to its resting, non-deformed shape (as shown in FIGS. **1** and **4**), thus moving the optic **40** anteriorly. The focal length between the posterior surface **44** of the optic **40** and the fovea **26** is thus increased (see FIG. **1**), and the object remains in focus.

In view of the foregoing discussion, it will be appreciated that the inventive lens **38** is designed so as to provide a substantially uniform distribution of pressure along the walls of the capsule **22**. This was often not the case in prior art intraocular lenses. For example, FIG. **5** depicts one prior art lens **64** comprising an optic **66** and haptics **68***a,b*. The lens **64** is designed for placement within the natural capsule, with the haptics **68***a,b* providing a means for biasing the optic **66** anteriorly during focusing. However, due to the design of the lens **64**, the haptics **68***a,b* apply pressure along concentrated portions of the capsule, thus causing wear on the capsule. This problem is avoided with the lens of the invention.

Although the invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiment illustrated in the attached drawing figures, it is noted that equivalents may be employed and substitutions made herein without departing from the scope of the invention as recited in the claims. For example, while the foregoing method of inserting the lens **38** into the capsule **22** presumed that a portion of the anterior wall **58** of the capsule **22** would be removed with the natural lens, it will be appreciated that it may be possible to insert the lens **38** through an incision in the anterior wall **58**. Furthermore, while the foregoing description discloses that the lens **38** could be utilized in cataract patients, the lens **38** may be used in any situation where the natural lens needs to be replaced (e.g., in a patient who wishes to eliminate the need for bifocals).

Having thus described the preferred embodiment of the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent includes the following:

1. An accommodating intraocular lens for implantation substantially within the confines of the capsule of a human eye between the anterior and posterior capsule walls, said lens comprising:

an optic presenting an anterior surface; and

a resilient optic positioning element coupled to the optic to cooperatively present a discoid shape that generally conforms to the shape of the capsule,

said optic positioning element presenting a posterior face that is configured for yieldable engagement with the posterior capsule wall, an anterior face that is generally flush with the anterior surface of the optic and configured for yieldable engagement with the anterior wall of the capsule, and a bight joining the anterior and posterior faces,

said optic positioning element being unitarily formed,

said optic positioning element posterior face, said optic positioning element anterior face, and said bight cooperatively forming a chamber within said optic positioning element,

said optic positioning element posterior face including an opening therethrough, said opening communicating with said chamber so as to allow fluids to enter and fill the chamber.

2. The lens of claim **1**, said optic positioning element comprising a seamless body.

3. The lens of claim **1**, said optic presenting a convex anterior surface.

4. The lens of claim **1**, said optic positioning element being formed of a yieldable synthetic resin material.

5. The lens of claim **1**, said optic positioning element being formed of a material comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of silicon, polymethylmethacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

6. The lens of claim **1**, wherein said optic positioning element is formed of a material having an elastic memory.

7. The lens of claim **1**, said anterior capsule wall having an opening therethrough, said opening and said optic having respective diameters, said optic diameter being greater than said capsule wall opening diameter.

8. The lens of claim **1**, wherein said optic positioning element comprises an equator located approximately midway between said optic and said optic positioning element posterior face, said equator being continuous and without openings formed therein.

9. A single-optic, accommodating intraocular lens for implantation substantially within the confines of the capsule of a human eye between the anterior and posterior capsule walls, said lens comprising:

only one optic, said one optic presenting an anterior surface; and

a resilient optic positioning element coupled to the optic to cooperatively present a discoid shape that generally conforms to the shape of the capsule,

said optic positioning element presenting a posterior face that is configured for yieldable engagement with the posterior capsule wall, an anterior face that is generally flush with the anterior surface of the optic and configured for yieldable engagement with the anterior wall of the capsule, and a bight joining the anterior and posterior faces,

said optic positioning element being unitarily formed.

10. The lens of claim **9**, said optic positioning element comprising a seamless body.

11. The lens of claim **9**, said optic presenting a convex anterior surface.

12. The lens of claim **9**, said optic positioning element being formed of a yieldable synthetic resin material.

13. The lens of claim **9**, said optic positioning element being formed of a material comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of silicon, polymethylmethacrylates, and mixtures thereof.

14. The lens of claim **9**, wherein said optic positioning element is formed of a material having an elastic memory.

15. The lens of claim **9**, said anterior capsule wall having an opening therethrough, said opening and said optic having respective diameters, said optic diameter being greater than said capsule wall opening diameter.

16. The lens of claim **9**, wherein said optic positioning element posterior face, said optic positioning element anterior face, and said bight cooperatively form a chamber within said optic positioning element.

17. The lens of claim **16**, wherein said optic positioning element posterior face includes an opening therethrough, said opening communicating with said chamber.

18. The lens of claim **9**, wherein said optic positioning element comprises an equator located approximately midway between said optic and said optic positioning element posterior face, said equator being continuous and without openings formed therein.

* * * * *