally annular shape, the first opening communicating with the second opening, the first and second openings passing through the top wall and the bottom wall; the first tube retainer comprising at least one male block connector comprising an~~

~~outwardly extending member having a first rounded end and a second rounded end, the first rounded end and the second rounded end facing in opposite directions and being spaced from and arranged generally parallel to, the side wall,~~

comprising a block comprising:

a top wall; a bottom wall; a first side wall; a second side wall;

a third side wall; and a fourth side wall;

a first opening comprising a tube slot having a first slot end and a second slot end, and

a second opening having a generally annular shape, the first opening communicating with the second opening, the first and second openings passing through the top wall and the bottom wall;

wherein at least the first side wall and the second side wall each include

a male block connector comprising an outwardly extending member having a first rounded end and a second rounded end, the first rounded end and the second rounded end facing in opposite directions and being spaced from and arranged generally parallel to, the side wall;

and

a female block connector comprising a recess comprising a first pocket having an open end and a closed end, and a second pocket having an open end and a closed end, wherein the first pocket and the second pocket are arranged generally parallel to the side wall, and the open end of the first pocket faces the open end of the second pocket;

wherein the third wall or the fourth wall includes the first slot end of the tube slot;

with

a second tube retainer ~~including a top wall; a bottom wall; a first side wall; a second side wall; a third side wall; and a fourth side wall; a first opening comprising a tube slot having a first slot end and a second slot end, and a second opening having a generally annular shape, the first opening communicating with the second opening, the first and second openings passing through the top wall and the bottom wall; the~~

~~second tube retainer comprising at least one female block connector comprising a recess comprising a first pocket having an open end and a closed end, and a second pocket having an open end and a closed end, wherein the first pocket and the second pocket are arranged generally parallel to the side wall, and the open end of the first pocket faces the open end of the second pocket,~~

comprising a block comprising:

a top wall; a bottom wall; a first side wall; a second side wall;

a third side wall; and a fourth side wall;

a first opening comprising a tube slot having a first slot end and a second slot end, and

a second opening having a generally annular shape, the first opening communicating with the second opening, the first and second openings passing through the top wall and the bottom wall;

wherein at least the first side wall and the second side wall each include

a male block connector comprising an outwardly extending member having a first rounded end and a second rounded end, the first rounded end and the second rounded end facing in opposite directions and being spaced from and arranged generally parallel to, the side wall;

and

a female block connector comprising a recess comprising a first pocket having an open end and a closed end, and a second pocket having an open end and a closed end, wherein the first pocket and the second pocket are arranged generally parallel to the side wall, and the open end of the first pocket faces the open end of the second pocket;

wherein the third wall or the fourth wall includes the first slot end of the tube slot;

such that the first rounded end and the second rounded end of the outwardly extending member of ~~the at least one~~ a male block connector included in the first or second wall of the first tube retainer are engaged in the first pocket and the second

pocket in the recess of ~~the at least one~~ a female block connector included in the first or second wall of the second tube retainer.

~~7~~6. The method of claim ~~6~~5, further comprising passing a first tube through the tube slot and into the second opening of the first tube retainer.

~~8~~7. The method of claim ~~7~~6, further comprising passing a second tube through the tube slot and into the second opening of the second tube retainer.

8. The method of claim 5, including closing off the first slot end of the tube slot of the second tube retainer with the outwardly extending member of the male block connector included in the first or second wall of the first tube retainer.