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Hadjioannou et al.

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(54) **SYSTEM FOR VASCULAR ACCESS IN LABORATORY ANIMALS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system, and a method for its use, provides for placement of a fluid delivery needle into the tail of a laboratory animal. The system includes an animal receiving portion, structure configured to receive, position and restrain a tail of the animal placed in the animal receiving portion and a hollow needle attached to a fluid transfer device. Positioning structure is provided to align the needle and fluid transfer chamber with the restrained tail for proper automated insertion of the needle into a blood vessel within the tail. A lateral actuator operatively connected to the fluid transfer device moves the hollow needle in a forward direction so that it is inserted into the blood vessel of the properly aligned tail. The system can include a computer programmed to automatically perform all of the functions and operate all the components of the system.

11 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

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