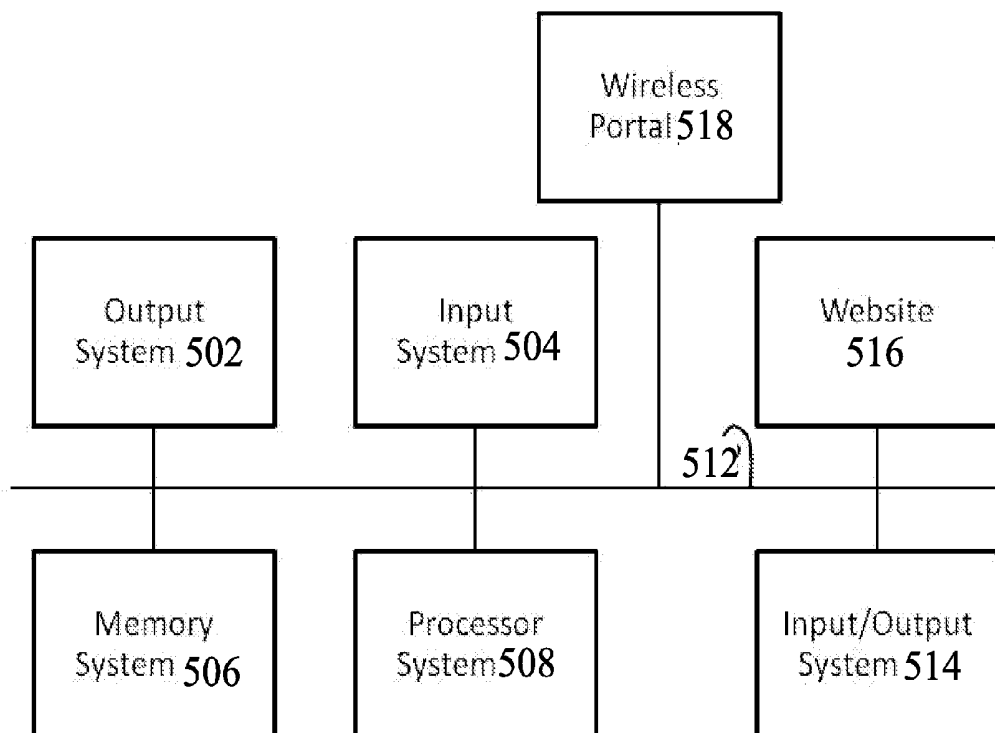




US 20140350379A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Verdooner(10) **Pub. No.: US 2014/0350379 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Nov. 27, 2014**(54) **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMAGING A
PATIENT USER'S BODY PART**(71) Applicant: **Steven Roger Verdooner**, Granite Bay,
CA (US)(72) Inventor: **Steven Roger Verdooner**, Granite Bay,
CA (US)(21) Appl. No.: **14/284,330**(22) Filed: **May 21, 2014****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 61/825,830, filed on May
21, 2013.**Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 5/00 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC **A61B 5/0059** (2013.01)USPC **600/407**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system and method for imaging a patient user's body part is disclosed. The system may include a patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media to image a patient user body part. The method may include selecting an optical imaging device to image the patient user's body part, acquiring one or more data sets with the optical imaging device, the acquiring is performed with focus at multiple axial positions and exposure control or deliberate focus at specified image locations and exposure control, registering the acquired data sets, performing image processing on the acquired data sets and recombining good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part.

500

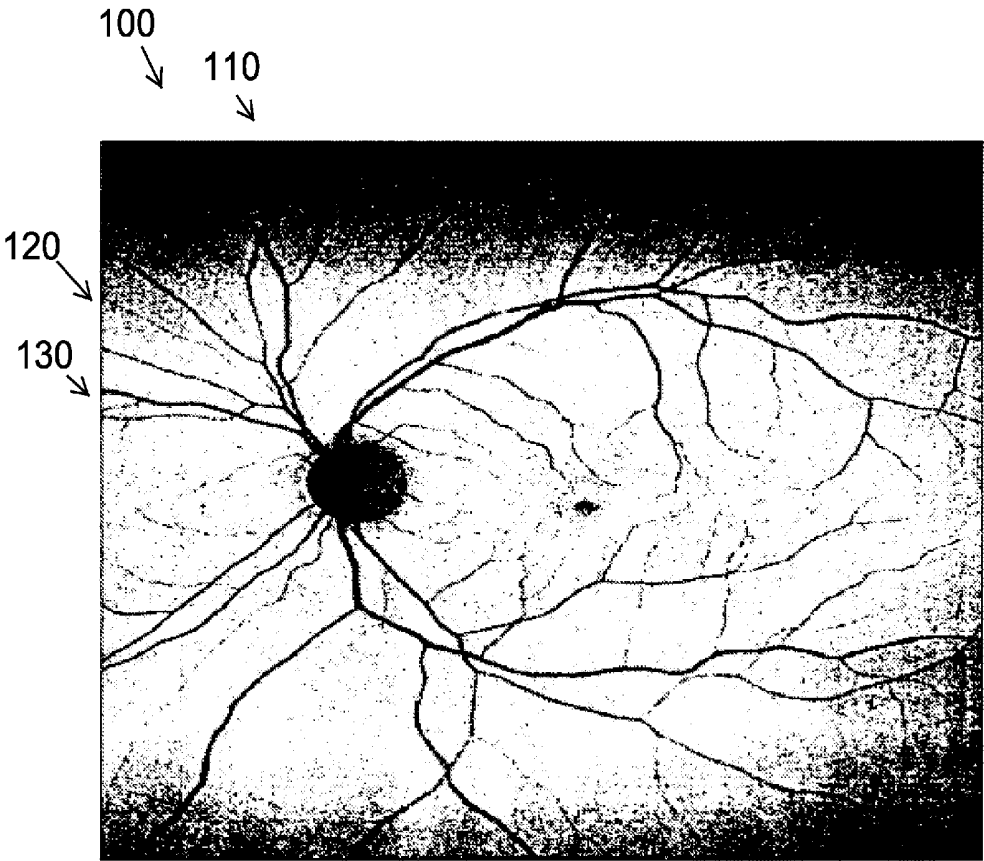


FIG. 1

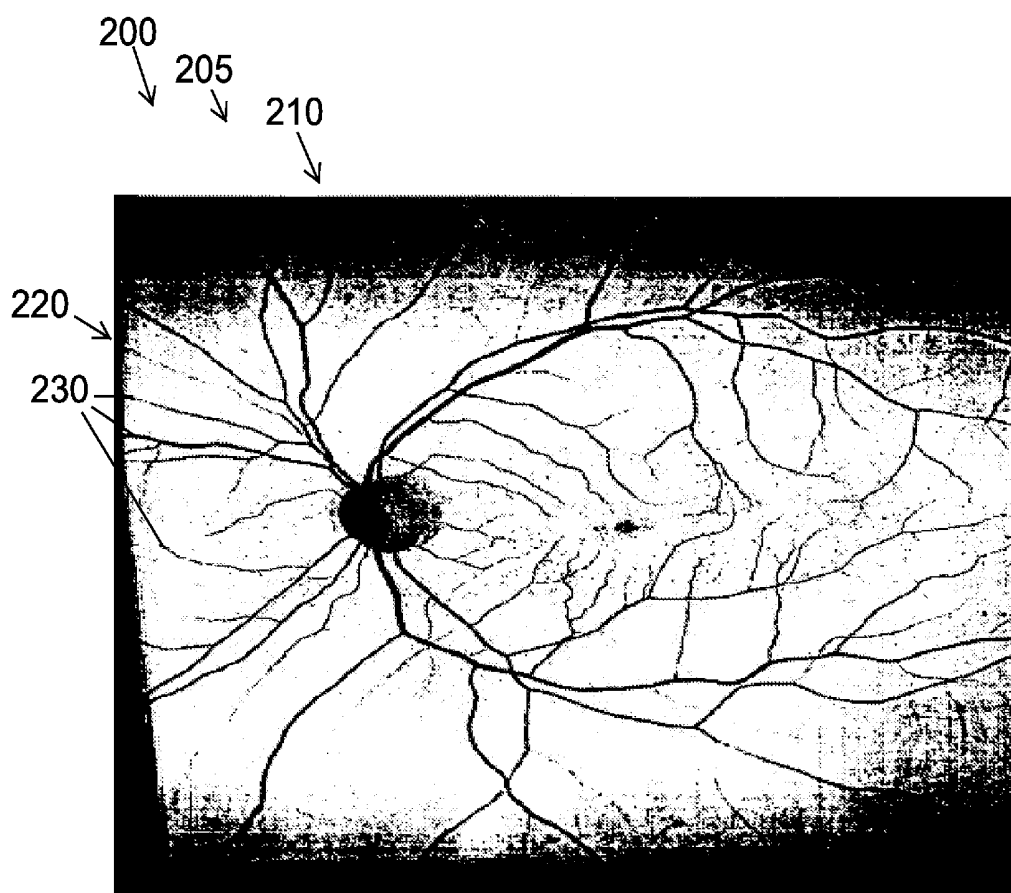


FIG. 2

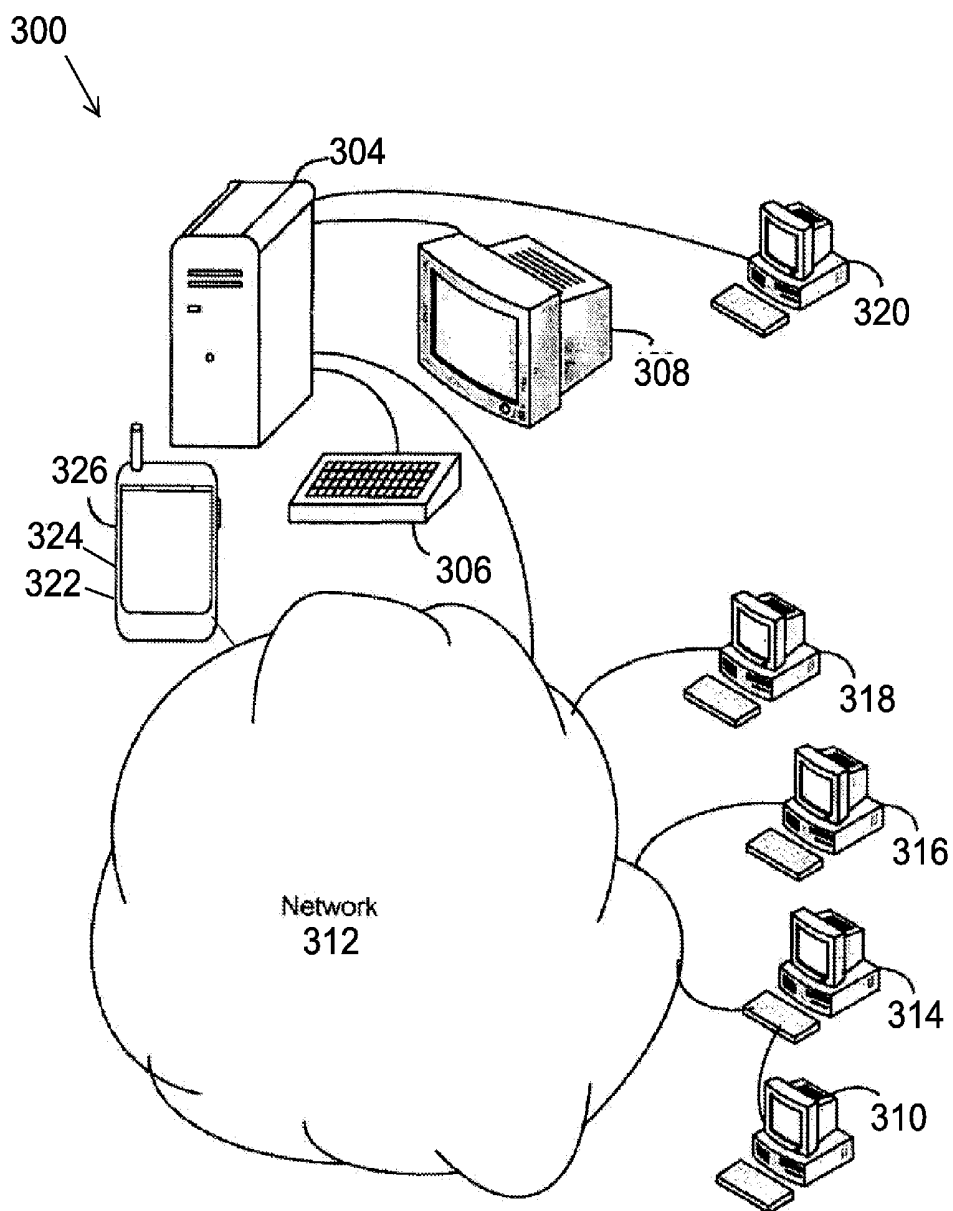


FIG. 3

400
↓

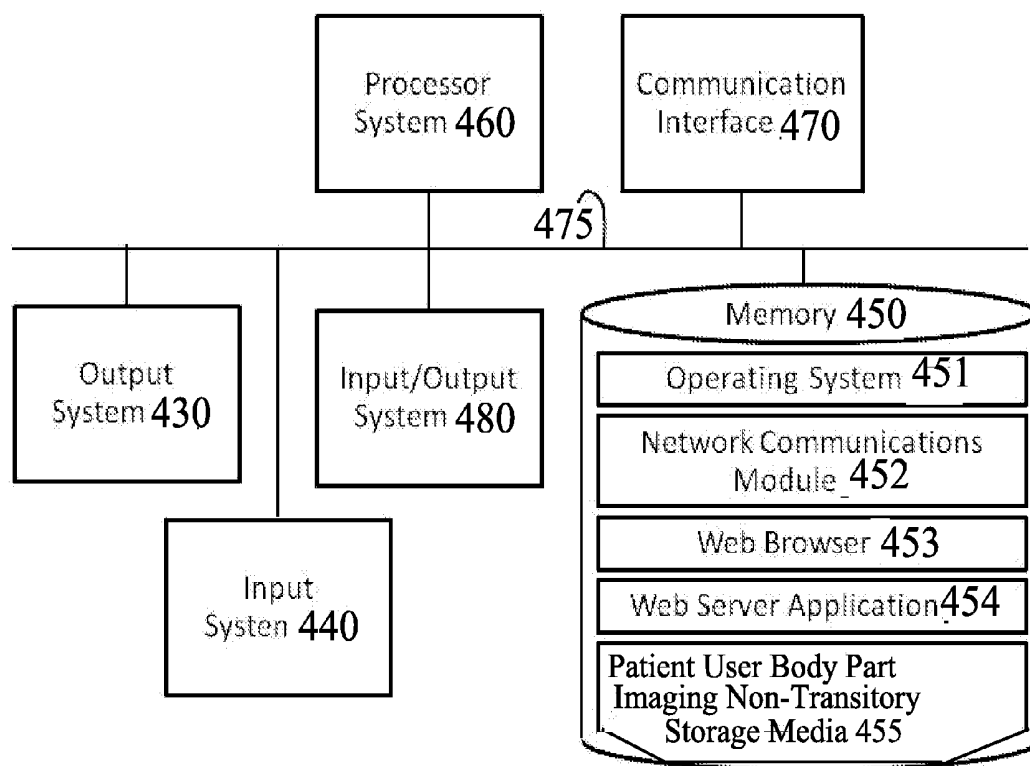


FIG. 4

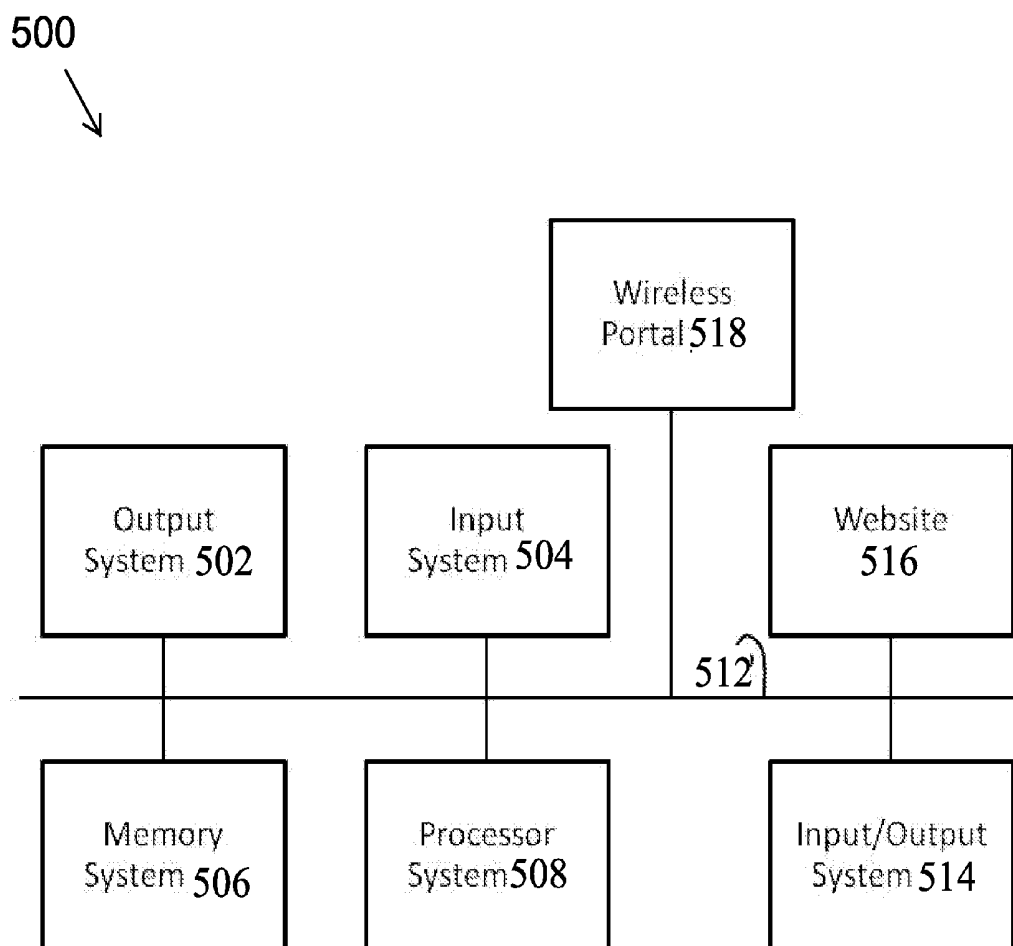


FIG. 5

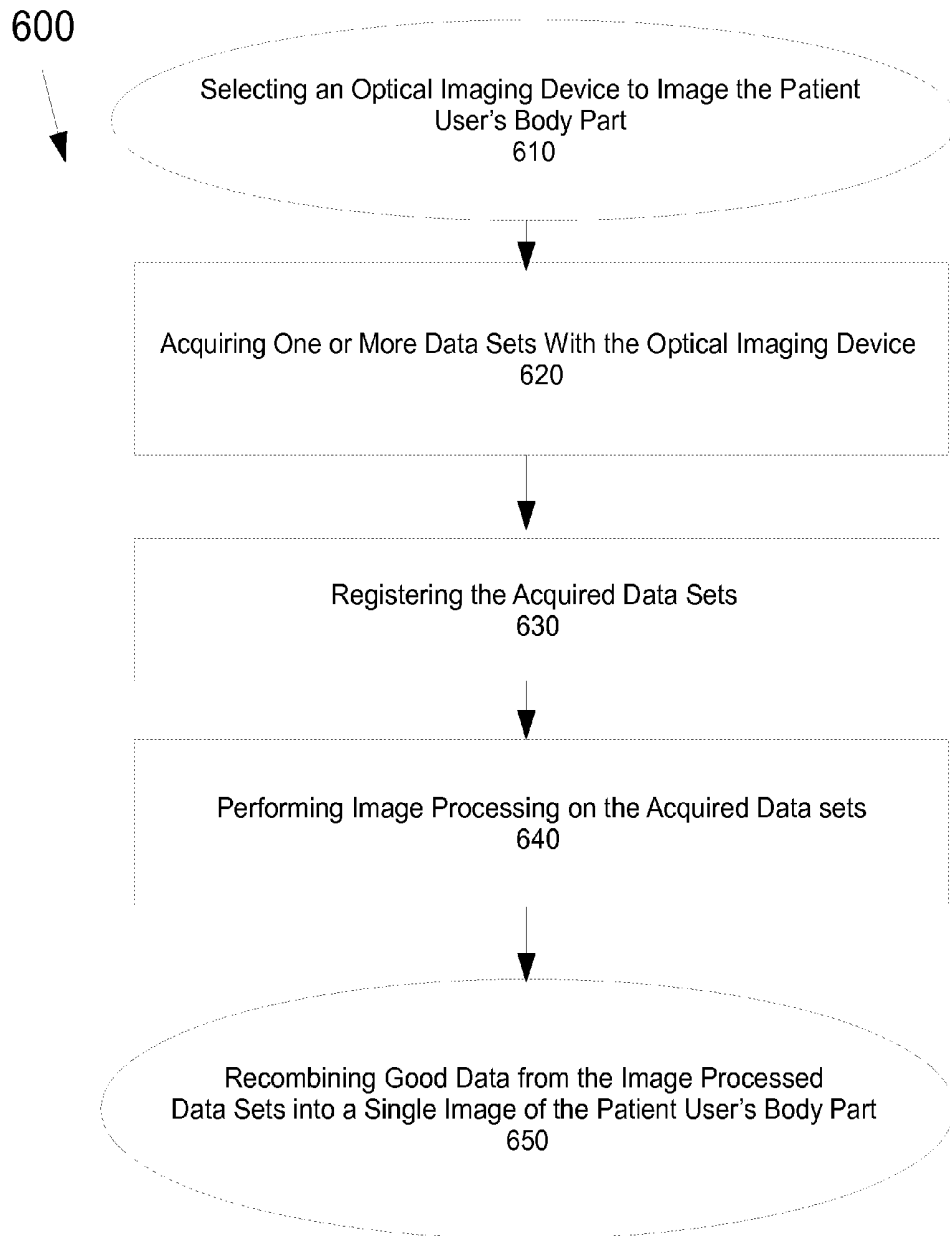


FIG. 6

700

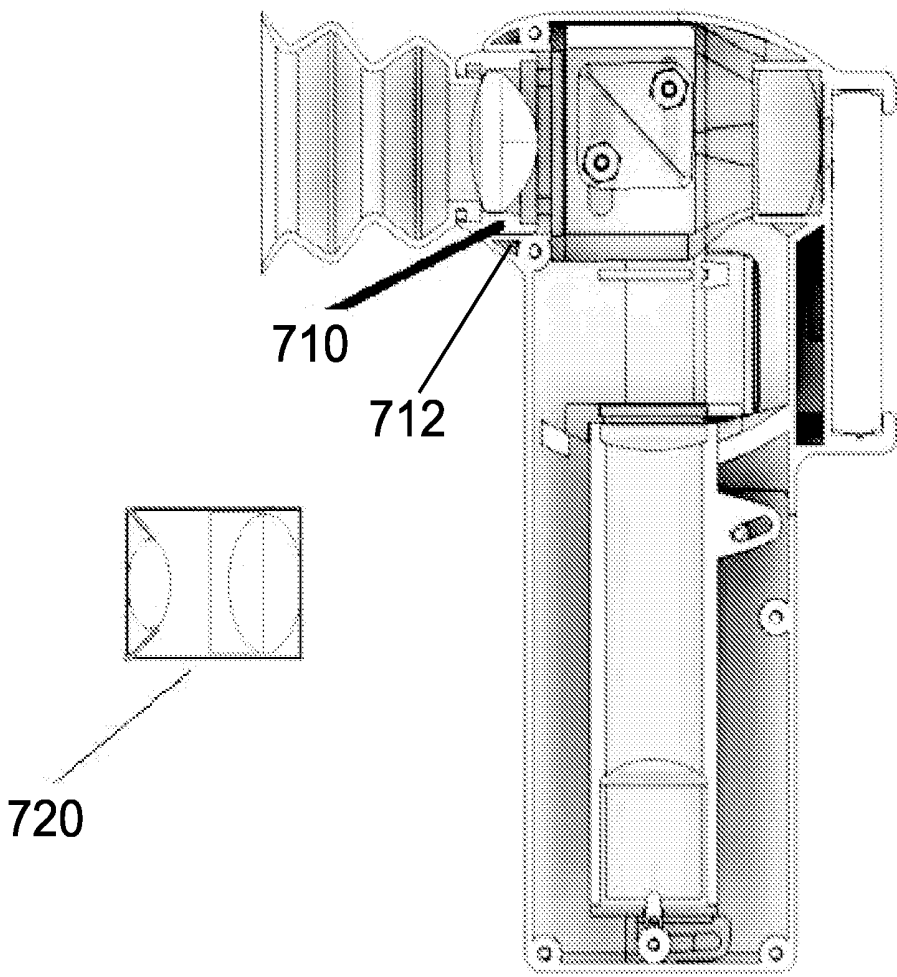


FIG. 7

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IMAGING A PATIENT USER'S BODY PART

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 61/825,830 filed on May 21, 2013, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention is a system and method for imaging. More specifically, the present invention is a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] Imaging of a patient user's body part is typically done with one or more slit lamps, ophthalmoscopes, fundus cameras, scanning laser ophthalmoscopes or SLO's and wide field devices for imaging the eye, an otoscope for imaging the ear, nose or throat, a dermascope for imaging the skin, or an endoscope for imaging an interior organ or body cavity. These devices are often relatively expensive and require one or more personal computers, cameras, sensors and monitors. They are typically relatively large, require an instrument table, are not portable, are not battery powered and require an experienced technician to operate. Even hand-held models of these devices are limited in their field of view. Typically these devices acquire a single image rather than a video stream. When retinal images are shot with different focus and alignment, it is often up to the observer to view multiple images to combine a composite in their mind if the images are in focus. While some of these devices allow control of focus, it is difficult to obtain a well-focused image throughout the depths of a three dimensional body part such as the retina. Additionally, there are optical aberrations that may be caused by the eye and/or imaging device that may cause regions to be out of focus. Alignment of the imaging device to a patient's eye also may affect overall clarity of specific image regions.

[0006] Oscopes are typically hand-held devices that allow an observer to view an ear, a nose or a throat. Utilizing the components of a cell phone with an operating system or a SMARTPHONE® or a tablet computer, in combination with appropriate optics, allows for visualization, storage and transmission of images of an ear, just like images of an eye or a throat. Images may also be obtained of skin at visible or specific wavelengths for dermatological applications.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present invention is a system and method for imaging. More specifically, the present invention is a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part.

[0008] The system and method for imaging a patient user's body part differs from other systems and methods in that traditional imaging devices do not afford for the visualization of multiple in-focus regions of the eye, retina, ear, nose, throat, skin or other interior or exterior body part, are not driven by SMARTPHONE® or tablet computer and are relatively large, expensive and cumbersome. The system and method solves this problem through a combination of packaging, optics and image registration in combination with image analysis and processing, to yield relatively high quality focused images, plenoptic images and movies. Additionally, by utilizing multiple images, overall resolution and image quality is greatly improved.

[0009] The system to image a patient user's body part may include a server system with a processor system, a commu-

nications interface, a communications system, an input system and an output system, the server system having access to a communications network, a memory system with an operating system, a communications module, a web browser module, a web server application and a patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media and a website displaying a plurality of web pages residing on the patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media.

[0010] The method for imaging a patient user's body part may include the steps of selecting an optical imaging device to image the patient user's body part, acquiring one or more data sets with the optical imaging device, registering the acquired data sets, performing image processing on the acquired data sets and recombining good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part. The method may be executed by a non-transitory computer storage media having instructions stored thereon.

[0011] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a data set is obtained from one or more existing devices.

[0012] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part that are obtained from new devices specifically designed to create images that are in focus at various depths either through stepping focus or a multi-element microlens that is placed over a sensor that contains information from multiple image planes.

[0013] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part that is applied to an optical coherence tomography or OCT data set to obtain a clear comprehensive OCT data set.

[0014] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where several interfaces are detachable for each imaging modality.

[0015] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part that is non-mydratic and may be switched between infra-red or IR and white light or other discreet spectral wavelength for utilization on patients without pharmacological dilation.

[0016] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part that is vastly improved by recording movie streams, or rapidly acquired still images, and parsing good quality images and image sections from each image and combining them into single or multiple images and/or movies at relatively improved image quality.

[0017] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part that is a trigger mechanism with electronics that interface with an electronic adapter on a SMARTPHONE® or a tablet computer.

[0018] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a 60D lens, or similar large field retinal lens, is utilized to obtain a wide field image of a retina.

[0019] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a stereo splitter is utilized to obtain 3-D images and information.

[0020] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part

where a high resolution image of a plurality of vessels is obtained to assess risk of stroke and cardiovascular events.

[0021] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where one or more retinal vessels are analyzed for tortuosity and detection of hypertension.

[0022] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to detect Alzheimer's disease by one or more images of amyloid beta plaque in a retina.

[0023] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to image, diagnose or screen for diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts or other ocular disorder.

[0024] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to image the anterior segment of the eye for ophthalmic conditions.

[0025] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where an otoscope is utilized to diagnose ear, nose or throat infections.

[0026] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to image skin for dermatological conditions.

[0027] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to image dental conditions.

[0028] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized to image interior body organs or cavities for medical conditions.

[0029] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where a device is utilized for telemedicine applications.

[0030] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for imaging a patient user's body part where the system controls are voice-activated.

[0031] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for comparing plenoptic images taken at two or more different points in time by registering them with respect to each other, and playing the sequence as a movie.

[0032] It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for combining multiple overlapping plenoptic images to form a larger mosaicked image field covering the area of interest.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0033] The present invention will be described by way of exemplary embodiments, but not limitations, illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which like references denote similar elements, and in which:

[0034] FIG. 1 illustrates a diagram of a single image, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. 2 illustrates a diagram of a plurality of multiple images, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0036] FIG. 3 illustrates a system overview of a system to image a patient user's body part, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0037] FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of a server system, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0038] FIG. 5 illustrates a block diagram of a client system, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0039] FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart of a method for imaging a patient user's body part, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0040] FIG. 7 illustrates a side view of a removable lens, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[0041] Various aspects of the illustrative embodiments will be described using terms commonly employed by those skilled in the art to convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. However, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced with only some of the described aspects. For purposes of explanation, specific numbers, materials and configurations are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the illustrative embodiments. However, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without the specific details. In other instances, well-known features are omitted or simplified in order not to obscure the illustrative embodiments.

[0042] Various operations will be described as multiple discrete operations, in turn, in a manner that is most helpful in understanding the present invention. However, the order of description should not be construed as to imply that these operations are necessarily order dependent. In particular, these operations need not be performed in the order of presentation.

[0043] The phrase "in one embodiment" is used repeatedly. The phrase generally does not refer to the same embodiment, however, it may. The terms "comprising", "having" and "including" are synonymous, unless the context dictates otherwise.

[0044] FIG. 1 illustrates a diagram of a single image 100, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0045] The single image 100 may be of a patient user's body part 110. More specifically, the single image 100 may include amyloid beta plaque and drusen 120 or one or more retinal vessels 130 disposed on the patient user's body part 110. The patient user's body part 110 may be a retina, an eye, a nose, a throat or skin or other suitable patient user's body part.

[0046] FIG. 2 illustrates a diagram of a plurality of multiple images 200, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0047] The multiple images 200 may be registered and combined into a single well-focused image 205. The multiple images 200 may be of a patient user's body part 210. More specifically, the multiple images 200 may include amyloid beta plaque and drusen 220 or one or more retinal vessels 230 disposed on the patient user's body part 210. The patient user's body part 210 may be an eye, a nose, a throat or skin or other suitable patient user's body part. The multiple images 200 may have improved resolution, focus, dynamic range and image quality than the single image 100 illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0048] FIG. 3 illustrates a system overview of a system 300 to image a patient user's body part, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0049] The system 300 may include a server system 304, an input system 306, an output system 308, a plurality of client systems 310, 314, 316, 318 and 320, a communications network 312 and a handheld or mobile device 322. In other

embodiments, the system 300 may include additional components and/or may not include all of the components listed above.

[0050] The server system 304 may include one or more servers. One server 304 may be the property of the distributor of any related software or non-transitory storage media. In other embodiments, the system 300 may include additional components and/or may not include all of the components listed above.

[0051] The input system 306 may be utilized for entering input into the server system 304, and may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of a keyboard system, a mouse system, a track ball system, a track pad system, a plurality of buttons on a handheld system, a mobile system, a scanner system, a wireless receiver, a microphone system, a connection to a sound system, and/or a connection and/or an interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet (i.e., IrDA, USB).

[0052] The output system 308 may be utilized for receiving output from the server system 304, and may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of a monitor system, a wireless transmitter, a handheld display system, a mobile display system, a printer system, a speaker system, a connection or an interface system to a sound system, an interface system to one or more peripheral devices and/or a connection and/or an interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet.

[0053] The system 300 may illustrate some of the variations of the manners of connecting to the server system 304, which may be a website (FIG. 5, 516) such as an information providing website (not shown). The server system 304 may be directly connected and/or wirelessly connected to the plurality of client systems 310, 314, 316, 318 and 320 and may be connected via the communications network 312. Client systems 320 may be connected to the server system 304 via the client system 318. The communications network 312 may be any one of, or any combination of, one or more local area networks or LANs, wide area networks or WANs, wireless networks, telephone networks, the Internet and/or other networks. The communications network 312 may include one or more wireless portals. The client systems 310, 314, 316, 318 and 320 may be any system that an end user may utilize to access the server system 304. For example, the client systems 310, 314, 316, 318 and 320 may be personal computers, workstations, tablet computers, laptop computers, game consoles, hand-held network enabled audio/video players, mobile devices and/or any other network appliance.

[0054] The client system 320 may access the server system 304 via the combination of the communications network 312 and another system, which may be the client system 318. The client system 320 may be a handheld or mobile wireless device 322, such as a mobile phone, a tablet computer or a handheld network-enabled audio/music player, which may also be utilized for accessing network content. The client system 320 may be a cell phone with an operating system or SMARTPHONE® 324 or a tablet computer with an operating system or IPAD® 326.

[0055] FIG. 4 illustrates a block diagram of a server system 400, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0056] The server system 400 may include an output system 430, an input system 440, a memory system 450, which may store an operating system 451, a communications module 452, a web browser module 453, a web server application

454 and a patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media 455. The server system 400 may also include a processor system 460, a communications interface 470, a communications system 475 and an input/output system 480. In other embodiments, the server system 400 may include additional components and/or may not include all of the components listed above.

[0057] The output system 430 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of a monitor system, a handheld display system, a printer system, a speaker system, a connection or interface system to a sound system, an interface system to one or more peripheral devices and/or a connection and/or interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet.

[0058] The input system 440 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of a keyboard system, a mouse system, a track ball system, a track pad system, one or more buttons on a handheld system, a scanner system, a microphone system, a connection to a sound system, and/or a connection and/or an interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet (i.e., IrDA, USB).

[0059] The memory system 450 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of a long term storage system, such as a hard drive; a short term storage system, such as a random access memory; or a removable storage system, such as a floppy drive or a removable drive and/or a flash memory. The memory system 450 may include one or more machine readable mediums that may store a variety of different types of information. The term machine readable medium may be utilized to refer to any medium capable of carrying information that may be readable by a machine. One example of a machine-readable medium may be a computer-readable medium such as a non-transitory storage media. The memory system 450 may store one or more machine instructions for imaging a patient user's body part. The operating system 451 may control all software or non-transitory storage media and hardware of the system 100. The communications module 452 may enable the server system 304 to communicate on the communications network 312. The web browser module 453 may allow for browsing the Internet. The web server application 454 may serve a plurality of web pages to client systems that request the web pages, thereby facilitating browsing on the Internet.

[0060] The processor system 460 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of multiple parallel processors, a single processor, a system of processors having one or more central processors and/or one or more specialized processors dedicated to specific tasks. The processor system 460 may implement the machine instructions stored in the memory system 450.

[0061] In an alternative embodiment, the communication interface 470 may allow the server system 400 to interface with the network 312. In this embodiment, the output system 430 may send communications to the communication interface 470. The communications system 475 communicatively links the output system 430, the input system 440, the memory system 450, the processor system 460 and/or the input/output system 480 to each other. The communications system 475 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of one or more electrical cables, fiber optic cables, and/or sending signals through air or water (i.e., wireless communications). Some examples of sending signals through air and/or water may include systems for transmitting

electromagnetic waves such as infrared and/or radio waves and/or systems for sending sound waves.

[0062] The input/output system 480 may include devices that have the dual function as the input and output devices. For example, the input/output system 480 may include one or more touch sensitive screens, which display an image and therefore may be an output device and accept input when the screens may be pressed by a finger or a stylus. The touch sensitive screens may be sensitive to heat and/or pressure. One or more of the input/output devices may be sensitive to a voltage or a current produced by a stylus. The input/output system 480 may be optional and may be utilized in addition to or in place of the output system 430 and/or the input device 440.

[0063] FIG. 5 illustrates a block diagram of a client system 500, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0064] The client system 500 may include an output system 502, an input system 504, a memory system 506, a processor system 508, a communications system 512, an input/output system 514, a website 516 and a wireless portal 518. Other embodiments of the client system 500 may not have all of the components and/or may have other embodiments in addition to or instead of the components listed above.

[0065] The client system 500 may be any one of the client systems 310, 314, 316, 318, 320 and/or handheld or mobile wireless device 322, SMARTPHONE® 324 or IPAD® 326 that may be utilized as one of the network devices of FIG. 3. In other embodiments, the client system 500 may include additional components and/or may not include all of the components listed above. The output system 502 may include any one of, some of, any combination of or all of a monitor system, a wireless transmitter, a handheld display system, a printer system, a speaker system, a connection or interface system to a sound system, an interface system to peripheral devices and/or a connection and/or an interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet.

[0066] The input system 504 may include any one of, some of, any combination of or all of a keyboard system, a mouse system, a track ball system, a track pad system, one or more buttons on a handheld system, a scanner system, a wireless receiver, a microphone system, a connection to a sound system, and/or a connection and/or an interface system to a computer system, an intranet, and/or the Internet (i.e., infrared Data Association or IrDA, Universal Serial Bus or USB).

[0067] The memory system 506 may include, any one of, some of, any combination of or all of a long-term storage system, such as a hard drive, a short term storage system, such as a random access memory; a removable storage system, such as a floppy drive or a removable drive and/or a flash memory. The memory system 506 may include one or more machine readable mediums that may store a variety of different types of information. The term machine readable medium may be utilized to refer to any medium that may be structurally configured for carrying information in a format that may be readable by a machine. One example of a machine-readable medium may be a computer-readable medium. The memory system 506 may store a non-transitory storage media for imaging a patient user body part.

[0068] The processor system 508 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of multiple parallel processors, a single processor, a system of processors having one or more central processors and/or one or more specialized processors dedicated to specific tasks. The processor system

508 may implement the programs stored in the memory system 506. The communications system 512 may communicatively link the output system 502, the input system 504, the memory system 506, the processor system 508, and/or the input/output system 514 to each other. The communications system 512 may include any one of, some of, any combination of, or all of one or more electrical cables, fiber optic cables, and/or means of sending signals through air or water (i.e., wireless communications). Some examples of means of sending signals through air and/or water may include systems for transmitting electromagnetic waves such as infrared and/or radio waves and/or systems for sending sound waves.

[0069] The input/output system 514 may include devices that have the dual function as input and output devices. For example, the input/output system 514 may include one or more touch sensitive screens, which display an image and therefore may be an output device and accept input when the screens may be pressed by a finger or a stylus. The touch sensitive screens may be sensitive to heat, capacitance and/or pressure. One or more of the input/output devices may be sensitive to a voltage or a current produced by a stylus. The input/output system 514 is optional, and may be utilized in addition to or in place of the output system 502 and/or the input device 504.

[0070] The client systems 310, 314, 316, 318, 320 and the handheld wireless device 322 may also be tied into a website 516 or a wireless portal 518 which may also be tied directly into the communications system 512. Any website 516 or wireless portal 518 may also include a non-transitory storage media and a website module (not shown) to maintain, allow access to and run the website as well.

[0071] FIG. 6 illustrates a flowchart of a method 600 for imaging a patient user's body part, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0072] The method 600 may include the steps of selecting an optical imaging device to image the patient user's body part 610, acquiring one or more data sets with the optical imaging device 620, registering the acquired data sets 630, performing image processing on the acquired data sets 640 and recombining good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part 650.

[0073] The selecting step 610 may include the optical imaging device is selected from the group consisting of a slit lamp mounted device, a slit lamp integrated device, an optical coherence tomography or OCT device, an optical imaging at one or more specific wavelengths device, a multispectral device, a hyper spectral device, an autofluorescence device, a confocal retinal imaging device, a scanning laser ophthalmoscope device, an adaptive optics device, a polarization orientation specific device, a fundus camera, a handheld imager device, a direct ophthalmoscope, an indirect ophthalmoscope, a fluorescein angiography device, an ICG angiography device, a curcumin fluorescence imaging auto-fluorescence imaging device, an otoscope, a dermascope, or an endoscope. The acquiring step 620 may be performed with continuous thru-focus and exposure control or deliberate focus and exposure control. The registering step 630 may include the data sets are automatically registered with sub pixel accuracy. The performing step 640 may identify clear, well exposed portions of the data sets and eliminates poorly defined, one or more dark data sets or one or more aberrations that degrade imaging quality. The recombining step 650 may include the single image is plenoptic or in focus at multiple depths. The

recombining step **650** may include a movie file is created that allows step through a focus stack or select a region wanted to view that is in focus.

[0074] FIG. 7 illustrates a side view of a removable lens **700**, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

[0075] The removable lens **700** may include a macro lens **710** and an exchangeable lens assembly **720**. The macro lens **710** may also be a derm lens **712** or other suitable type of lens. The exchangeable lens assembly **720** may be coupled to the system (FIG. 3, **300**). The exchangeable lens assembly **720** may receive the macro lens **710**, thereby coupling the macro lens **710** to the exchangeable lens assembly **720**. The removable lens **700** may also be swapped with other removable lens **700**.

[0076] The system and method may be utilized alone or in combination with another device for a variety of patient user's body part imaging modalities. More specific to eye indications, the system and method may be utilized on but not limited to slit lamp mounted, slit lamp integrated, OCT, optical imaging at specific wavelengths, multispectral, hyper spectral, autofluorescence, confocal retinal imaging, scanning laser ophthalmoscope, adaptive optics, polarization orientation specific, fundus cameras, hand-held imagers, direct and indirect ophthalmoscopes, fluorescein angiography, Indocyanine green or ICG angiography, curcumin fluorescence imaging autofluorescence, otoscope, derma scopes and other imaging modalities. Data sets may be acquired either with random or deliberate focus and exposure control. Data sets may also be obtained using specified illumination control which is linked in mode/time to an external focusing or illumination device. Data sets may be automatically registered with sub-pixel accuracy. Image processing may be performed on data sets to identify clear, well-exposed portions of data sets and eliminating poorly defined and/or dark data sets or other aberrations that degrade imaging quality. Good data may be recombined into a single image that is plenoptic or in focus at multiple depths and/or a movie file may be created that allows a user to step through a focus stack or select a region that they want to view that is in focus.

[0077] The system and method may be utilized with a variety of SMARTPHONES® and tablet computers that incorporate camera, display, computing power and communication into a single package. The system and method may be utilized with but not limited to PHONE®, iPad®, ANDROID™ phones and tablet computers, WINDOWS™ phones and tablet computers, or other portable devices. The system and method may be utilized with or without discreet focus control. The system and method may be applied across a number of eye imaging modalities including but not limited to color fundus imaging, anterior segment imaging, cornea and lens imaging, fluorescein angiography, ICG angiography, curcumin fluorescence imaging, autofluorescence, discreet wavelength imaging, red-free, hyper and multispectral imaging and optical coherence tomography. Each of these modalities allows for registration of image data sets and subsequent image processing to obtain relatively high-frequency in-focus, well exposed regions from each image, combined into a single image or a plenoptic multi-focal single image, or movie image that allows the user to step through or select regions to be viewed that are in focus. Images may be selected manually or automatically to aggregate into a high resolution panoramic image and/or multiple images may be registered and combined into a single image to greatly improve image

quality. In order to achieve artifact-free images, the system and method utilizes a light emitting diode or LED light source (or other light source, or a light source built into a camera or tablet computer) that may be off-axis from the central optical imaging path. A flipper arm may be introduced to momentarily block the artifact and thereby render images that mask the central artifact. Physical or electronic illumination control devices such as DMD arrays may be employed for illumination control. Images with and without flipper may be recombined to create an artifact-free image. Elimination of central artifact may also be accomplished by oscillating an optic, optical component or patient fixation to create image sets that have artifacts in different geographic locations. Images may then be combined with or without flipper to obtain artifact free images. The system and method may also utilize a disposable eye cup to create a darkened environment and be sanitary. The system and method may have a dedicated set of optics and interface so as to be utilized as an otoscope to image an ear, a nose, a throat or skin. Images may be stored, reviewed or sent for telemedicine consultation. The dedicated optics may be detachable in part to allow easy switching between modalities.

[0078] The system and method may be utilized to image an eye, an ear, a nose, a throat and skin for documentation of anatomy and/or detection of pathology. More specifically for the eye, the system and method may be utilized for both imaging of an anterior segment and a posterior segment of an eye and also for substructure as seen on OCT. One aspect of the system and method may be the automated registration of images and then subsequent image processing to identify regions that are relatively well-focused and evenly illuminated and to extract high frequency information like a Wiener filter, then recombining them into a single image. An algorithm may also be capable of eliminating areas of images that are poorly focused, that contain other optical aberrations and/or are not well illuminated. The system and method may be applied to a new SMARTPHONE®, a tablet computer and other patient user's body part imaging devices that specifically step the focus and/or existing devices that may or may not require the user to change the focus. The system and method may also be applied by deliberately stepping the focus of a device to generate an image set.

[0079] The system may also register current images with one or more previously captured and processed images to allow direct comparison of feature changes over time. The sequence of images over time may be presented either side-by-side, or as a sequence played as a movie that repeats over time, with user controlled frame rate.

[0080] Information from previously collected datasets may be used to guide the collection of new images to ensure they are of the same feature area. This may involve a visual feedback mechanism presented to the user, such as an image overlaid on real-time video of the area to be imaged.

[0081] While the present invention has been related in terms of the foregoing embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described. The present invention may be practiced with modification and alteration within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. Thus, the description is to be regarded as illustrative instead of restrictive on the present invention.

1. A system to image a patient user body part, comprising: a server system with a processor system, a communications interface, a communications system, an input system

- and an output system, the server system having access to a communications network;
- a memory system with an operating system, a communications module, a web browser module, a web server application and a patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media; and
- a website displaying a plurality of web pages residing on the patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media.
2. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 1, further comprising a client system.
3. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 2, wherein the client system includes an output system, an input system, a memory system, a processor system and a communications system.
4. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 3, wherein the client system is a handheld wireless device.
5. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 4, wherein the client system is a mobile phone with an operating system.
6. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 4, wherein the client system is a tablet computer.
7. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 3, wherein the client system accesses the server system via the communications network.
8. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 7, wherein the communications network is the Internet, a local area network or a wide area network.
9. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 1, wherein the patient user body part imaging non-transitory storage media acquires one or more data sets with an optical imaging device, register the acquired data sets, perform image processing on the acquired data sets and recombine good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part.
10. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 1, further comprising a removable lens.
11. The system to image a patient user body part according to claim 10, wherein the removable lens includes a macro lens and an exchangeable lens assembly, the exchangeable lens assembly receives the macro lens, thereby coupling the macro lens to the exchangeable lens assembly.
12. A method for imaging a patient user body part, comprising the steps of:
- selecting an optical imaging device to image the patient user's body part;
 - acquiring one or more data sets with the optical imaging device, the acquiring is performed with focus at one or more axial positions and exposure control or deliberate focus at one or more specified image locations and exposure control;
 - registering the acquired data sets;
 - performing image processing on the acquired data sets; and
 - recombining good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part.
13. The method according to claim 10, wherein the optical imaging device is selected from the group consisting of a slit lamp mounted device, a slit lamp integrated device, an OCT device, an optical imaging at one or more specific wavelengths device, a multispectral device, a hyper spectral device, an Autofluorescence device, a confocal retinal imaging device, a scanning laser ophthalmoscope device, an adaptive optics device, a polarization orientation specific device, a

fundus camera, a handheld imager device, a direct ophthalmoscope, an indirect ophthalmoscope, a fluorescein angiography device, an ICG angiography device, a curcumin fluorescence imaging autofluorescence imaging device, an otoscope or a dermascope, or endoscope.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein the data sets are automatically registered with sub pixel accuracy.

15. The method according to claim 10, wherein the image frames are registered to compensate for translation, rotation, perspective shift, and sub-frame warping.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the image processing on the acquired datasets involves image enhancement such as Wiener filtering or iterative deconvolution.

17. The method according to claim 10, wherein multiple overlapping plenoptic images are mosaicked together to form a larger image field covering the area of interest.

18. The method according to claim 10, wherein the current image is registered with one or more previously captured and processed images to allow direct comparison of feature changes over time.

19. The method according to claim 10, wherein the performing identifies clear, well exposed portions of the data sets and eliminates poorly defined, one or more dark data sets or one or more aberrations that degrade imaging quality.

20. The method according to claim 10, wherein the single image is plenoptic or in focus at multiple depths and a movie file is created that allows the user to step through a focus stack or select a region to view that is in focus.

21. A non-transitory computer storage media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed, execute a method comprising the steps of:

- selecting an optical imaging device to image the patient user's body part;
- acquiring one or more data sets with the optical imaging device;
- registering the acquired data sets;
- performing image processing on the acquired data sets; and
- recombining good data from the image processed data sets into a single image of the patient user's body part.

22. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim 19, wherein the optical imaging device is selected from the group consisting of a slit lamp mounted device, a slit lamp integrated device, an OCT device, an optical imaging at one or more specific wavelengths device, a multispectral device, a hyper spectral device, an Autofluorescence device, a confocal retinal imaging device, a scanning laser ophthalmoscope device, an adaptive optics device, a polarization orientation specific device, a fundus camera, a handheld imager device, a direct ophthalmoscope, an indirect ophthalmoscope, a fluorescein angiography device, an ICG angiography device, a curcumin fluorescence imaging autofluorescence imaging device, an otoscope, a dermascope, or an endoscope.

23. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim 19, wherein the data sets are automatically registered with sub pixel accuracy.

24. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim 19, wherein the image frames are registered to compensate for translation, rotation, perspective shift, and sub-frame warping.

25. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim 19, wherein the image processing on the acquired datasets involves image enhancement such as Wiener filtering or iterative deconvolution.

26. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim **19**, wherein multiple overlapping plenoptic images are mosaicked together to form a larger image field covering the area of interest.

27. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim **19**, wherein the current image is registered with one or more previously captured and processed images to allow direct comparison of feature changes over time.

28. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim **19**, wherein the performing identifies clear, well exposed portions of the data sets and eliminates poorly defined, one or more dark data sets or one or more aberrations that degrade imaging quality.

29. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim **19**, wherein the single image is plenoptic or in focus at multiple depths.

30. The non-transitory computer storage media according to claim **19**, wherein a movie file is created that allows the user to step through a focus stack or select a region to view that is in focus.

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专利名称(译)	用于对患者用户的身体部位成像的系统和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20140350379A1	公开(公告)日	2014-11-27
申请号	US14/284330	申请日	2014-05-21
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	VERDOONER史蒂芬ROGER		
申请(专利权)人(译)	VERDOONER, 史蒂芬ROGER		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	VERDOONER, 史蒂芬ROGER		
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发明人	VERDOONER, STEVEN ROGER		
IPC分类号	A61B5/00		
CPC分类号	A61B5/0059 A61B1/00 A61B3/102 A61B5/0022 G16H40/67		
优先权	61/825830 2013-05-21 US		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了一种用于对患者用户的身体部位进行成像的系统和方法。该系统可以包括患者用户身体部位成像非暂时性存储介质以对患者用户身体部位成像。该方法可包括选择光学成像装置以对患者用户的身体部位成像，利用光学成像装置获取一个或多个数据集，利用焦点在多个轴向位置处进行获取以及在指定图像位置处进行曝光控制或有意聚焦。曝光控制，登记所获取的数据集，对所获取的数据集执行图像处理，以及将来自图像处理的数据集的良好数据重新组合成患者用户的身体部位的单个图像。

