

-continued

- MP 100 × Oil Immersion - valued
- 2800 × to screen
- Other
- MP Tissue Preparation
- MP Staining - valued
- Hemotoxalin and Eosin
- Papanicalou
- Mucicarmine
- PAS
- PAS After Diastase
- Trichrome
- Colloidal Iron
- Collidal Iron After Hyaluronidase
- Keratin
- CEA
- GICA
- SSEA
- EMA
- Other
- MP Hemotoxalin and Eosin - Type Not Reported
- MP Papanicalou - Type Not Reported
- MP Mucicarmine - Type Not Reported
- MP PAS - Type Not Reported
- MP PAS after Diastase - Type Not reported
- MP Trichrome - Type Not Reported
- MP Colloidal Iron - Type Not Reported
- MP Colloidal Iron after Hyaluronidase - Type Not Reported
- MP Keratin - Type Not Reported
- MP CEA - Type Not Reported
- MP GICA - Type Not Reported
- MP SSEA - Type Not Reported
- MP EMA - Type Not Reported

The present invention and knowledge base created thereby also may be used as a reference work. For example, in the medical discipline, the present invention and knowledge base may assist the training of physicians. Similarly, physicians, such as pathologists, who operate outside of their area of particular expertise may find the reference presented by the present invention a valuable support. Of course, the use of this invention as an aid in medical diagnosis is a primary objective.

It is intended that the appended claims be interpreted as including the foregoing as well as other equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for creating a knowledge base of cases of diseases, each case being comprised of features observed with a disease and at least some of said cases containing one or more visual images of said features, said knowledge base being useful as a computerized aid to the cognitive process of diagnosis, said system comprising:

- case identifying means for identifying a case record written into and retrievable from said system;
- feature selecting means operable by a user to select from a feature bank those feature data which the user observes in one or more diseases represented by a case;
- value selecting means operable by said user to select from a value bank data which the user observes in the selected feature;
- edit means operable by said user to create or delete feature data in said feature bank and value data in said value bank associated with a respective feature;
- display means for displaying pictorial images of one or more features associated with a disease;
- storage means for storing case records, each case record including a case record identification, feature data selected for that case, value data selected for each feature, and pictorial image data repre-

senting pictorial images associated with that case; and

processing means for linking feature data, value data and pictorial image data to case records, for retrieving from said storage means those case records having particular features identified by a user, for modifying feature or value data included in a retrieved case record, and for causing said display means to display pictorial images associated with said retrieved case record.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising image generating means for generating a pictorial image of one or more features observed in a case and for producing pictorial image data representative thereof for display and for storage.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein said processing means includes overlay means for generating an overlay selected by said user for display over a displayed pictorial image; and means for storing and retrieving data representing said overlay and the position thereof relative to said displayed pictorial image.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein said display means includes means responsive to retrieval of stored overlay data by said processing means for displaying a stored pictorial image with said overlay.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein said overlay means is operative in response to manual selection by said user to indicate a selected feature.

6. The system of claim 2 wherein said feature bank includes visual feature data representing those features having visual characteristics that are observable in a pictorial image.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said processing means includes search means responsive to the selection by said feature selecting means of feature data for searching and retrieving said case records for all cases having said selected feature data.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein said processing means includes means for supplying to said display means pictorial image data included in a case record having a selected visual feature data for displaying a pictorial image of said visual feature data.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein said display means is responsive to said search means for displaying the respective case record identifications of those case records having said selected feature data.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein said processing means further includes scroll means responsive to operation by said user for scrolling through said respective case record identifications and for causing said display means to display the scrolled case record identifications.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said processing means further includes selecting means responsive to operation by said user for selecting a case record whose case record identification is displayed and supplying at least a portion of said case record to said display means for displaying to said user a pictorial image of the selected visual feature data included in said selected case record.

12. The stem of claim 11 wherein said processing means further includes means for causing said display means to display the number of cases stored in said storage means having said selected feature data and means for determining the distribution relative to each other of value data associated with said cases.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said search means is further responsive to operation of said feature select-