



US 20070002582A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Burwell et al.**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2007/0002582 A1**  
(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 4, 2007**

(54) **MEDICAL APPARATUS EMPLOYING FLEXIBLE LIGHT STRUCTURES AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/640,382, filed on Dec. 30, 2004. Provisional application No. 60/455,069, filed on Mar. 14, 2003.

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**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A61B 1/06** (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **362/572**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method of manufacture and medical apparatus that provides an apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body. The apparatus includes an elongated flexible member and a polymer encasement portion encasing a plurality of light emitters. The light emitters may be electrically coupled to one another without the use of wire bonds, and in some embodiments may be coupled without intervening electrical paths or traces. A maximum cross-sectional dimension of the polymer encasement portion may be less than twice a dimension of one of the light emitters. In some embodiments the maximum cross-sectional dimension is less than or equal to the sum of the dimension of one of the light emitters and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter. Light emitters may be arranged linearly, helically or in partially overlapping back-to-back relation.

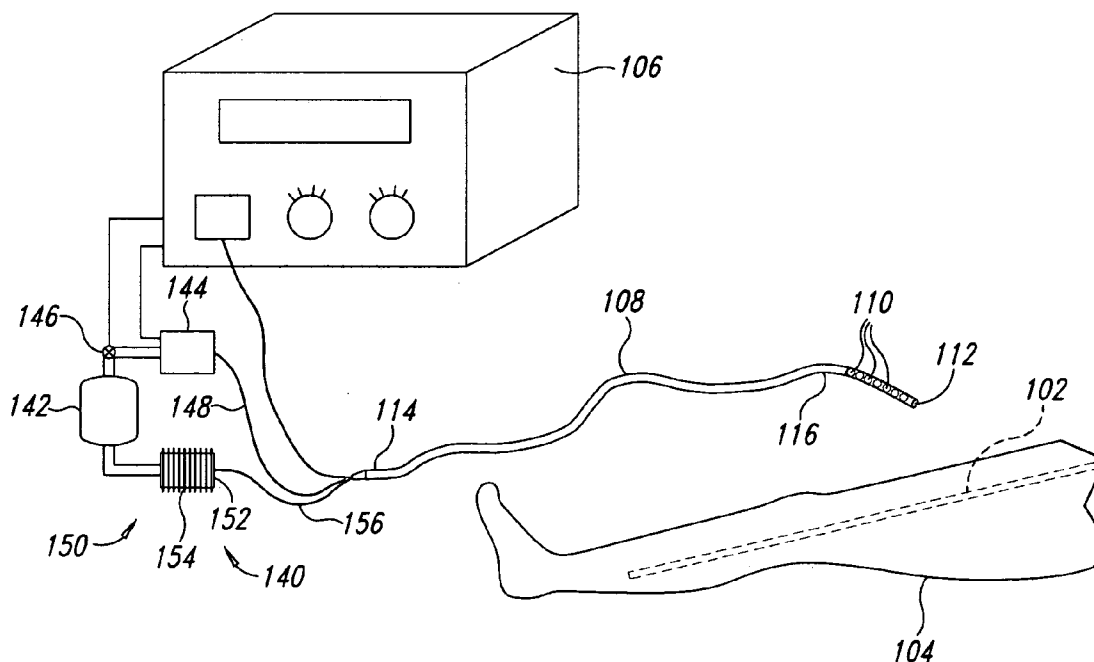
(73) Assignee: **Light Sciences Corporation**, Snoqualmie, WA

(21) Appl. No.: **11/323,319**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 30, 2005**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/799,357, filed on Mar. 12, 2004.



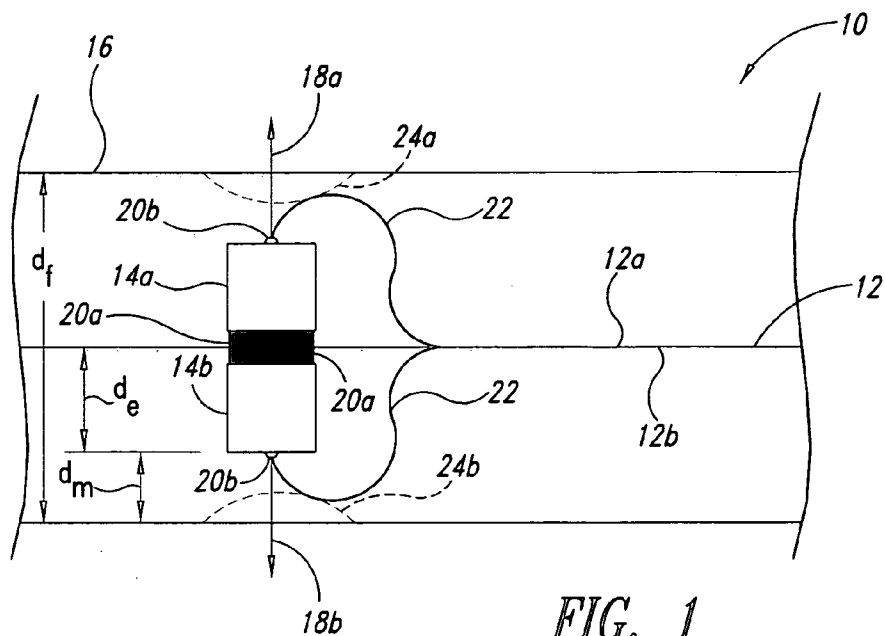


FIG. 1  
(Prior Art)

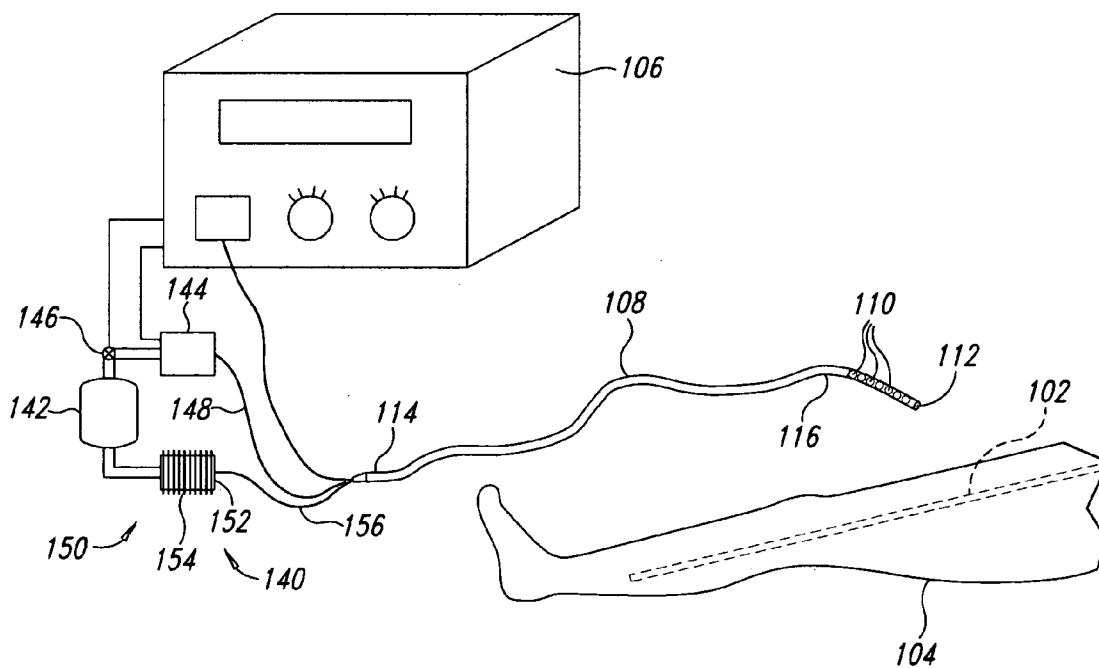


FIG. 2

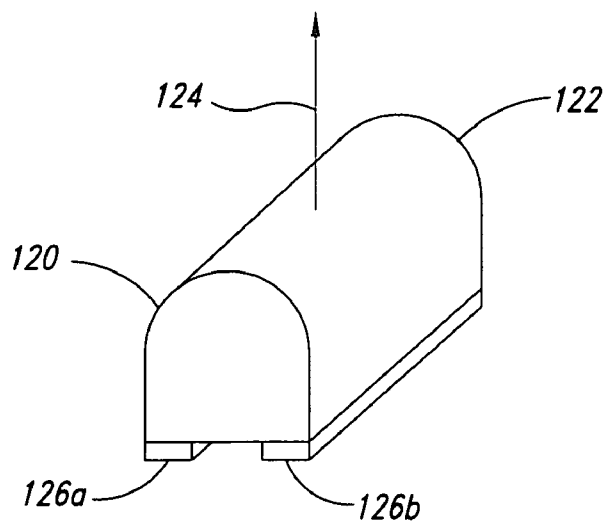


FIG. 3

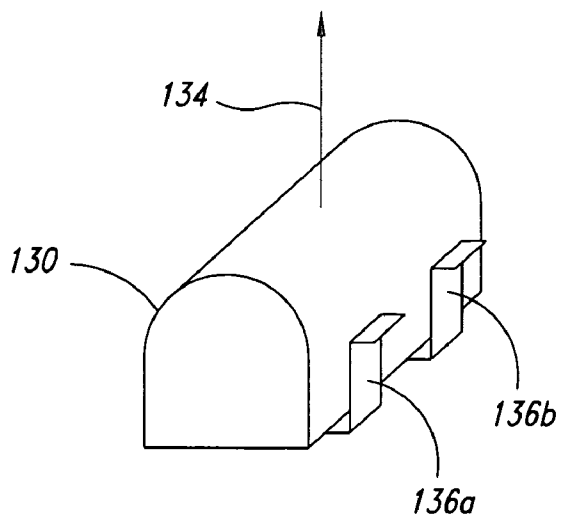


FIG. 4

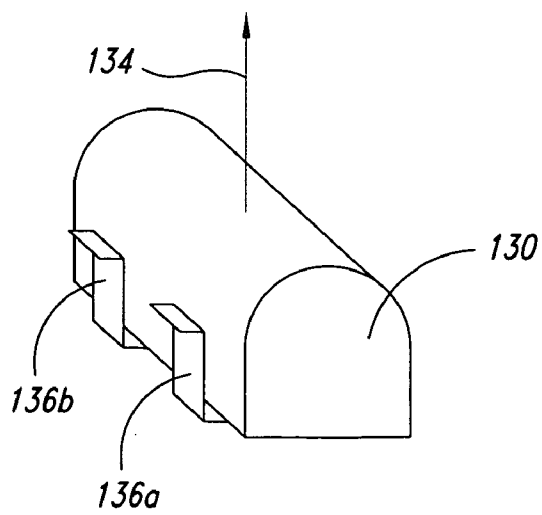


FIG. 5

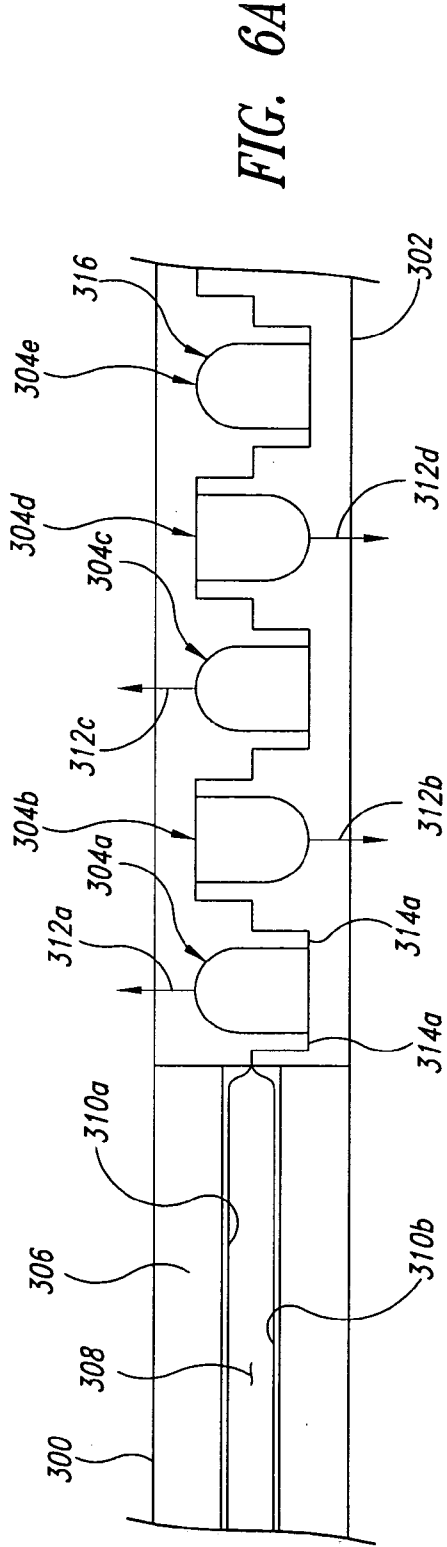


FIG. 6A

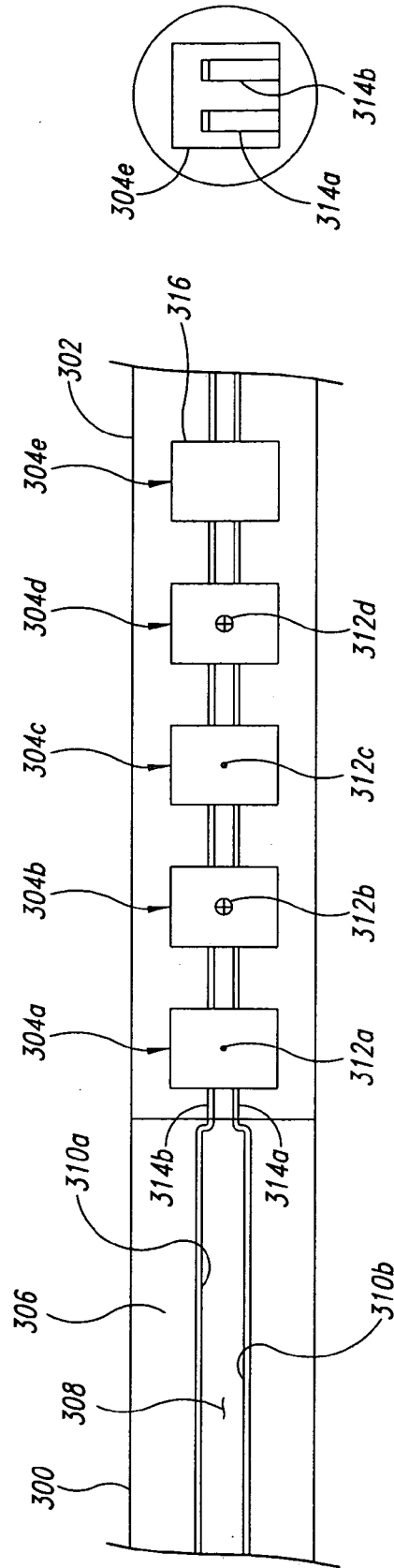


FIG. 6B

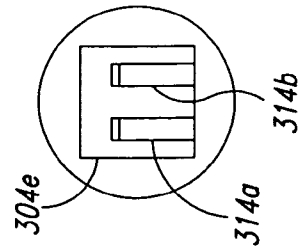


FIG. 6C

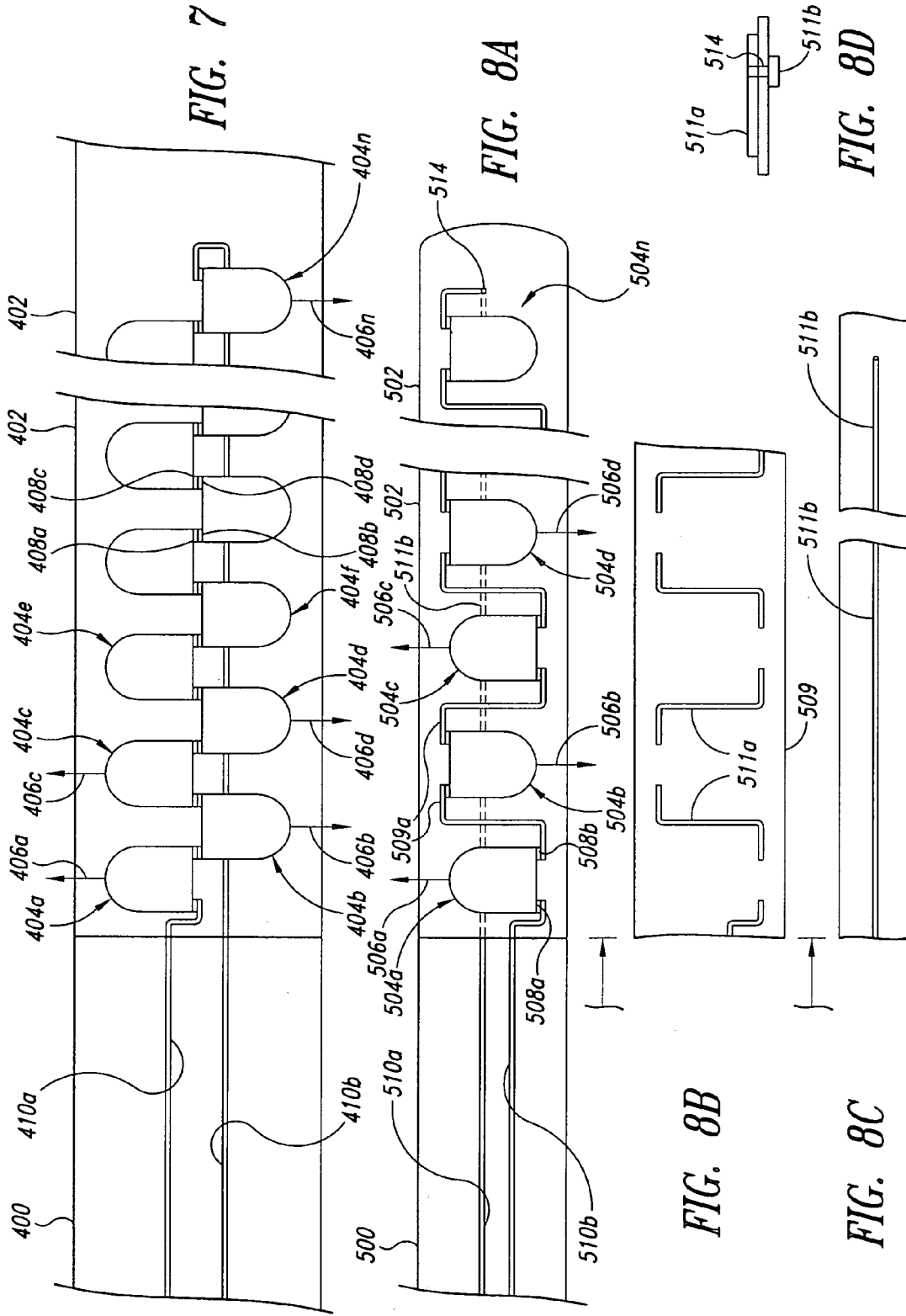


FIG. 7

FIG. 8A

FIG. 8B

FIG. 8C

FIG. 8D

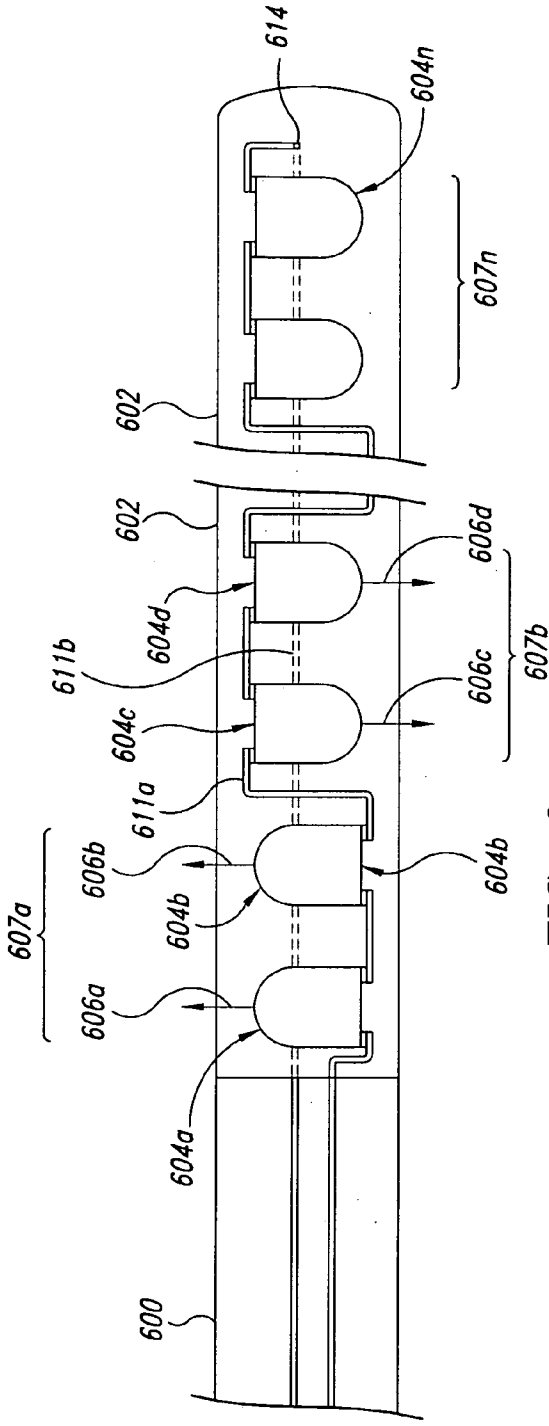


FIG. 9

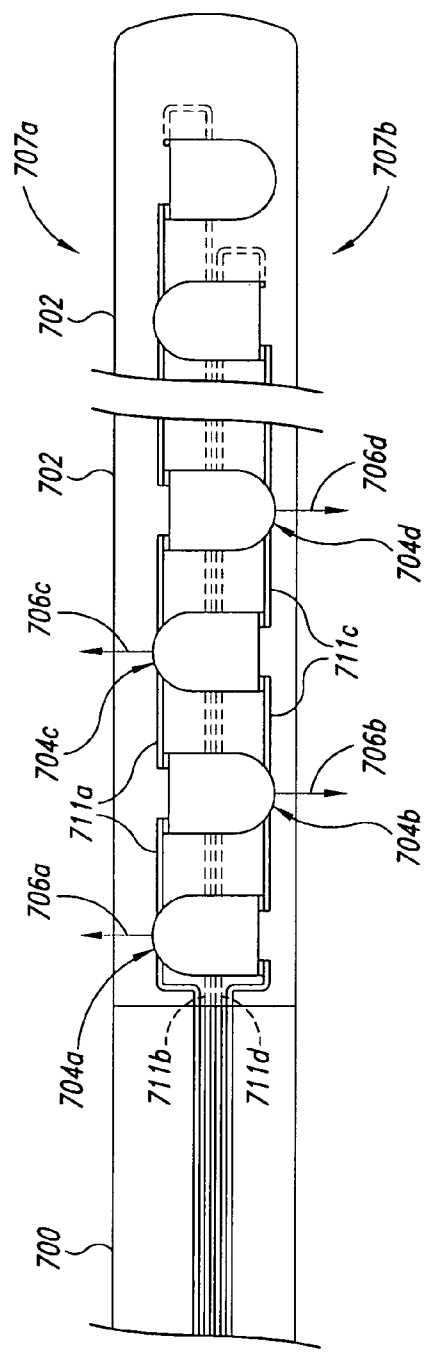


FIG. 10

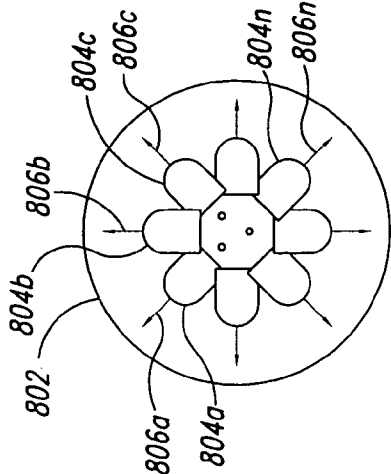


FIG. 11B

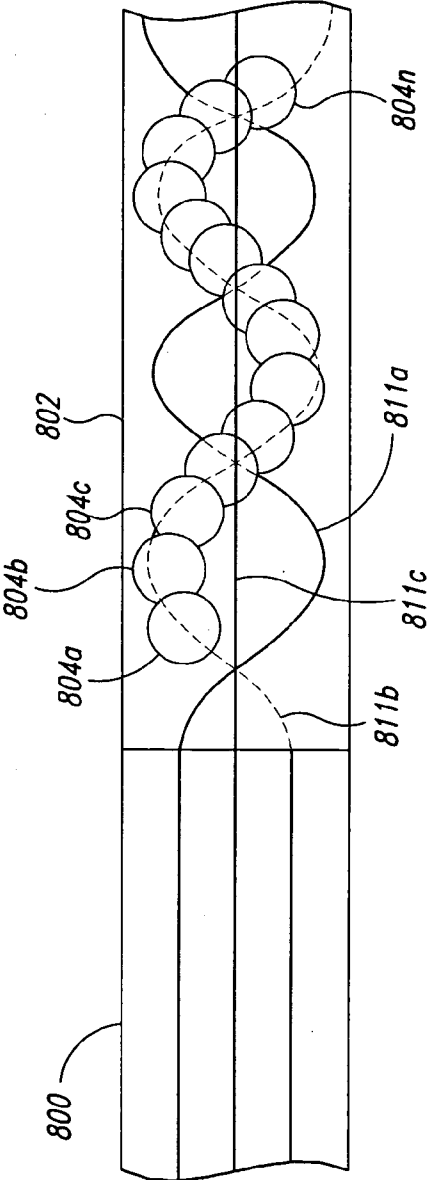


FIG. 11A

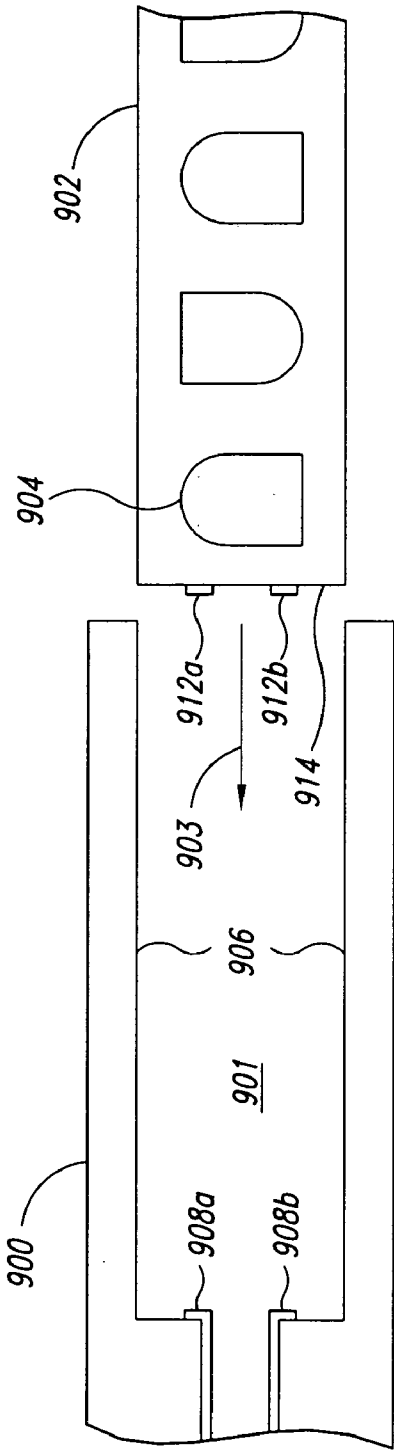


FIG. 12

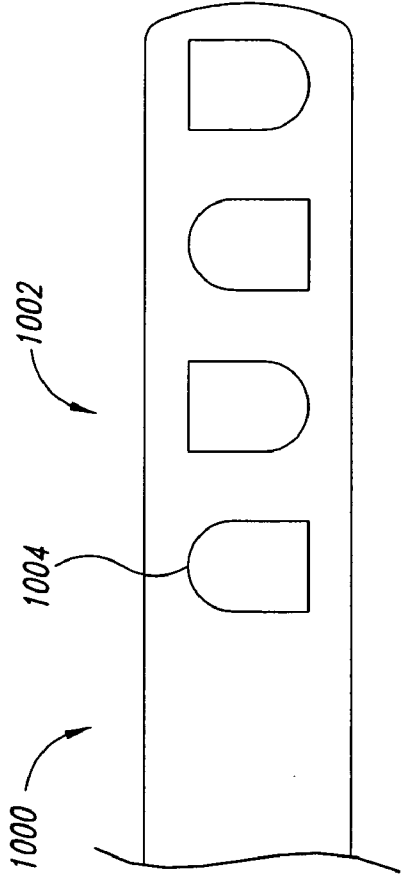


FIG. 13



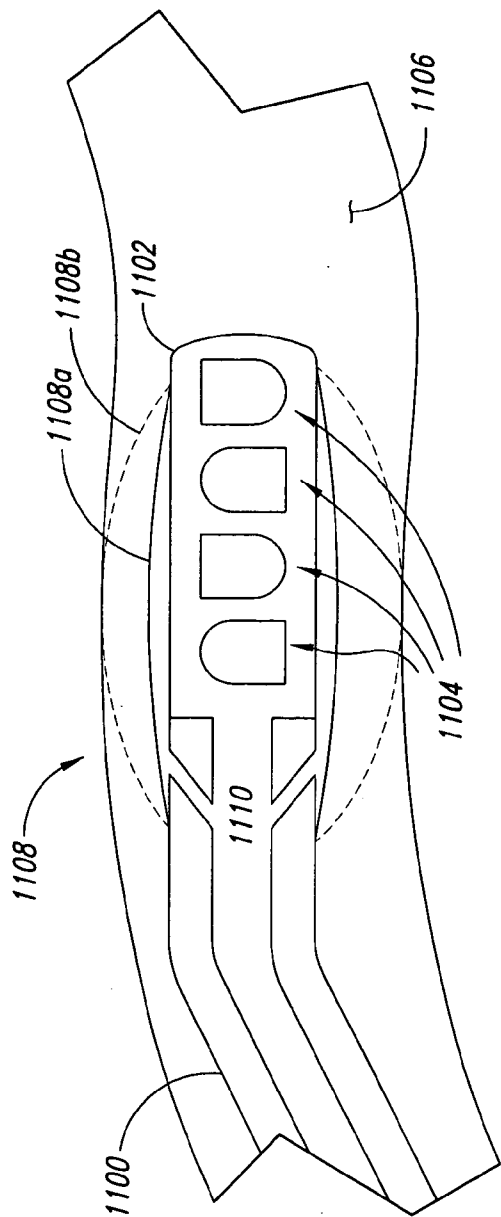


FIG. 14

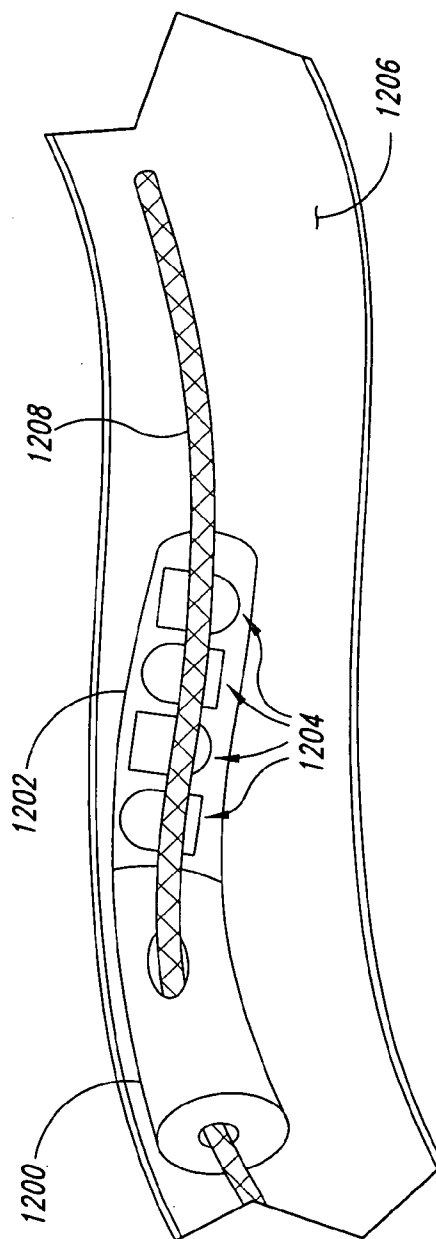


FIG. 15

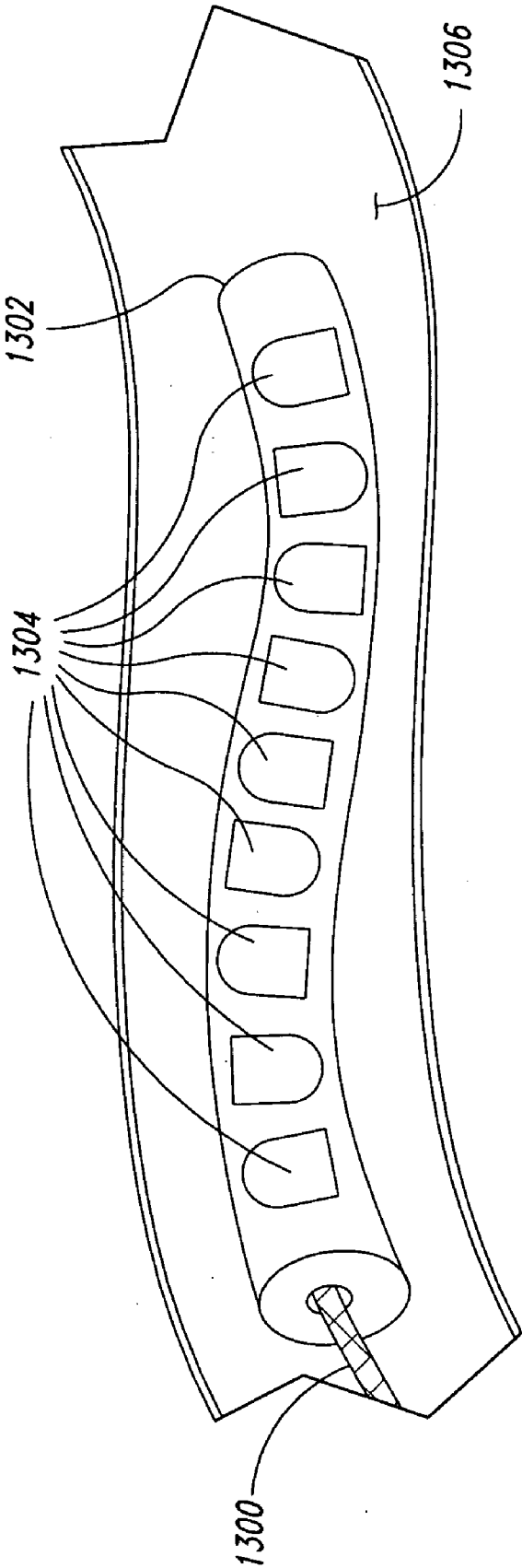
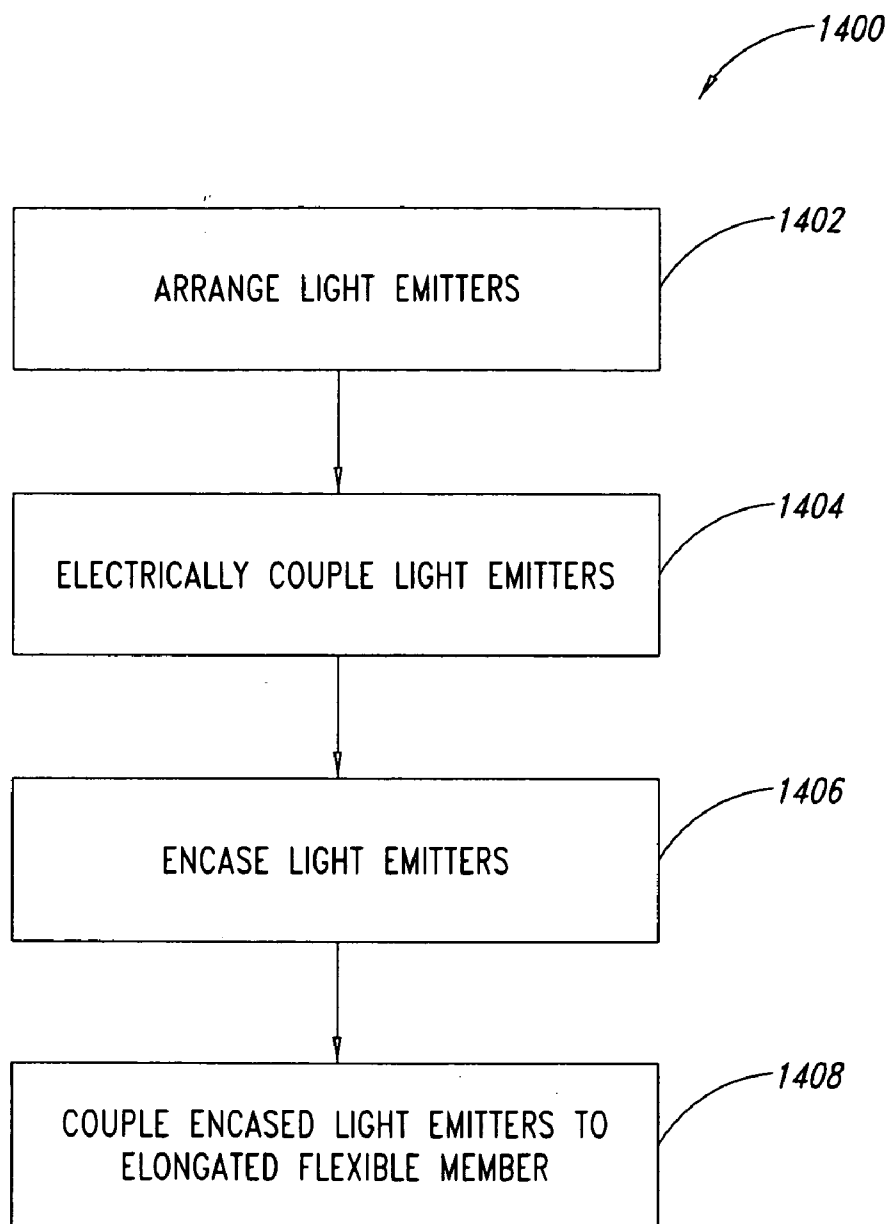
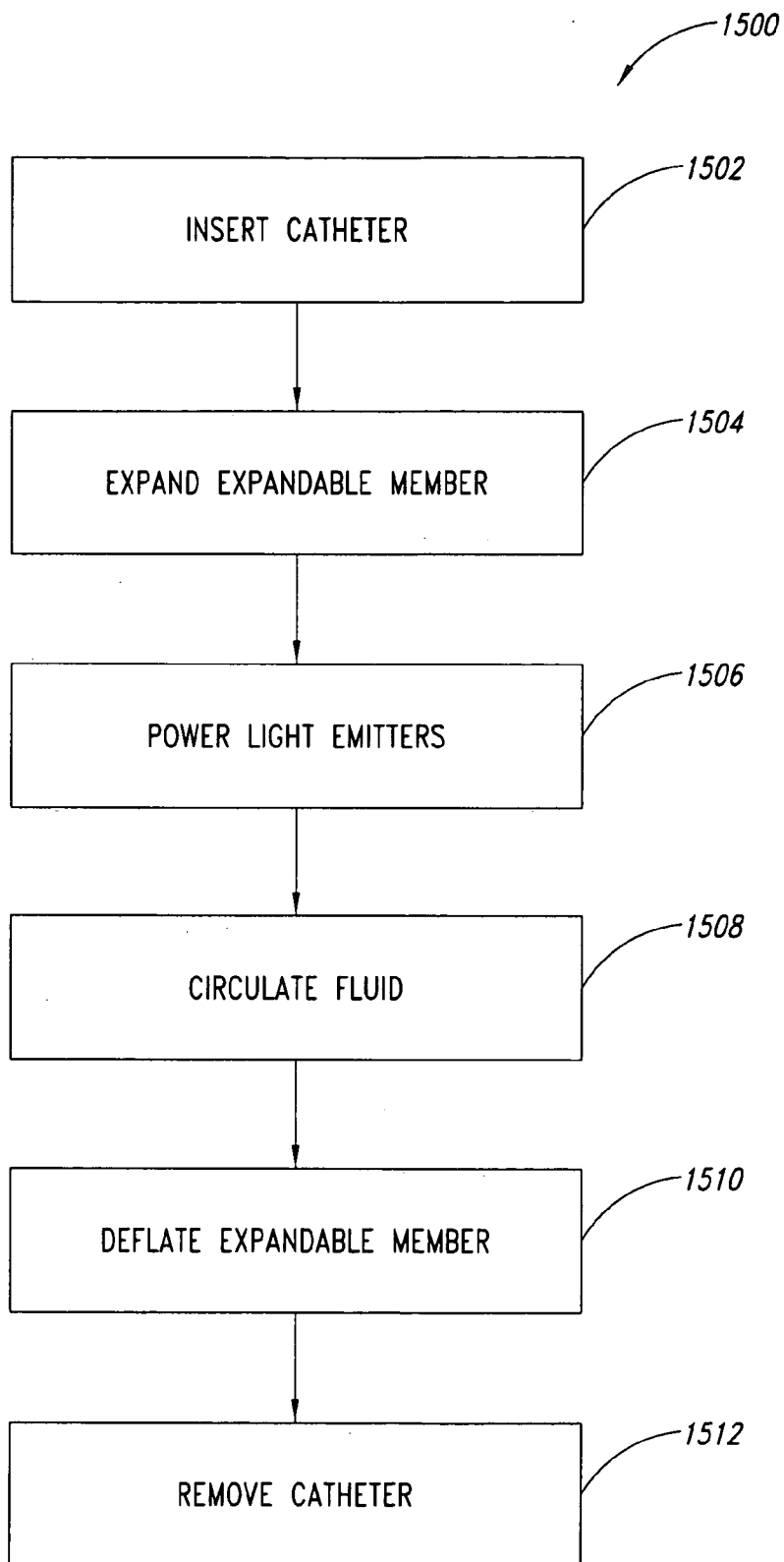


FIG. 16



*FIG. 17*



*FIG. 18*

**MEDICAL APPARATUS EMPLOYING FLEXIBLE  
LIGHT STRUCTURES AND METHODS FOR  
MANUFACTURING SAME**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** 1. Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The present disclosure relates to devices and methods useful in medical diagnostics and treatments, in particular diagnostics and treatments performed in a lumen of a body, for example phototherapeutic treatments that illuminate a portion of the lumen.

**[0003]** 2. Description of the Related Art

**[0004]** In recent years, much research has been devoted to phototherapeutic, and especially photoreactive therapies. These therapies typically involve the excitation of a class of photo-reactive compounds (i.e., "photosensitizers") that kill diseased or undesirable tissue. The photosensitizers are typically activated by illumination with at least one specific wavelength of light (i.e., excitation wavelength) and are used in photodynamic therapy (PDT). Various wavelengths may be suitable depending on the specific photosensitizer, for example wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation in the visible, infrared, and/or ultraviolet portions of the electromagnetic spectrum may be suitable.

**[0005]** Light sources such as lasers, emitting the appropriate excitation wavelength, are typically used to activate the photosensitizers to treat targeted tissue in a number of eye, cardiac, oncological and other disease conditions. For example, in age related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, and/or diabetic retinopathy (DR), photosensitizers may be used to inhibit formation or retard disease progression such as commonly indicated by rapidly uncontrolled vascular growth (i.e., "neovascularization") within diseased eye tissue and the associated sub-retinal fluid concentration.

**[0006]** The two important and related components of a photoreactive treatment system are the photosensitizer and the excitation light source and apparatus for supplying the light appropriately to targeted tissue. Conventional approaches to PDT are challenged by requirements of light exposure of desired intensities, duration, shape, and timing when photosensitizers are present in the diseased tissue. Inaccurately generated illumination, such as misdirected or misshaped illumination, could have unintended affects. Accordingly, an appropriate medical apparatus for providing illumination in a lumen of a body that is well suited to the organ being treated may be a factor in successful treatment.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0007]** Disclosed herein are medical apparatus that employ flexible devices or structures useful in treatment of human subjects with phototherapy, especially photoreactive therapy, whether intraluminal, intravascular or interstitial. These devices each include a plurality of structures that either emit light or contain light emitters, and the structures are arranged adjacent each other to provide a compact device.

**[0008]** In one embodiment, a medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body comprises: an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible

member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body; a plurality of light emitters, the light emitters electrically coupled to one another without the use of wire bonds, and operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband; and a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, and the polymer encasement portion being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body and positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member. The light emitters have a principal axis of emission that may be oriented in two or more different directions. A maximum cross-sectional dimension of the polymer encasement portion may be less than twice a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission. The medical apparatus may include an expandable member physically coupled to move in the lumen of the body with the polymer encasement portion, and operable to expand between an expanded configuration and an unexpanded configuration. In some embodiments, the light emitters may be helically arranged.

**[0009]** In another embodiment, a medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body comprises: an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body; a plurality of light emitters each having a principal axis of emission, the light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband; and a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, the polymer encasement portion having a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than two times the sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission, the polymer encasement portion positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member. In some embodiments the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than or equal to the sum of the dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission and the marginal dimension by which the outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in the direction of principal emission. In some embodiments, the medical apparatus may include an expandable member physically coupled to move in the lumen of the body with the polymer encasement portion, at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, and operable to expand between an expanded configuration and an unexpanded configuration. In some embodiments, the light emitters may be helically arranged.

[0010] In another embodiment, a method of forming a medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body comprises: electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters without the use of wire bonds, the light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband; encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion sized and dimensioned to be received in a lumen of a body, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband; and physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to an elongated flexible member sized to be at least partially received in a lumen of a body. The method may further comprise helically distributing the light emitters about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion before encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion. The method may further comprise arranging the light emitters such that the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than two times the sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along a principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission, before encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion. The method may further comprise arranging the light emitters such that the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than or equal to a sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along a principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission.

[0011] In yet a further embodiment, a medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body comprises: an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body; a plurality of light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband, wherein the light emitters of the plurality of light emitters are arranged helically with respect to each other about an imaginary longitudinal axis; and a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, the polymer encasement portion positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member.

[0012] In still a further embodiment, a method of operating a catheter physically associated with an expandable member and a plurality of light emitters to illuminate a lumen of a body comprises: inflating the expandable member with a fluid medium when the expandable member is positioned in the lumen of the body; providing power to at least some of the plurality of light emitters to provide illumination therefrom when at least some of the plurality of light emitters are positioned in the lumen of the body; and circulating the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member while the expandable member is inflated and during

at least a portion of a time when the power is provided to at least some of the plurality of light emitters. Such circulation may be used to advantageously control a temperature in the lumen, for example to transfer heat generated by the light emitters away from the lumen and/or to provide heat to the lumen, for example prior to activation of the light emitters.

[0013] The light emitters may be appropriately spaced apart to allow the polymer encasement portion to flex. The light emitters may be electrically coupleable to a power source for activation either as a total array or as groups of light emitters or light emitter cases, or as individual light emitter cases. In one embodiment, the arrangement permits light to be emitted in opposite directions from the polymer encasement portion.

[0014] In each of the embodiments there are many permutations of structure arrangements possible, and many permutations of electrical activation either as single structures or as groups.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] In the drawings, identical reference numbers identify similar elements or acts. The sizes and relative positions of elements in the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale. For example, the shapes of various elements and angles are not drawn to scale, and some of these elements are arbitrarily enlarged and positioned to improve drawing legibility. Further, the particular shapes of the elements as drawn are not intended to convey any information regarding the actual shape of the particular elements, and have been solely selected for ease of recognition in the drawings.

[0016] FIG. 1 is a partial side view of a conventional light emitter structure, employing a number of light emitters that are wire bonded to an electrically conductive path or trace on a flexible substrate.

[0017] FIG. 2 is a schematic view of an environment in which a medical illumination system is employed to provide illumination in a portion of a body, according to one illustrated embodiment, the illumination system having a controller, an elongated flexible member, and a plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion.

[0018] FIG. 3 is a right side, front, top isometric view of an SMT/SMD light emitter according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0019] FIG. 4 is a right side, front, top isometric view of an SMT/SMD light emitter according to another illustrated embodiment.

[0020] FIG. 5 is a left side, front, top isometric view of the SMT/SMD light emitter of FIG. 4.

[0021] FIG. 6A is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with successive ones of the light emitters in opposed relation to one another, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0022] FIG. 6B is a partial cross-sectional view orthogonal to that of FIG. 6A.

[0023] FIG. 6C is an end view of the plurality of light emitters encapsulated in the flexible polymer portion of FIGS. 6A and 6B.

[0024] FIG. 7 is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with successive ones of the light emitters in opposed overlapping relation to one another, and electrically coupled back-to-back, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0025] FIG. 8A is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with successive ones of the light emitters in opposed relation to one another, and electrically coupled in series to one another by way of a conductive path or trace carried by a flexible substrate, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0026] FIG. 8B is a top plan view of the flexible substrate of FIG. 8A, illustrating one of the conductive paths or traces.

[0027] FIG. 8C is a bottom plan view of the flexible substrate of FIG. 8A, illustrating another one of the conductive paths or traces.

[0028] FIG. 8D is an end side view of the flexible substrate of FIGS. 8C and 8D, illustrating two of the conductive paths or traces, and a via through the substrate.

[0029] FIG. 9 is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with successive sets of the light emitters in opposed relation to one another, and electrically coupled in series to one another by way of a conductive path or trace carried by a flexible substrate, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0030] FIG. 10 is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with the light emitters electrically coupled in two distinct sets which are in opposed relation to one another, the light emitters of each set electrically coupled in series to one another by way of a conductive path or trace carried by a flexible substrate, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0031] FIG. 11A is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, with the light emitters disposed in helical relation to one another, and electrically coupled by way of a plurality of conductive paths or traces, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0032] FIG. 11B is an end side view of the light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion of FIG. 11A.

[0033] FIG. 12 is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member having a receptacle sized to at least partially receive the plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0034] FIG. 13 is a partial cross-sectional view of a unitary structure having an elongated flexible member and plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0035] FIG. 14 is a partial cross-sectional view of an elongated flexible member in the form of a catheter body, a plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion and an expandable member, at least partially received in a lumen of a body, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0036] FIG. 15 is a partial cross-sectional view of a guide wire, an elongated flexible member in the form of a catheter body and a plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, the catheter body physically coupled to the guide wire to move at least partially within a lumen of a body, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0037] FIG. 16 is a partial cross-sectional view of a guide wire, an elongated flexible member in the form of a guide wire and a plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion physically coupled to the guide wire to move at least partially within a lumen of a body, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0038] FIG. 17 is flow diagram showing a method of forming a medical device having an elongated flexible member and a plurality of light emitters encapsulated in a flexible polymer portion, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0039] FIG. 18 is a flow diagram showing a method of using a medical illumination system including circulating a fluid through an expandable member to control a temperature, according to one illustrated embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0040] In the following description, certain specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of various disclosed embodiments. However, one skilled in the relevant art will recognize that embodiments may be practiced without one or more of these specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, etc. In other instances, well-known structures associated with light emitters, light emitting diodes, lasers, catheters, guide wires, and controllers have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring descriptions of the embodiments.

[0041] Unless the context requires otherwise, throughout the specification and claims which follow, the word “comprise” and variations thereof, such as, “comprises” and “comprising” are to be construed in an open, inclusive sense, that is as “including, but not limited to.”

[0042] Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment” or “an embodiment” means that a particular feature, structure or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment. Thus, the appearances of the phrases “in one embodiment” or “in an embodiment” in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Further more, the particular features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

[0043] The headings provided herein are for convenience only and do not interpret the scope or meaning of the embodiments.

[0044] FIG. 1 shows a conventional medical apparatus structure 10 for use in photoreactive therapies. The structure 10 comprises a film 12 with a pair of opposed surfaces 12a, 12b, carrying a number of light emitters 14a, 14b (collectively 14) which are encased in a protective polymer 16.

[0045] The light emitters 14 are in the form of light emitting diodes (LEDs). While each of the light emitters 14

may be capable of emitting light over a rather broad spatial range, each of the light emitters **14** has a principal axis of emission **18** about which the spatial range may be defined. The light emitters **14a**, **14b** are arranged in pairs, in back-to-back relationship across the film **12** with the principal axes of emission in opposed relation to provide illumination from each of the opposed surfaces **12**, **12b** of the film **12**.

[0046] Each light emitter **14** has a pair of electrodes **20a**, **20b** (only one set called out in FIG. 1) that are electrically coupled to conductive paths or traces (not shown) carried by the film **12**. The conductive paths or traces are usually metallic, for example copper or aluminum. One electrode **20a** of each of the light emitters **14** is surface mounted to a respective conductive path or trace (not shown), while the other electrode **20b** of each of the light emitters is wire bonded to a respective trace (not shown) by way of a wire bond **22** (only one called out in FIG. 1). Accordingly, power can be supplied to the light emitters **14** by way of the conductive paths or traces.

[0047] Flexing or external pressure cause mild deformation, illustrated by dashed lines **24a**, **24b**. As a result, the metallic wire bonds **22** and/or the coupling (e.g., solder) of the wire bond **22** with the electrode **20b** of the light emitter and/or with the conductive path or trace may fail, resulting in failure of the structure **10**. Additionally, the back-to-back arrangement of the light emitters **14a**, **14b** places constraints on the size of the structure **10**. Consequently, the structure **10** has a cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$  that is approximately equal to two times the sum of the dimension  $d_e$  of the light emitter **14** along the principal axis of emission **18** plus the marginal thickness  $d_m$  by which the polymer **16** extends beyond the light emitter **14** along the principal axis of emission **18**. In this respect, it is noted that the thickness of the polymer **16** must be substantial so as to provide sufficient protection to the bonding wires **22** and attachments. This size limitation is a significant limitation in certain potential applications of the structure in photoreactive therapy.

[0048] Disclosed herein are flexible light emitter-bearing structures that are useful in photoreactive therapy, including photodynamic therapy, in intraluminal, intravascular and interstitial illumination. Some embodiments address the issue of device failure upon flexing or externally applied pressures by providing die and die wire attachment points encased in a substantially rigid, protective clear polymer. This approach permits the manufacture of devices of small cross-sectional dimensions to facilitate use in treatments where structure size is a factor. For example, the small-dimensioned structures are more suitable for invasive use within organs and blood vessels of a human body, and the dimensions facilitate use of the devices in catheters, sheaths and other lumens. A structure with a cross-sectional maximum dimension of 1.5 mm or less may be suitable for some applications. Some embodiments may permit structures with dimensions of at most 0.1 mm above the size of a single light emitter (e.g., LED) or polymer-encased light emitter, for example, 0.6 mm for a 0.5 mm encased LED. The approximately 0.1 mm difference results from the thickness of the polymer overcoating that forms the structure. This may be reduced as techniques improve. It can readily be appreciated that device dimensions may be even smaller, depending upon the size of the light emitters or encased light emitters or other light emitters used.

[0049] In some embodiments, the light emitters may take the form of light emitting diodes (LEDs), but these embodiments may employ other discrete light emitters, for example laser dies.

[0050] In each embodiment there is at least one, and preferably a plurality of structures that are light emitters or structures that contain at least one light emitter each. These structures are spaced apart from each other, and the spacing between adjacent structures may determine the degree to which a device (such as a light bar) is able to flex because flexing will cause some (reversible) deformation of the device that may result in contact between these structures depending upon the spacing distance. Thus, the selection of spacing distance should take into account the extent to which it is necessary or likely that the device will be flexed. The joined light emitters provide a linear array in a structure that forms a light bar. By the term "light bar" we mean a device that is substantially longitudinal in shape and that includes one or more light emitters at its tip and or along its length. The device is generally sized as required to be suitable for insertion into the body and/or specific organs of a human or other mammal.

[0051] While the following exemplary embodiments are described in terms of structures that are "cases" containing at least one light emitter, it is within the scope of the invention to substitute LEDs or other light emitters for the cases.

[0052] FIG. 2 shows a medical system illumination system **100** according to one illustrated embodiment, used to provide illumination within a lumen **102** of a portion of a body **104**. The lumen **102** may be one formed or existing in any portion of the body **104**, including but not limited to blood vessels, arteries, and/or organs.

[0053] The medical illumination system comprises a controller **106**, an elongated flexible member **108** and a plurality of light emitters **110** encased in a polymer encasement portion **112**.

[0054] The elongated flexible member **108** has a distal end **114** and a proximate end **116**, and may take a variety of forms, for example a catheter body or guide wire, and is sized and dimensioned to be at least partially received in the lumen **102** of the body **104**. The polymer encasement portion **112** encasing the light emitters **110** can also take a variety of forms, for example a rod or bar, and is sized and dimensioned to be at least partially received in the lumen **102**. The polymer encasement portion **112** may advantageously be one that is biocompatible or physiologically inert with respect to the body **104**. The polymer encasement portion **112** may be coupled or fixed to the flexible elongated member **108** proximate the proximal end **116** thereof, or may form a unitary structure therewith.

[0055] The controller **106** provides regulated power to the light emitters **110** from a power source (not shown), for example a standard wall receptacle or a dedicated power generation device or supply, which may or may not include an auxiliary power source such as battery or fuel cell system. The controller may be physically and/or electrically coupled or fixed to the distal end of the flexible elongated member **108**.

[0056] The controller **106** typically includes electrical and or electronic components to convert or transform power. For



example, the controller **106** may include a rectifier to rectify alternating current to direct current, a converter to step up or step down a voltage and/or an inverter to invert direct current to alternating current. The controller **106** may advantageously provide a pulsed current to the light emitters. The controller **106** may, or may not, include user operable controls to adjust the duration, magnitude or pattern of supplied power.

[0057] The medical system illumination system **100** may optionally include a fluid circulation system **140** operable to selectively provide a fluid (i.e., gas, liquid, or vapor) to an expandable member (discussed below with reference to FIG. **14**). The fluid circulation system **140** may include a storage reservoir **142** that stores the fluid and a pump **144** operable to cause transfer of the fluid between the storage reservoir **142** and the expandable member. The pump **144** may take a variety of forms including a piston pump, rotary pump, compressor, blower or fan. The controller **106** may be coupled to control the operation of the pump **144**. The fluid circulation system may optionally include one or more valves **146**, some or all of which may be operationally controlled by the controller **106**, for example by way of one or more solenoids. One or more conduits **148** fluidly couples the storage reservoir **142** to the elongated flexible member **108**.

[0058] The fluid circulation system **140** may also include a heat exchanger **150**, which may include a heat exchanger reservoir **152** and heat transfer structure, for example cooling fins **154**. One or more conduits **156** fluidly couples the heat exchanger **150** with the elongated flexible member **108**. Some embodiments may include additional reservoirs as part of the heat exchange mechanism, or may include an active refrigeration system. Additionally or alternatively, some embodiments may include a heater to warm the fluid.

[0059] Thus the fluid circulation system **140** is operable to control a temperature proximate the polymer encasement portion **112**. For example, the fluid circulation system **140** can transfer heat generated by the light emitters **110** from the polymer encasement portion **112** and lumen **102** to maintain a temperature at or close to a desired temperature. Additionally or alternatively, the fluid circulation system **140** may transfer heat to the polymer encasement portion **112** and lumen **102**, for example prior to the operation of the light emitters **110** to prevent sudden changes of temperature in the lumen **102**.

[0060] FIG. **3** shows an SMT or SMD light emitter case **120** containing at least one LED according to one illustrated embodiment. This light emitter case **120** encapsulates the at least one light emitter device or structure, for example an LED or other light source, in a clear polymer, such as an epoxy polymer. In the illustrated embodiment, the light emitter case **120** has a top **122** that is curved like a lens, although other configurations are also useful. As noted above, while the light emitter device or structure may be capable of emitting in a broad spatial range, the light emitter case has a principal axis of emission **124** about which the spatial range is defined. Thus, while some LEDs can emit light in a 270 degree arc, there is still a principal axis of emission **124** about which the arc is defined.

[0061] The light emitter case **120** has external electrodes **126a** and **126b** for electrically coupling the light emitter device(s) or structure(s) to a circuit and/or power source to

energize the light emitter device(s) or structure(s). There are other SMT or SMD LED and other light emitter designs that may be advantageously employed.

[0062] FIGS. **3** and **4** show light emitter case **130** according to another illustrated embodiment. The light emitter case **130** encapsulates the at least one light emitter device or structure in a clear polymer. As noted above, while the light emitter device or structure may be capable of emitting in a broad spatial range, the light emitter case has a principal axis of emission **134** about which the spatial range is defined. Thus, while some LEDs can emit light in a 270 degree arc, there is still a principal axis of emission **134** about which the arc is defined.

[0063] The light emitter case **130** has external electrodes **136a**, **136b** for providing energizing power to the emitter(s). As explained in more detail below with reference to FIGS. **6A-6C**, the electrodes **136a**, **136b** permit the light emitter cases **130** to be arranged in a linear array (FIG. **6**) with alternating light emitter cases **130** in opposed relation relative to neighboring light emitter cases so that light is emitted in opposite directions.

[0064] FIGS. **6A-6C** show an elongated flexible member **300** coupled to a polymer encasement portion **302** that encases a plurality of light emitter cases **304a-304e** (collectively **304**, only five illustrated) according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0065] As best illustrated in FIGS. **6A** and **6B**, the elongated flexible member **300** includes a wall **306** or other structure that forms a lumen or channel **308** therethrough. The lumen or channel **308** provides a passage for a conductive conduit **310a**, **310b** such as a conductive path or trace, or alternatively for conductive wires.

[0066] The polymer encasement portion **308** encases a plurality of light emitter cases **304**. Each of the light emitter cases **304** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **308** proximate the light emitter cases **304** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0067] Each of the plurality of light emitter cases **304a-304e** has a respective principal axis of emission **312a-312e** (collectively **312**, only four illustrated). The light emitter cases **304** may advantageously take the same form as that shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**, or may take other forms. The light emitter cases **304** may be joined by standard techniques (e.g., soldering, reflow soldering) or by way of an electrically conductive adhesive at the electrodes **314a**, **314b** (only two called out in the figure for sake of clarity of illustration), and then encased in the polymer encasement portion **316**.

[0068] The light emitter cases **304** can be coupled to permit selective illumination of only certain light emitters and/or only certain groups of light emitters, if desired. In this, or any alternative, the light emitters may be electrically driven in a serial or parallel fashion along a length of the polymer encasement portion **302**. The polymer encasement portion **302** may consequently have a maximum cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$  that is less than two times the sum of a dimension  $d_e$  of one of the light emitters **304** measured along the principal axis of emission **312** and a marginal

dimension  $d_m$  by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion **302** extends beyond the light emitter **304** along the principal axis of emission **312** in a direction of principal emission, the direction indicated by the head or tail of arrows **312**. This advantageously provides a much reduced cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$ .

[0069] FIG. 7 shows an elongated flexible member **400** coupled to a polymer encasement portion **402** that encases a plurality of light emitter cases **404a-404n** (collectively **404**, twelve illustrated, seven called out in the figure) according to one illustrated embodiment. The elongated flexible member **400** is similar or identical to that discussed above in reference to FIGS. 6A-6C, so will not be described further.

[0070] Each of the light emitter cases **404** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **402** proximate the light emitter cases **404** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0071] Each of the plurality of light emitter cases **404a-404n** has a respective principal axis of emission **406a-406n** (collectively **406**, only five illustrated and called out in the figure). The light emitter cases **404** may advantageously take the form illustrated in FIG. 3.

[0072] The light emitter cases **404** arranged in opposed, partially overlapping relation, where successively adjacent ones of the light emitter cases **404** are oriented in opposed directions such that the respective principal axes **406** are pointed in opposite directions. One electrode **408a** of each light emitter case **404** is in proximate opposed relation to, or even contacts, a respective one of the electrodes **408b** of a successively preceding light emitter case **404**, while the other electrode **408c** is in proximate opposed relation to, or even contacts one of the electrodes **408d** of a successively succeeding light emitter case **404**. A conductive flexible adhesive may be used to provide a series electrical connection between opposed electrodes **408a-408d** of the light emitter cases **404**. Electrically conductive conduits **410a**, **410b**, for example electrically conductive paths or traces, may provide power to the light emitter cases **404** from the controller **106** (FIG. 1).

[0073] Groups of light emitter cases **404** containing at least one light emitter device or structure each, can be electrically coupled in this manner and activated together as a group. The cross sectional-dimension  $d_p$  of the polymer encasement portion **402** is at least equal to two times the sum of the a dimension  $d_e$  of one of the light emitters **304** measured along the principal axis of emission **312** and a marginal dimension  $d_m$  by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion **402** extends beyond the light emitter **404** along the principal axis of emission **406** in a direction of principal emission.

[0074] FIGS. 8A-8D show an elongated flexible member **500** coupled to a polymer encasement portion **502** that encases a plurality of light emitter cases **504a-504n** (collectively **504**, five illustrated and called out in the figure) according to one illustrated embodiment. The elongated flexible member **500** is similar or identical to that discussed above in reference to FIGS. 6A-6C, so will not be described further.

[0075] Each of the light emitter cases **504** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **502** proximate the light emitter cases **504** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0076] Each of the plurality of light emitter cases **504a-504n** has a respective principal axis of emission **506a-506n** (collectively **506**, only four illustrated and called out in the figure). The light emitter cases **504** may advantageously take the form illustrated in FIG. 3.

[0077] The light emitter cases **504** may be arranged as illustrated, such that the principal axis of emission **506** of each successive light emitter case **504b** points in the opposite direction from the successively adjacent light emitter cases **504a**, **504c**. Alternatively the light emitter cases **504** may be arranged in groups, or may be arranged such that the principal axes **506** point in more than the two illustrated, opposed directions.

[0078] Each of the light emitter cases **504** has a pair of electrodes **508a**, **508b**. The electrodes **508a**, **508b** are electrically coupled by way of a flexible metallic or metallic-plated, shaped polymer interconnect **509**, that has at least two electrical paths or traces **511a**, **511b**, one for each electrode **508a**, **508b**. A via **514** may provide an electrically conductive path from one side of the interconnect **509** to the other. Electrically conductive conduits **510a**, **510b**, for example electrically conductive paths or traces may provide power to the light emitter cases **404** from the controller **106** (FIG. 1).

[0079] The polymer encasement portion **302** may consequently have a maximum cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$  that is less than two times the sum of a dimension  $d_e$  of one of the light emitters **304** measured along the principal axis of emission **312** and a marginal dimension  $d_m$  by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion **302** extends beyond the light emitter **304** along the principal axis of emission **312** in a direction of principal emission, the direction indicated by the head or tail of arrows **312**. This advantageously provides a much reduced cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$ . These embodiments may be made as small in cross-sectional dimension  $d_p$  as the light emitter (e.g., LED) and/or the light emitter case size permits.

[0080] This embodiment is flexible, and the electrical contacts are also flexible, unlike the prior-art wires, so that the polymer encasement portion **502** is able to flex without damage within reasonable limits in normal use.

[0081] FIG. 9 shows a flexible elongated member **600** and a polymer encasement portion **602** having light emitter cases **604** grouped into sets **604a-604n**, for example sets of two **607a**, **607b**, **607n**.

[0082] Each of the light emitter cases **604** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **602** proximate the light emitter cases **604** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0083] Principally axes of emission **606a-606d** (collectively **606**, only four illustrated and called out in the figure) of each light emitter case **604** in a set **407** may be aligned and point in a same direction, as illustrated. Alternatively, the principal axes of emission **606** of each light emitter case **604** may not be aligned and may not point in a same direction. The principal axes of emission **606** for successively adjacent sets **607** may point in opposite directions, as illustrated. Alternatively, the principal axes of emission **606** for a set **607** may point in the same direction as successively adjacent sets or may point in different directions.

[0084] The sets of light emitter cases **607a-607n** are electrically coupled by way of at least two electrically conductive paths or traces **611a**, **611b** of a flexible metallic or plated polymer interconnect **609**, which may include a via **614**. Thus, light emitters of each set of light emitter cases may be addressed as a unit, if desired. An arrangement of this type may offer higher density packaging with a reduced number of flex points with resultant reduction in the level of overall device flexibility. Clearly, other groupings and arrangements of light emitter cases **100** along the polymer encasement portion are also possible to suit the particular needs.

[0085] FIG. 10 shows an elongated flexible member **700** coupled to a polymer encasement portion **702** that encases a plurality of light emitter cases **704a-704n** (collectively **704**, six illustrated and called out in the figure) according to one illustrated embodiment. The elongated flexible member **700** is similar or identical to that discussed above in reference to FIGS. 6A-6C, so will not be described further.

[0086] Each of the light emitter cases **704** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **702** proximate the light emitter cases **704** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0087] Each of the plurality of light emitter cases **704a-704n** has a respective principal axis of emission **706a-706n** (collectively **706**, only four illustrated and called out in the figure). The light emitter cases **704** may advantageously take the form illustrated in FIG. 3.

[0088] In this embodiment, a first set of light emitter cases **707a** includes every odd numbered light emitter case counting from the left to right side of FIG. 10, while a second set of light emitter cases **707b** includes every even numbered light emitter case counting from the left to right side of FIG. 10. The light emitter cases of the first set **707a** are electrically coupled to one another by way of at least two electrically conductive paths or traces **711a**, **711b** of a first flexible metallic or polymer interconnect while the light emitter cases of the second set **707b** are electrically coupled to one another by way of at least two electrically conductive paths or traces **711c**, **711d** of a second flexible metallic or plated polymer interconnect. The interconnect may, for example, be formed on a flexible, electrically insulative film, encased in the polymer encasement portion **702**.

[0089] FIGS. 11A and 11B show an elongated flexible member **800** coupled to a polymer encasement portion **802** that encases a plurality of light emitter cases **804a-804n**

(collectively **804**, only four called out in the figures) according to one illustrated embodiment. The elongated flexible member **800** is similar or identical to that discussed above in reference to FIGS. 6A-6C, so will not be described further.

[0090] Each of the light emitter cases **804** includes at least one light emitter operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **802** proximate the light emitter cases **804** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0091] Each of the plurality of light emitter cases **804a-804n** has a respective principal axis of emission **806a-806n** (collectively **806**, only four illustrated and called out in the figures).

[0092] The light emitter cases **804** are arranged in a helical pattern. In the illustrated embodiment, the respective principal axes of emission **806** point outward from the polymer encasement portion **802** in a plurality of directions, and may be arranged to provide relatively even illumination in 360 degrees.

[0093] The light emitter cases are electrically coupled to a number of electrically conductive paths or traces **811a-811c** of helical metallic or helical molded metallized polymer interconnects. It is appreciated that the polymer encasement structure **802** may employ a greater or lesser number of light emitter cases **804**, and that such light emitter cases **804** may be distributed in a variety of ways to provide emitted light from all around the polymer encasement portion **802**.

[0094] FIG. 12 shows an elongated flexible member **900** that forms a receptacle **901** sized and dimensioned to at least partially receive a polymer encasement portion **902** as indicated by arrow **903**, according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0095] The polymer encasement portion **902** encases a plurality of light emitter cases **904**. At least a portion **906** of the elongated flexible member **900** proximate the receptacle **901** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters. Contacts **908a**, **908b**, may be formed at a bottom **910** of the receptacle **901** and complementary contacts **912a**, **912b** formed on a bottom **914** of the polymer encasement portion **902** to provide a conductive electrical path upon insertion and seating of the polymer encasement portion **902** into the receptacle. The elongated flexible member **900** may include mechanical engagement structure(s) to ensure proper seating and/or retention of the polymer encasement portion **902** in the receptacle **901**.

[0096] FIG. 13 shows a unitary structure that forms an elongated flexible member **1000** and a polymer encasement portion **1002** encasing a plurality of light emitter cases **1004**, according to one illustrated embodiment. The elongated flexible member **1000** may advantageously be a polymer and cast, extruded, or otherwise formed along with the polymer encasement portion **1002** as a single unitary piece. At least a portion of the polymer encasement portion **1002** proximate the light emitter cases **1004** should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters.

[0097] FIG. 14 shows an elongated flexible member in the form of a catheter body 1100 and a polymer encasement portion 1102 encasing a plurality of light emitters 1104 received in a lumen 1106 of a body according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0098] An expandable member 1108, for example a balloon, may be selectively expanded between an unexpanded configuration (shown in solid line 1108a) and an expanded configuration (shown in broken line 1108b) to engage the wall forming the lumen 1106. The catheter body 1100 may include one or more lumens or channels 1110 to transfer a fluid (e.g., liquid or gas) between the expandable member 1108 and one or more reservoirs (not shown). In some embodiments the fluid may be recirculated to transfer heat generated by the light emitters 1104 away from the lumen 1106 of the body.

[0099] The expandable member 1108 may be positioned overlying or surrounding the light emitters 1104 as illustrated, in which case at least a portion of the expandable member 1108 should be at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the light emitters 1104. In other embodiments the expandable member 1108 may be positioned so as to not overlie or surround the light emitters 1104.

[0100] Some embodiment may include two, or more, expandable members. For example, some embodiments may include two expandable members located fore and aft of the light emitters. In such an embodiment, a first one of the expandable members may be expanded to stop the flow of a bodily fluid (e.g., blood), then the second one of the expandable members expanded after a portion of the lumen 1106 has cleared of the bodily fluid. This may advantageously allow the lumen 1106 of the body to be illuminated without the interference of the bodily fluid.

[0101] FIG. 15 shows an elongated flexible member in the form of a catheter body 1200 and a polymer encasement portion 1202 encasing a plurality of light emitters 1204, all received in a lumen 1206 of a body according to one illustrated embodiment. The catheter body 1200 is coupled to move along a guide wire 1208, which may be inserted into the lumen 1206 prior to insertion of the catheter body 1200 and polymer encasement portion 1202.

[0102] FIG. 16 shows an elongated flexible member in the form of a guide wire 1300 and a polymer encasement portion 1302 encasing a plurality of light emitters 1304, all received in a lumen 1306 of a body according to one illustrated embodiment. While the figure illustrates the polymer encasement portion 1302 attached or fixed to the guide wire 1300, in other embodiments the polymer encasement portion 1302 may be slideably or otherwise movably mounted to the guide wire 1300.

[0103] FIG. 17 shows a method 1400 of manufacturing a medical apparatus according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0104] At 1402, the light emitters are arranged in a desired topology. As described above, the light emitters may be arranged in a variety of topologies, for example linear array, or helically disposed. The light emitters may be arranged with principal axes of emission all pointing in a common direction, or in opposed directions or in three or more directions. The light emitters may be arranged in partial

overlapping back-to-back relation. The light emitter may be arranged in groups with principal axes of emission of the light emitters of any group pointing in a common direction, and groups pointing in different directions. Alternatively, the light emitter may be arranged in groups with principal axes of emission of the light emitters of any group pointing in a variety of directions.

[0105] At 1404, the light emitters are electrically coupled. As described above, the light emitters may be coupled to one another without the use of wire bonds. Further, the light emitters may be coupled to one another without the use of electrically conductive paths or traces, for example when arranged in back-to-back partially overlapping relation or where arranged such that the terminals of neighboring light emitters are proximate or in contact with one another. Alternatively, the light emitters may be coupled to one another using electrically conductive paths or traces, for example those of a flexible interconnect.

[0106] At 1406, the light emitters are encased in the polymer encasement portion. The encasement may advantageously fix the topology of the light emitters, as well as provide environmental protection.

[0107] Optionally at 1408, the encased light emitters are electrically coupled to the elongated flexible member. Such coupling may be completed during manufacture, or may be completed by an end user, for example just prior to use. Such may allow a portion (e.g., catheter body, wire guide or polymer encasement portion) of the device to be sterilized and reused, or may allow the selection of a particular component based on the subject, patient, disease or procedure. In some embodiments, the elongated flexible member and polymer encasement portion are formed as a unitary structure, thus the electrical coupling may already exist.

[0108] FIG. 18 shows a method 1500 of using a medical system illumination system 100 including a fluid circulation system 140 (FIG. 2) according to one illustrated embodiment.

[0109] At 1502, at least a portion of the catheter having the expandable member is inserted into the lumen 102 (FIG. 2) of the body. The catheter body and/or guide wire is used to maneuver the polymer encasement portion 112 proximate an area of the lumen 102 to be illuminated.

[0110] At 1504, the fluid circulation system 140 expands the expandable member 1108 (FIG. 14), for example inflating the expandable member 1108 with a fluid medium using the storage reservoir 142 and pump 144 (FIG. 2). As noted above, some embodiments may include more than one expandable member. Such embodiments may employ additional storage reservoirs, pumps and/or conduits for inflating or otherwise actuating the respective expandable members.

[0111] At 1506, the controller provides power to at least some of the plurality of light emitters to illuminate at least a portion of the lumen 102 of the body. As discussed above, the controller 106 can cause a variety of spatial or temporal patterns of illumination, and can vary or otherwise control intensity of illumination.

[0112] At 1508, the fluid circulation system 140 circulates the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member 1108 while the expandable member 1108 is inflated and during at least a portion of a time when the power is

provided to at least some of the plurality of light emitters. Heat generated by the light emitters may be transferred to the fluid in the expandable member **1108**, and then transferred away from the lumen **102** to the heat exchanger **150** (FIG. 2). Alternatively, or additionally, heat may be supplied to the expandable member **1108** by way of the fluid to warm the lumen prior to and/or following operation of the light emitters.

[0113] At **1510**, the expandable member **1108** is at least partially deflated. At **1512**, the catheter is then removed from the lumen **102**.

[0114] The above description of illustrated embodiments, including what is described in the Abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the claims invention to the precise forms disclosed. Although specific embodiments of and examples are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure, as will be recognized by those skilled in the relevant art. The teachings provided herein can be applied to various medical devices, not necessarily the exemplary catheter type medical device for photodynamic therapy generally described above.

[0115] For example, in the area of oncology, PDT may potentially be used to treat and kill diseased cells, such as cancer cells, without substantial injury to surrounding healthy tissue. A polymer encasement portion may contain as many light emitter cases as necessary or useful for the particular application, and the light emitter cases may be grouped in any manner necessary or useful for the intended application.

[0116] The various embodiments described above can be combined to provide further embodiments. All of the U.S. patents, U.S. patent application publications, U.S. patent applications, foreign patents, foreign patent applications and non-patent publications referred to in this specification and/or listed in the Application Data Sheet, including but not limited to commonly assigned U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/640,382, filed Dec. 30, 2004; commonly assigned U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/455,069 filed Mar. 14, 2003; and commonly assigned U.S. nonprovisional patent application Ser. No. 10/799,357, filed Mar. 12, 2004; are incorporated herein by reference, in their entirety. Aspects of the invention can be modified, if necessary, to employ systems, circuits and concepts of the various patents, applications and publications to provide yet further embodiments of the invention.

[0117] These and other changes can be made to the invention in light of the above-detailed description. In general, in the following claims, the terms used should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims, but should be construed to include all medical apparatus that operate in accordance with the claims. Accordingly, the invention is not limited by the disclosure, but instead its scope is to be determined entirely by the following claims.

1. A medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body;

a plurality of light emitters, the light emitters electrically coupled to one another without the use of wire bonds, and operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband; and

a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, and the polymer encasement portion being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body and positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member.

2. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has a principal axis of emission.

3. The medical apparatus of claim 2 wherein the principal axis of emission of a first one of the plurality of light emitters is in a different direction than the principal axis of emission of another one of the plurality of light emitters.

4. The medical apparatus of claim 2 wherein a maximum cross-sectional dimension of the polymer encasement portion is less than twice a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission.

5. The medical apparatus of claim 4 wherein the principal axis of emission of a first one of the plurality of light emitters is not in the same direction as the principal axis of emission of another one of the light emitters.

6. The medical apparatus of claim 2 wherein the light emitters are distributed generally along at least a portion of a length of the polymer encasement portion.

7. The medical apparatus of claim 6 wherein the principal axis of emission of at least some of the light emitters is diametrically opposed to the principal axis of emission of successively adjacent ones of the light emitters.

8. The medical apparatus of claim 6 wherein the principal axes of emission of a first set of at least two successively adjacent ones of the light emitters are parallel and in a same first direction, and the principal axes of emission of a second set of at least two successively adjacent ones of the light emitters are parallel and in a same second direction, the second direction diametrically opposed to the first direction.

9. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, a first one of the terminals of the light emitters directly adhered to a terminal of a successively preceding one of the light emitters with an electrically conductive adhesive and without any intervening electrical trace, a second one of the terminals of the light emitters directly adhered to a terminal of a successively succeeding one of the light emitters with an electrically conductive adhesive and without any intervening electrical trace.

10. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light emitters are distributed generally along at least a portion of a length of the polymer encasement portion, successively adjacent ones of the light emitters arranged back-to-back in partially overlapping relationship, and wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, the terminals respectively adhered to a respective terminal of a preceding one of the light emitters and a respective terminal of a succeeding one of the light emitters without any intervening electrical trace.

11. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light emitters are distributed generally along at least a portion of

a length of the polymer encasement portion, successively adjacent ones of the light emitters oriented in opposed relation.

12. The medical apparatus of claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, and each of a positive one of the terminals of the light emitters coupled to a negative one of the terminals of the next successively adjacent light emitter, the plurality of light emitters electrically coupled in series.

13. The medical apparatus of claim 11 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals surface mounted to respective ones of at least two electrically conductive paths.

14. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the polymer encasement portion is cylindrical with a longitudinal axis.

15. The medical apparatus of claim 14 wherein the light emitters are helically distributed about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion.

16. The medical apparatus of claim 14 wherein the light emitters are helically distributed about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion such that the principal axes of emission of the light emitters point in at least three different directions.

17. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated flexible member is a catheter body.

18. The medical apparatus of claim 17 wherein the catheter body has an interior portion that at least partially receives the polymer encasement portion.

19. The medical apparatus of claim 18 wherein at least a portion of the catheter body is at least partially transmissive of electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband of the plurality of light emitters.

20. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated flexible member is a guide wire and the polymer is physically coupled to the guide wire.

21. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated flexible member is a catheter body, and the polymer encasement portion has a smooth exterior surface, and further comprising:

an expandable member physically coupled to move in the lumen of the body with the polymer encasement portion, and operable to expand between an expanded configuration and an unexpanded configuration.

22. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated flexible member comprises a polymer and the polymer encasement portion and the elongated flexible member are both portions of a unitary structure.

23. The medical apparatus of claim 1 wherein the polymer encasement portion is a substantially solid cylinder.

24. A medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body, the medical apparatus comprising:

an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body;

a plurality of light emitters each having a principal axis of emission, the light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband; and

a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encase-

ment portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, the polymer encasement portion having a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than two times the sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission, the polymer encasement portion positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member.

25. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than or equal to the sum of the dimension of one of the light emitters measured along the principal axis of emission and the marginal dimension by which the outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in the direction of principal emission.

26. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein each of a number of the plurality of the light emitters is electrically directly coupled to at least one successively adjacent light emitter without a wire bond.

27. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein each of the light emitters has at least two terminals and wherein at least one of the terminals of each of the light emitters is directly adhered to the terminal of at least one successively adjacent light emitter.

28. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein each of the light emitters has at least two terminals, at least one of the terminals of each of the light emitters surface mounted to an electrically conductive path.

29. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein each of the light emitters has at least two terminals, each of the terminals of each of the light emitters surface mounted to a respective one of at least two electrically conductive paths.

30. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the principal axis of emission of a first one of the plurality of light emitters is not in the same direction as the principal axis of emission of another one of the plurality of light emitters.

31. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the light emitters are distributed generally along at least a portion of a length of the polymer encasement portion, successively adjacent ones of the emitters arranged oriented in opposed relation.

32. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the light emitters are distributed generally along at least a portion of a length of the polymer encasement portion and wherein the principal axes of emission of a first set of at least two successively adjacent ones of the light emitters are parallel and in a same first direction, and the principal axes of emission of a second set of at least two successively adjacent ones of the light emitters are parallel and in a same second direction, the second direction diametrically opposed to the first direction.

33. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the polymer encasement portion is cylindrical with a longitudinal axis.

34. The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the polymer encasement portion is cylindrical with a longitu-

nal axis and wherein the light emitters are helically distributed about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion.

**35.** The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the elongated flexible member is one of a catheter body or a guide wire.

**36.** The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the elongated flexible member is a catheter body, and the polymer encasement portion has a smooth exterior surface, and further comprising:

an expandable member physically coupled to move in the lumen of the body with the polymer encasement portion, at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, and operable to expand between an expanded configuration and an unexpanded configuration.

**37.** The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the elongated flexible member comprises a polymer and the polymer encasement portion and the elongated flexible member form portions of a unitary structure.

**38.** The medical apparatus of claim 24 wherein the polymer encasement portion is a substantially solid cylinder.

**39.** A method of forming a medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body, the method comprising:

electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters without the use of wire bonds, the light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband;

encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion sized and dimensioned to be received in a lumen of a body, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband; and

physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to an elongated flexible member sized to be at least partially received in a lumen of a body.

**40.** The method of claim 39 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, and wherein electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters without the use of wire bonds comprises directly adhering the terminals of the light emitters to respective terminals of at least one successively adjacent light emitter without any intervening electrical trace.

**41.** The method of claim 39 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, and wherein electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters without the use of wire bonds comprises directly adhering the terminals of the light emitters to a respective terminal of at least one successively adjacent light emitter with an electrically conductive adhesive and without any intervening electrical trace with the light emitters arranged back-to-back in partially overlapping relationship.

**42.** The method of claim 39 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, and wherein electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters Without the use of wire bonds comprises electrically coupling each of a positive one of the terminals of the light emitters to a negative one of the terminals of the next successively adjacent light emitter, the plurality of light emitters electrically coupled in series.

**43.** The method of claim 39 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals, and wherein electrically coupling a plurality of light emitters without the use of wire bonds comprises electrically coupling each of the terminals of the light emitters to respective ones of at least two electrically conductive paths.

**44.** The method of claim 39 wherein encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion comprises encasing the plurality of light emitters in a cylindrical polymer encasement portion having a longitudinal axis and a smooth exterior surface.

**45.** The method claim 44, further comprising:

helically distributing the light emitters about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion before encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion.

**46.** The method of claim 44, further comprising:

helically distributing the light emitters about the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical polymer encasement portion such that the respective principal axes of emission of the light emitters points in at least three different directions before encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion.

**47.** The method of claim 39, further comprising:

arranging the light emitters such that the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than two times the sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along a principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission, before encasing the plurality of light emitters in a polymer encasement portion.

**48.** The method of claim 39, further comprising:

arranging the light emitters such that the polymer encasement portion has a maximum cross-sectional dimension that is less than or equal to a sum of a dimension of one of the light emitters measured along a principal axis of emission and a marginal dimension by which an outer portion of the polymer encasement portion extends beyond the light emitter along the principal axis of emission in a direction of principal emission.

**49.** The method of claim 39 wherein physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to an elongated flexible member comprises physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to a catheter.

**50.** The method of claim 39 wherein physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to an elongated flexible member comprises physically coupling the polymer encasement portion to a guide wire for a catheter.

**51.** A medical apparatus useful in illuminating at least a portion of a lumen of a body, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated flexible member having a distal end and a proximal end, at least a portion of the elongated flexible member being sized and dimensioned to be received and moved within the lumen of the body;

a plurality of light emitters operable to emit electromagnetic radiation in at least one characteristic emission waveband, wherein the light emitters of the plurality of

light emitters are arranged helically with respect to each other about an imaginary longitudinal axis; and

a polymer encasement portion encasing the plurality of light emitters, at least a portion of the polymer encasement portion being at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, the polymer encasement portion positioned proximate the proximal end of the elongated flexible member to be moved in the lumen of the body by movement of the elongated flexible member.

52. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein each of the light emitters has a respective principal axis of emission and the principal axes of emission of at least three of the light emitters point in at least three respective different directions.

53. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein each of the plurality of light emitters has at least two terminals surface mounted to respective ones of at least two electrically conductive paths.

54. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein the polymer encasement portion is cylindrical with a longitudinal axis that is colinear with the longitudinal axis about which the light emitters are helically distributed.

55. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein the polymer encasement portion has a smooth exterior surface, and further comprising:

an expandable member physically coupled to move in the lumen of the body with the polymer encasement portion, at least partially transmissive to electromagnetic radiation in the at least one characteristic emission waveband, and operable to expand between an expanded configuration and an unexpanded configuration.

56. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein the elongated flexible member is one of a catheter body or a guide wire.

57. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein the elongated flexible member comprises a polymer and the polymer encasement portion and the elongated flexible member form a unitary structure.

58. The medical apparatus of claim 51 wherein the polymer encasement portion is a substantially solid cylinder.

59. A method of operating a catheter physically associated with an expandable member and a plurality of light emitters to illuminate a lumen of a body, the method comprising:

inflating the expandable member with a fluid medium when the expandable member is positioned in the lumen of the body;

providing power to at least some of the plurality of light emitters to provide illumination therefrom when at least some of the plurality of light emitters are positioned in the lumen of the body; and

circulating the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member while the expandable member is inflated and during at least a portion of a time when the power is provided to at least some of the plurality of light emitters.

60. The method of claim 59 wherein circulating the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member while the expandable member is inflated and during at least a portion of a time when the power is provided to at least some of the plurality of light emitters comprises replacing the fluid medium in the expandable member at a first temperature with fluid medium at a second temperature.

61. The method of claim 59 wherein circulating the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member while the expandable member is inflated and during at least a portion of a time when the power is provided to at least some of the plurality of light emitters comprises replacing the fluid medium in the expandable member at a first temperature with fluid medium at a second temperature, the second temperature lower than the first temperature.

62. The method of claim 59 wherein inflating the expandable member with a fluid medium comprises inflating the expandable member with a heat conducting fluid medium.

63. The method of claim 59 wherein inflating the expandable member with a fluid medium comprises inflating the expandable member with a physiologically inert heat conducting fluid medium.

64. The method of claim 59 wherein the plurality of light sources are proximate the expandable member and heat produced from the plurality of light sources is transferred away from the lumen by the circulating of the fluid medium into and out of the expandable member.

65. The method of claim 59, further comprising:

inserting at least a portion of the catheter having the expandable member into the lumen of the body.

66. The method of claim 59, further comprising:

at least partially deflating the expandable member; and

removing the catheter after at least partially deflating the expandable member.

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