CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A catheter system, comprising:

a catheter adapter, comprising a distal end, a proximal end, a lumen extending through the distal end and the proximal end, and a side port in fluid communication with the lumen;

a catheter extending distally from the catheter adapter;

a septum disposed within the lumen of the catheter adapter, wherein the septum comprises a first slit and a second slit generally parallel to the first slit, wherein the first slit is generally aligned with a longitudinal axis of the catheter, wherein the second slit is offset from the longitudinal axis of the catheter;

a needle hub; and

an introducer needle secured within the needle hub, wherein the introducer needle is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the catheter and extends through the catheter and the first slit of the septum.

2. The catheter system of claim 1, wherein the septum comprises a generally elliptical shape with a cut along a plane angled with respect to the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

3. The catheter system of claim 2, wherein the cut forms a first face at a distal end of the septum, wherein the distal end of the septum comprises the first face and a second face, wherein the second face is proximate the first face and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

4. The catheter system of claim 3, wherein the septum comprises a tunnel extending along the first face, wherein the tunnel extends from the side port towards the longitudinal axis of the catheter.

5. The catheter system of claim 1, wherein the catheter adapter comprises a slot aligned with the second slit and extending from a proximal end of the catheter adapter.

6. The catheter system of claim 5, further comprising a winged needle set, comprising:

a body;

a tab extending outwardly from the body, wherein the tab is disposed within the slot;

a needle extending distally from the body and through the second slit of the septum;

an extension tube extending from the body.

7. The catheter system of claim 6, wherein the winged needle set further comprises:

an adapter coupled to a proximal end of the extension tube; and

a plug plugging a proximal end of the adapter, wherein the proximal end of the plug is configured to couple to a blood collection device, wherein the plug provides air venting of the winged needle set.

8. The catheter system of claim 6, wherein a distal end of the needle is blunt.

9. The catheter system of claim 6, wherein a distal end of the needle is sharp.

10. The catheter system of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the catheter adapter comprises a proximal opening, wherein the longitudinal axis of the catheter is offset from a center of the proximal opening.