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(71) Applicant: **ABIOMED, INC.** [US/US]; 22 Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US).

(72) Inventors: **CORBET, Scott**; 22 Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US). **DAS, Soumen**; 22 Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US). **GILMAN, Vladimir**; 22 Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US). **DING, Jun**; 22

Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US). **MORETZ, Jeremy**; 22 Cherry Hill Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 (US).

(74) Agent: **PATTILLO, Alan, C.**; Meagher Emanuel Laks Goldberg & Liao, LLP., One Palmer Square, Suite 325, Princeton, NJ 08542 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD OF PURGING A BLOOD PUMP

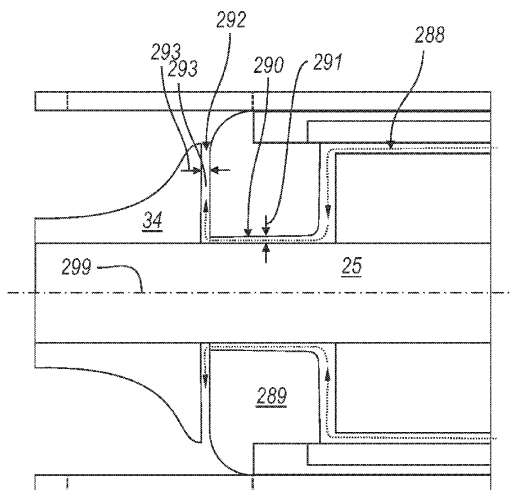


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: Devices, system, and methods are provided based on a technique for purging a blood pump. The technique may include providing a blood pump having an impeller and providing a fluid comprising a bicarbonate. The technique may include flowing the fluid through a first gap between a bearing and an outer surface of a rotatable shaft coupled to the impeller, the bearing and gap being disposed within a lumen of a tubular member and depending on the flow rate of the fluid and the speed of the impeller, the fluid may flow through the first gap and into a second gap between the bearing and a surface of the impeller facing the bearing. The bicarbonate reduces denaturation and adsorption of any blood proteins in the gap(s).

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