

15

guide wire into the entrance port of the housing and guiding them through the device and into the vascular system; and

(g) biasing the shuttle tube forward so that it opens the slit in the elastomeric valve.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the method further comprises biasing the shuttle tube away from the sheath valve, thus causing the slit in the elastomeric valve to close around the elongated member and guide wire.

11. A method for introducing an elongated member into a vascular system and facilitating the maneuverability of the elongated member through the vascular system while maintaining hemostasis, the method comprising:

- (a) accessing a vascular system of a patient;
- (b) providing a medical insertion device in fluid communication with the vascular system, the medical insertion device including a valve assembly comprising:
 - (i) a housing having proximal and distal ends and an entrance port and an interior lumen extending there-through;
 - (ii) a first elastomeric valve secured within the interior lumen of the housing and having an openable slit therein;
 - (iii) a shuttle tube having proximal and distal ends and an interior passageway, the interior passageway being in fluid communication with the interior lumen

16

of the housing, the shuttle tube being capable of biasing the first elastomeric valve open; and
(iv) means for providing hemostasis;

(c) inserting the elongated member into the entrance port of the housing and guiding it through the device; and

(d) biasing the shuttle tube forward so that it opens the slit in the first elastomeric valve.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the means for providing hemostasis includes an opening having an inner diameter that is slightly smaller than an outer diameter of the elongated member.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the means for providing hemostasis comprises an O-ring valve.

14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the shuttle tube has an outer surface including a series of alternating flattened and curved surfaces along a longitudinal axis.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the shuttle tube includes a tapered distal tip.

16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the insertion device is formed as a y-adapter having first and second prongs, one of the first and second prongs including the valve assembly.

17. The method according to claim 11, wherein the means for providing hemostasis comprises a second elastomeric valve.

* * * * *