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Horseman

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(54) **SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING BIOMECHANICAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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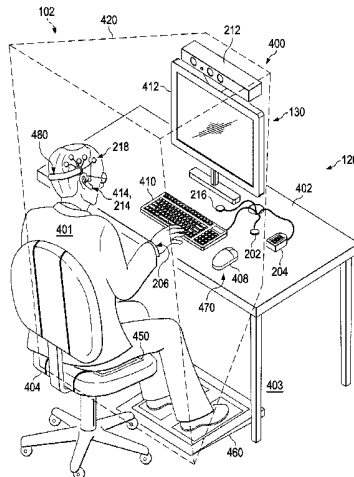
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided are embodiments of systems, computer medium and computer-implemented methods for monitoring the health of an employee while the employee is located in an employee workstation. A method including collecting, from a plurality of biomechanical sensors disposed throughout the employee workstation, biomechanical health data indicative of biomechanical characteristics of the employee, determining an employee biomechanical health profile based at least in part on the collected biomechanical health data. The employee biomechanical health profile including biomechanical health characteristics, biomechanical health conditions and/or biomechanical health risks for the employee.

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The method including generating a health plan for the employee based at least in part on the biomechanical health profile, and displaying the employee biomechanical health profile and the health plan to the employee.

16 Claims, 44 Drawing Sheets

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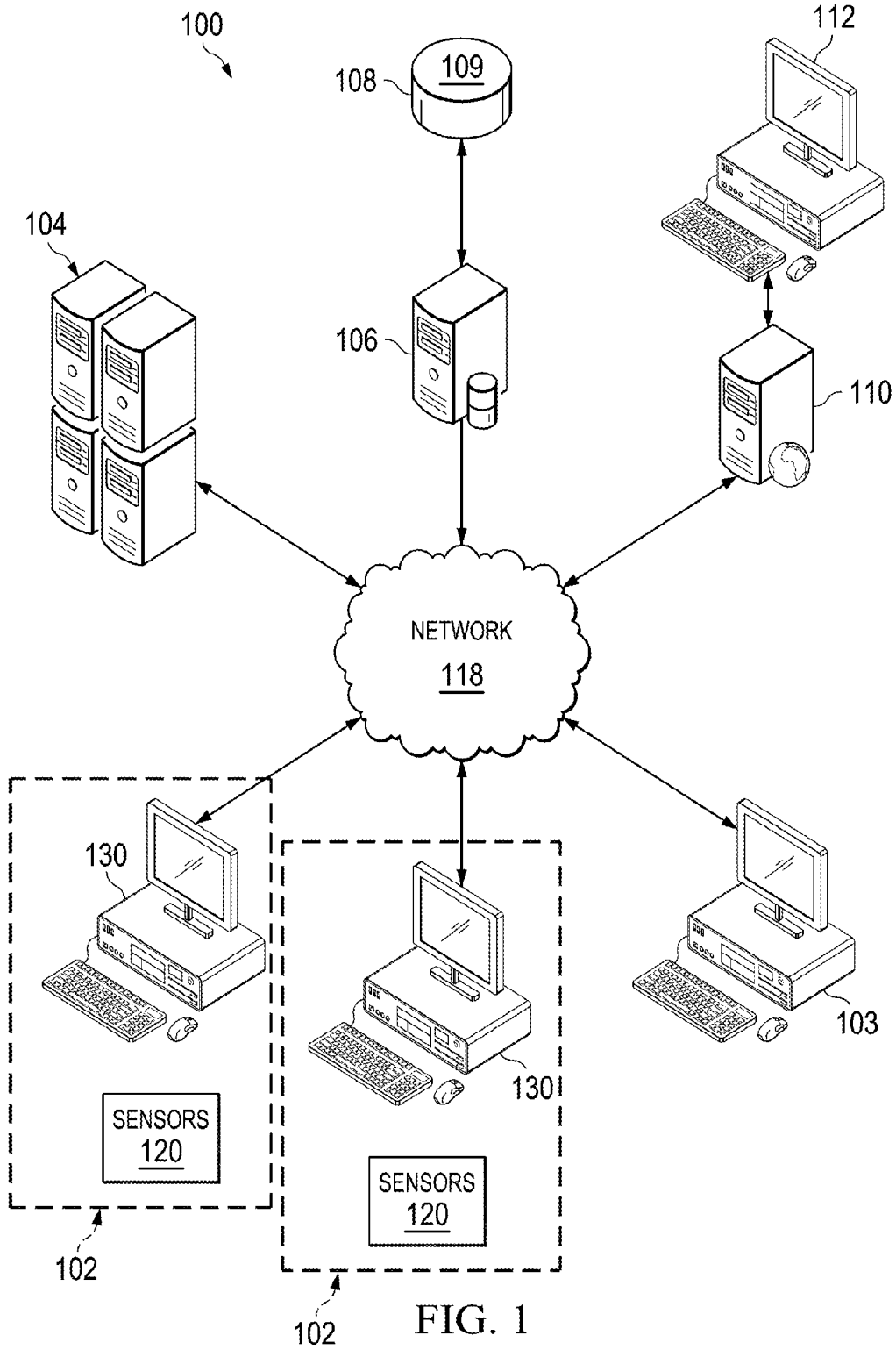


FIG. 1

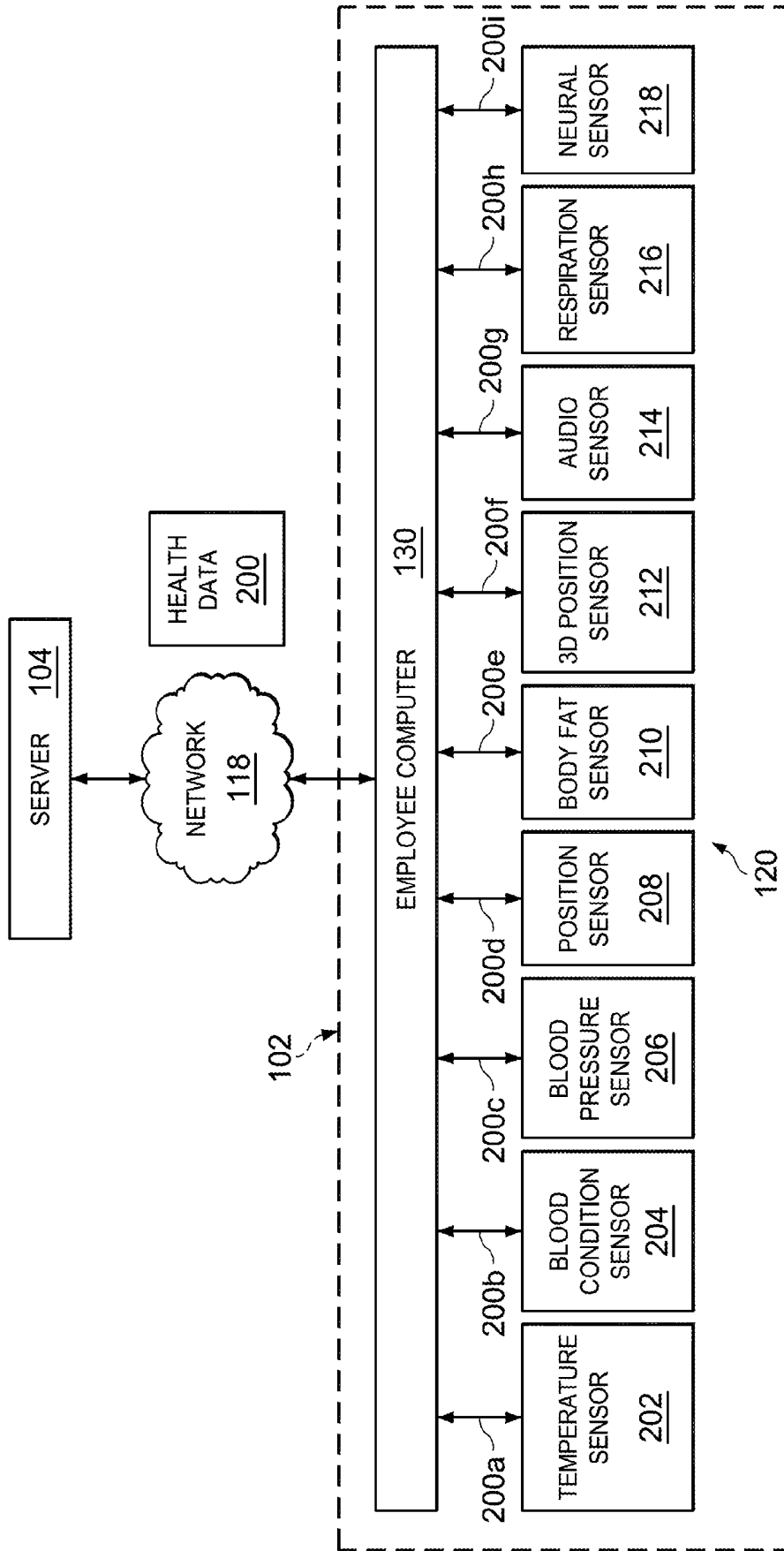


FIG. 2

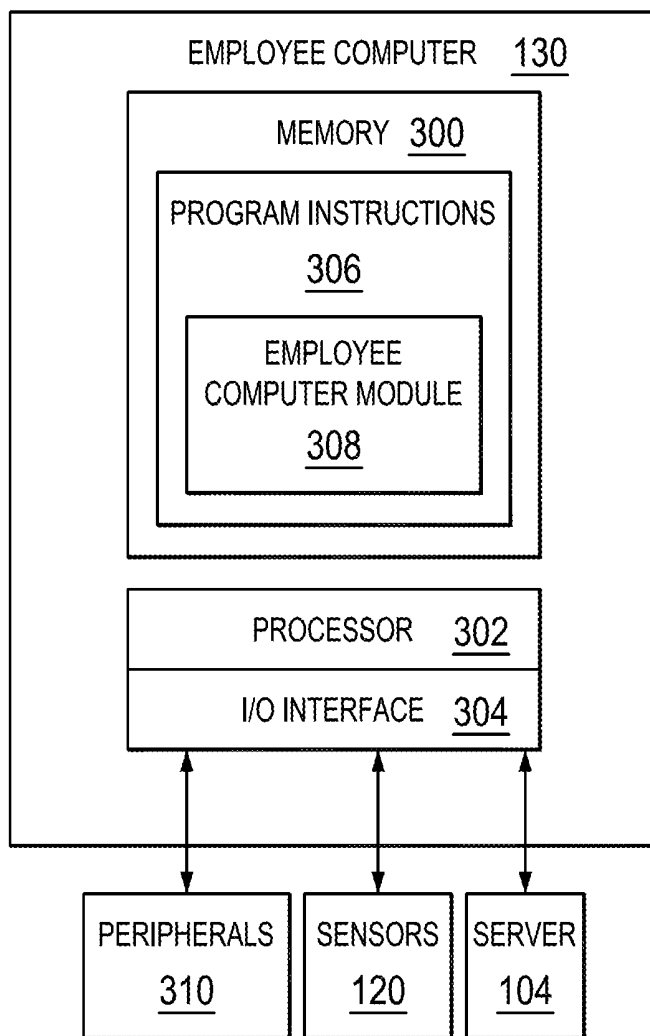


FIG. 3

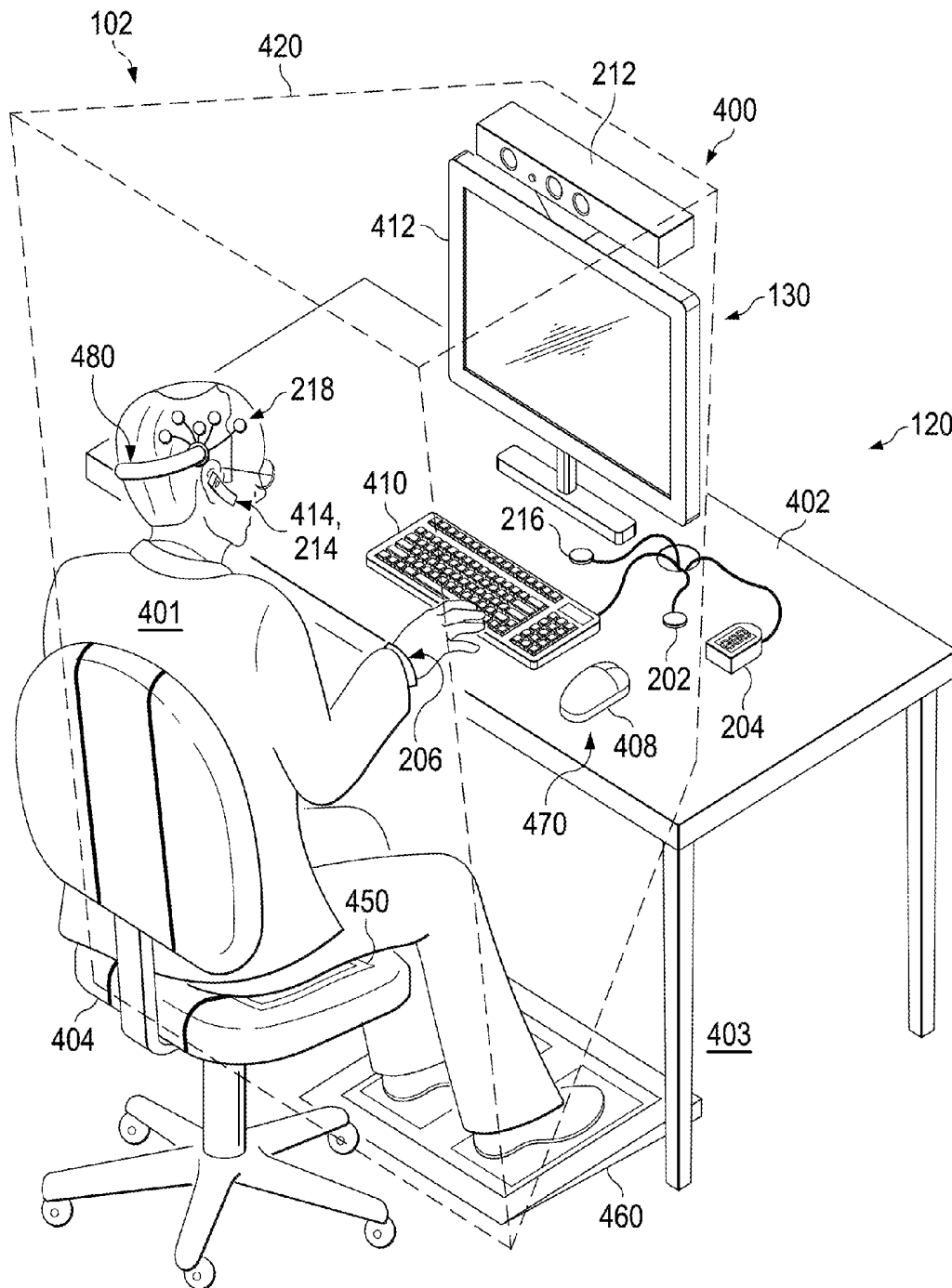
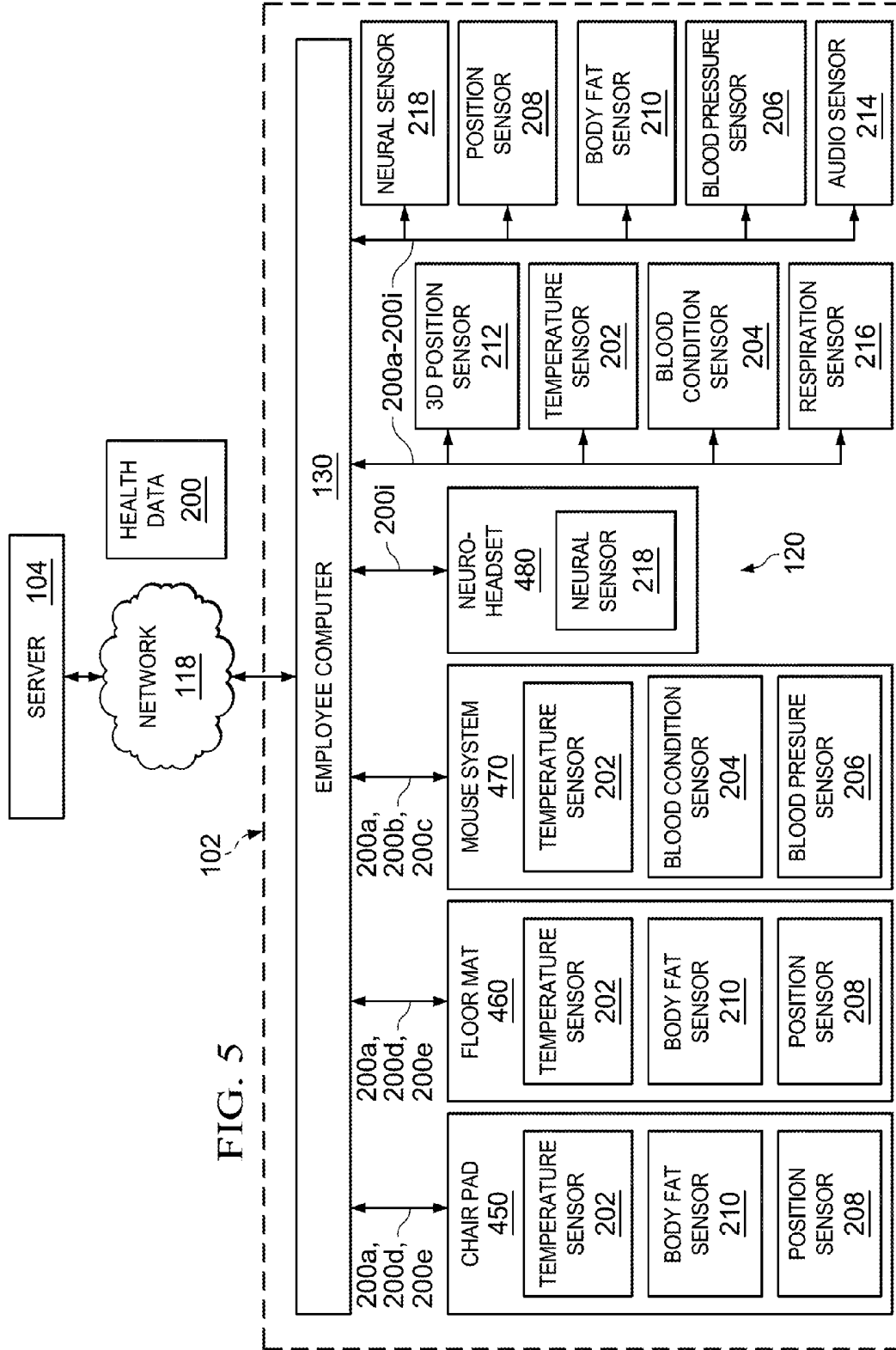


FIG. 4



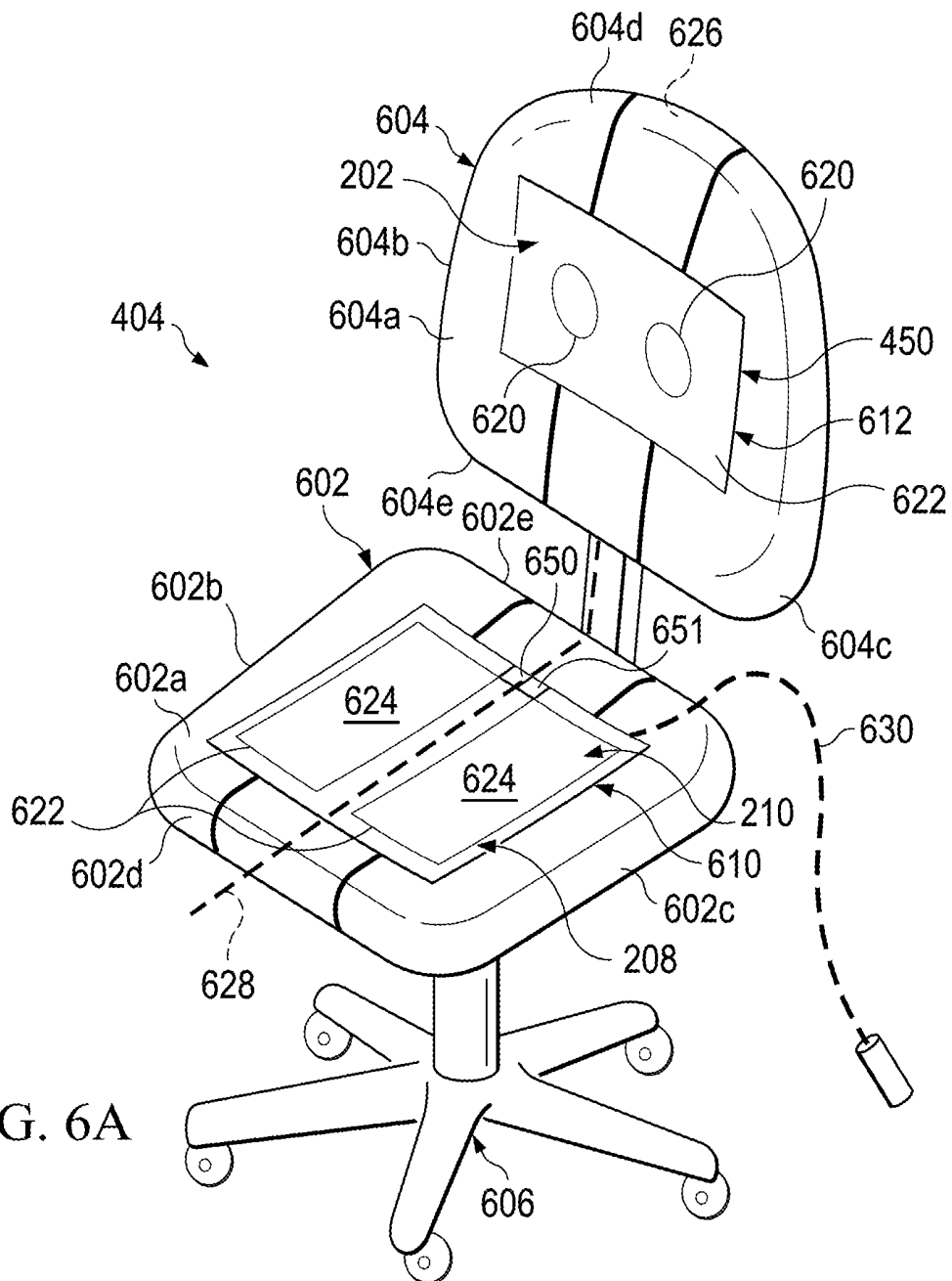


FIG. 6A

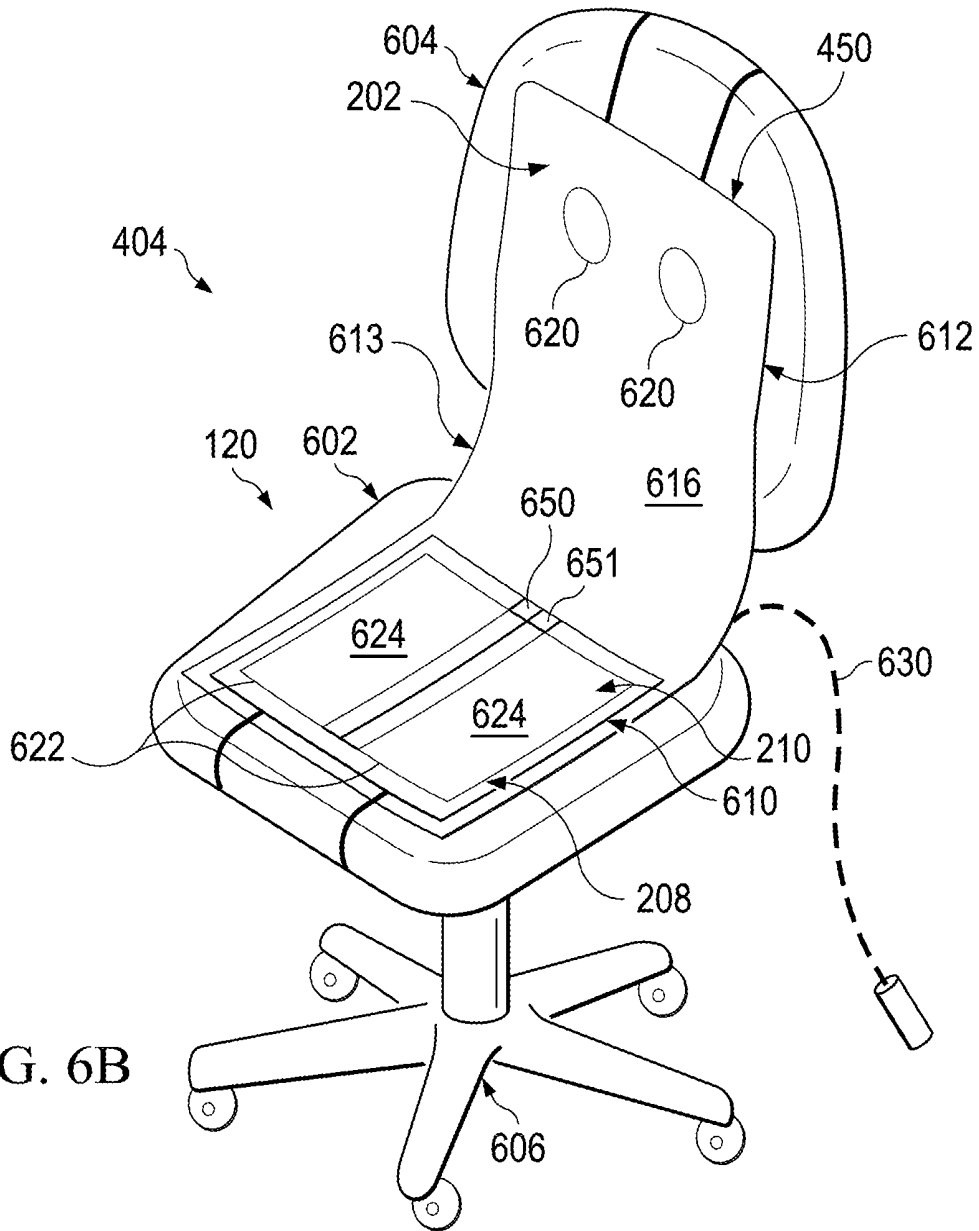
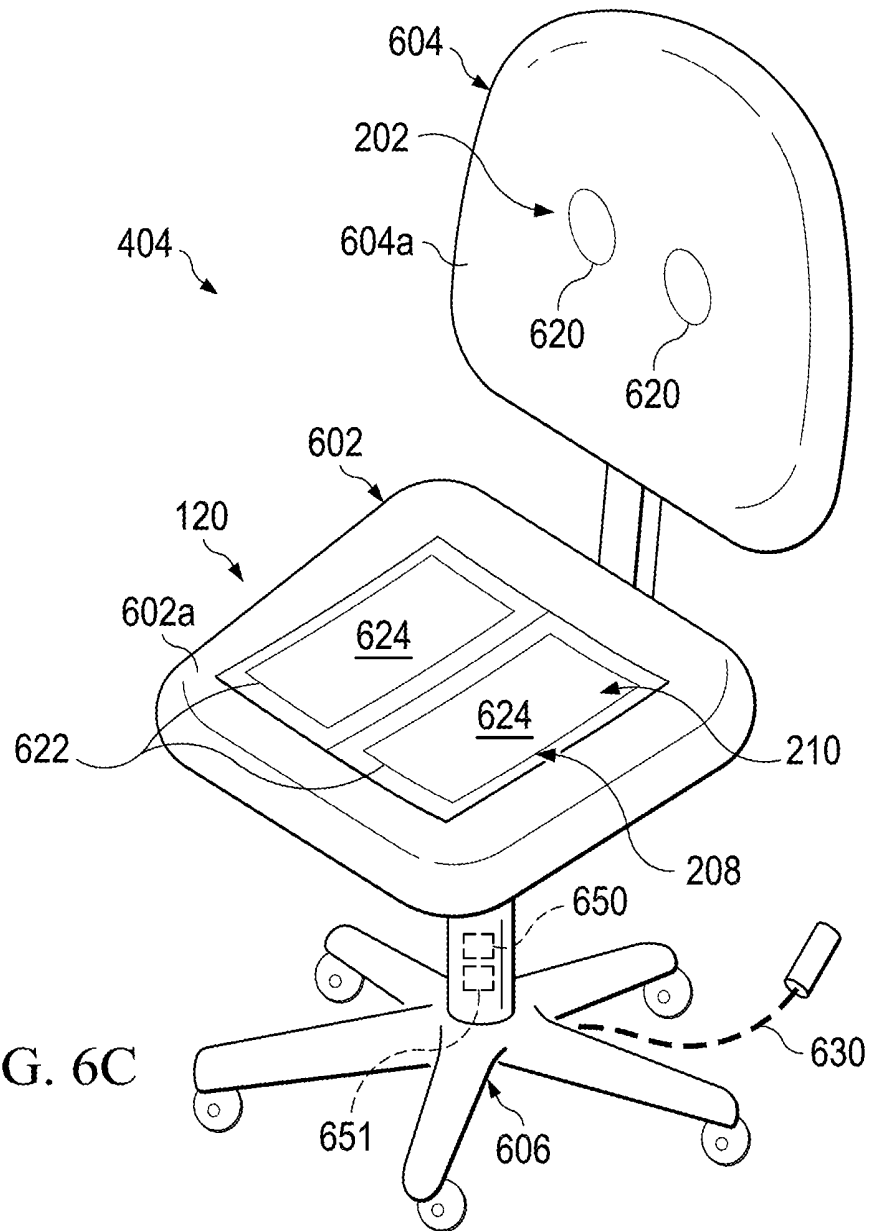


FIG. 6B



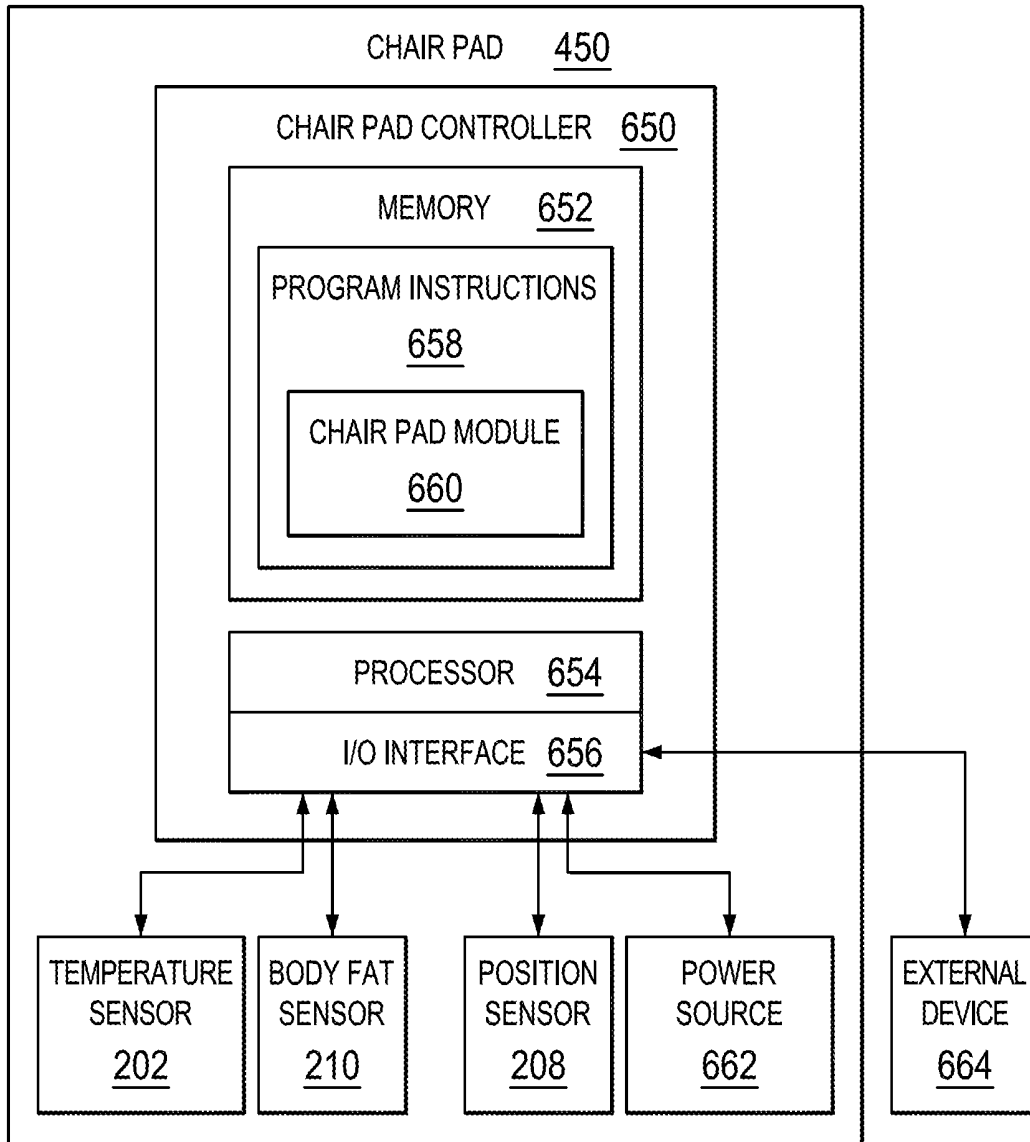


FIG. 6D

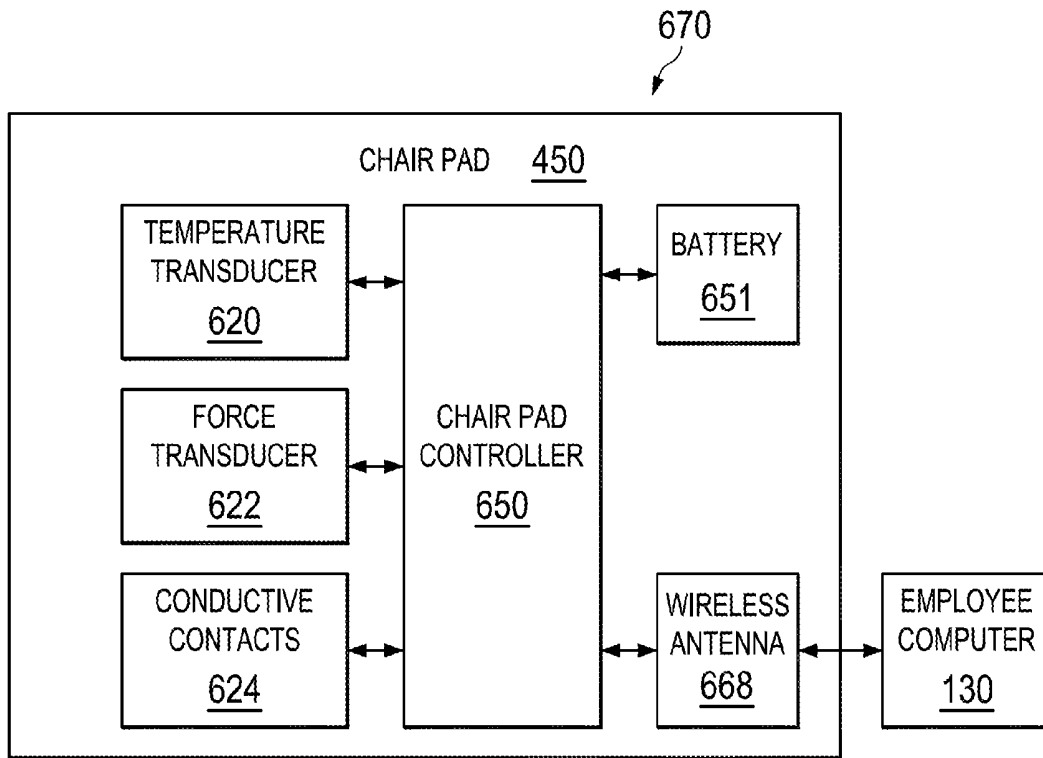


FIG. 6E

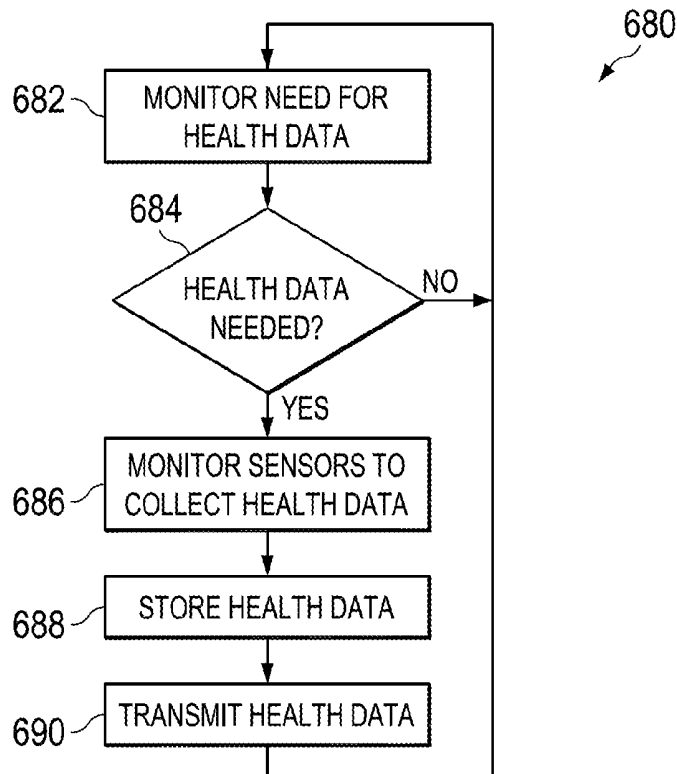
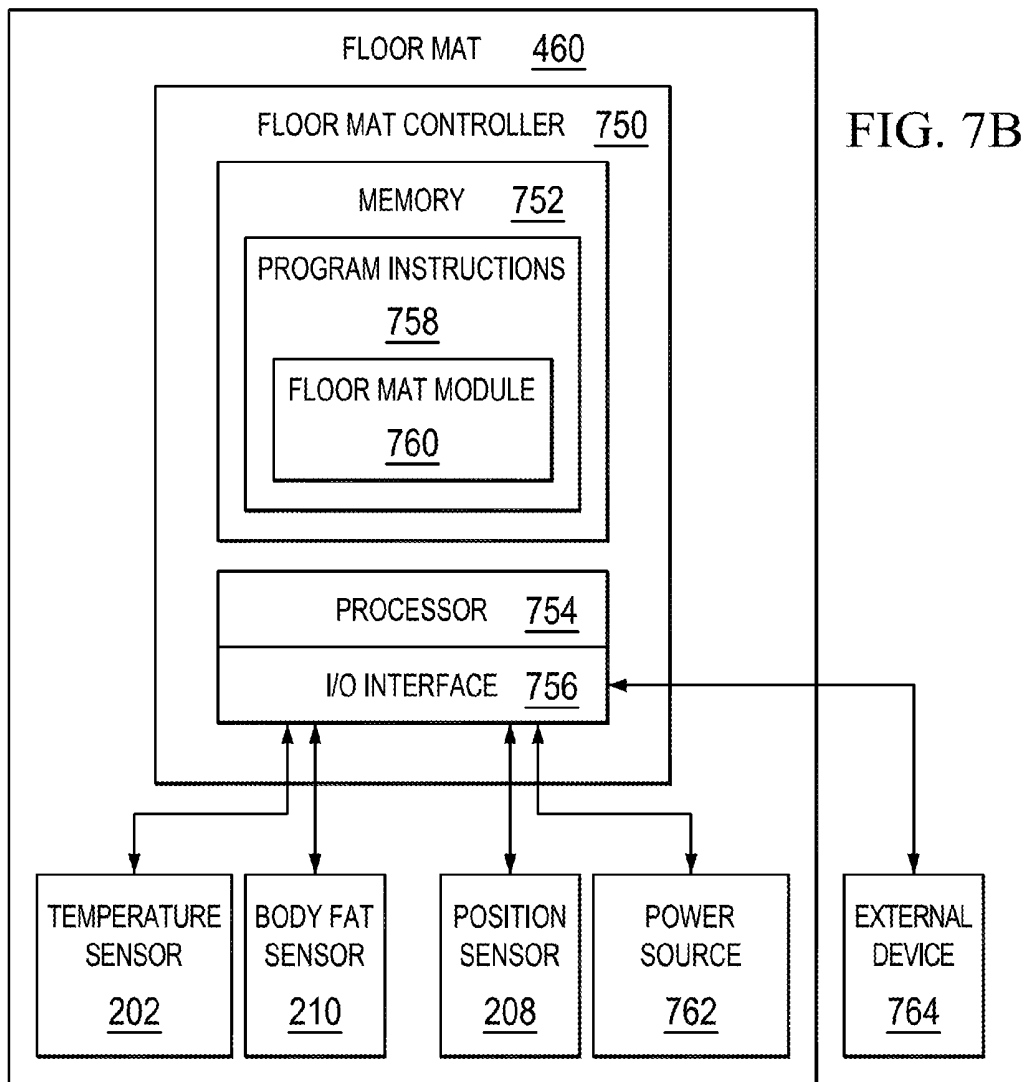
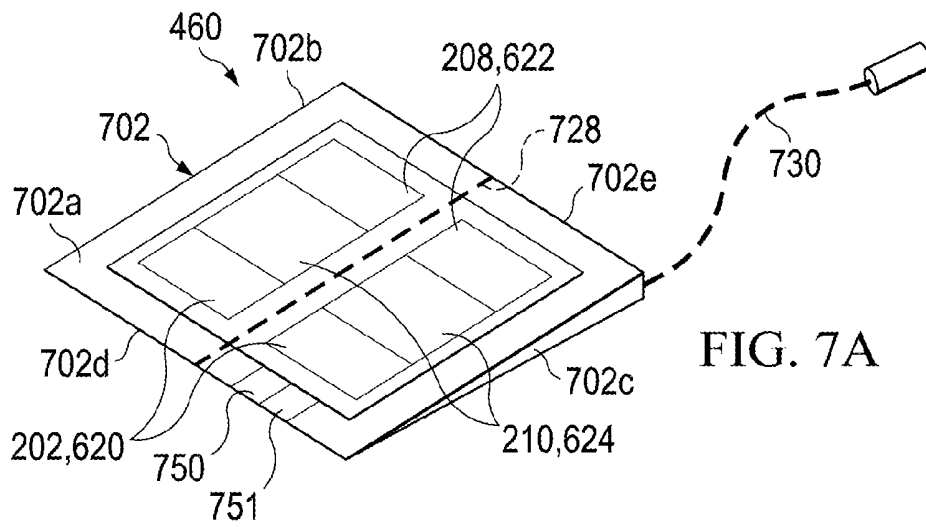


FIG. 6F



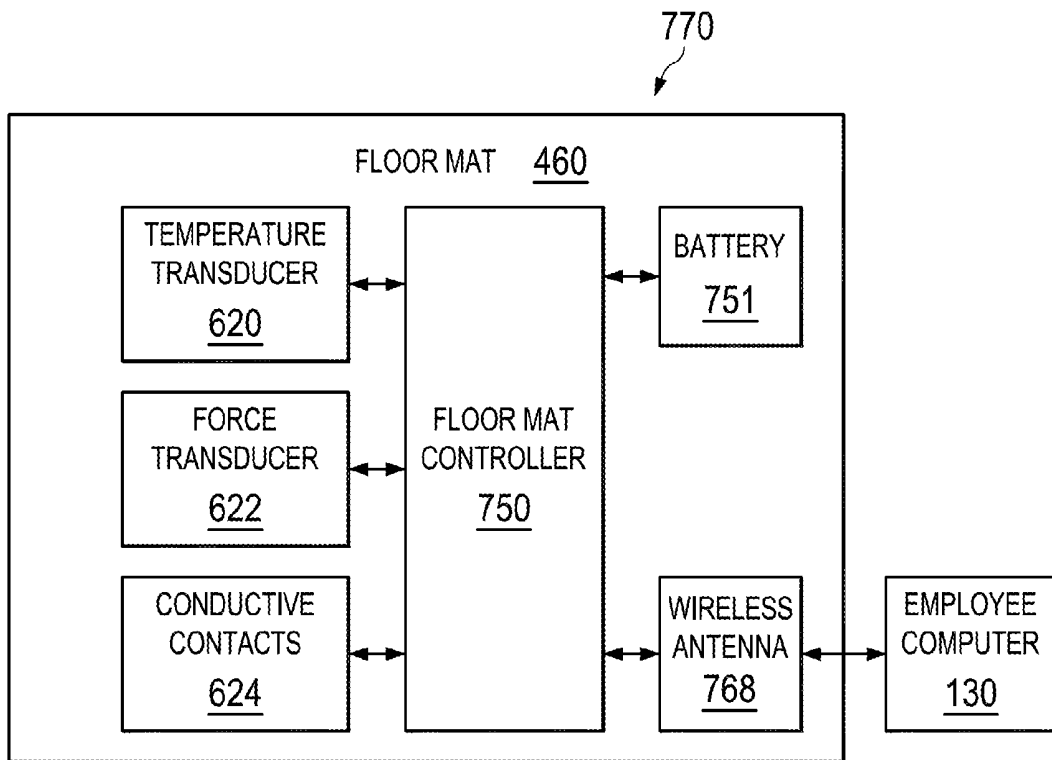


FIG. 7C

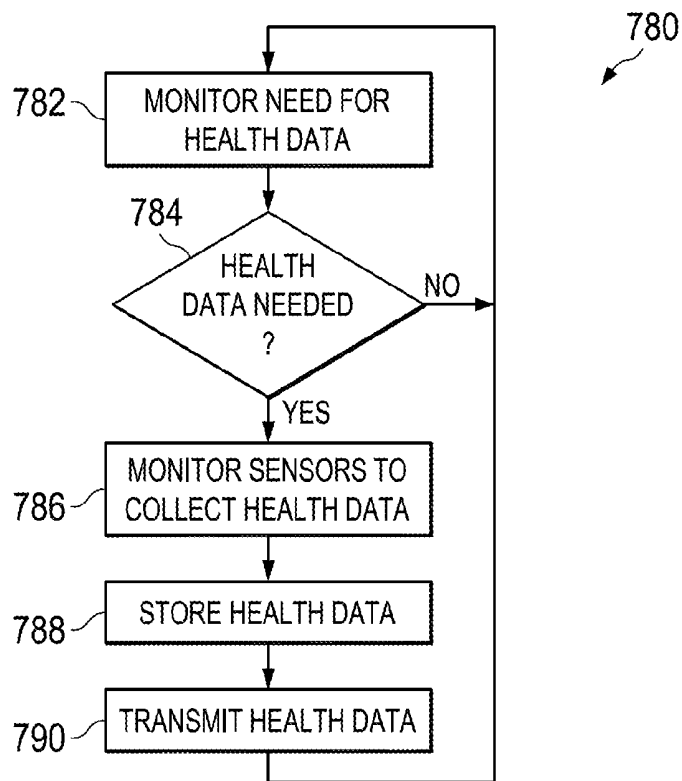
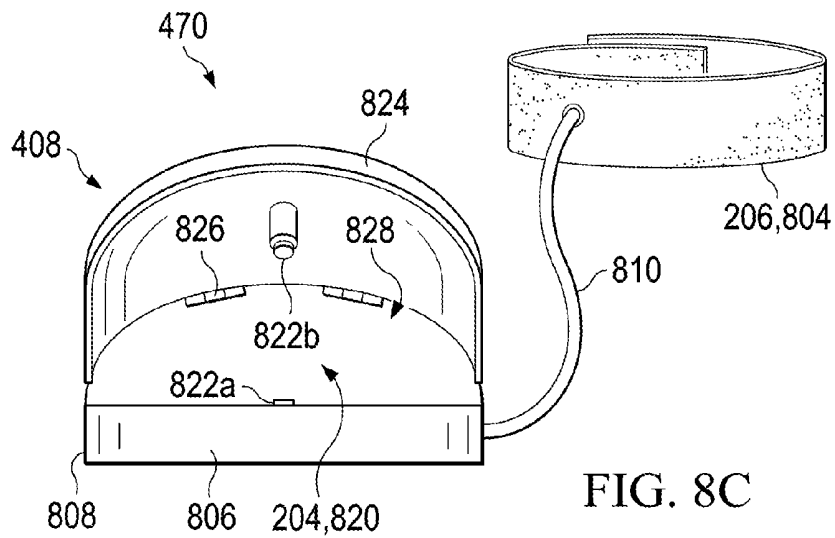
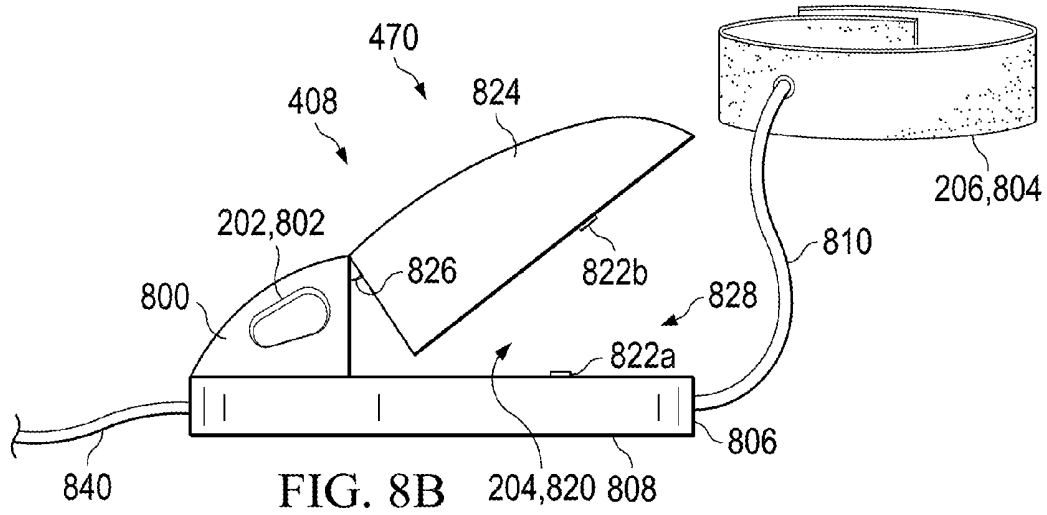
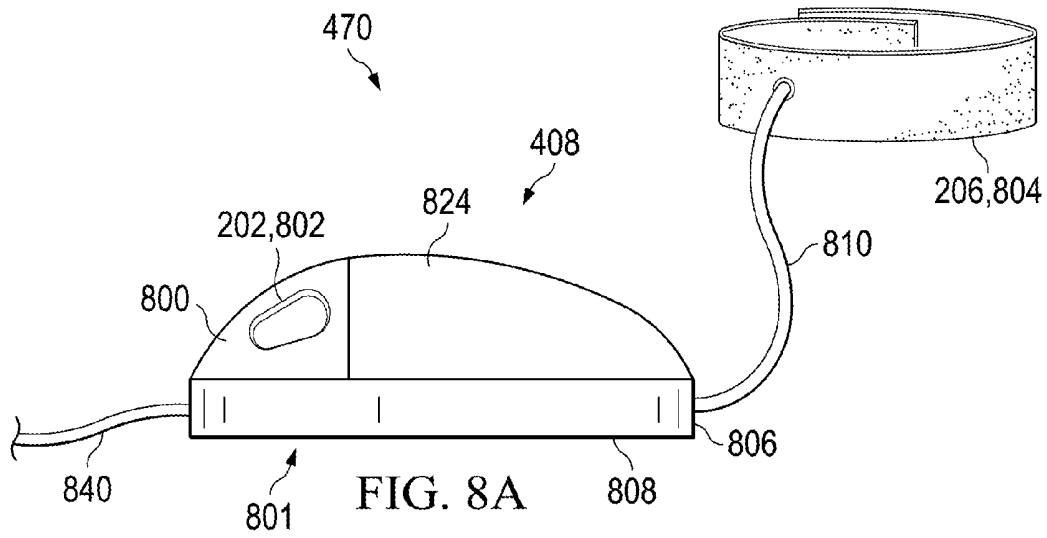


FIG. 7D



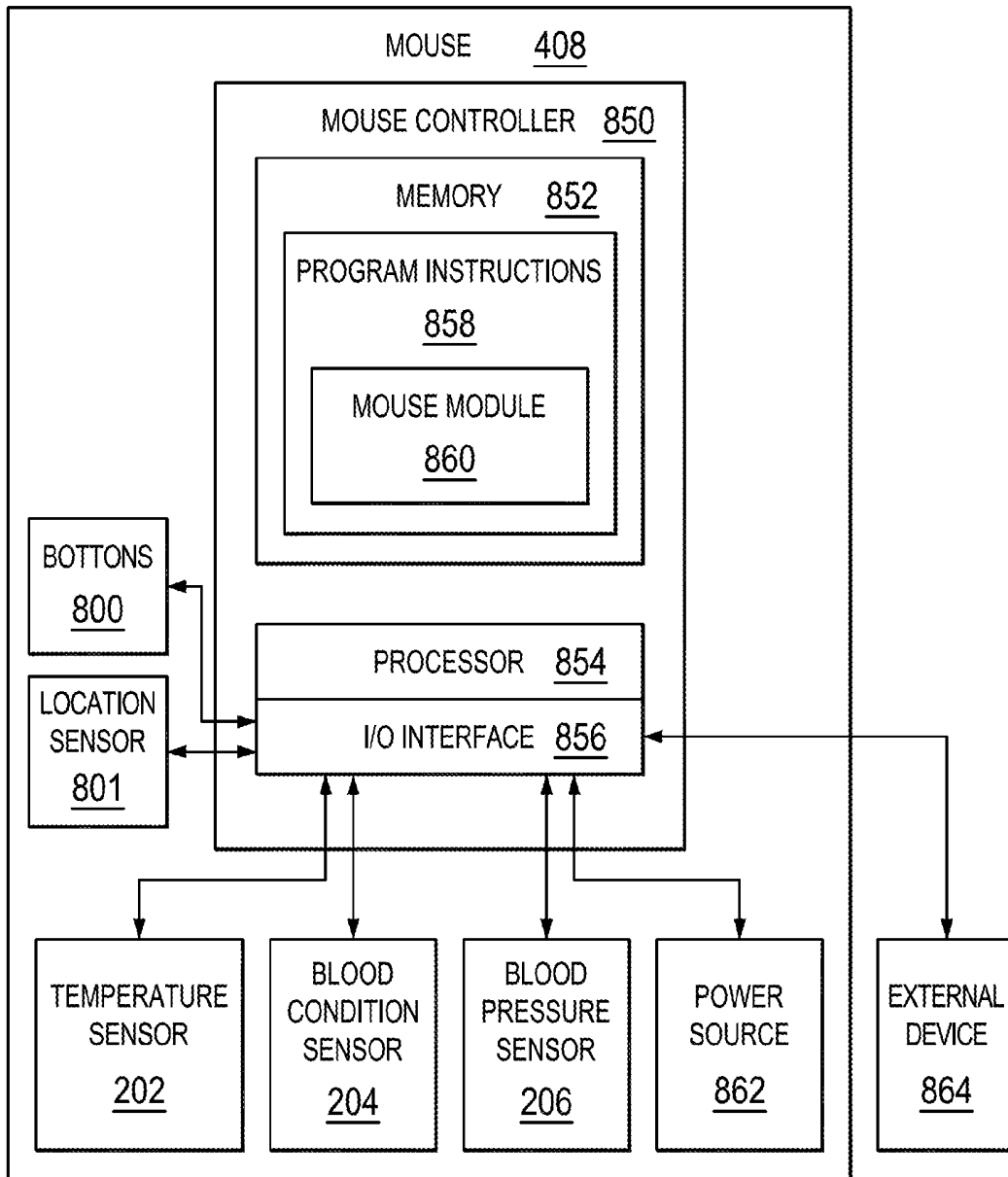


FIG. 8D

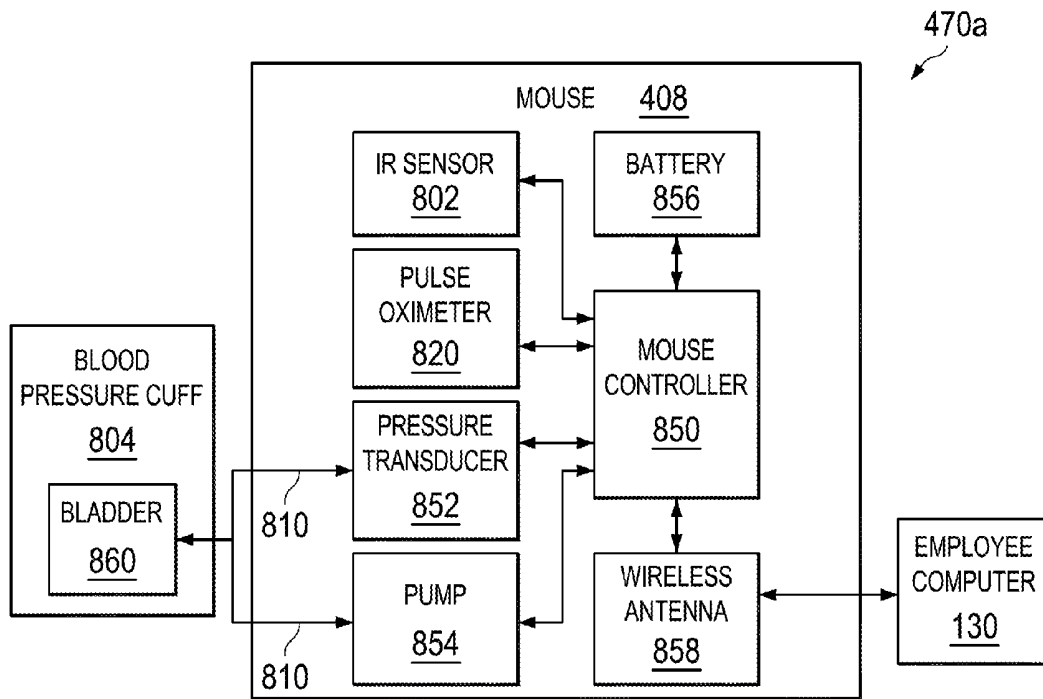


FIG. 8E

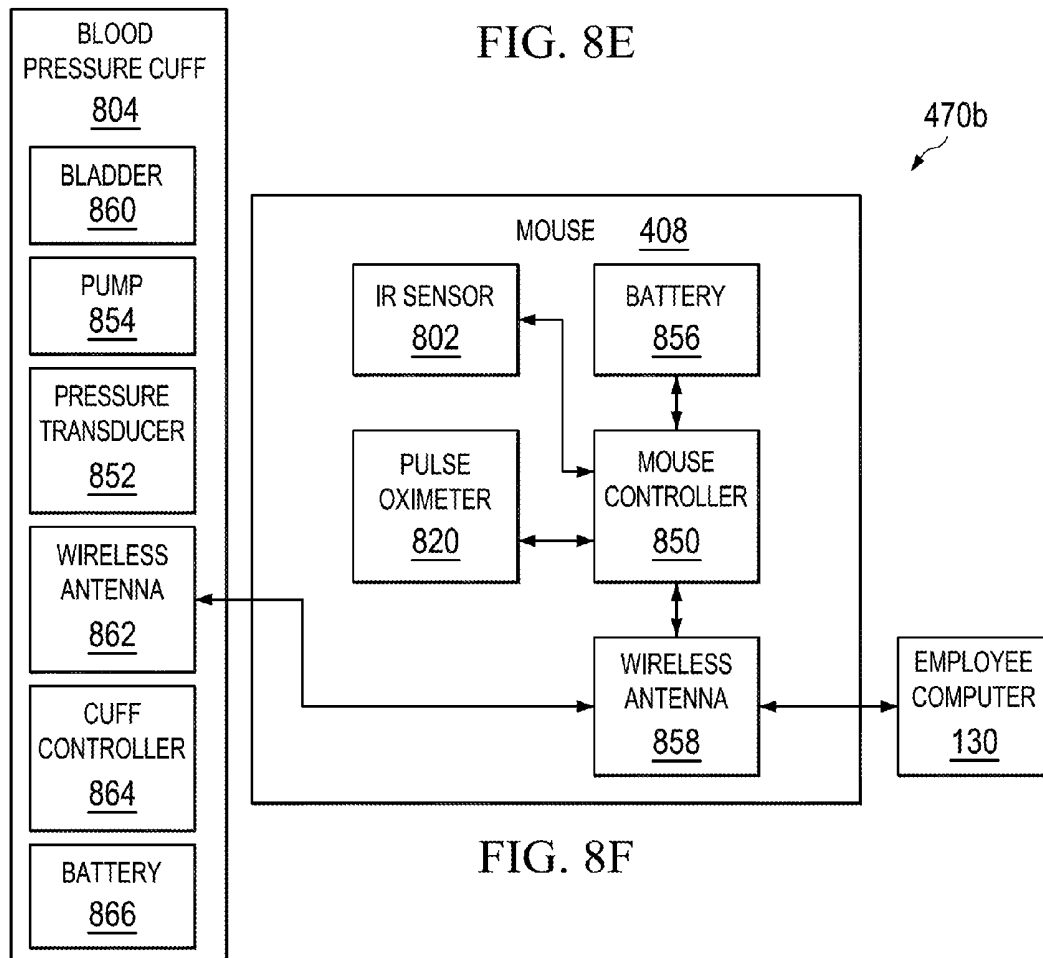


FIG. 8F

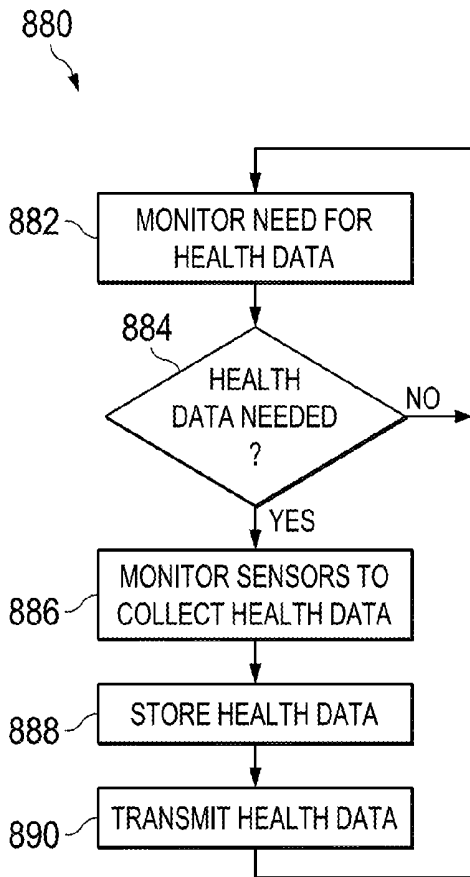


FIG. 8G

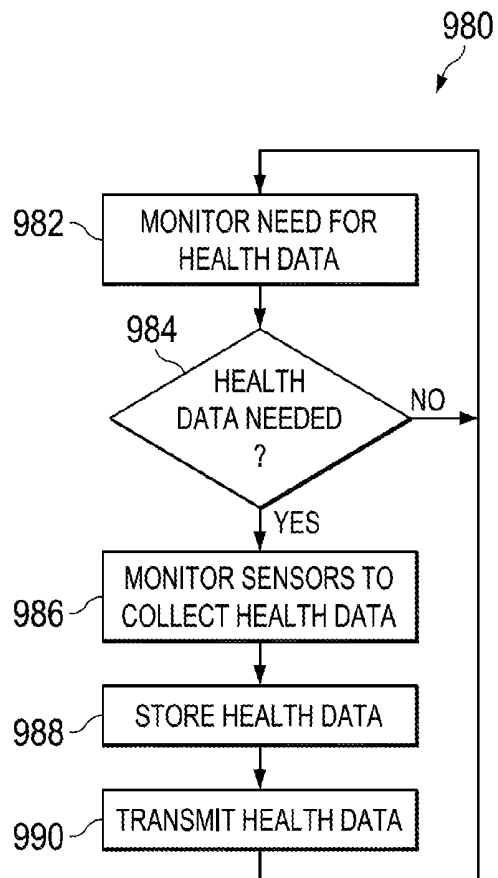


FIG. 9C

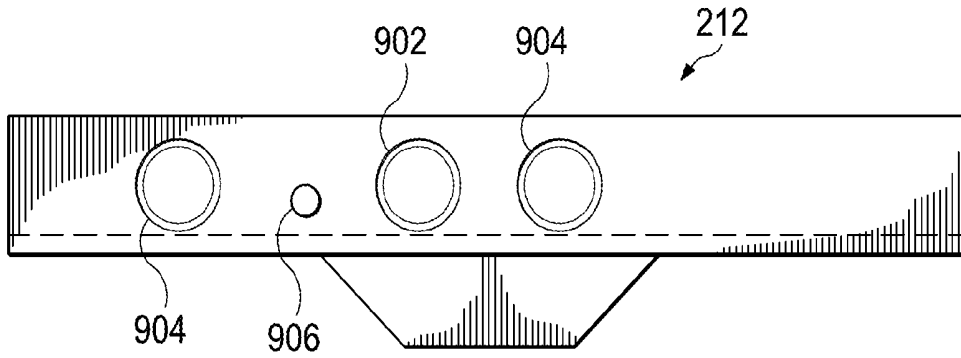


FIG. 9A

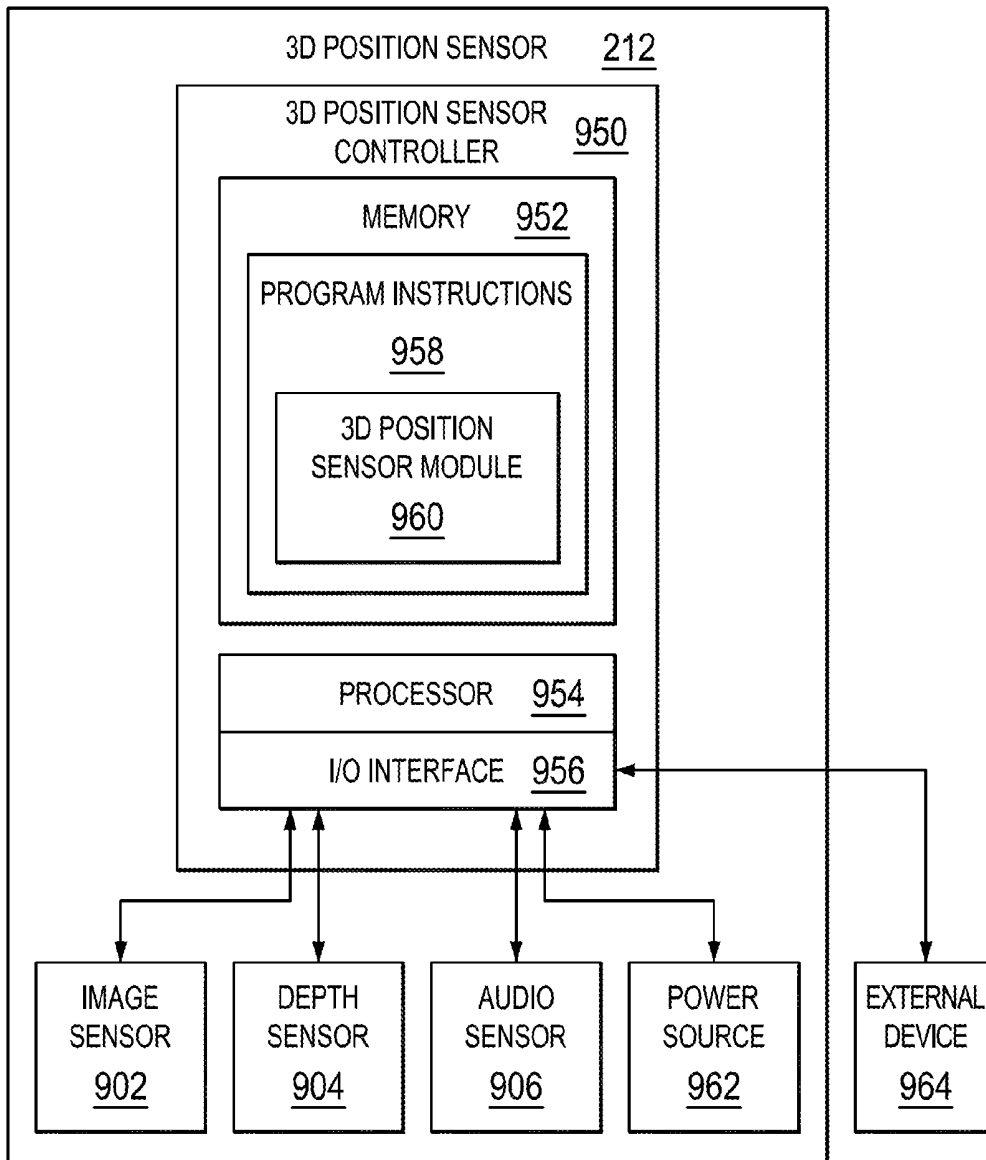


FIG. 9B

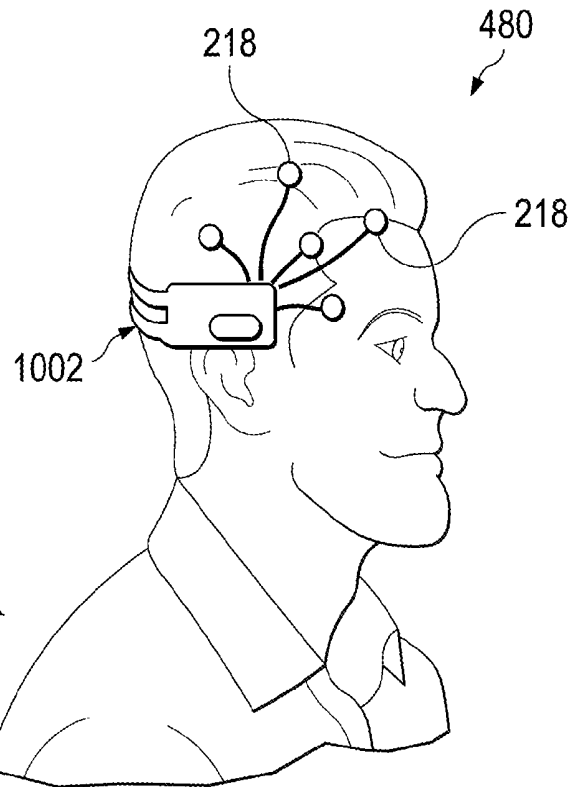


FIG. 10A

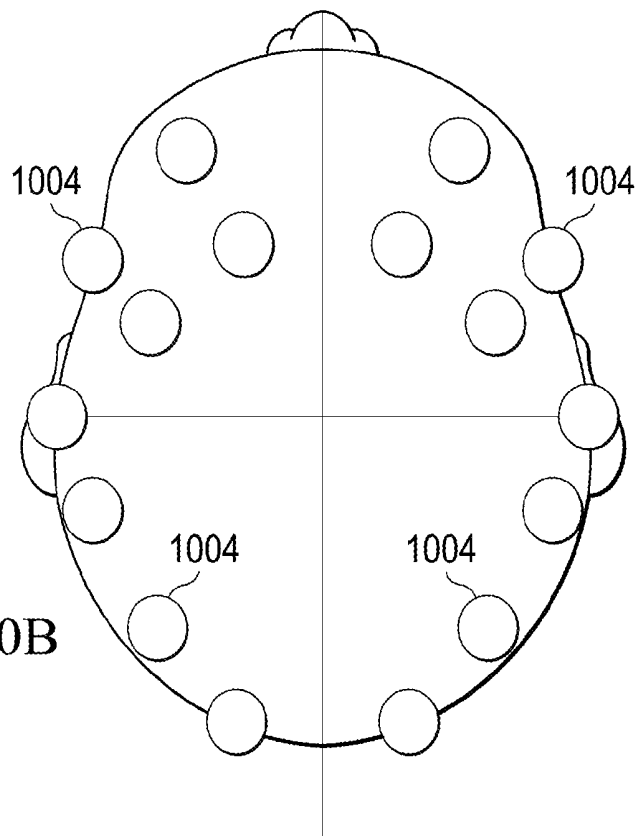


FIG. 10B

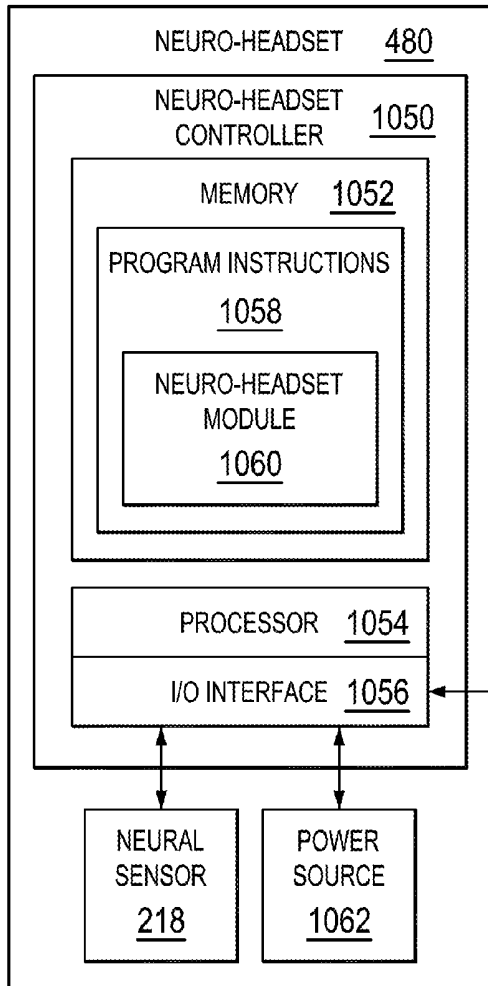


FIG. 10C

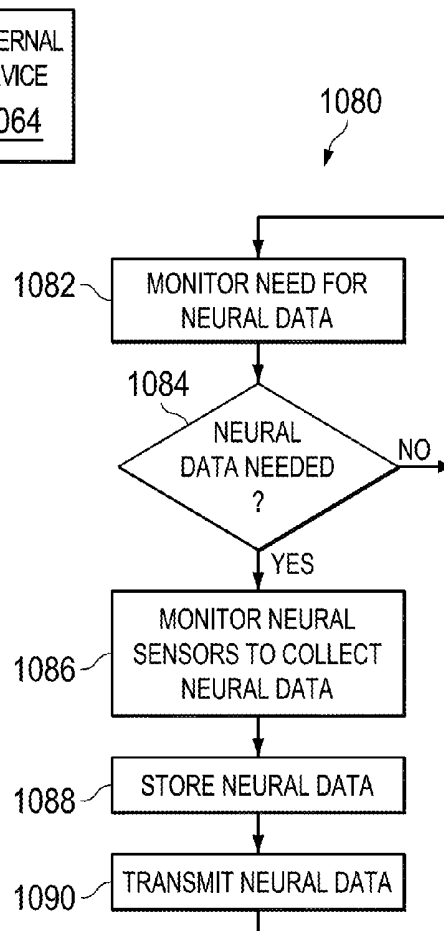


FIG. 10D

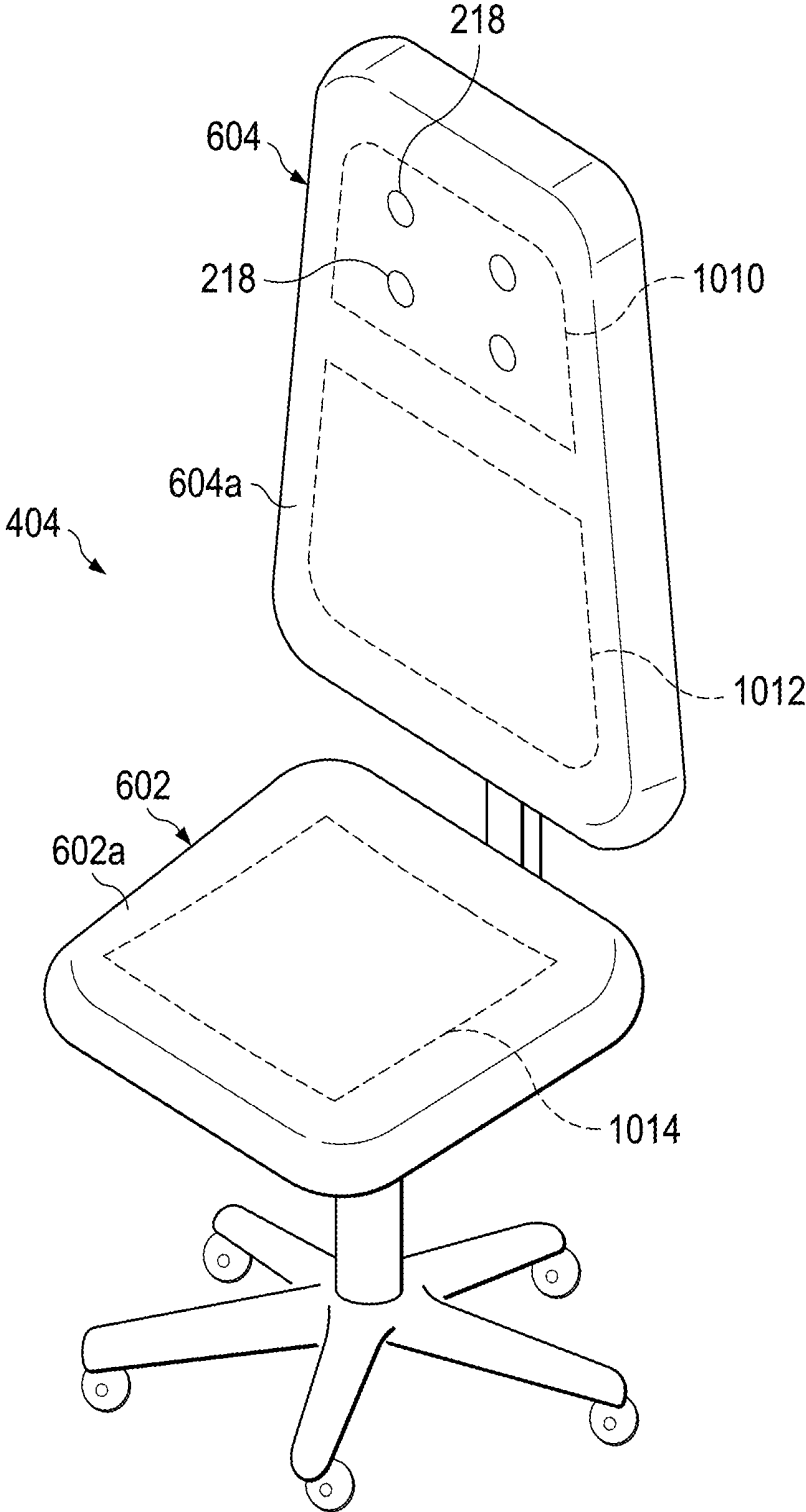


FIG. 10E

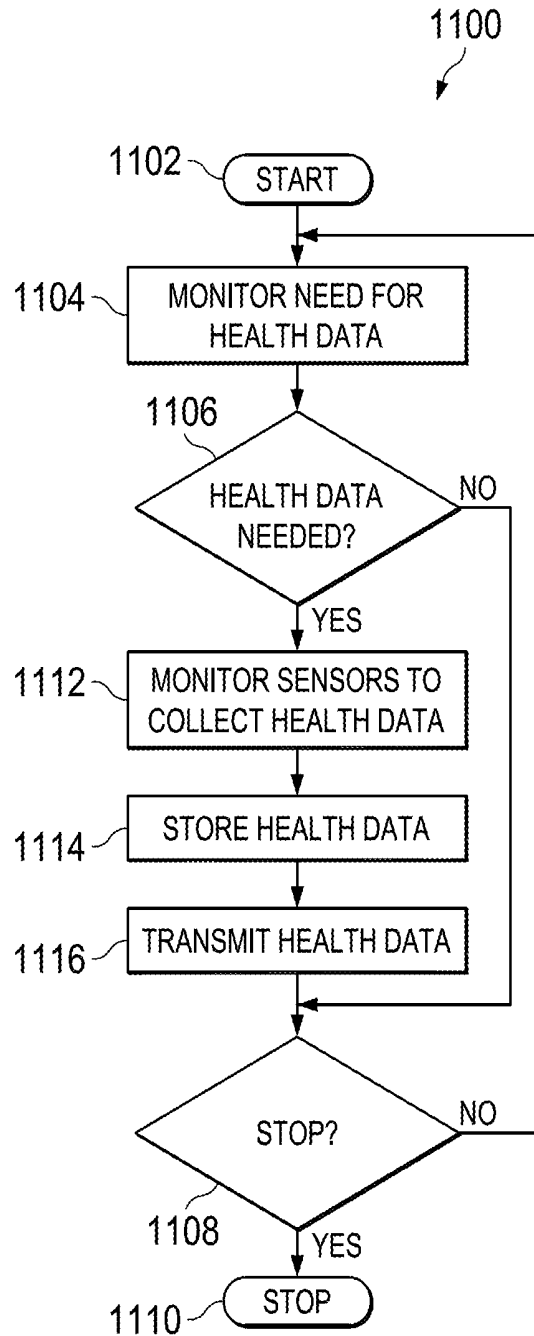


FIG. 11

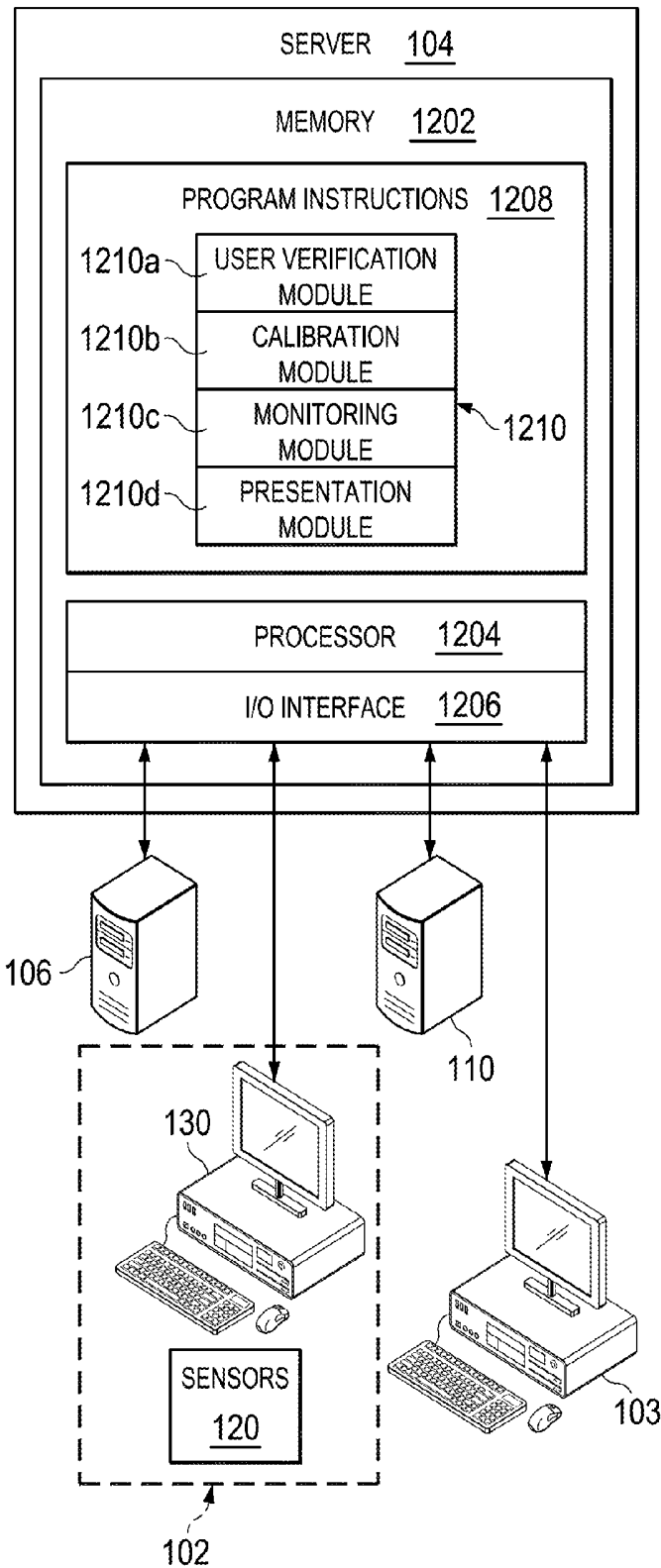


FIG. 12A

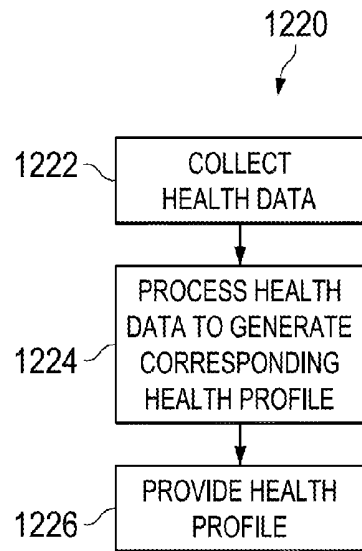
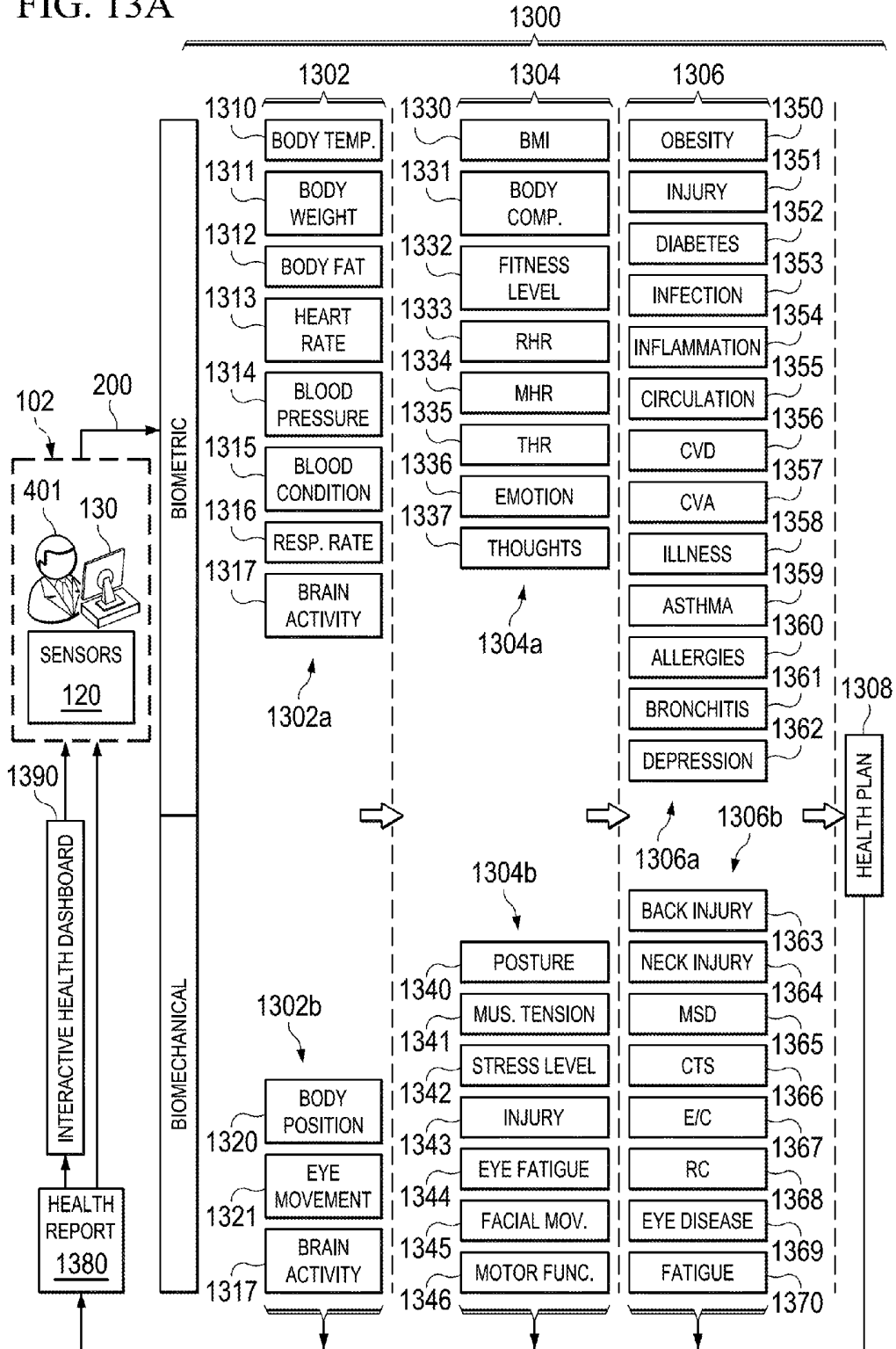


FIG. 12B

FIG. 13A



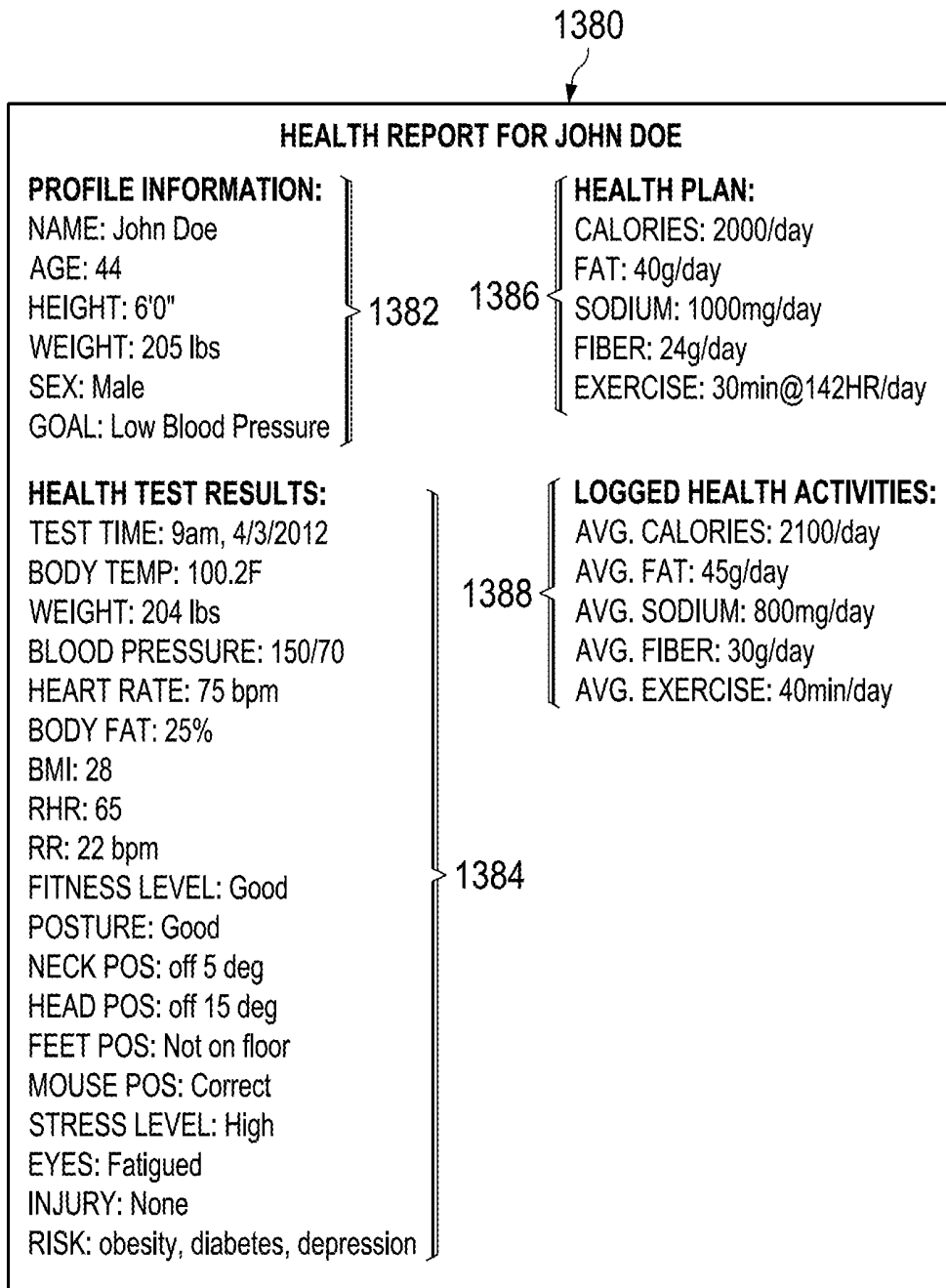


FIG. 13B

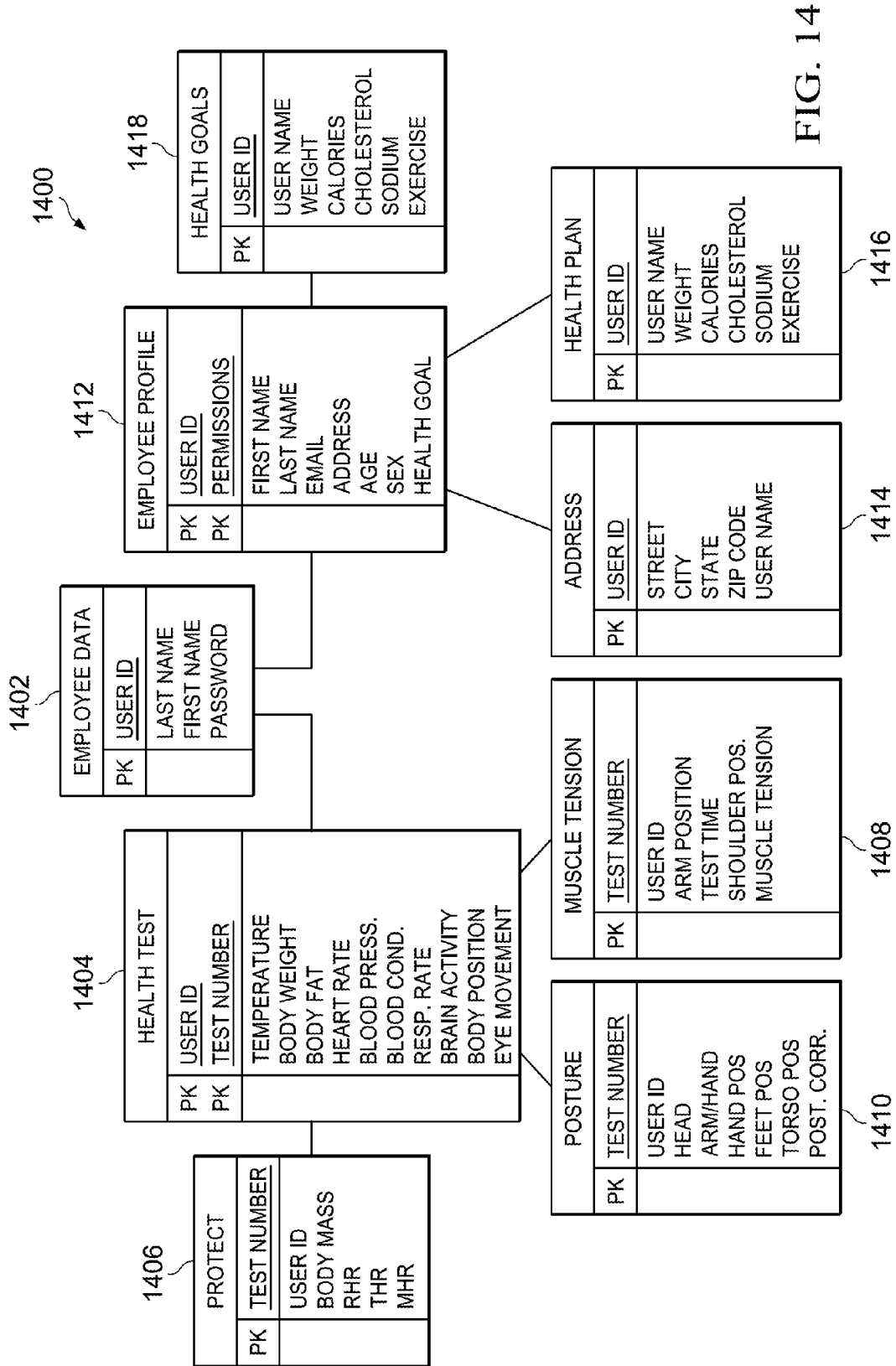


FIG. 14

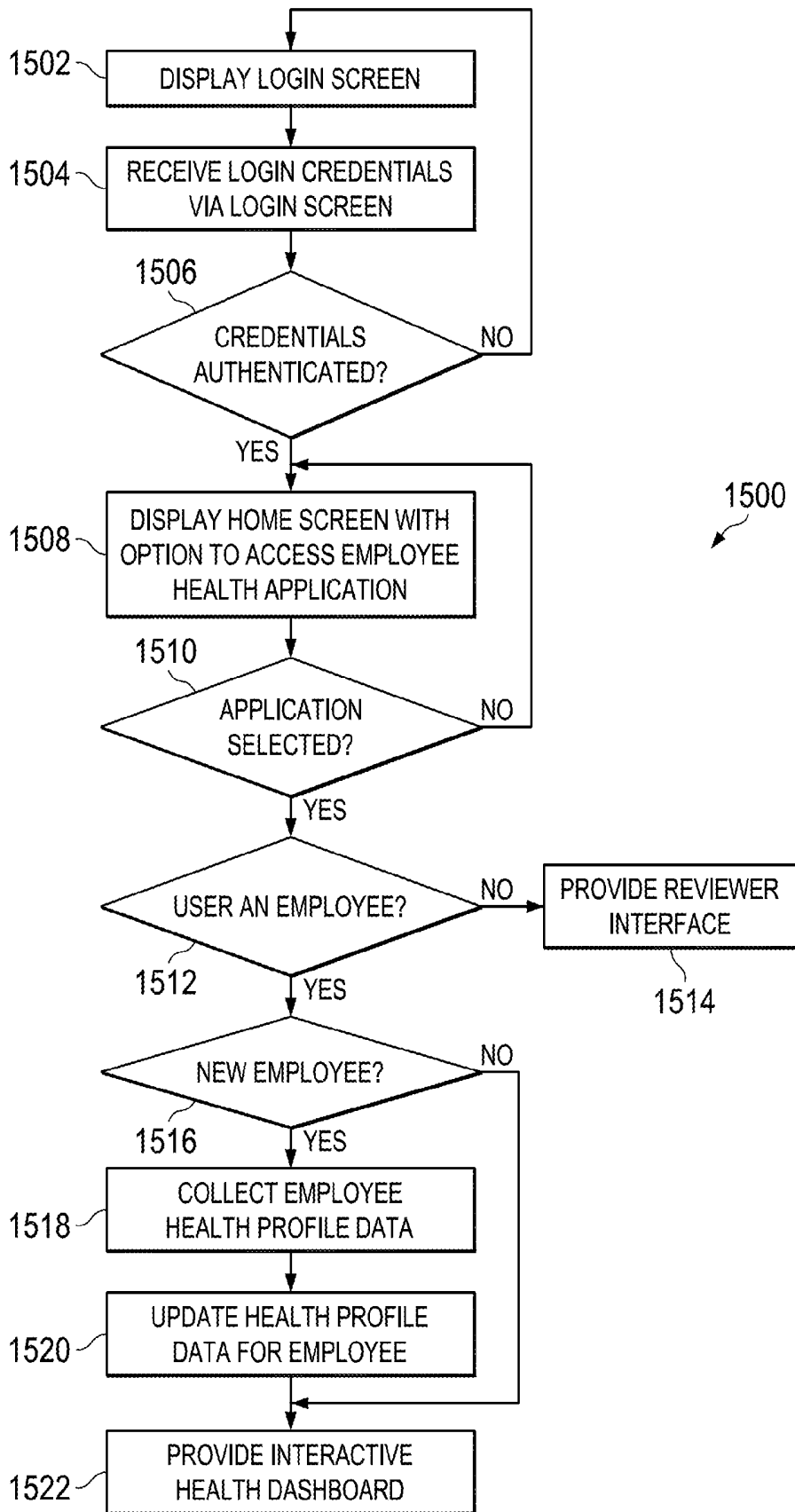
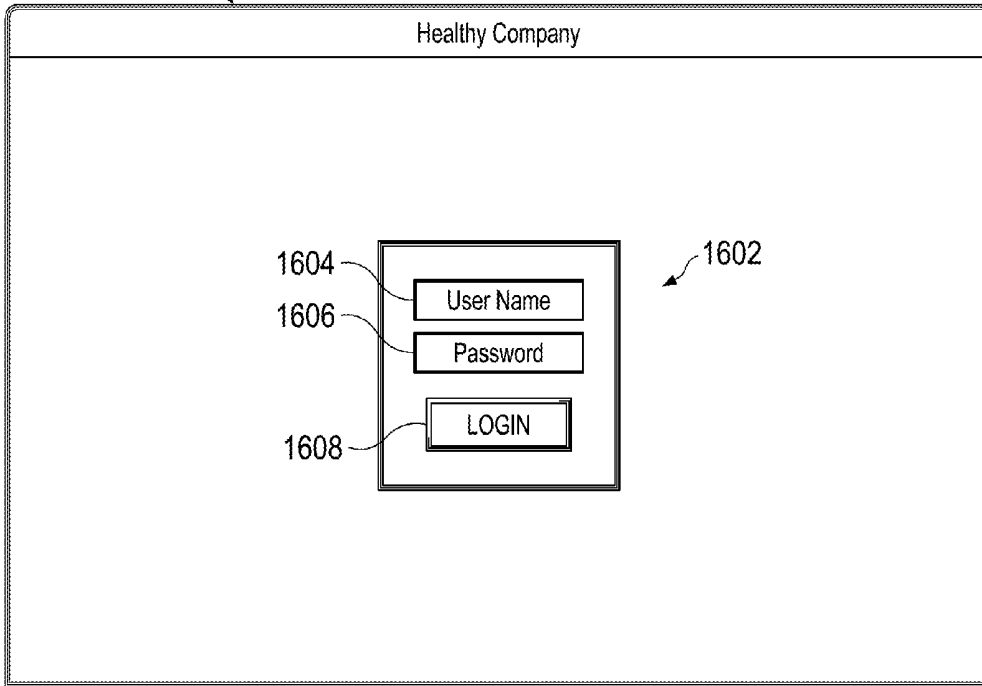


FIG. 15

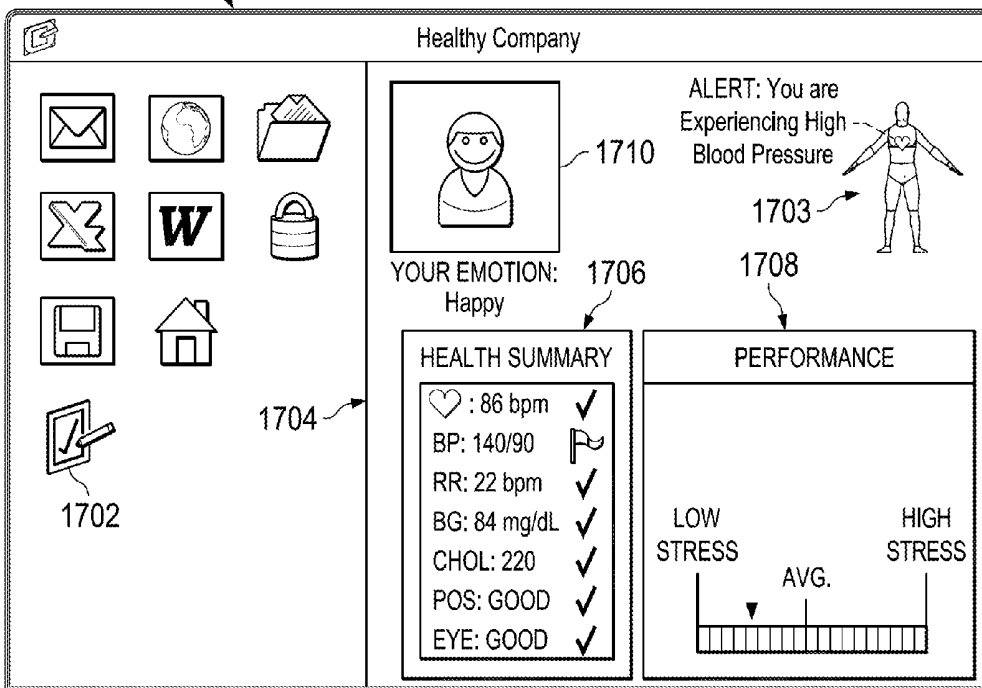
1600

FIG. 16



1700

FIG. 17



1800

FIG. 18

1802

Edit Profile

Name _____

Age _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Sex _____

1804

Submit

1806

Exit

Goal _____

Lower Blood Pressure _____

Lose Weight _____

Body Fat _____

Blood Sugar Control _____

Resting Heart Rate _____

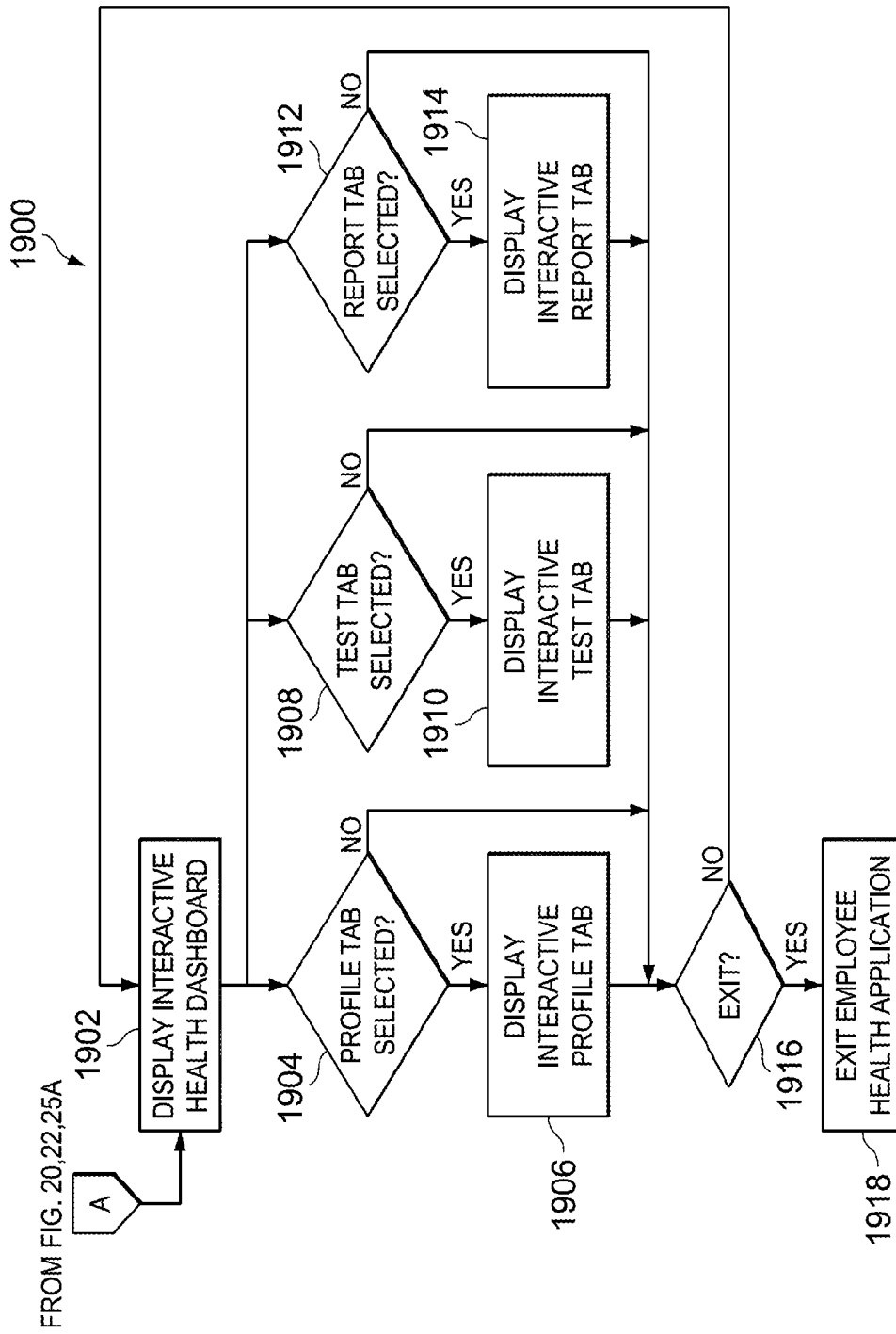


FIG. 19

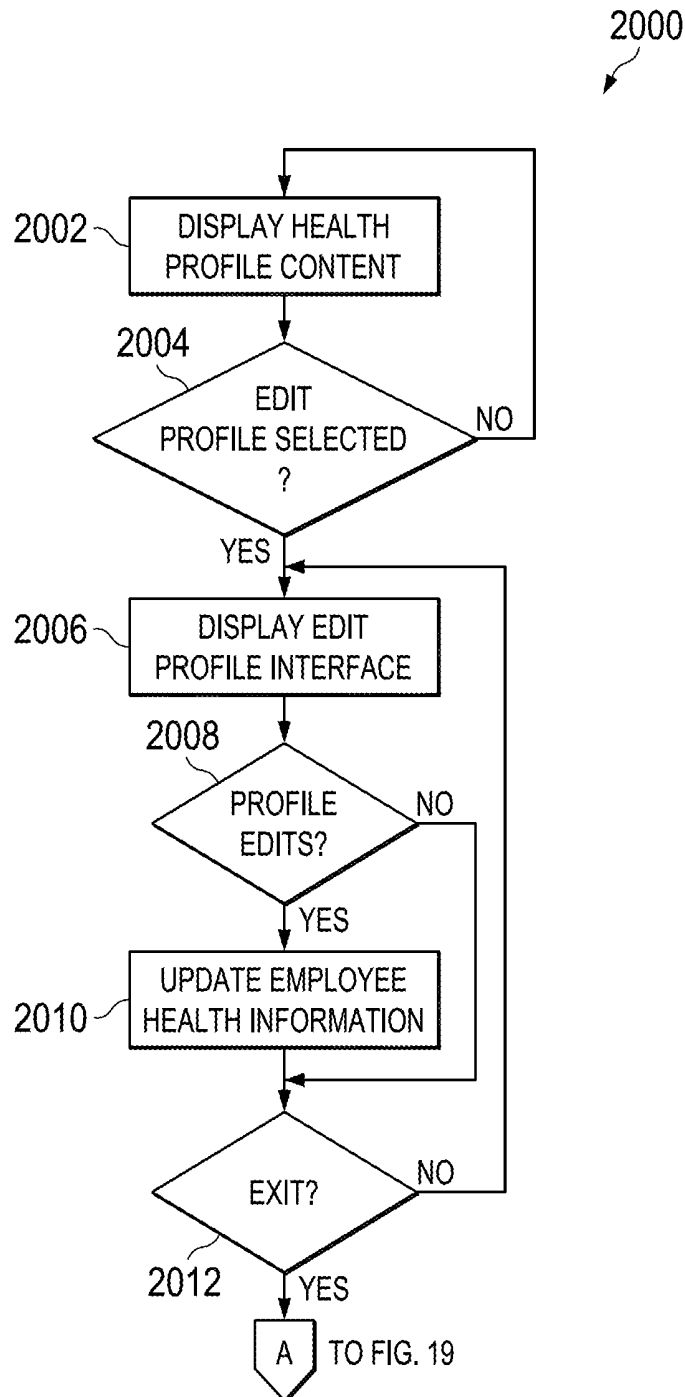


FIG. 20

FIG. 21

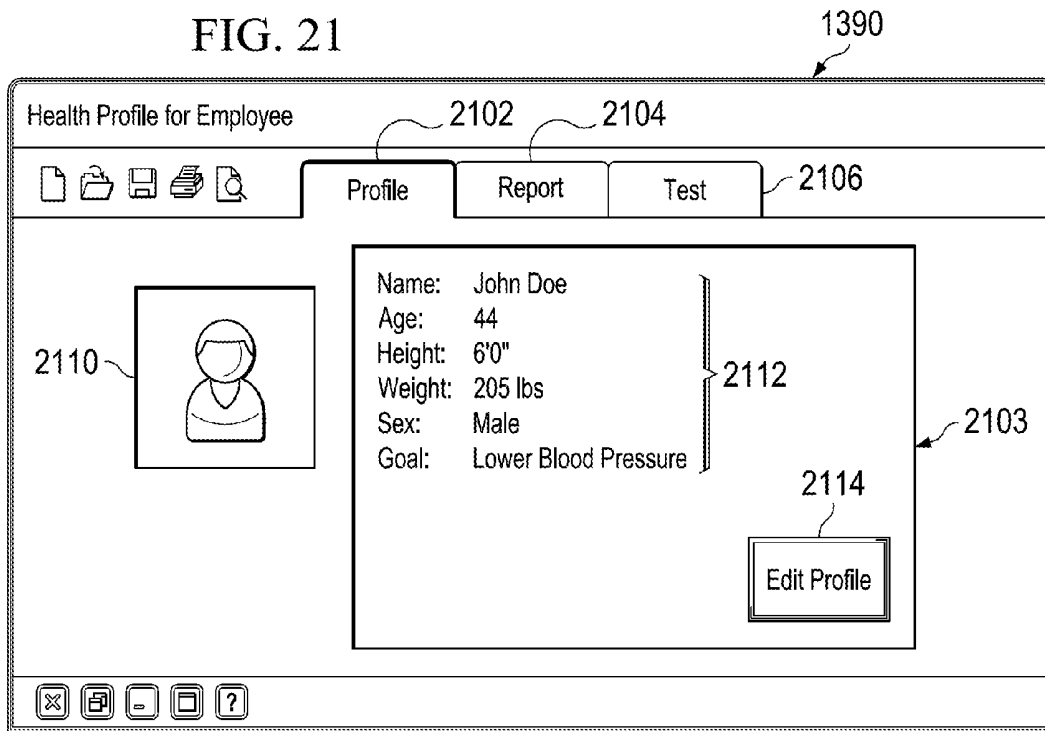
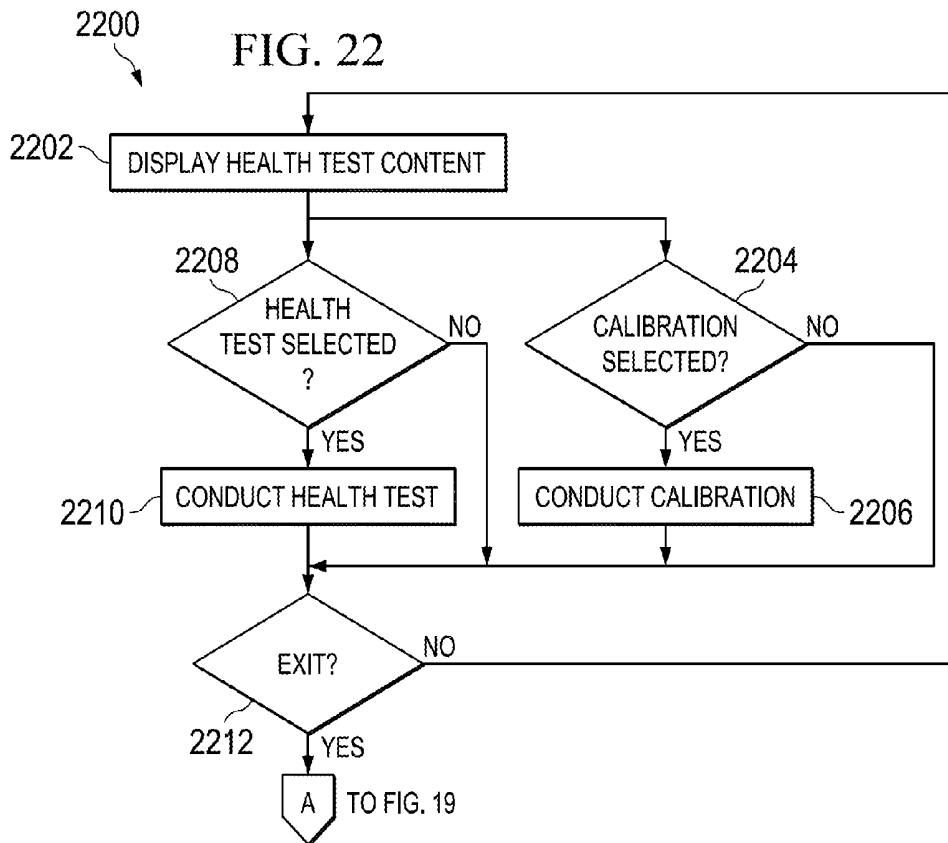
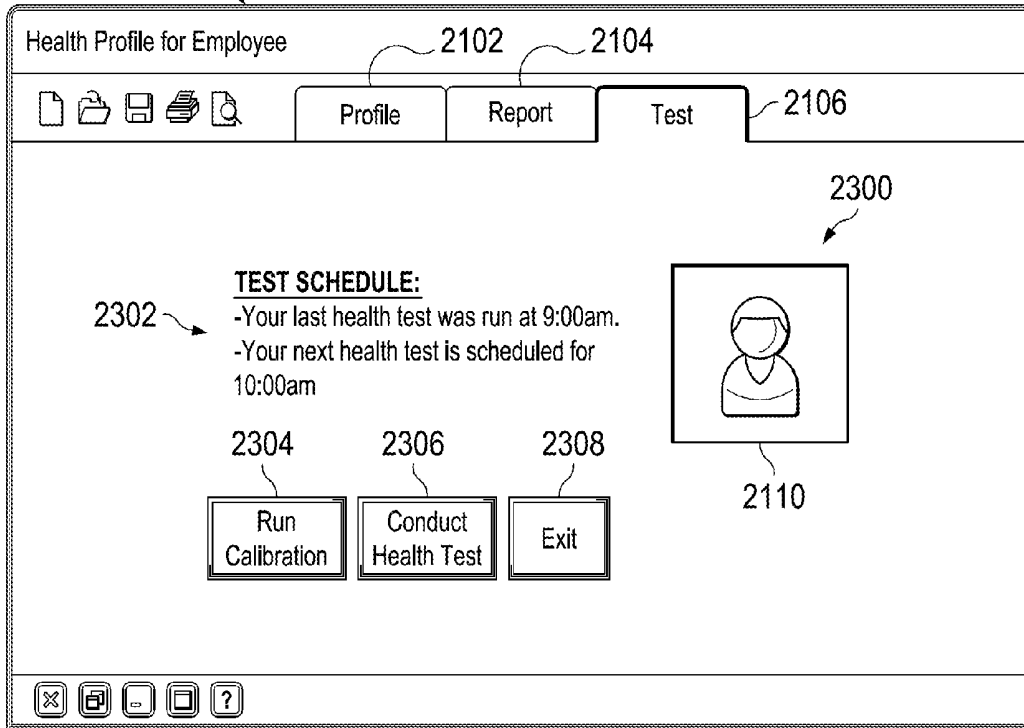


FIG. 22



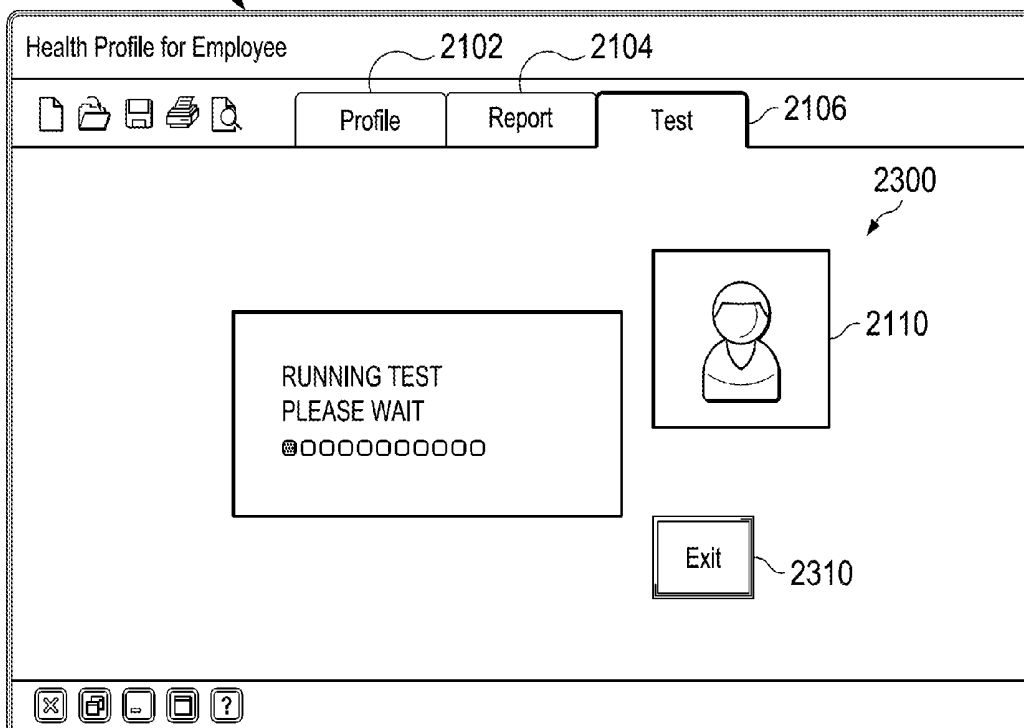
1390

FIG. 23A



1390

FIG. 23B



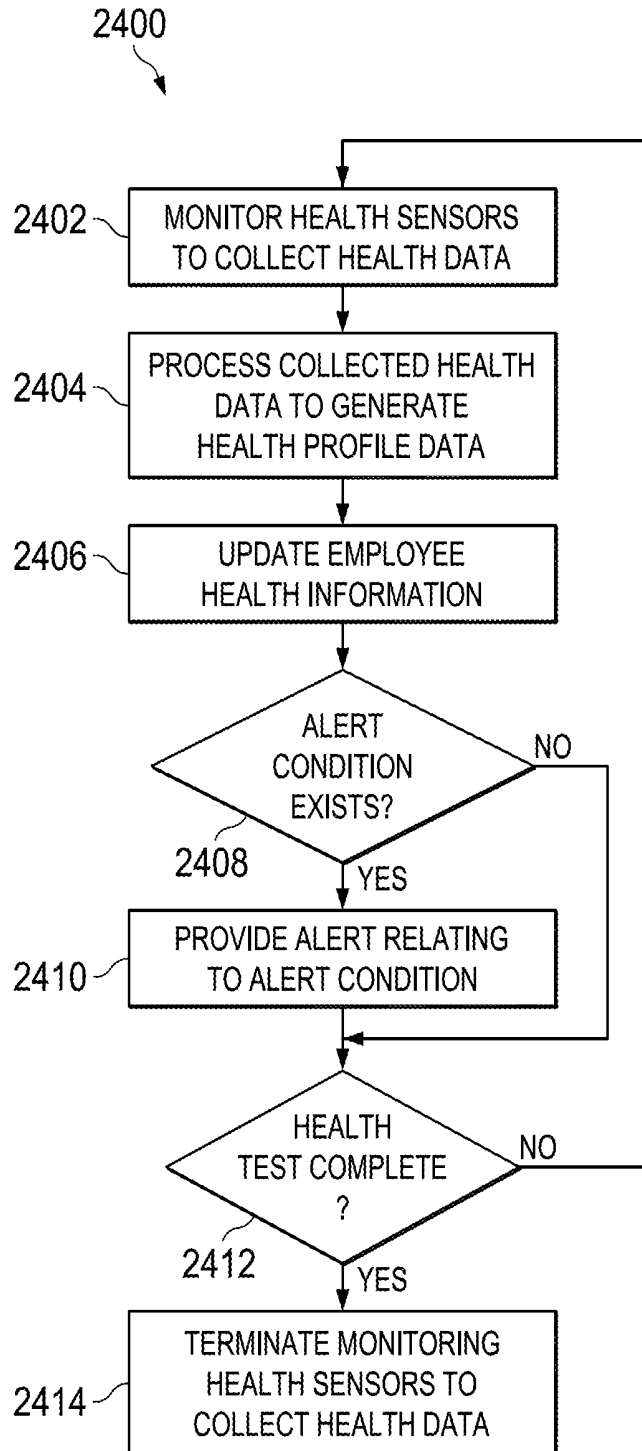
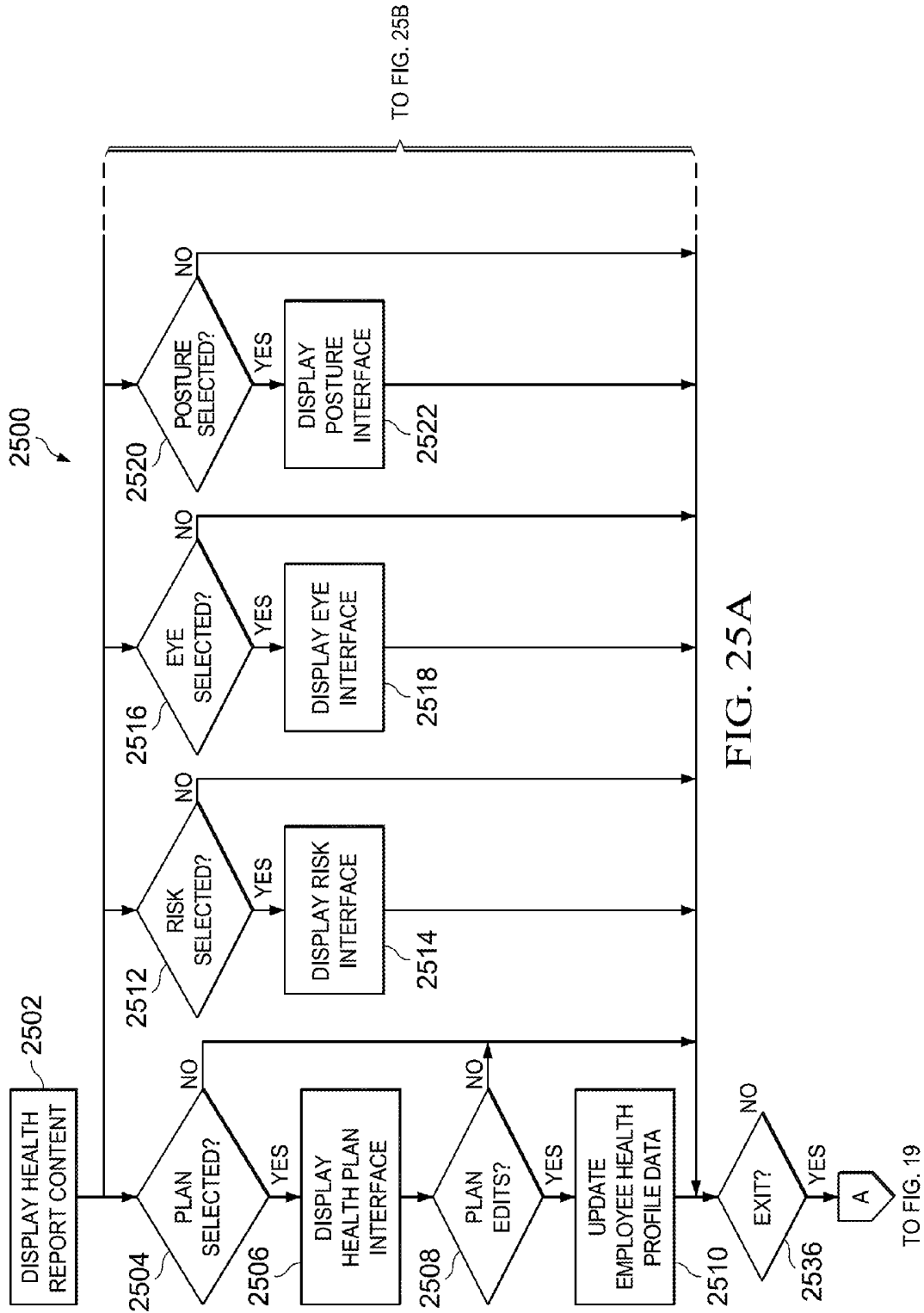
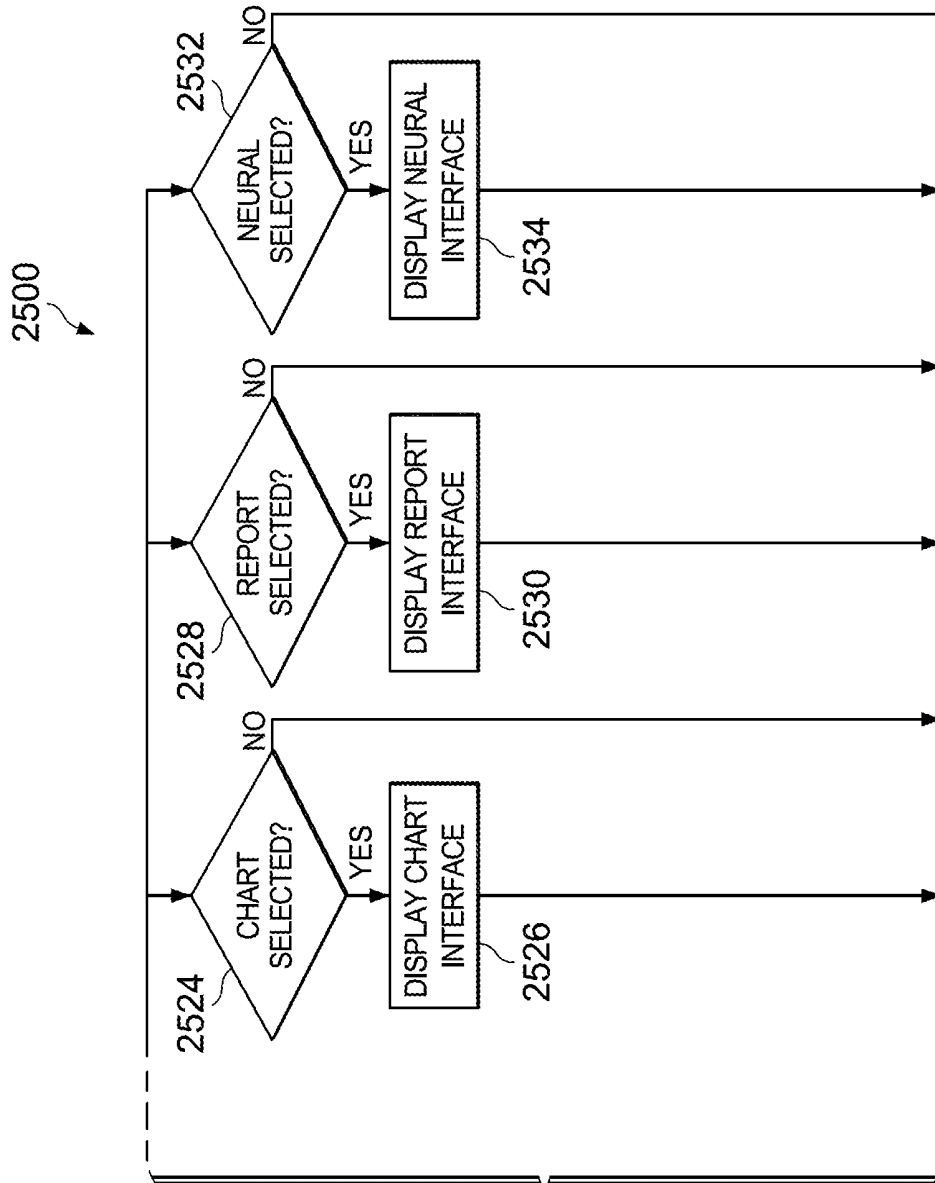


FIG. 24



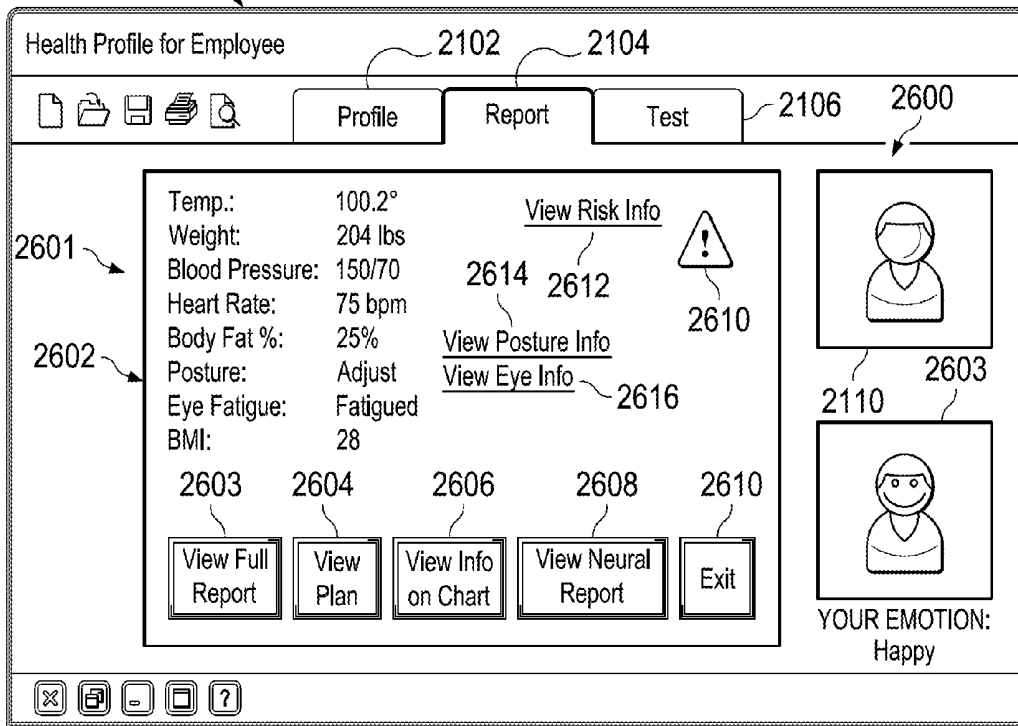


FROM FIG. 25A

FIG. 25B

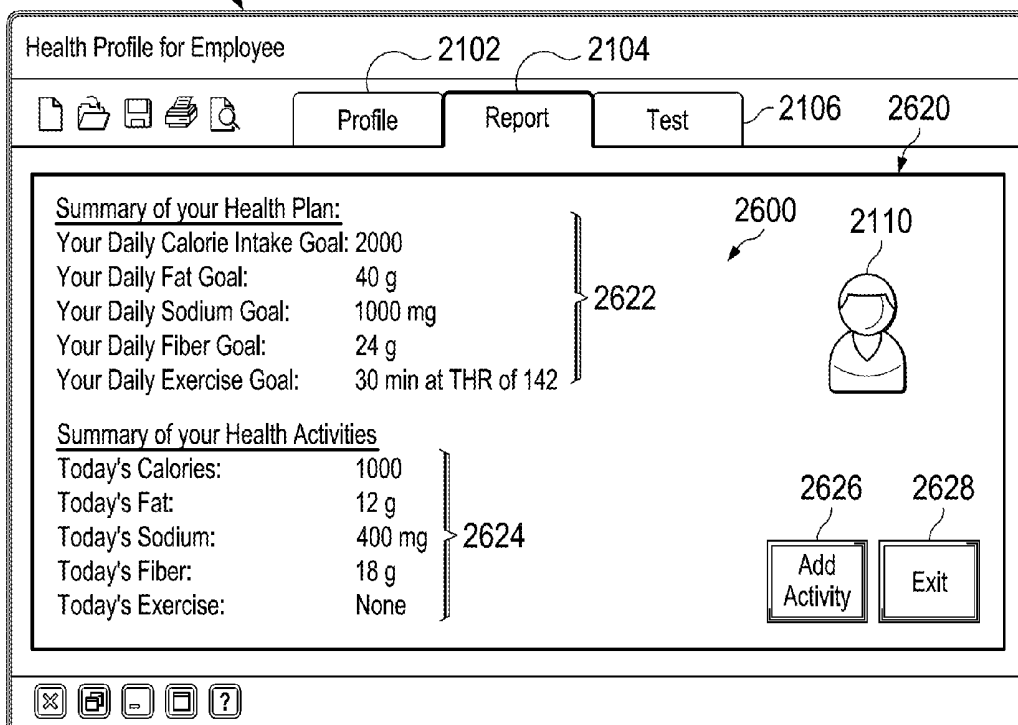
1390

FIG. 26A



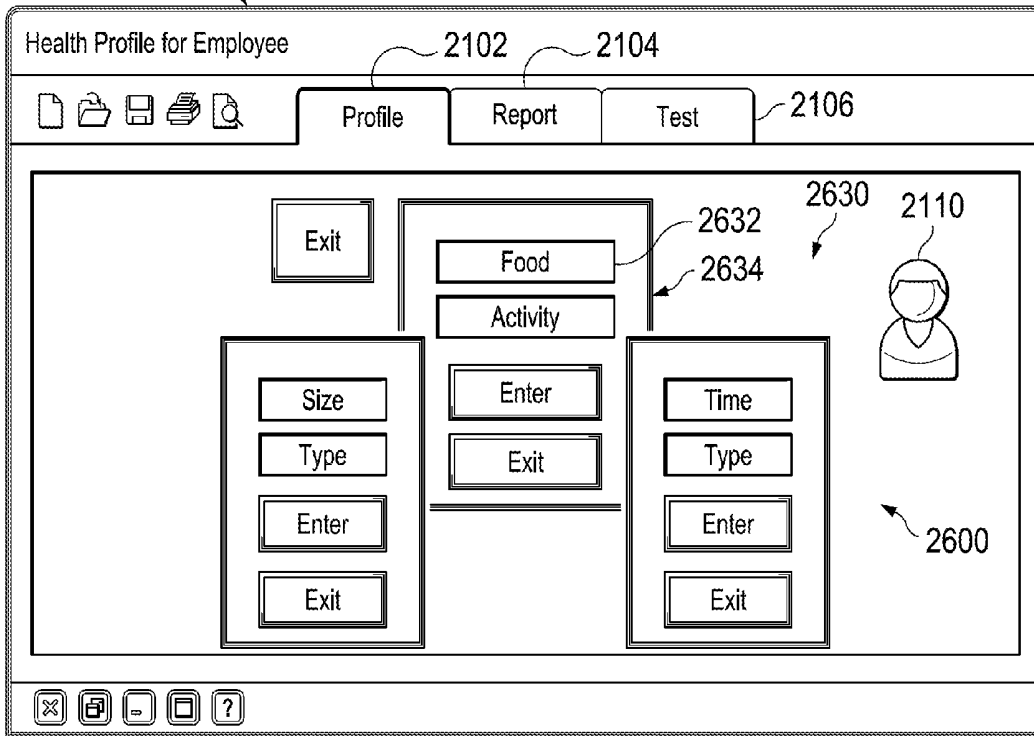
1390

FIG. 26B



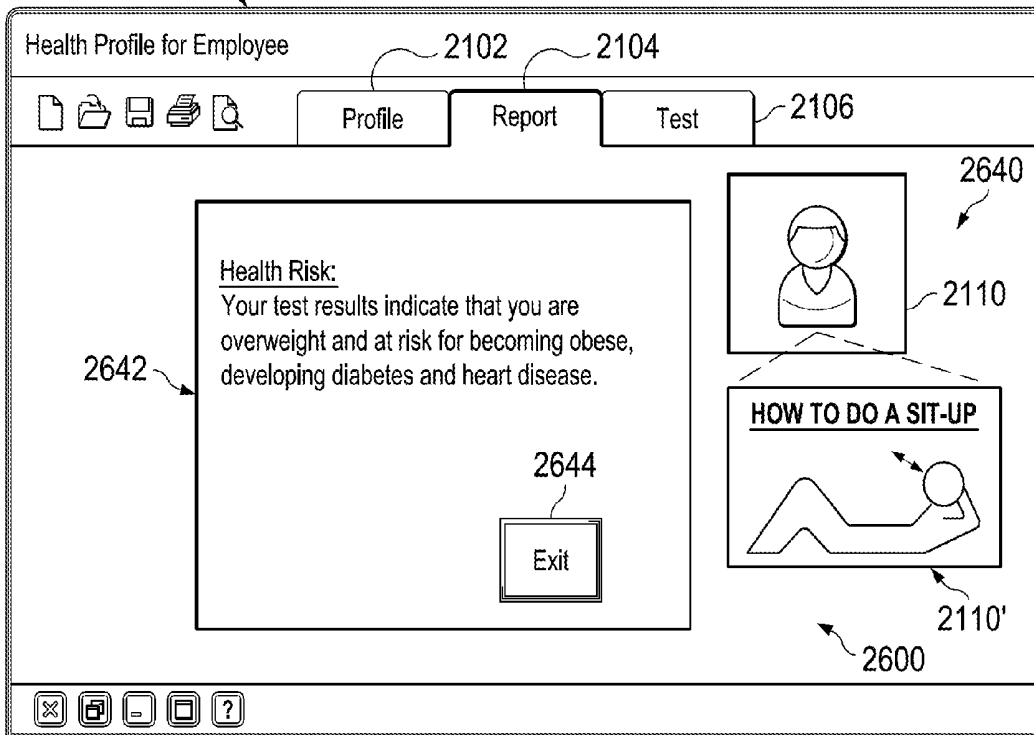
1390

FIG. 26C



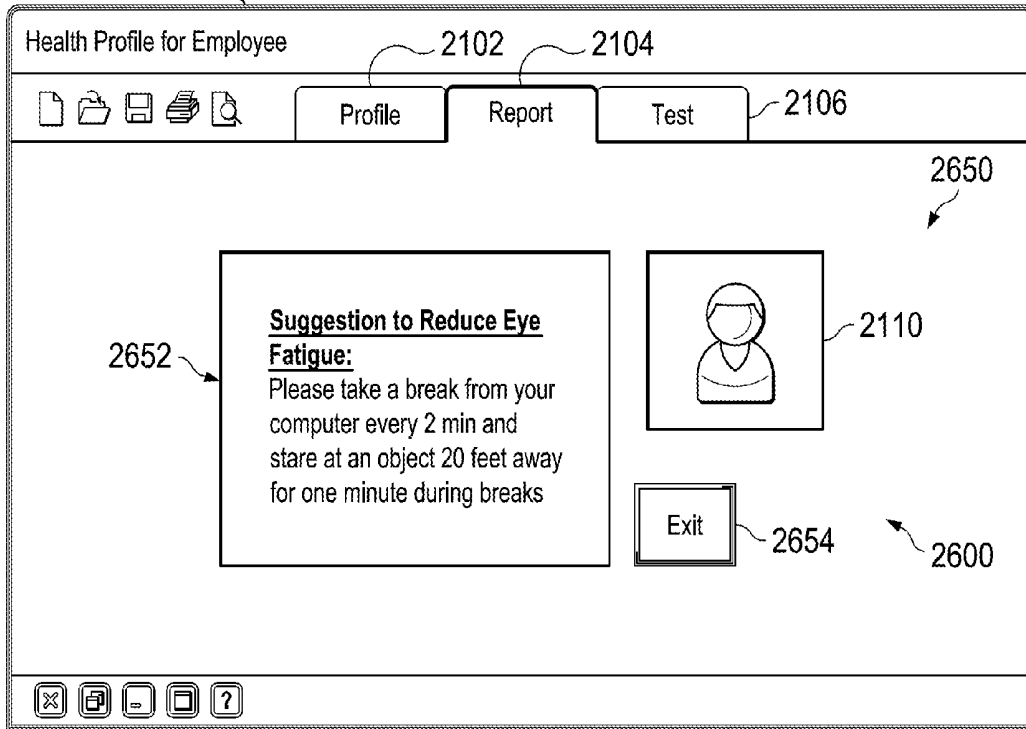
1390

FIG. 26D



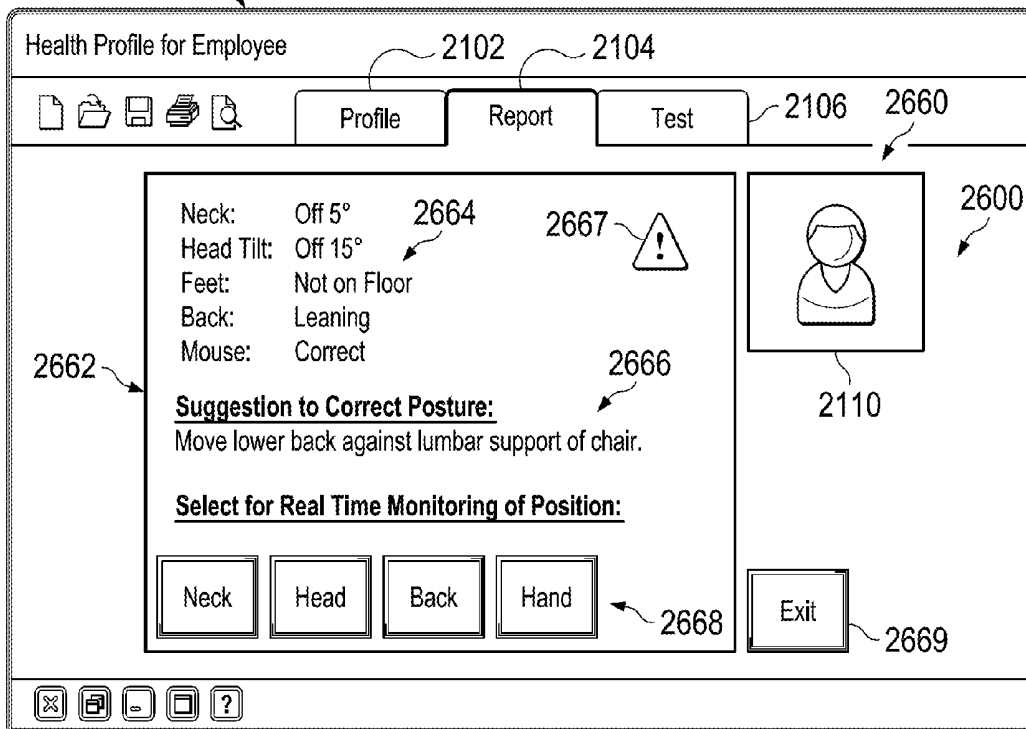
1390

FIG. 26E



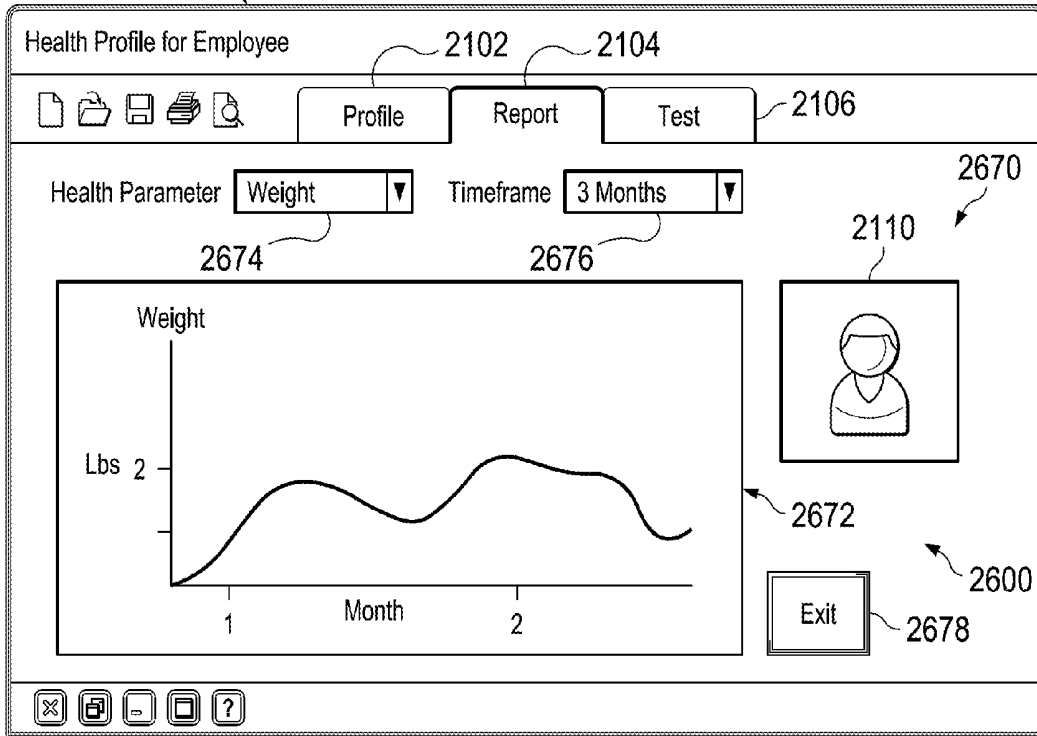
1390

FIG. 26F



1390

FIG. 26G



2700

FIG. 27

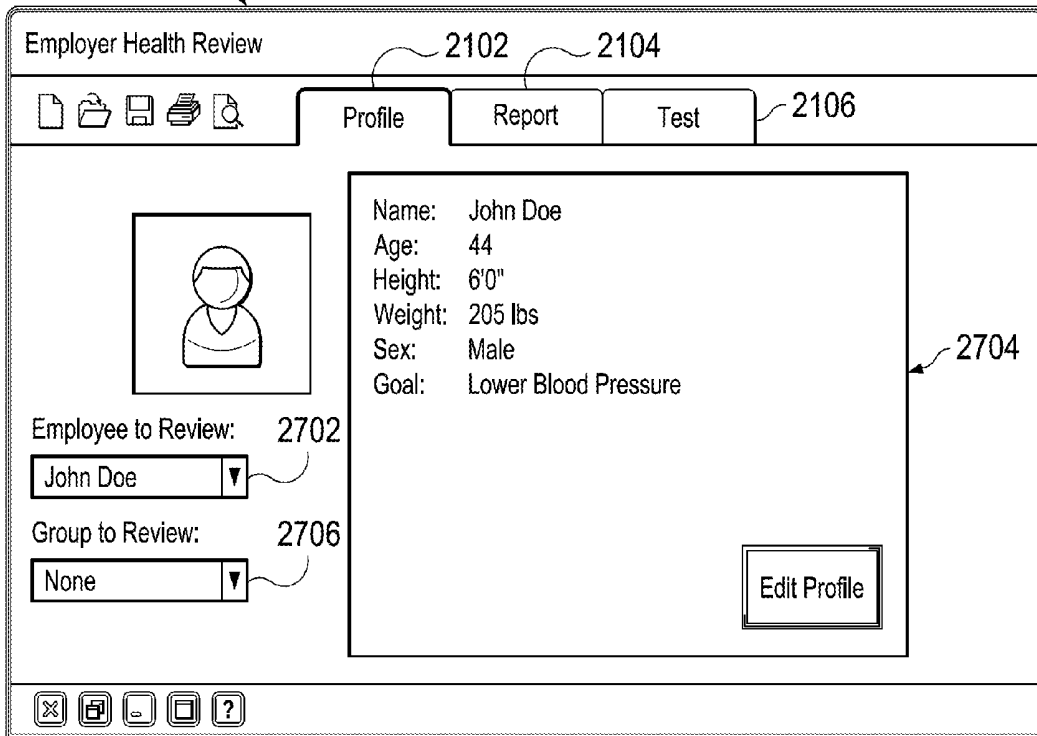


FIG. 26H

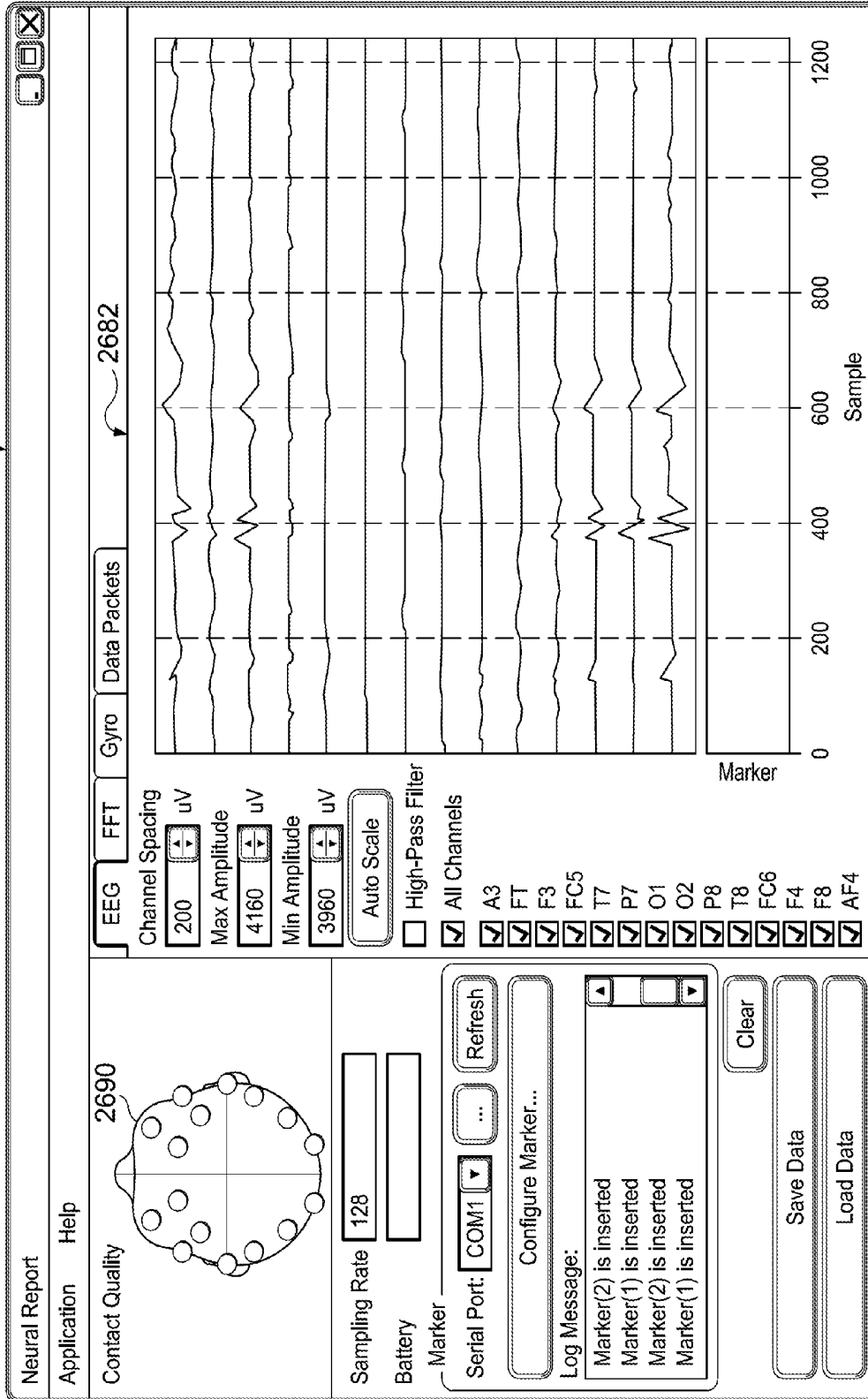


FIG. 261

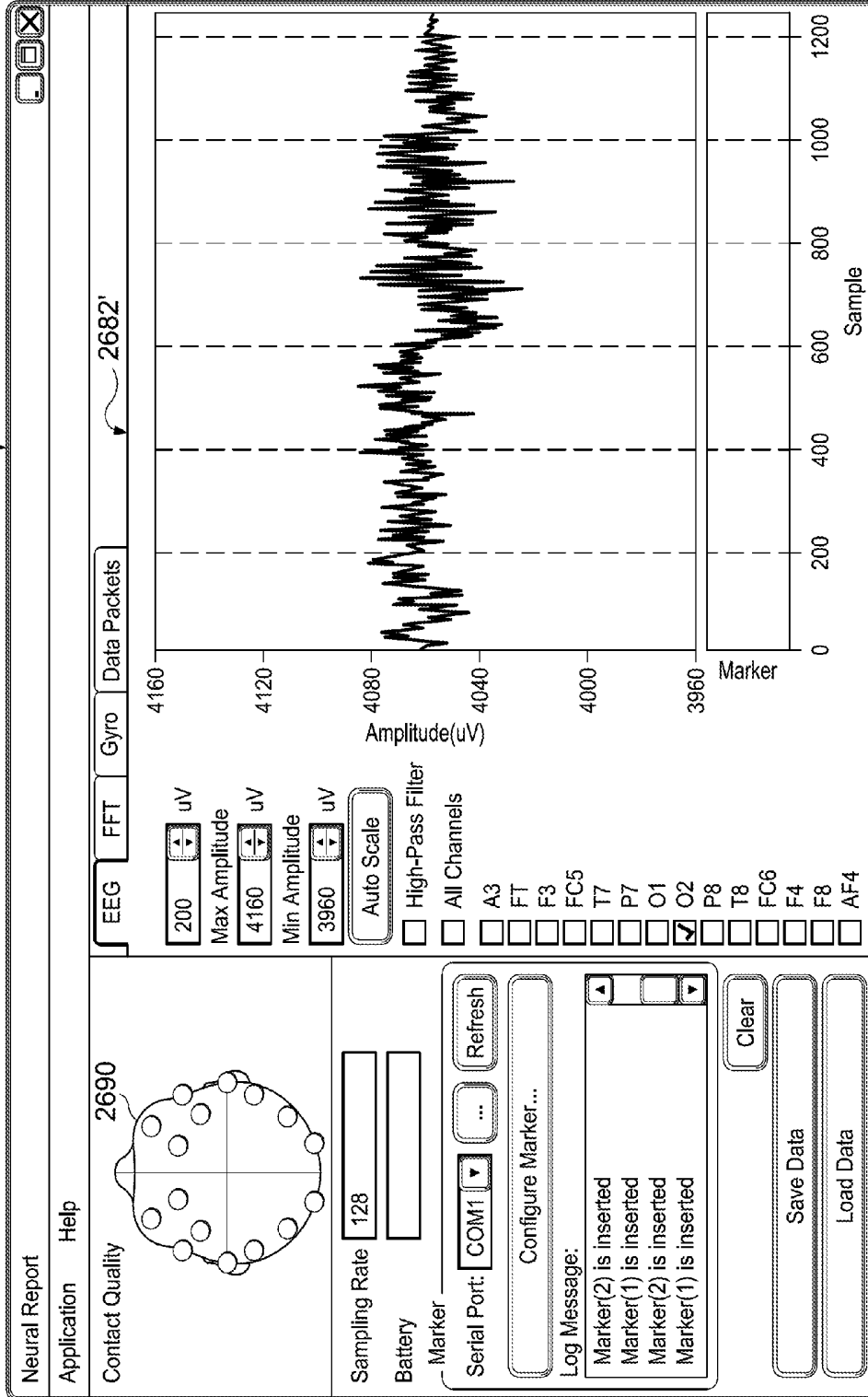


FIG. 26J

2680

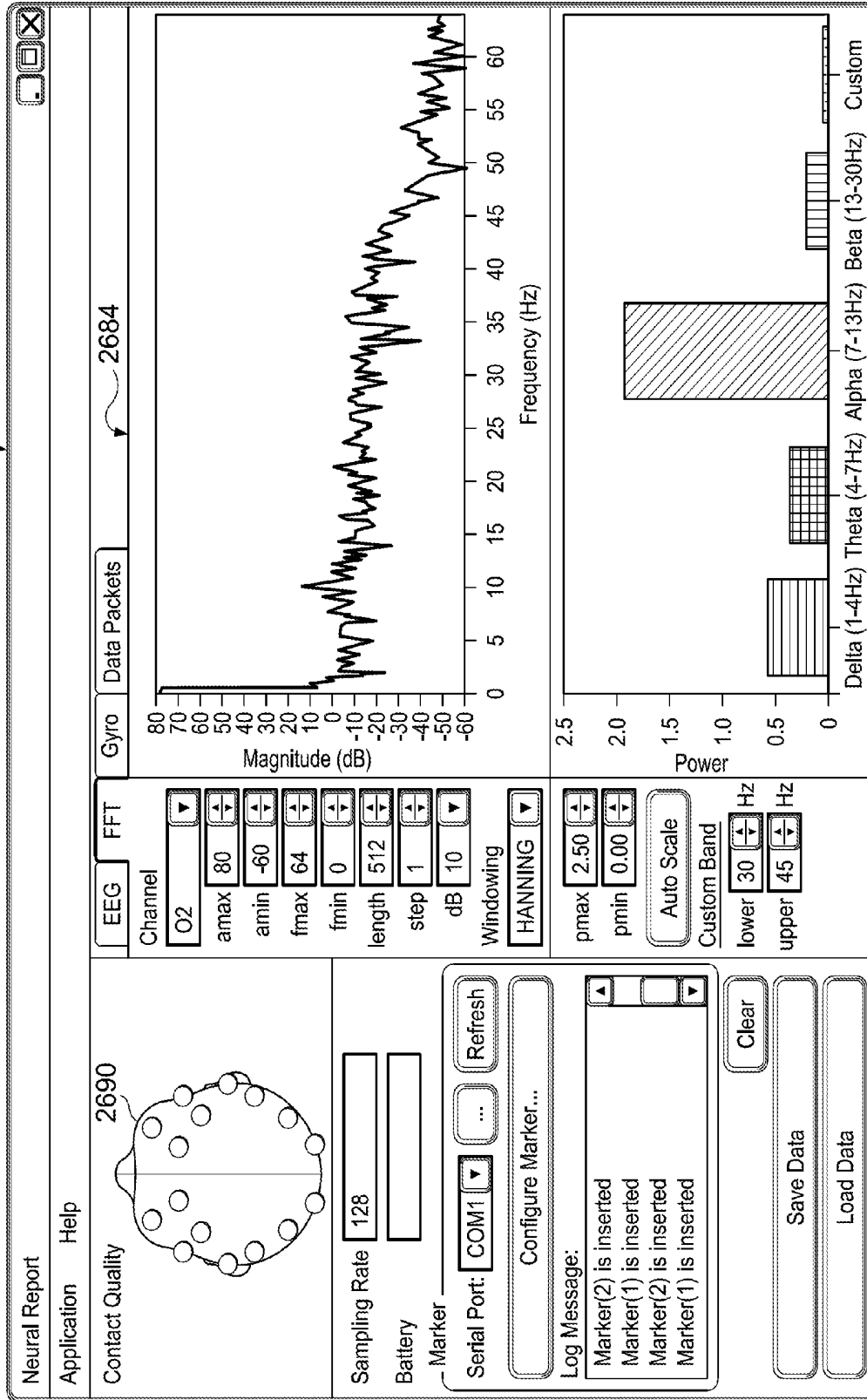
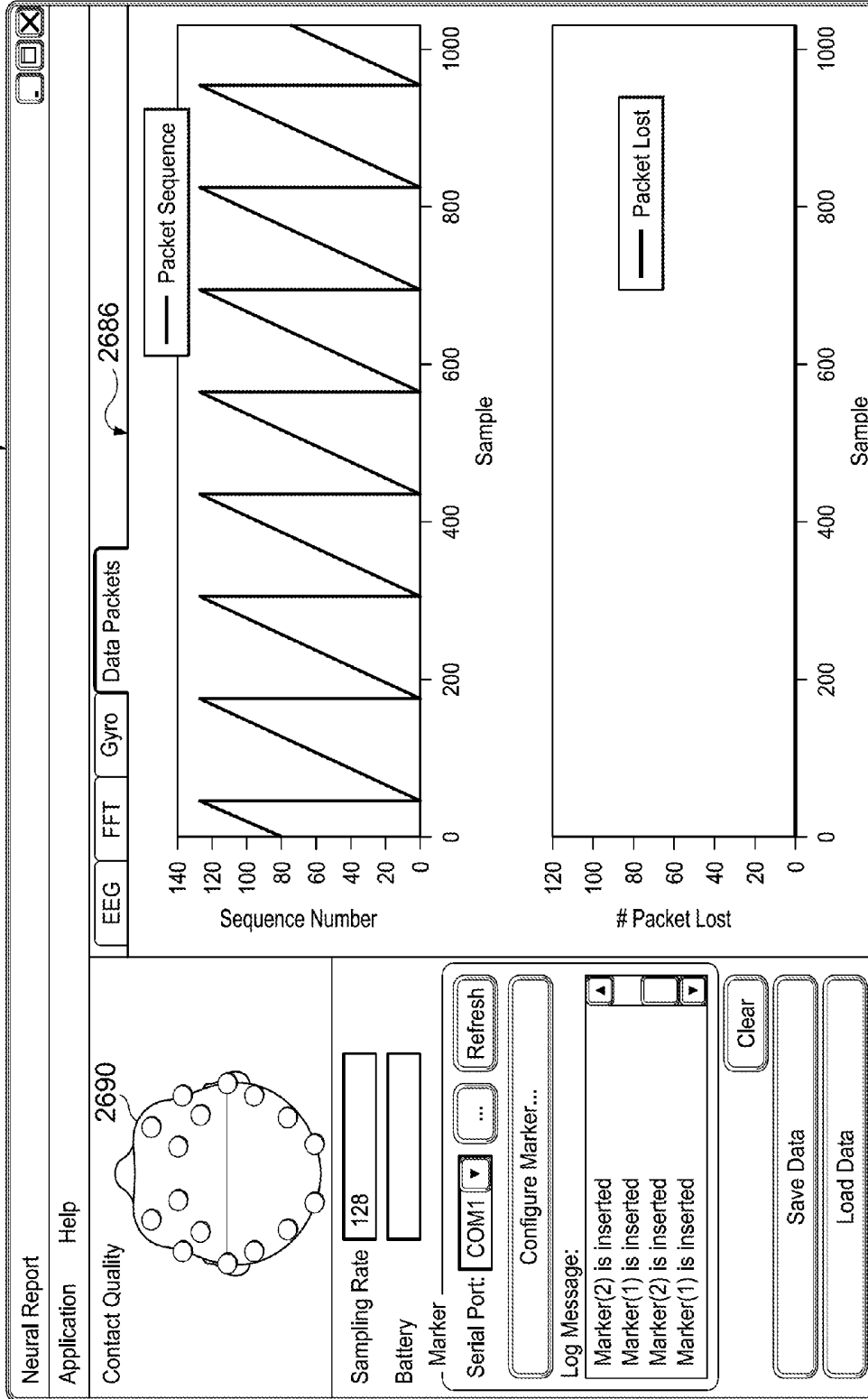


FIG. 26K



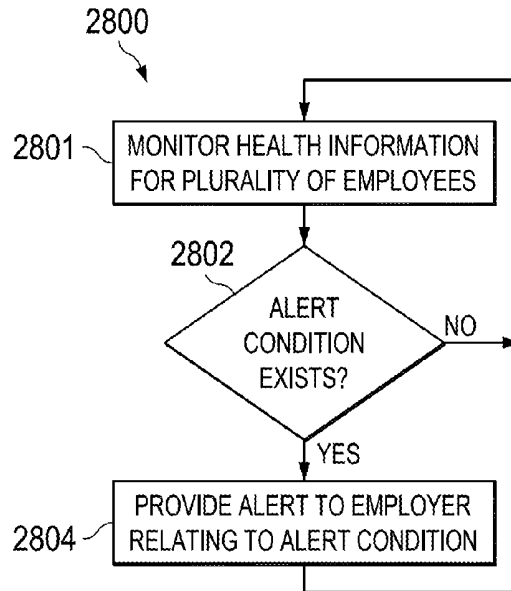


FIG. 28

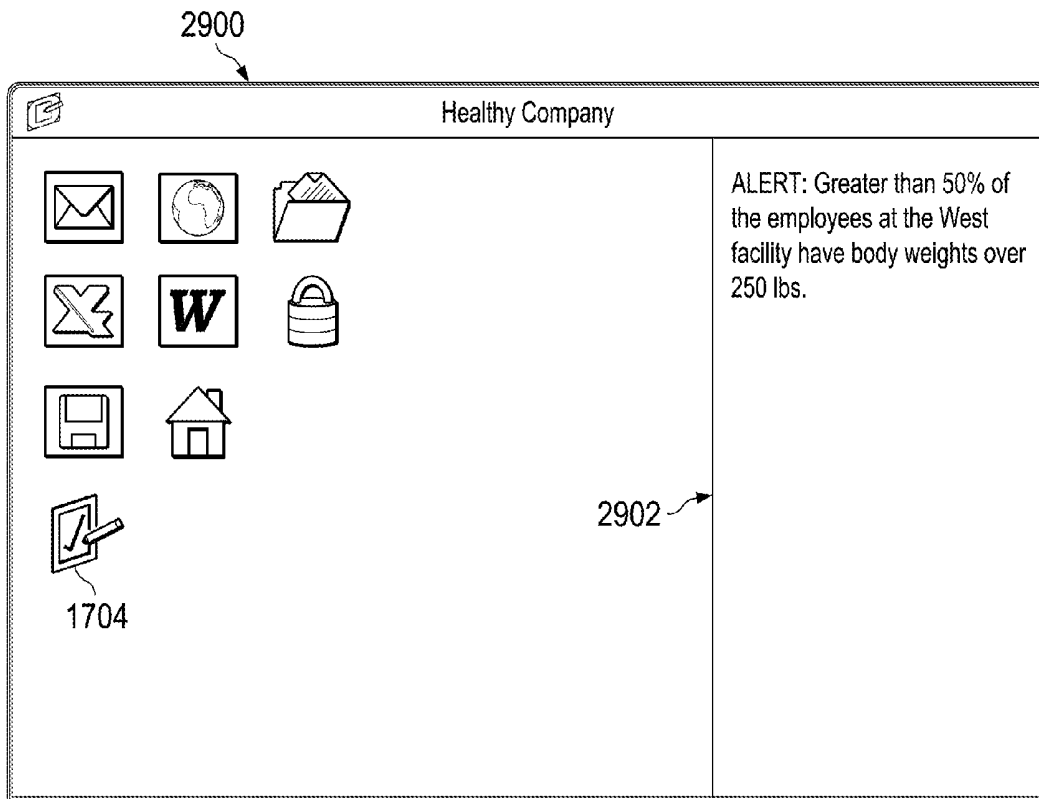


FIG. 29

**SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND
COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS
FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING
BIOMECHANICAL HEALTH OF
EMPLOYEES**

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/540,180 filed on Jul. 2, 2012 which claims the benefit of and priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/504,638 filed on Jul. 5, 2011 and titled "SYSTEM, COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHOD FOR IMPROVING AND MONITORING THE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,831 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,790 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING COGNITIVE AND EMOTIVE HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,796 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "COMPUTER MOUSE SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,800 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "CHAIR PAD SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,807 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "FLOOR MAT SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,810 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING BIOMETRIC HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,818 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING BIOMECHANICAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,824 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR COACHING EMPLOYEES BASED UPON MONITORED HEALTH CONDITIONS USING AN AVATAR", the disclosures of which are each hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to health monitoring in the work place and more particularly to systems, machines, non-transitory computer medium having com-

puter program instructions stored thereon, and computer-implemented methods for monitoring biomechanical health of employees.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A major concern among employers is the issue of presenteeism, or the phenomena that, while employees may be at work, health problems such as, lower back pain, fatigue, high blood pressure and obesity, keep them from working optimally, and cause a rapid rise in employee healthcare costs. Many human resource ("HR") executives consider presenteeism a problem in their companies, estimating an annual cost to companies of over \$180 billion/year, and a per employee cost between \$22 and \$157 annually. Moreover, presenteeism appears to be a problem at over 50% of workplaces. In 2006, 56% of HR executives viewed it as a problem, while only 39% of HR managers found it to be a problem in 2004. Because such health problems may be caused by a combination of employee lifestyle and work practices, workplace health programs have been employed to make employees aware of sound health and ergonomic practices in an effort to promote employee health and help lower employer costs.

Unfortunately, even if employees are made aware of sound health and ergonomic practices, employees often slip back into poor health and ergonomic practices while engrossed in their day-to-day work activities. The current state of the art solution to address these issues includes health programs that rely on periodic tests to assess employee health and ergonomics. Such tests typically require employees to expend a great deal of effort to participate in the programs. For example, health programs may monitor the employee's health via test conducted in test facilities at discrete testing times (e.g., quarterly or annual health tests). Unfortunately, the presence of traditional health testing equipment and personnel may be overly burdensome in the user's work environment. For example, health testing personnel located in the employee's office to monitor a set of biomechanical sensors may be distracting. Moreover, the ability to monitor a plurality of employees throughout their workday may be difficult or impossible due to constraints on the number of health personnel available. Thus, existing health programs may require the employee to take time out of their day to attend a health test, existing health programs may not assess the employee in their day-to-day work environment, and existing health programs may not provide continuous feedback that can be used to dynamically adjust the employee's day-to-day activities and/or may not be able to rapidly identify and predict health issues based on changes in the employee's health.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Applicant has recognized the need for a health monitoring system that provides for assessment of employees in their day-to-day work environment, that reduce the effort required to take part in a health program, that continuously monitors the employees' health in their day-to-day work environments, that rapidly identifies and predicts health issues for the employees, and that provides frequent (e.g. real-time) feedback that can be used dynamically adjust the employee's day-to-day activities to improve the employees' health and/or to help prevent the predicted health issues from escalating into an actual health conditions. Applicant has recognized that, although existing health programs provide some level of health monitoring, the complexities associated

with employees having to proactively take part in health tests may reduce employee involvement in the health programs. For example, employees may decide to forgo a health program in view of the time and effort required to engage in health tests at a testing facility. Moreover, the infrequent nature of the health tests may inhibit the ability of existing health programs to promptly identify and predict health issues (e.g., health risks such as injury or disease). For example, semi-annual test may not be able to identify changes in the employee's health that can occur within days or weeks, such as sickness, short term injuries, and diseases that manifest themselves over a short period. Thus, existing health programs fail to provide a framework for continuously acquiring health data that can be used to rapidly identify changes in the employee's health over relatively short periods of time. Applicant has recognized that such shortcomings have failed to be addressed by others, and has recognized that such shortcomings may be addressed by a system that can continuously collect employee health data while employees are situated in their day-to-day work environment (e.g., at the employees' offices), that can process the health data to assess the employees' current health and predict potential health issues, and that can provide feedback indicative of the employees' current health and predict potential health issues such that the employees can take proactive measures to address their current health conditions and prevent the predict potential health issues. In view of the foregoing, various embodiments of the present invention advantageously provide systems, machines, non-transitory computer medium having computer program instructions stored thereon, and computer-implemented methods for monitoring the health of employees in their work environment using various sensors disposed about their work environment, for determining employee health profiles (e.g., including existing or predicted health conditions/risks and health plans to guide the employee with regard to a healthy lifestyle) based on the health data, and for providing feedback to communicate the determined health profile and associated information.

In some embodiments, provide is a system to monitor an employee's health when the employee is working at a workstation including one or more of a workstation surface located above and parallel to a floor, a computer workstation positioned on top of the workstation surface, and a chair located on the floor adjacent to the workstation surface. The chair having a seat portion and a back portion. The workstation having a test zone defined therein that includes an area including the computer workstation, the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation, the chair when the chair is positioned adjacent to the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation, and the floor under the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation. The system including a set of biomechanical health sensors located at the workstation for detecting biomechanical characteristics of the employee's health. The set of biomechanical health sensors configured to collect health data via a plurality of points of contact with the employee while the employee is located in the employee workstation. A first point of contact including a floor mat positioned on the floor in the test zone, a second point of contact including one or more of the seat portion and the back portion of the chair and a third point of contact including the eyes and head of the employee. The set of biomechanical health sensors in communication with a communications network and including of one or more temperature transducers, one or more force transducers and one or more cameras adapted to capture three-dimensional video data. The set of biomechanical

sensors configured to output biomechanical sensor data including temperature data output by one or more of the temperature transducers that is indicative of a body position of the employee, force data output by one or more of the force transducers that is indicative of the body position of the employee, and image data output by one or more of the cameras including three-dimensional images that are indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee. The floor mat including at least one of the one or more temperature transducers and the one or more force transducers. The chair including at least one of the one or more temperature transducers and the one or more force transducers located in at least one of the seat portion and the back portion of the chair. The system including a database in communication with the communications network and storing employee health information associated with one or more employees, and a computer server in communication with the communication network. The computer server being configured to serve, to the computer workstation for display to the employee, health profile information for the employee. The computer server including a non-transitory computer readable storage medium, an input/output (I/O) device interface and a processor. The I/O device interface connecting the computer server to the communications network. The non-transitory computer readable storage medium having a set of computer readable instructions stored thereon that are executable by the processor to cause the computer server to perform the steps of collecting, via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors, determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data, serving the updated health profile for the employee for display to the employee via the computer workstation, and updating the health information stored in the database to reflect the updated health profile for the employee. The step of collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors including the steps of activating the set of biomechanical sensors to conduct a health test of the employee, and monitoring the set of biomechanical sensors to collect the biomechanical sensor data. The step of determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected including the steps of determining a posture analysis including the employees deviation from the proper alignment of one or more of the head, torso, arms, and feet when the employee is sitting in the chair, and an eye fatigue analysis including an indication of a level of eye fatigue based on one or more of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of the eye using the biomechanical sensor data collected, and determining a health plan for the employee based on one or more of the posture analysis and the eye fatigue analysis determined for the employee. The updated employee health profile including one or more of the posture analysis and the eye fatigue analysis, and the health plan determined for the employee.

The step of determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected includes, in some embodiments, determining one or more of the posture analysis, the eye fatigue analysis, muscle tension, stress level, and physical injury for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected.

The step of determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected includes, in some embodiments, determining one or more of a risk of musculoskeletal syndrome, risk of carpal tunnel syndrome, risk of epicondylitis, risk of a rotator cuff injury,

risk of eye disease, and risk of physical fatigue for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected.

The step of determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected includes, in some embodiments, determining one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected, wherein the computer readable instructions are executable by the processor to further cause the computer server to perform the steps of: comparing one or more of one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee to a corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks; determining, based on the comparison, that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks, and in response to determining that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks, alerting emergency response personnel regarding the at least one of the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined to be outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks.

The step of collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors includes, in some embodiments, the steps of identifying a need to initiate a health test using a predetermined test schedule that specifies times at which the biomechanical sensor data needs to be collected from the biomechanical health sensors, in response to identifying a need to initiate a health test using a predetermined test schedule that specifies times at which the biomechanical sensor data needs to be collected from the biomechanical health sensors, querying the computer workstation for the biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health test, the computer workstation being configured to collect the biomechanical sensor data from the set of biomechanical health sensors located at the workstation, and receiving, from the computer workstation and via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health test.

In some embodiments, the computer readable instructions are executable by the processor to further cause the computer server to perform the steps of: receiving an employee initiated request to initiate a health test, wherein collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors is conducted in response to the employee request to initiate a health test.

The step of serving the updated health profile for display to the employee via the computer workstation includes, in some embodiments, serving an interactive health dashboard for display to the employee via a desktop of the computer workstation, wherein the interactive health dashboard enables the employee to review and edit biomechanical health information associated with the employee.

The step of serving the updated health profile for display to the employee via the computer workstation includes, in some embodiments, serving a health status widget for display to the employee via a desktop of the computer workstation, the health status widget including a graphical display indicative of the current biomechanical health of the

employee, and the health status widget being viewable while the employee is working with other applications on the computer workstation.

In some embodiments, provided is a system for monitoring the health of an employee while the employee is located in an employee workstation. The system including the employee workstation which includes an employee computer and a plurality of biomechanical sensors disposed throughout the employee workstation. The plurality of biomechanical sensors configured to sense biomechanical characteristics of the employee and output corresponding biomechanical health data indicative of the biomechanical characteristics of the employee. The system including a biomechanical health monitoring server configured to collect the biomechanical health data indicative of the biomechanical characteristics of the employee, determine an employee biomechanical health profile based at least in part on the collected biomechanical health data that includes one or more of biomechanical health characteristics, biomechanical health conditions and biomechanical health risks for the employee, generate a health plan for the employee based at least in part on the employee biomechanical health profile, and serve, to the employee computer for display to the employee, health content including the employee biomechanical health profile and the health plan for the employee.

In some embodiments, the employee workstation includes a chair, and wherein the plurality of biomechanical sensors include a temperature sensor, and a position sensor disposed in a chair pad positioned in the chair of the employee workstation and that are configured to sense the employee's body position while the employee is seated in the chair.

In certain embodiments, the employee workstation includes a floor, and wherein the plurality of biomechanical sensors include a temperature sensor, a body fat sensor and a position sensor disposed in a floor mat positioned on the floor of the employee workstation and that are configured to sense the employee's position while feet of the employee are positioned on the floor mat.

In some embodiments, the plurality of biomechanical sensors includes a three-dimensional position sensor adapted to capture three-dimensional images that are indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee.

In certain embodiments, provided is a non-transitory computer readable storage medium including program instructions for use in monitoring an employee's health when the employee is working at a workstation including a workstation surface located above and parallel to a floor, a computer workstation positioned on top of the workstation surface, and a chair located on the floor adjacent to the workstation surface. The chair having a seat portion and a back portion, the workstation having a test zone defined therein, that includes an area including the computer workstation, the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation, the chair when the chair is positioned adjacent to the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation, and the floor under the workstation surface in front of the computer workstation. The computer program instructions being executable by a computer processor to cause the step of activating a set of biomechanical health sensors located at the workstation for detecting biomechanical characteristics of the employee's health and. The set of biomechanical health sensors configured to collect health data via a plurality of points of contact with the employee while the employee is located in the employee workstation. A first point of contact including a floor mat positioned on the floor

in the test zone, a second point of contact including one or more of the seat portion and the back portion of the chair and a third point of contact including the eyes and head of the employee. The set of biomechanical health sensors in communication with a communications network and including of one or more temperature transducers, one or more force transducers and one or more cameras adapted to capture three-dimensional video data, the set of biomechanical sensors configured to output biomechanical sensor data including of temperature data output by one or more of the temperature transducers that is indicative of a body position of the employee, force data output by one or more of the force transducers that is indicative of the body position of the employee, and image data output by one or more of the cameras including three-dimensional images that are indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee. The floor mat including at least one of the one or more temperature transducers and the one or more force transducers. The chair including at least one of the one or more temperature transducers and the one or more force transducers located in at least one of the seat portion and the back portion of the chair. The computer program instructions being executable by a computer processor to cause the steps of collecting, via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors, determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data, serving the updated health profile for the employee for display to the employee via the computer workstation, and updating the health information stored in the database to reflect the updated health profile for the employee. The step of collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical sensors including the steps of activating the set of biomechanical sensors to conduct a health test of the employee, and monitoring the set of biomechanical sensors to collect the biomechanical sensor data sensor data. The step of determining an updated health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected including the steps of determining a posture analysis including the employees deviation from the proper alignment of one or more of the head, torso, arms, and feet when the employee is sitting in the chair, and an eye fatigue analysis including an indication of a level of eye fatigue based on one or more of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of the eye using the biomechanical sensor data collected, determining a health plan for the employee based on one or more of the posture analysis and the eye fatigue analysis determined for the employee; the updated employee health profile including one or more of the posture analysis and the eye fatigue analysis, and the health plan determined for the employee.

In some embodiments, provided is a computer implemented method for monitoring the health of an employee while the employee is located in an employee workstation. The method including collecting, from a plurality of biomechanical sensors disposed throughout the employee workstation, biomechanical health data indicative of biomechanical characteristics of the employee. The plurality of biomechanical sensors configured to sense the biomechanical characteristics of the employee and output corresponding biomechanical health data indicative of the biomechanical characteristics of the employee. The method including determining an employee biomechanical health profile based at least in part on the collected biomechanical health data. The employee biomechanical health profile including one or more of biomechanical health characteristics, biomechanical health conditions and biomechanical health risks for the

employee. The method including generating a health plan for the employee based at least in part on the biomechanical health profile, and serving, to an employee computer in the workstation for display to the employee, health content including the employee biomechanical health profile and the health plan for the employee.

Accordingly, as will be described herein below, embodiments of the system, computer program instructions and associated computer-implemented methods allow for monitoring of the employee's biomechanical health.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

So that the manner in which the features and advantages of the invention, as well as others, which will become apparent, may be understood in more detail, a more particular description of the invention briefly summarized above may be had by reference to the embodiments thereof, which are illustrated in the appended drawings, which form a part of this specification. It is to be noted, however, that the drawings illustrate only various embodiments of the invention and are therefore not to be considered limiting of the invention's scope as it may include other effective embodiments as well.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram that illustrates an employee health monitoring system in accordance with one more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram that illustrates an employee workstation connected to a server in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram that illustrates components of an employee computer in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a diagram that illustrates an exemplary workstation environment in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram that illustrates a workstation including integrated sensors in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 6A-6C are perspective views of various embodiments of a chair and a chair pad specially adapted to include sensors for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 6D is a block diagram that illustrates components of the chair pad in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 6E is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary chair pad system in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 6F is a flowchart that illustrates a method of operating the chair pad in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7A is a perspective view of a floor mat specially adapted to include sensors for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7B is a block diagram that illustrates components of the floor mat in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7C is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary floor mat system in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7D is a flowchart that illustrates a method of operating the floor mat in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 8A-8C are side and end elevation views of a mouse specially adapted to include sensors for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8D is a block diagram that illustrates components of the mouse in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8E is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary mouse system including a blood pressure cuff physically connected to the mouse in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8F is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary mouse system including a blood pressure cuff wirelessly connected to the mouse in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 8G is a flowchart that illustrates a method of operating the mouse system in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 9A is a front view of a three-dimensional ("3D") position sensor for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 9B is a block diagram of components of the 3D position sensor in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 9C is a flowchart that illustrates a method of operating the 3D position sensor in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10A is a perspective view of a neuro-headset for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10B is a top-view of an employee's head that illustrates exemplary neural sensor locations about the employee's head in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10C is a block diagram that illustrates components of the neuro-headset in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10D is a flowchart that illustrates a method of operating the neuro-headset in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 10E is a perspective view of a chair specially adapted to include neural sensors for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a flowchart that illustrates a method of acquiring health data in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 12A is a block diagram illustrating components of a server in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 12B is a flowchart that illustrates a method of monitoring the employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 13A is a block diagram illustrating dataflow within the health monitoring system in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 13B illustrates an exemplary health report in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 14 is an exemplary database structure of health information in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 15 is a flowchart that illustrates an interactive health monitoring method in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 16 is a screen-shot that illustrates a login screen in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 17 is a screen-shot that illustrates a home page screen in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 18 is a screen-shot that illustrates an edit profile dialog in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 19 is a flowchart that illustrates a method for providing an interactive health dashboard in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 20 is a flowchart that illustrates a method for displaying a profile tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 21 is a screen-shot that illustrates an exemplary display of a profile tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 22 is a flowchart that illustrates a method for displaying a test tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 23A and 23B are screen-shots that illustrate exemplary displays of a test tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 24 is a flowchart that illustrates a method for conducting a health test in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 25A and 25B include a flowchart that illustrates a method for displaying an interactive report tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 26A to 26K are screen-shots that illustrate exemplary displays of a report tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 27 is a screen-shot that illustrates an exemplary display of a reviewer interface in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 28 is a flowchart that illustrates a method of assessing health information for a plurality of employees in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 29 is a screen-shot that illustrates an exemplary display of a reviewer homepage screen in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the illustrated embodiments set forth herein, rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

In view of the Applicant's recognition of the issues associated with presenteeism, the Applicant engaged in investigations to assess the impact of "wellness programs" on the health of employees. One internal study conduct indicated that certain wellness programs improved productivity, improved work factors, and reduced employee's risks for disease. The study involved tracking a population of 1,157 employees from 2005-2011. The results of the study indicate a shift of employees from higher risk categories (e.g., a high risk category for employee's diagnosed as being at risk for three or more conditions, such as risks for chronic disease such as high blood pressure (BP), inactive, high

body mass index (BMI), high fat percentage, or the like) to lower risk categories (e.g., a low risk category for employee's diagnosed as being at risk for one or no conditions). More specifically, the results of the study indicated a reduction of the number of employees in a high risk category (e.g., for employee's diagnosed as being at risk for three or more conditions) by 49.6%, a reduction of the number of employees in a medium risk category (e.g., for employee's diagnosed as being at risk for two or more conditions) by 0.4%, and an increase in the number of employees in a low risk category (e.g., for employee's diagnosed as being at risk for one or no conditions) by 12.6%. The results of the internal study also estimated a 6.4% reduction in medical claims cost (e.g., a cost savings of approximately \$3.4M for the study population of 1,157 employees) that can be attributable to the wellness program and associated reduction in risks.

Related internal studies have also indicated that such wellness programs have a positive impact on employee work factors, including stress management, job satisfaction, work engagement and productivity. For example, results of the study indicate that 60% to 75% of the employees agree with the position that the wellness programs provided improvements in each of stress management, job satisfaction, work engagement and productivity, with only about 7% to 12% of the employees disagreeing with the position that the wellness programs provided improvements in each of the areas.

The Applicant has recognized that such study results demonstrate the potential effectiveness of wellness programs in reducing health risks, improving employee's work factors, and reducing health costs to employers. Based at least in part on the recognition of the benefits of employee health programs as well as the limitations of existing health programs, the Applicant has recognized the need for improved employee health programs that can provide increased health and economic benefits to employees and employers, and has developed a specially adapted health monitoring system and related methods that further assist in monitoring the employee's health and solving limitations of traditional health monitoring programs.

In some embodiments, provided is an employee health monitoring system that provides for monitoring of an employee's health, that provides feedback to the employee regarding the current status of their health, that provides the employee with information to guide the employee in a healthy lifestyle, and that provides the employee with reinforcing information to encourage the employee to continue to engage in the healthy lifestyle.

In certain embodiments, monitoring of the employee's health includes monitoring the employee while they are engaged in their day-to-day work activities within their work environment. In some embodiments, various monitoring devices (e.g., health sensors) are placed in the employee's work environment to collect health data that can be used to assess various biometric and biomechanical characteristics (e.g., characteristics, conditions and risks) of the employee, such as the employee's body weight, body temperature, body fat percentage, heart rate, blood pressure, blood glucose level, blood oxygenation level, body position/posture, eye fatigue, neural activity, emotions, thoughts, facial movements/expressions, motor skills, and the like. In certain embodiments, the monitoring devices are integrated with the employee's workstation (e.g., in and around the employee's desk and computer workstation) such that the employee's health can be monitored without requiring the employee to leave their workstation to take part in a health test/exam. In some embodiments, for example, health sensors are integrated with a chair, a floor, a computer mouse, or the like

located in and around the employee's workstation. In certain embodiments, the health sensors provide multiple points of contact with the employee for collecting health data (e.g., at least five points of contact, including a first point of contact with the head/eyes, a second point of contact with arms/hands, a third point of contact with torso/back/legs, a fourth point of contact with feet of the employee, and a fifth point of contact with the head/brain of the employee).

In some embodiments, the health data collected and/or the health characteristics/conditions identified can be used to identify/predict health risks for the employee, such as risks for obesity, injury, diabetes, infection, circulation problems, cardiovascular disease, cardiovascular accidents (e.g., stroke or heart attack), back injury, eye disease, depression, fatigue, and/or the like. In certain embodiments, health risks are determined via predictive analytics that use employee's current and/or historical health characteristics/conditions. For example, where the recent health data for an employee indicates a trend of increasing body weight for an employee, it may be predicted that the employee is at risk for becoming obese within a given time period. In some embodiments, an alert may be provided to the employee to make them aware of the predictions/risks. For example, the employee may be presented with a listing of risks that correspond to predicted health issues. Such predictions and corresponding alerts may enable the employee to proactively improve their health before the associated risks escalate to a critical level. For example, as a result of a prediction and alert that communicates to the employee that they are at risk for becoming obese, the employee may have the motivation needed to change their eating and exercise habits to avoid actually becoming obese. Thus, the system may provide an environment for proactively predicting and responding to health risks before they escalate into actual health conditions.

In some embodiments, the health data, characteristics, conditions and/or risks are used to generate health plans for the employee. In certain embodiments, the health plans include preventative health plans that provide guidance to reduce health risks and/or promote a healthy lifestyle. In some embodiments, the health plans provide a suggested nutrition plan and/or a suggested exercise regime. In certain embodiments, the employee health monitoring system provides coaching (e.g., suggestions) to help the employee follow through with the health plan. In some embodiments, the health data, characteristics, conditions and/or plans may be logged over time to generate a health profile for the employee.

In some embodiments, the employee health monitoring system provides for automated health testing based on a predetermined schedule. In certain embodiments, for example, automated health test are executed continuously (e.g., constantly from 8 am to 5 pm) or at regular intervals (e.g., hourly from 8 am to 5 pm). Such embodiments may enable the employee's health to be monitored passively, with little to no effort from the employee. In some embodiments, the employee health monitoring system provides for manually initiated health testing. In certain embodiments, for example, an employee may select to initiate a health test. Such embodiments may enable employees to take a more active role in the monitoring of their health.

In some embodiments, the results of the health tests are provided to the employee for review. In certain embodiments, for example, the health monitoring system provides a health report including the employee's health profile information (e.g., the health data collected, the health characteristics/conditions, and/or the health risks for the employee). In some embodiments, the health report is acces-

sible by the employee at their work computer (e.g., via a desktop widget, an interactive dashboard, and/or the like) such that the employee can view the results at their convenience throughout the workday. Such embodiments may enable the employee to receive real-time feedback regarding their health and immediately make corresponding adjustments throughout the workday. In some embodiments, the results of the health tests are provided to the employer or other interested parties (e.g., a physician) for review. Such embodiments may enable the employer to monitor the health of some or all of their employees such that they can readily identify health concerns/trends and take action to alleviate those concerns/trends, thereby improving the work environment for the employees.

In some embodiments, the health monitoring system monitors the health profile information to identify whether the employee is experiencing a health crisis (e.g., a stroke or heart attack) and, in the instance the employee is experiencing a health crisis, transmits corresponding alerts. In certain embodiments, for example, upon determining that the employee is having a heart attack based on the results of a health test, the health monitoring system may forward an alert to emergency response personnel (e.g., police, fire, emergency medical technicians (“EMT’s”) or the like). Such embodiments may help to ensure that the employee receives prompt medical treatment in the event of a medical emergency at the workplace.

Embodiments of the health monitoring system may provide a work environment that promotes employee involvement in monitoring their health via a non-intrusive health testing environment that enables the employee’s health to be monitored from the convenience of their workstation. Moreover, embodiments of the health monitoring system may provide feedback that informs the employee of their current health, that identifies/predicts health risks and goals based on the employee’s health and provides guidance to reduce the employee’s health risks and attain the identified health goals. Although some of the embodiments are described with regard to health data collected via a workstation (e.g., via sensors disposed about an employee’s office), similar embodiments may be employed using health data collected from any variety of sources. For example, the health data may be collected from an employee workstation, from a mobile device that is capable of collecting health data from the employee while they are working remotely (e.g., at a jobsite), at the workstation and/or traveling there between, and any variety of other sources of health data. In such embodiments, the health report and the resulting reports, interactive dashboard displays and/or the like may be generated based on health data collected from any variety of sources (e.g., the workstation, mobile device and/or the like) such that the employee’s health is monitored while they are located in a variety of locations and conditions. Such embodiments may provide a thorough representation and analysis of the employee’s health when they are located at a workstation and/or away from the workstation.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram that illustrates an employee health monitoring system (“system”) 100 in accordance with one more embodiments of the present invention. As depicted, system 100 may include one or more employee workstations 102, one or more employer workstations (e.g., employer computers) 103, a server 104, a file server 106 coupled to a datastore 108, and a web server 110 connected to remote workstation 112 (e.g., remote computers). In some embodiments, the entities of the system 100 are communicatively coupled via a network 118. Datastore 108 may store

health information 109 (e.g., personal profile information, health profile information, and/or the like) for one or more employees.

In some embodiments, the network 118 includes an element or system that facilitates communications between entities of system 100. For example, the network 118 may include an electronic communications network, such as the Internet, a local area network (“LAN”), a wide area (“WAN”), a wireless local area network (“WLAN”) a cellular communications network or the like. In some embodiments, the network 118 includes a single network or combination of networks. For example, the employee workstations 102, the employer workstation 103, the server 104, the file server 106, and/or the web server 110, may be networked using a private/LAN, with the remote computers 112 (e.g., employee home computers, emergency personnel computer devices, or the like) connected to the web server 104 via a WAN.

As described in more detail below, the employee workstations 102 may include health sensors (“sensors”) 120 and/or an employee computer workstation (“employee computer”) 130 for collecting employee health data that may be employed by the server 104 for use in monitoring an employee’s health. In some embodiments, the employee workstations 102 are located in or include traditional employee work environments (e.g., an employee’s office employee’s office, cubicle, assigned station on an assembly/manufacturing line, or the like) such that the sensors 120 may collect health data from the employee while the employee is working in their work environment.

In some embodiments, the health data may include measurements that can be used to assess various biometric aspects of the employee’s health, such as one or more of body temperature, body weight, body fat, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation (e.g., blood oxygenation), blood glucose level, neural/brain activity, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the health data may include measurements that can be used to assess various biomechanical aspects of the employee’s health, such as one or more of body position, posture, muscle tension, eye fatigue, facial expression, motor skills, and/or the like. Sensors that are used to acquire measurements for use in assessing various biometric aspects of the employee’s health may be referred to as “biometric sensors”. Sensors that are used to acquire measurements for use in assessing various biomechanical aspects of the employee’s health may be referred to as “biomechanical sensors”. Sensors that are used to acquire measurements that are indicative of both biometric and biomechanical aspects of the employee’s health may be referred to as “biometric” and/or “biomechanical” sensors.

As discussed in more detail below, in some embodiments, the employee computer 130 may provide for collecting health data from the various sensors 120 and/or forwarding corresponding health data to the server 104 for use in monitoring an employee’s health. For example, in response to determining that employee health data needs to be collected (e.g., based on a request from the server 104, based on a request from the employee, a predetermined test schedule, or the like), the employee computer 130 may monitor sensors 120 to collect health data (e.g., measurements) from the sensors 120, and forward the health data to server 104 for use in monitoring the health of the employee. Although certain embodiments are described herein with regard to the employee computer 130 forwarding health data to the server 104, it will be appreciated that in other embodiments, some or all of the health data is provided directly to the server 104

(i.e., without having to pass the data through the employee computer 130). For example, the sensors 120 may be communicatively coupled to the server 104 via the network 118 (e.g., via a WLAN) such that they can transmit health data directly to the server 104.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram that illustrates an employee workstation 102 connected to the server 104 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments the employee workstation 102 includes an employee computer 130 communicatively coupled to one or more of the sensors 120 for collecting employee health data 200. For example, employee the computer 130 may be communicatively coupled to one or more temperature sensors (e.g., thermocouples, IR sensors, etc.) 202, one or more blood condition sensors (e.g., pulse oximeters) 204, one or more blood pressure sensors (e.g., blood pressure cuffs) 206, one or more position sensors (e.g., force transducers) 208, one or more body fat sensors (e.g., conductive contacts) 210, one or more three-dimensional (“3D”) position sensors (e.g., 3D image/video sensors) 212, one or more audio sensors (e.g., microphone) 214, one or more respiration sensors 216, one or more neural sensors 218, and/or the like for collecting corresponding health data 200 (e.g., measurements) therefrom. In some embodiments, the health data 200 includes temperature data 200a, blood condition data 200b, blood pressure data 200c, position data 200d, body fat data 200e, 3D position data 200f, audio data 200g, respiration data 200h and/or neural data 200i collected from corresponding one of the sensors 120. The health data 200 may be provided to the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee’s health.

In some embodiments, the employee computer 130 is communicatively coupled to the sensors 120 via a wired connection. For example, some or all of the sensors 120 may include a communication cable extending between the respective sensor 120 and the employee computer 130. In some embodiments, employee computer 130 is communicatively coupled to the sensors 120 via a wireless connection. For example, some or all of the sensors 120 may communicate with the employee computer 130 via a wireless connection (e.g., a Bluetooth connection, a wireless connection to a WLAN of network 118, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the health data 200 is transmitted from the sensors 120 to the employee computer 130 via the wired or wireless connection (e.g., a Bluetooth connection, a WLAN of network 118, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the health data 200 is transferred between devices of the system 100 via a physical memory medium such as a universal serial bus (“USB”) memory stick (e.g., a flash drive). For example, the health data 200 acquired from the sensors 120 may be downloaded from the sensors 120 and/or the employee computer 130 to a USB memory stick and may be uploaded from the USB memory stick to another device of the system 100, such as the employee computer 130, the employer computer 103, and/or the sever 104.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram that illustrates components of the employee computer 130 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the employee computer 130 includes a memory 300, a processor 302 and an input/output (I/O) interface 304.

The memory 300 may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory 300 may include a non-transitory computer readable storage

medium having program instructions 306 stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor 302) to cause the functional operations (e.g., methods/routines/processes) described herein with regard to the employee computer 130. The program instructions 306 may include an employee computer module 308 including program instructions that are executable by the processor 302 to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the employee computer 130.

The processor 302 may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor 302 may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., program instruction of the employee computer module 308) to perform arithmetical, logical, and input/output operations of the employee computer 130, including those described herein.

The I/O interface 304 may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to the employee computer 130. I/O devices may include peripherals 310, sensors 120, the server 104, and/or the like. The peripherals 310 may include, for example, graphical user interface displays (e.g., a cathode ray tube (CRT) or liquid crystal display (LCD) monitor), pointing devices (e.g., a computer mouse or trackball), keyboards, keypads, touchpads, scanning devices, voice recognition devices, gesture recognition devices, printers, audio speakers, microphones, cameras, and/or the like. The I/O devices (e.g., the peripherals 310, the sensors 120, and the server 104) may be connected to the I/O interface 304 via a wired or wireless connection.

The employee computer 130 may be employed to collect health data 200 from the various sensors 120 and/or forward corresponding health data 200 to the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee’s health. For example, in response to determining that health data 200 (e.g., temperature data 200a, blood condition data 200b, blood pressure data 200c, position data 200d, body fat data 200e, 3D position data 200f, audio data 200g, respiration data 200h, and/or neural data 200i) needs to be collected, the employee computer 130 may employ one or more of the sensors 120 capable of sensing/acquiring the needed health data 200 to acquire the needed health data 200, the employee computer 130 may collect/store the acquired health data 200 (e.g., store/queue the acquired health data 200 in the memory 300), and the employee computer 130 may forward the acquired health data 200 to the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee’s health.

In some embodiments, the employee computer 130 processes the raw/acquired health data 200 to generate the corresponding processed health data 200. For example, where the employee computer 130 receives raw health data (e.g., temperature data 200a including a voltage indicative of a sensed temperature), the employee computer 130 may process the raw health data 200 to generate a corresponding value (e.g., using a look-up table, equation or the like to identify a temperature value corresponding to the voltage) that may be included in the health data 200 transmitted to the server 104. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the health data 200 may include the raw/acquired health data (e.g., a voltage value) and/or the processed health data corresponding thereto (e.g., the temperature value corresponding to the voltage value). Similar processing may be provided for other type of data measurements.

In some embodiments, the employee computer 130 forwards the health data 200 as the corresponding health data 200 is received. For example, the employee computer 130 may receive health data 200 from the sensors 120 and immediately forward the health data with little to no delay

such that continuous stream of health data is provided to the server **104** for use in monitoring the employee's health. In some embodiments, the employee computer **130** stores (e.g., queues or buffers) the health data **200** for transmission at a later time. For example, where a test routine requires that the employee computer **130** transmits a batch of the health data **200** at the end of a test cycle, transmits a batch of the health data **200** on a regular interval (e.g., every ten minutes), or the like, the health data **200** received may be stored in memory **300** of the employee computer **130** and may be queued or buffered in the memory **300** for transmission as a batch of health data **200** to server **104** at the end of the test cycle, at the regular interval, or the like.

In some embodiments, the temperature sensor **202** includes thermocouples, IR sensors, or the like. During use, the temperature sensor **202** may transmit health data **200** indicative of a temperature sensed by the temperature sensor **202** (e.g., a temperature measurement). For example, where a temperature sensor **202** is positioned to acquire the employee's body temperature at a given location (e.g., at their, hand, back, or the like), the employee computer **130** may receive, from the temperature sensor **202**, temperature data **200a** indicative of the temperature (e.g., 37° C. (98.6° F.) at the given location).

In some embodiments, a blood condition sensor **204** includes pulse oximeters, blood glucose testing devices and/or the like. The Blood condition sensor **204** may include, for example, the OactiveTech™ 300IH Pulse Oximeter manufactured by Nellcor™ or the BCI™ 3301 Hand Held Pulse Oximeter manufactured by Smiths Medical™. During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of blood characteristics sensed by the blood condition sensor **204**. For example, where a pulse oximeter is positioned about the employee's fingertip, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the pulse oximeter, blood condition data **200b** indicative of various aspects of the employee's blood, such as the oxygenation (e.g., 95% oxygenation) at the employee's fingertip.

In some embodiments, a blood pressure sensor **206** includes blood pressure cuffs and/or the like. The Blood pressure sensor **206** may include, for example, the UA-789PC Extra Large Cuff sold by LifeSource™ and the CMS-08A Professional Upper Arm Blood Pressure Monitor manufactured by CMS™. During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the employee's blood pressure sensed by the blood pressure sensor **206**. For example, where a blood pressure cuff is positioned about the employee's wrist/arm, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the blood pressure cuff, blood pressure data **200c** indicative of the employee's blood pressure (e.g., 90/60 mmHg).

In some embodiments, a position sensor **208** includes force transducers, such as strain gauges, load cells and/or the like. During use, employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the force sensed by the position sensor **208**. For example, where a load cell is positioned in the employee's chair and the employee is seated in the chair, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the load cell, position data **200d** indicative of the force sensed by the load cell that can be used to determine the weight of the employee (e.g., 56.5 kg (124.6 lbs.)).

In some embodiments, a body fat sensor **210** includes conductive contacts that can be used to sense resistivity in the employee's body tissue and/or the like. During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the employee's body fat sensed by the body fat sensor **210**. For example, where conductive contacts are positioned

in the seat of the employee's chair and the employee is seated in the chair, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the conductive contacts, body fat data **200e** including a resistance measurement across the conductive contacts that is indicative of the body fat of the employee.

In some embodiments, a 3D position sensor **212** includes 3D cameras or the like that can be used to sense the employee's body position. During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the physical position of the employee as sensed by the 3D position sensor **212**. For example, where a 3D position sensor **212** includes a video camera positioned such that the employee is within the camera's field of view, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the 3D camera, 3D position data **200f** (e.g., a three-dimensional image/video) indicative of the position (e.g., head, arm, hand, torso, leg, and feet position and/or posture) of the employee.

In some embodiments, an audio sensor **214** includes a microphone or the like for acquiring audio data (e.g., words spoken by the employee). During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the audio data sensed by the audio sensor **214**. For example, where the audio sensor **214** includes a microphone, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the audio sensor **214**, audio data **200g** (e.g., an audio feed) indicative of words spoken by the employee.

In some embodiments, respiration sensor **216** includes a device for sensing the employee's respiration rate (e.g., number of breaths taken within a set amount of time, typically sixty seconds). During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the respiration rate ("RR") of the employee sensed by the respiration sensor **216**. For example, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the respiration sensor **216**, respiration data **200h** indicative of number of breaths taken by the employee over sixty seconds (e.g., 15 breaths per minute).

In some embodiments, the neural sensor **218** includes a device (e.g., an electrode) for sensing brain activity (e.g., neural activity) of the employee. In some embodiments, the neural sensors **218** may employ electroencephalography ("EEG") to measure neuro-signal voltage fluctuations resulting from ionic current flows within the neurons of the brain. EEG may refer to recording of the brain's spontaneous electrical activity over a short period of time (e.g., twenty-fourty minutes) from a plurality of the neural sensors **218** disposed on the employee's scalp. For example, a plurality of the neural sensor **218** (e.g., sixteen neural sensors/channels) may be disposed about the employee's scalp to detect neuro-signals (e.g., including alpha, beta, gamma, and delta waves) that can be used to determine the employee's brain state, including, for example, their emotional state (e.g., happy, sad, excited, etc.), thoughts (e.g., cognitive thoughts, subconscious thoughts, intent, etc.), facial movements (e.g., facial expressions), motor functions and/or the like. During use, the employee computer **130** may receive health data **200** indicative of the employee's neural activity sensed by the plurality of neural sensors **218**. For example, the employee computer **130** may receive, from the neural sensors **218**, neural data **200i** indicative of the sensed neuro-signals. In some embodiments, neural sensors **218** may include dry electrodes that can be used to sense neuro signals. Such dry electrodes may require minimal or no skin preparation for disposing the contact on the employee's scalp. As described herein, neural sensor **218** maybe provided via a headset and/or in various surfaces that contact/support the employee's head, such as a headrest of a chair/seat.

In some embodiments, some or all of the sensors 120 may be located throughout the employee's workstation 102 and surrounding workstation environment. For example, various ones of the sensors 120 may be located at or near the employee's desk, chair, computer, or the like.

FIG. 4 is a diagram that illustrates an exemplary workstation environment 400 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the workstation environment 400 includes a location at which the employee 401 spends some or all of their work day (e.g., eight hours or more). For example, the workstation environment 400 may include the employee's office, the employee's cubicle, the employee's assigned station on an assembly/manufacturing line, or the like. In some embodiments, the workstation environment 400 includes an employee workstation 102. The workstation 102 may include devices, furniture and the like that facilitate the employee in accomplishing their work duties. For example, the workstation 102 may include a workstation surface 402 (e.g., a desk), floor 403, a chair 404, and the employee computer 130. In some embodiments, the employee computer 130 may include various peripherals, such as a computer mouse ("mouse") 408, a computer keyboard 410, a computer display (e.g., computer monitor) 412, an audio headset 414 (e.g., a Bluetooth headset including a speaker and/or a microphone), or the like.

In some embodiments, the area around the workstation 102 may define a workstation zone 420. In some embodiments, the workstation zone 420 includes an area (e.g., a three-dimensional region) in which the employee typically resides during some or all of their workday. For example, as depicted by the dashed lines of FIG. 4, the workstation zone 420 may include the region immediately in front of the computer display 412 and including the location of the employee's chair 404. As the employee 401 may be expected to spend a great deal of time within the zone 420, the zone 420 may be a region in which it is desirable to gather information (e.g., health data) relating to the employee's actions and general health while located therein.

The workstation 102 may include one or more of the sensors 120 for acquiring health data relating to the employee's actions and general health while located in or near zone 420. In some embodiments, the sensors 120 include one or more biometric and/or biomechanical sensors. For example, the sensors 120 may include one or more temperature sensors (e.g., thermocouples, IR sensors, etc.) 202, one or more blood condition sensors (e.g., pulse oximeters) 204, one or more blood pressure sensors (e.g., cuff) 206, one or more position sensors (e.g., force transducers) 208, one or more body fat sensors (e.g., conductive contacts) 210, one or more 3D position sensors (e.g., video sensors) 212, one or more audio sensors (e.g., microphones) 214, one or more respiration sensors 216, one or more neural sensors (e.g., electrodes) 218 and/or the like for sensing health data 200 indicative of the employee's biometric health (e.g., the employee's body temperature, body weight, body fat, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, blood oxygenation, blood glucose level, neural activity, and/or the like) and/or biomechanical health (e.g., the employee's body position, posture, muscle tension, eye fatigue, facial expression, motor skills, and/or the like).

In some embodiments, various sensors 120 are integrated with areas/components of the workstation 102. For example, one or more temperature sensors 202, body fat sensors 210, position sensors 208, and/or the like may be integrated with the chair 404 (e.g., via a chair pad system ("chair pad") 450 disposed on or integrated with the employee's chair 404). As

another example, one or more temperature sensors 202, body fat sensors 210, position sensors 208, and/or the like may be integrated with the floor 403 underfoot of the employee (e.g., via a floor mat system ("floor pad") 460 disposed on or integrated with the floor 403 of the workstation environment 400). As yet another example, one or more temperature sensors 202, blood condition sensors 204, blood pressure sensors 206 and/or the like may be integrated with the mouse 408 or other peripheral devices of the employee computer 130 (e.g., via a mouse system 470). As another example, one or more neural sensors 218 may be integrated into a neuro-headset system ("neuro-headset") 480 worn on the head of the employee.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram that illustrates a workstation 102 including integrated sensors 120 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Such an integration of the sensors 120 within the workstation environment may help to reduce the physical profile of the sensors 120, reduce distractions to the employee 401 that may otherwise be caused by the presence of the sensors 120 and/or enhance the ease of use to the employee 401 by allowing the health data 200 to be acquired while the employee is engaging in their day-to-day work duties. For example, the sensors 120 may be able to passively acquire health data 200 without requiring the employee to take special efforts to engage in a health test.

Chair Pad:

FIGS. 6A-6C are perspective views of the chair 404 and the chair pad 450 specially adapted to include sensors 120 for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. As depicted, the chair 404 may include a seat 602, a back 604 and a pedestal 606. The seat 602 may include an upper/seating surface 602a, a right side 602b, a left side 602c, a front side 602d and a back side 602e. The back 604 may include a front surface 604a, a right side 604b, a left side 604c, a top side 604d and a bottom side 604e.

In some embodiments, the chair 404 includes the chair pad 450 disposed thereon and including various sensors 120 (e.g., see FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C). In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 is disposed across one or more surfaces of the chair 404 such that the employee comes into contact with the sensors 120 of the chair pad 450 while seated in the chair 404. For example, the chair pad 450 may include a seat-pad 610 that is disposed across upper/seating surface 602a of seat 602 and/or a back-pad 612 disposed across front surface 604a of back 604. Seat-pad 610 may support or otherwise contact the employee's upper-legs and/or buttocks while seated in chair 404. Back-pad 612 may support or otherwise contact the employee's back while seated in chair 404.

In some embodiments, the seat-pad 610 and the chair-pad 612 are communicatively coupled. For example, a wired connection may be provided between the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612 to facilitate the transmission of power to the various sensors 120 and/or a chair pad controller 650. A wired or wireless connection may be provided between the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612 to facilitate communication of control signals, the health data 200 sensed by the sensors 120, and/or the like between the various sensors 120 and/or a chair pad controller 650.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes two separate portions disposed on the seat 402 and back 404 of the chair 304. For example, as depicted in FIG. 6A, the chair pad 450 includes a seat-pad 610 coupled to the seat 602 of the chair 404 and a separate back-pad 612 coupled to the back 604 of the chair 404. Such an embodiment may be beneficial as it may reduce the weight/profile of the chair pad

450 as it does not include additional material that may increase the weight of the chair pad 450 or interfere with the employee's work duties while seated in the chair 404.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes a contiguous pad including two conjoined portions disposed on the seat 402 and the back 404 of the chair 304. For example, as depicted in FIG. 6B, the chair pad 450 may include a contiguous elongated pad having the seat-pad 610 coupled to the seat 602 of the chair 404, the back-pad 612 coupled to the back 604 of the chair 404 and an intermediate pad portion 613 spanning the distance between the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612. Such an embodiment may be beneficial as it provides a single unit that can be transported easily. Moreover, where a wired connection is provided between the seat-pad 610 and the chair-pad 612, the wires may be disposed with the intermediate pad portion 613, thereby reducing or eliminating exposed wiring that may otherwise interfere with the employee's work duties while seated in the chair 404. Where, as described herein, the chair pad 450 includes a wireless connection to external devices (e.g., the employee computer 130) and a battery 651 for powering the components of the chair pad 450, the contiguous pad may include a completely self-contained unit including the sensors 120, the chair pad controller 650, and the battery 651, wiring (e.g., between the sensors 120, the chair pad controller 650, and/or the battery 651) is housed within a shell/cover/casing 616 of the chair pad 450. Such an embodiment may be aesthetically pleasing as it appears to be a simple chair pad (e.g., with no external wiring or components) disposed on the chair 404. Moreover, such an embodiment may eliminate exposed wiring or components that may otherwise interfere with the employee's work duties while seated in the chair 404.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes various sensors 120 that can be used to collect health data 200. For example, the chair pad 450 may include one or more temperature sensors 202, body fat sensors 210, position sensors 208, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the various sensors 120 of the chair pad 450 may sense/measure various aspects of the employees biometric and/or biomechanical health and may transmit corresponding health data 200 (e.g., temperature data 200a, position data 200d, body fat data 200e, and/or the like) to another device of system 100 (e.g., to a chair pad controller, to the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104) for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes one or more temperature sensors 202 disposed within the seat-pad 610 and/or the back-pad 612. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the chair-pad 450 includes a temperature sensor 202, including two temperature transducers 620, disposed on a front surface of the back-pad 612. The temperature transducers 620 may include infrared sensors, thermocouples and/or the like adapted to sense the employee's body temperature and transmit corresponding temperature data 200a to the chair pad controller, the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104.

In some embodiments, the temperature transducers 620 are centered or approximately centered on back-pad 612 such that the temperature transducers 620 contact an employee's back while the employee is seated in the chair 404. For example, a pair of the temperature transducers 620 may be provided on the back-pad 612 approximately equidistant from the top-side 604d and the bottom-side 604e of the back 604 of the chair 404, with the two temperature transducers 620 approximately centered about a back-midline 626 that approximately bisects the back 604 of the chair

404 such that a first of the two temperature transducers 620 is disposed to the left of the back-midline 626 (e.g., closer to a left-side 604c of the back 604 of the chair 404) and a second of the two temperature transducers 620 is disposed to the right of the back-midline 626 (e.g., closer to a right-side 604b of the back 604 of the chair 404). A measurement from the temperature transducers 304 can be used for determining a temperature at the location of each the respective temperature transducers 620 using techniques that are known to those skilled in the art. For example, where the temperature transducers 620 include a thermocouple, a voltage (V) measurement from each of the temperature transducers 620 can be used to determine a temperature at the location of each of the respective temperature transducers 620 using techniques that are known to those skilled in the art.

Although the illustrated embodiment includes two temperature transducers 620 disposed on the back-pad 604, other embodiments may include any number of temperature transducers 620 located in any variety of suitable locations. In some embodiments, one or more temperature transducers 620 may be centered or approximately centered on the seat-pad 610 and/or the back-pad 612 such that the employee's body temperature at the respective locations can be determined. For example, an additional pair of temperature transducers 304 may be approximately centered in seat-pad 610 (e.g., in a location that is the same or similar to the illustrated locations of contact points 624). In such a configuration, the employee may contact some or all of the four temperature transducers 304 while seated in chair 104.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes one or more position sensors 208 disposed within the seat-pad 610 and/or the back-pad 612. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the chair pad 450 includes a position sensor 208, including force transducers 622, disposed on an upper surface of the seat-pad 610 and the front surface of the back-pad 612. Force transducers 622 may include a load cell, a strain gauge, or the like adapted to sense force and transmit corresponding position data 200d (e.g., indicative of the forces sensed) to the chair pad controller, the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104. In some embodiments, such position data 200d may be used to determine the physical position of the employee within the chair 404, the employee's weight or the like using techniques that are known to those skilled in the art. For example, the position data 200d may be used to determine when the employee is seated in the chair 404 (e.g., when the force sensors 208 in the seat-pad 610 sense a force), when the employee is leaning against the back 604 of the chair 404 (e.g., when the force sensors 208 in the back-pad 612 sense a relatively high force indicative of the employee resting against the back 602), or the like. In addition to the position data 200d (e.g., from the force transducers 622), other data (e.g., temperature data 200a from the temperature transducers 620) may be used to determine how the employee is positioned in the chair 404 (e.g., whether the employee is reclining (e.g., by detecting an increase in the force and/or temperature sensed by the force transducers 622 and/or the temperature transducers 620 located in the back-pad 612).

Although the illustrated embodiment includes force transducers 622 disposed on the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612, other embodiments may include any number of force transducers 622 located in any variety of suitable locations. For example, a force transducer(s) 622 may be located on one of the seat-pad 610 or the back-pad 612. In some embodiments, multiple force transducers 622 are located in the seat-pad 610 and/or the back-pad 612. For example, force transducers 622 may be provided in locations similar

to those described herein with regard to the temperature transducers 620 and/or the contact points 624. In an embodiment where multiple force transducers are provided, the system 100 may be able to more accurately determine how the employee is positioned within the chair. For example, where four force transducers 622 are provided on the left and right sides of the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612, the forces sensed by the transducers may be used to determine whether the employee is leaning to one side based on force transducers 622 on that side sensing a higher force than the force transducer 622 on the opposite side. In some embodiments, force transducers 622 are disposed on toward the front 602d and/or the back 602e of the seat-pad 610 to enable a determination of whether the employee is leaning backward or forward in their chair (e.g., sitting on the edge of their chair). For example, where force transducers 622 are provided on the front and back of the seat-pad 610, the forces sensed by the force transducers 622 may be used to determine whether the employee is leaning forward or backwards based on the front force transducer 622 sensing a higher force than the back force transducer 622 indicative of the employee leaning forward in the chair 404 and/or the rear force transducer 622 sensing a higher force than the front force transducer 622 indicative of the employee leaning back in the chair 404.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes one or more body fat sensors 210 disposed within seat-pad 610 and/or back-pad 612. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the chair-pad 450 includes a body fat sensor 210, including two conductive (e.g., metallic) contact points 624, disposed on an upper surface of the seat pad 610. Body fat sensor 210 may sense resistivity between the contacts 624 and transmit corresponding body fat data 200e. For example, where the body fat sensor 210 is disposed on a seating surface of the chair 404 such that the two contact points 624 contact the employee's upper legs and/or buttocks region, a current may be induced between the metallic contact points 624 to sense/measure a resistivity between the contact points (e.g., through the employee's body tissue) and body fat data 200e indicative of the resistivity measurement may be forwarded to the chair pad controller, the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104.

In some embodiments, the contact points 624 are approximately centered on the seat-pad 610 such that they contact the backside of the employee's right and left legs and/or the right and left portions of the employee's buttocks while the employee is seated in the chair 404. For example, the contact points 624 may be centered on the seat-pad 610 such that they are approximately equidistant from the front side 602d and the back side 602e of the seat 404, with the two contact points 624 approximately centered about a seat-midline 628 that approximately bisects the seat 602 such that a first of the two contact points 624 is disposed to the right of the seat-midline 628 (e.g., closer to a right-side 602b of the seat 404) and a second of the two contact points 624 is disposed to the left of the seat midline 626 (e.g., closer to the left-side 602c of the seat 602 of the chair 404). In such a configuration, the employee may sit across both of the contact points 624 such that the first and second of the contact points 624 contact the backside of the employee's right and left legs/buttock, respectively, and a resistivity measurement between the contact points 624 can be sensed/measured for use in assessing the employee's body fat or related health information. For example, a current (I) may be induced between the two contact points 624, a voltage (V) between the two contact points 624 can be sensed/measured, the current (I) and voltage (V) can be used to determine a

resistance/resistivity (R) through the portion of the employee's body spanning the contact points 624, e.g., using the equation Voltage (V)=Current (I)*Resistance (R), and the determined resistivity measurement can be used to determine the employee's body fat using techniques that are known to those skilled in the art.

Although the illustrated embodiment includes a body fat sensor 210 including two contact points 624 disposed on the seat 602 of the chair 404, other embodiments may include one or more body fat sensors 210 including any number of contact points 624 located in any variety of suitable locations. In some embodiments, one or more contact points 624 are provided on each of the seat-pad 610 and the back-pad 612 such that the employee's body fat can be determined using a resistivity measurement between the contact point(s) 624 positioned at the employee's back (e.g., contact point(s) on back-pad 612) and/or bottom (e.g., contact point(s) 624 on seat-pad 610). For example, a pair of contact points 624 may be provided on the back-pad 612 (e.g., in a location that is the same or similar to the illustrated locations of temperature transducers 620). In such a configuration, the employee may contact some or all four contact points 624 while seated in the chair 404. Thus, for example, resistivity measurements can be determined between the right and left contact points 624 of the back 604 of the chair 404, between the right contact points 624 of the seat 602 and the back 604 of the chair 404, and/or between the left contact points 624 of the seat 602 and the back 604 of the chair 404.

In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes a cable 630 that can be coupled to an external device (e.g., the employee computer 130) for communicating data and/or receiving power. For example, the cable 630 may include a USB cable that is plugged into a USB port of the I/O interface 304 of the employee computer 130. The chair pad 450 may receive power via the cable and/or may transmit health data 200 via the cable. In some embodiments, the chair pad 350 may have a wireless connection (e.g., Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like) with the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104. In such an embodiment, the chair pad 450 may also include the battery 651 for a power source such that the chair pad 450 is not physically tethered to the employee computer 130 or other components of system 100.

In some embodiments, the surface of the chair 404 includes sensors 120 integrated therein in a similar manner to the chair pad 450 such that health data 200 may be acquired without the need for a separate chair pad 350. For example, as depicted in FIG. 6C, the chair 404 may include sensors 120 (e.g., temperature sensors 202, positions sensors 208, and/or body fat sensors 210) disposed/integrated in the front surface 604a of the back 604 of the chair 404 and/or the top surface 602a of the seat 602 of the chair 404. Although embodiments are described herein with regard to components of the chair pad 450, it will be appreciated that similar components may be integrated into the chair 404 to provide the chair 404 with similar functionality described with regard to the chair pad 350. For example, the chair 404 may include a controller 650 (e.g., that is the same or similar to the chair-pad controller described herein) for communicating with the sensors 120 integrated within the chair 404 and/or external devices (e.g., the employee computer 130) and a battery 651 integrated therein for powering the controller 650 and/or the sensors 120.

FIG. 6D is a block diagram that illustrates components of the chair pad 450 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the chair pad 450 includes a chair pad controller 650 for

controlling the operational aspects of chair pad 450. For example, the chair pad controller 650 may provide for allocating power to the various sensors 120 of the chair pad 450, collecting the health data 200 from the various sensors 120 of the chair pad 450 and/or transmitting the collected health data 200 to the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104.

In some embodiments, the chair pad controller 650 includes a memory 652, a processor 654 and an input/output (I/O) interface 656. The chair pad controller 650 may be a microcontroller device such as STMicroelectronics, ST10 (16-bit) and STM32 (32-bit); Atmel, AVR32 (32-bit) and AT91SAM (32-bit); Freescale ColdFire (32-bit); Hitachi SuperH (32-bit); and the Hyperstone E1/E2 (32-bit, full integration of RISC and DSP on one processor core), which is adapted for use in the functions described herein.

The memory 652 may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory 652 may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions 658 stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor 654) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the chair pad 450. The program instructions 658 may include a chair pad module 660 including program instructions that are executable by the processor 654 to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the chair pad 450.

The processor 654 may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor 654 may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., of the chair pad module 660) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of chair pad 450, including those described herein.

The I/O interface 656 may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to the chair pad controller 650. I/O devices may include the sensors 120 (e.g., temperature sensors 202, position sensors 208, and/or body fat sensors 210), power source(s) 662 (e.g., a battery 651, AC/DC power delivered via cable 630, or the like), external device(s) 664 (e.g., the employee computer 130 and/or server 104), and/or the like. The I/O devices may be connected to I/O interface 656, via a wired or wireless connection.

FIG. 6E is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary chair pad system 670 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The chair pad system 670 includes the chair pad 450 having a chair pad controller 650 coupled to one or more temperature transducers 620, one or more force transducers 622, one or more conductive contacts 624, a battery 651, and a wireless antenna 668. In some embodiments, the chair pad controller 650 employs the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624 to collect corresponding measurements. For example, where the temperature transducer 620 includes a thermocouple, to take a temperature measurement, the chair pad controller 650 may take a voltage measurement across two leads connected to the thermocouple of the temperature transducer 620, the measured voltage being indicative of the temperature sensed by the temperature transducer 620. Where, for example, the force transducers 622 includes a strain gauge, to take a force measurement, the chair pad controller 650 may induce a

current (I) across two leads connected to the strain gauge and take a measurement of voltage (V) across the two leads to determine a resistance (R) across the two leads that is indicative of the force sensed by the force transducer 622. As a further example, to take a body fat measurement, the chair pad controller 650 may induce a current (I) across two conductive contacts 624 and take a measurement of voltage (V) across the two conductive contacts 624 to determine a resistance (R) across the contacts 624 that is indicative of the body fat for the employee. In some embodiments, the battery 651 provides power to operate the controller 650 and/or provides the power required to take a measurement from the temperature transducers 620, force transducers 622, and/or conductive contacts 624. In some embodiments, the wireless antenna includes a Bluetooth transceiver or other wireless transceiver for use in communicating with the employee computer 130 (e.g., via a complementary transceiver of computer 130).

FIG. 6F is a flowchart that illustrates a method 680 of operating the chair pad 450 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method 680 may include monitoring the need for health data 200, as depicted at block 682. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for health data includes determining whether or not there is a need to collect health data 200 (i.e., take a measurement) from one or more of the sensors 120 (e.g., the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624) of the chair pad 450. In some embodiments, the need for health data 200 is identified based on a request from another component of system 100. For example, the chair pad controller 650 may determine that there is a need to collect health data 200 in response to a request for the health data 200 (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the health data 200) received from the computer 130, the server 104 and/or the employee 401.

Where it is determined that health data 200 is not needed, at block 684, method 680 may include returning to monitoring the need for health data 200, as depicted at block 682. Where it is determined that health data 200 is needed, at block 684, method 680 may include proceeding to monitoring of the sensors 120 (e.g., the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624) to collect the health data 200, as depicted at block 686. In some embodiments, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 includes monitoring the particular sensors 120 that provide the particular health data 200 needed. Where the health data 200 needed includes the employee's body temperature, body position and/or body fat, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 may include, for example, the chair pad controller 650 taking measurements from the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624, respectively, to collect health data 200 including measured voltages indicative of body temperature, measured resistances indicative of forces, and/or measured resistances indicative of the employee's body fat.

Method 680 may include storing the health data 200, as depicted at block 688. In some embodiments, storing the health data 200 includes storing the collected health data 200 in local or remote memory. For example, the chair pad controller 650 may store the measured voltages indicative of body temperature, measured resistances indicative of forces, and/or measured resistances indicative of the employee's body fat in the memory 652. In some embodiments, storing the health data 200 includes buffering/queuing the health data 200 for transmission at a later time.

Method **680** may include transmitting the health data **200**, as depicted at block **690**. In some embodiments, transmitting the health data **200** may include transmitting the health data **200** to another component/entity of system **100**. For example, the chair pad controller **650** may transmit the health data **200** (e.g., collected via the sensors **120** of the chair pad **450** and stored in the memory **652**), to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** for use in monitoring the health of the employee. In some embodiments, the health data **200** is transmitted via a wired or wireless communication. For example, where the chair pad **450** is connected to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via data cables (e.g., via cable **630**) the chair pad controller **650**, may transmit some or all of the health data **200** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via the data cables. Where the chair pad **450** is in wireless communication with the computer **130** and/or the server **104** (e.g., via Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like), the chair pad controller **650** may transmit some or all of the health data **200** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via wireless communication. For example, the chair pad controller **650** may communicate the health data **200** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via wireless antenna **668**.

In some embodiments, after transmitting the health data **200**, method **680** may progress back to monitoring the need for health data **682**. Where for example, the request for health data is still active and/or another request for health data is received, the chair pad controller **650** may execute another iteration of monitoring the sensors to collect health data, storing the health data and/or transmitting the health data.

It will be appreciated that the method **680** is an exemplary embodiment of a method that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method **680** may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method **680** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method **680** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as chair pad module **660**. The order of the method **680** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

Floor Mat:

FIG. 7A is a perspective view of the floor mat **460** specially adapted to include sensors **120** for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. During use, the floor mat **460** may be disposed on the floor within the workstation **102** and the employee may stand on the floor mat **460** or otherwise rest their feet (e.g., with or without their shoes on) on the floor mat **460**. As depicted, the floor mat **460** may include a mat **702**. The mat **702** may include an upper surface **702a**, a left side **702b**, a right side **702c**, a front side **702d** and a back side **702e**.

In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** may include various sensors **120** that can be used to collect health data **200**. For example, the floor mat **460** may include one or more temperature sensors **202**, body fat sensors **210**, position sensors **208**, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the various sensors **120** of the floor mat **460** may sense/measure various aspects of the employees biometric and/or biomechanical health and may transmit corresponding health data **200** (e.g., temperature data **200a**, position data **200d**, body fat data **200e**, and/or the like) to another device of system **100** (e.g., to a floor mat controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**) for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** includes one or more temperature sensors **202** disposed within the mat **702**. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the floor mat **460** includes a temperature sensor **202** including two temperature transducers **620** disposed on the upper surface **702a** of the mat **702**. Temperature transducers **620** may include infrared sensors, thermocouples and/or the like adapted to sense the employee's body temperature and transmit corresponding temperature data **200a** to the floor mat controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** includes one or more position sensors **208** disposed within the mat **702**. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the floor mat **460** includes a position sensor **208** including force transducers **622**, disposed on the upper surface **702a** of mat **702**. Force transducers **622** may include a load cell, a strain gauge, or the like adapted to sense force and transmit corresponding position data **200d** to the floor mat controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**. In some embodiments, such position data **200d** may be used to determine the physical position of the employee (e.g., whether the employee's feet are positioned on the mat **702**, etc.), the employee's body weight and/or the like.

In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** includes one or more body fat sensors **210** disposed within the mat **702**. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the floor mat **460** includes a body fat sensor **210** including two conductive (e.g., metallic) contact points **624** disposed on the upper surface **702a** of the mat **702**. The body fat sensor **210** may sense resistivity between the contacts and transmit corresponding body fat data **200e** to the floor mat controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**. For example, where the body fat sensor **210** is disposed on the upper surface **702a** of the mat **702**, such the two contact points **624** contact the employee's feet (e.g., when the employee's shoes are removed), a current may be induced between the contact points **624** to sense/measure a resistivity there between (e.g., through the employee's lower body tissue) and body fat data **200e** including the resistivity measurement may be forwarded to the floor mat controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** may be centered or approximately centered on the upper surface **702a** of the floor mat **460** such that the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** contact an employee's right and left feet/shoes while the employee is seated in the chair **404** or is standing on the floor mat **460**. For example, a pair of the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** may be provided on the upper surface **702a** of the floor mat **460** approximately centered about a floor mat-midline **728** that approximately bisects the upper surface **702a** of the floor mat **460** such that a first of the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** is disposed to the left of the mat-midline **728** (e.g., closer to the left-side **702b** of the floor mat **460**) and a second of the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** is disposed to the right of the mat-midline **728** (e.g., closer to the right-side **702c** of the floor mat **460**). Although the illustrated embodiment includes pairs of the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** disposed in a symmetric arrangement, other embodiments may include any number

of the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622** and/or the conductive contacts **624** provided in any variety of suitable locations.

In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** includes a cable **730** that may be coupled to an external device (e.g., the employee computer **130**) for communicating and/or receiving power. For example, the cable **730** may include a USB cable that is plugged into a USB port of the I/O interface **304** of the employee computer **130**. The floor mat **460** may receive power via the cable and/or may transmit health data **200** via the cable. In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** may communicate wirelessly (e.g., via Bluetooth, WLAN, or the like) with the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**. In such an embodiment, the floor mat **460** may also include a battery for a power source such that the floor mat **460** is not physically tethered to the employee computer **130** or other components of the system **100**.

Although embodiments are described herein with regard to components of the floor mat **460**, it will be appreciated that similar components may be integrated into the floor **403** underfoot of the employee. Such embodiments may not require the use of a separate floor mat for sensing health data.

FIG. 7B is a block diagram that illustrates components of the floor mat **460** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the floor mat **460** may include a floor mat controller **750** for controlling the operational aspects of floor mat **460**. For example, the floor mat controller **750** may provide for allocating power to various sensors **120** of the floor mat **460**, collecting health data **200** from the various sensors **120** of the floor mat **460** and/or transmitting the collected health data **200** to the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the floor mat controller **750** includes a memory **752**, a processor **754**, and an input/output (I/O) interface **756**. The floor mat controller **750** may be a microcontroller device such as STMicroelectronics, ST10 (16-bit) and STM32 (32-bit); Atmel, AVR32 (32-bit) and AT91SAM (32-bit); Freescale ColdFire (32-bit); Hitachi SuperH (32-bit); and the Hyperstone E1/E2 (32-bit, full integration of RISC and DSP on one processor core), which is adapted for use in the functions described herein.

The memory **752** may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory **752** may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions **758** stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor **754**) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the floor mat **460**. The program instructions **758** may include a floor mat module **760** including program instructions that are executable by the processor **754** to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the floor mat **460**.

The processor **754** may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor **754** may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., program instruction of the floor mat module **760**) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of the floor mat **460**, including those described herein.

The I/O interface **756** may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to the floor mat

controller **750**. I/O devices may include sensors **120** (e.g., temperature sensors **202**, position sensors **208**, and/or body fat sensors **210**), power source(s) **662** (e.g., a battery **751**, AC/DC power delivered via cable **730**, and/or the like), external device(s) **764** (e.g., the employee computer **130** and/or server **104**), and/or the like. The I/O devices may be connected to I/O interface **756**, via a wired or wireless connection.

FIG. 7C is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary floor mat system **770** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The floor mat system **770** includes a floor mat **460** having a floor mat controller **750** coupled to one or more temperature transducers **620**, one or more force transducers **622**, one or more conductive contacts **624**, a battery **751**, and a wireless antenna **768**. In some embodiments, floor mat controller **750** may employ the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622**, and/or the conductive contacts **624** to collect corresponding measurements. For example, where a temperature transducer **620** includes a thermocouple, to take a temperature measurement, the floor mat controller **750** may take a voltage measurement across two leads connected to the thermocouple of the temperature transducer **620**, the measured voltage being indicative of the temperature sensed by the temperature transducer **620**. Where, for example, a force transducers **622** includes a load cell including a strain gauge, to take a force measurement, the floor mat controller **750** may induce a current (I) across two leads connected to the strain gauge and take a measurement of voltage (V) across the two leads to determine a resistance (R) across the two leads that is indicative of the force sensed by the force transducer **622**. As a further example, to take a body fat measurement, the floor mat controller **750** may induce a current (I) across two conductive contacts **624** and take a measurement of voltage (V) across the two conductive contacts **624** to determine a resistance (R) across the contacts **624** that is indicative of the body fat for the employee. In some embodiments, the battery **751** may provide power to operate the controller **750** and/or provide the power required to take a measurement from the temperature transducers **620**, force transducers **622**, and/or conductive contacts **624**. In some embodiments, the wireless antenna **768** may include a Bluetooth transceiver for use in communicating with the employee computer **130** (e.g., via complementary transceiver of computer **130**).

FIG. 7D is a flowchart that illustrates a method **780** of operating the floor mat **460** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **780** may include monitoring the need for health data **200**, as depicted at block **782**. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for health data may include determining whether or not there is a need to collect health data **200** (i.e., take a measurement) from one or more of the sensors **120** (e.g., the temperature transducers **620**, the force transducers **622**, and/or the conductive contacts **624**) of the floor mat **460**. In some embodiments, the need for health data **200** may be identified based on a request from another component of system **100**. For example, the floor mat **460** may determine that there is a need to collect health data **200** in response to a request for the health data **200** (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the health data **200**) received from the computer **130**, the server **104**, and/or the employee **401**.

Where it is determined that health data **200** is not needed, at block **784**, method **780** may include returning to monitoring the need for health data **200**, as depicted at block **782**. Where it is determined that health data **200** is needed, at block **784**, method **780** may include proceeding to monitor-

ing of the sensors 120 (e.g., the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624) to collect the health data 200, as depicted at block 786. In some embodiments, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 includes monitoring the particular sensors 120 that provide the particular health data 200 needed. Where the health data 200 needed includes the employee's body temperature, body position and/or body fat, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 may include, for example, the floor mat controller 750 taking measurements from the temperature transducers 620, the force transducers 622, and/or the conductive contacts 624, respectively, to collect health data 200 including measured voltages indicative of body temperature, measured resistances indicative of forces, and/or measured resistances indicative of the employee's body fat.

Method 780 may include storing the health data 200, as depicted at block 788. In some embodiments, storing the health data 200 includes storing the collected health data 200 in local or remote memory. For example, the floor mat controller 750 may store the measured voltages indicative of body temperature, measured resistances indicative of forces, and/or measured resistances indicative of the employee's body fat in memory 752. In some embodiments, storing the health data 200 may include buffering/queuing the health data 200 for transmission at a later time.

Method 780 may include transmitting the health data 200, as depicted at block 790. In some embodiments, transmitting the health data 200 includes transmitting the health data 200 to another component/entity of system 100. For example, the floor mat controller 750 may transmit the health data 200 (e.g., collected via the sensors 120 of the floor mat 460 and stored in memory 752), to computer 130 and/or server 104 for use in monitoring the health of the employee. In some embodiments, the health data 200 is transmitted via a wired or wireless communication. For example, where the floor mat 460 is connected to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via data cables (e.g., via cable 730) the floor mat controller 750 may transmit some or all of the health data 200 to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via the data cables. Where the floor mat 460 is in wireless communication with the computer 130 and/or the server 104 (e.g., via Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like), the floor mat controller 750 may transmit some or all of the health data 200 to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via wireless communication. For example, the floor mat controller 750 may communicate the health data to computer 130 and/or server 104 via wireless antenna 768.

In some embodiments, after transmitting the health data 200, method 780 may progress back to monitoring the need for health data 782. Where for example, the request for health data is still active and/or another request for health data is received, the floor mat controller 750 may execute another iteration of monitoring the sensors to collect health data, storing the health data and/or transmitting the health data.

It will be appreciated that the method 780 is an exemplary embodiment of a method that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method 780 may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method 780 may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method 780 may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as floor mat module 760. The order of the method 780 may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

Mouse:

FIGS. 8A-8C are side and end elevation views of a computer mouse system 470 including the mouse 408 specially adapted to integrate with sensors 120 (e.g., temperature sensors, blood condition sensors, and blood pressure sensor) for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

In some embodiments, the mouse 408 includes a device that can be used in a traditional manner to manipulate a cursor in the employee's workstation display. For example, the employee can manipulate the mouse 408 (e.g., move the mouse on their desk 402) to cause a cursor on the computer display 412 to move in a similar fashion, and/or interact with content displayed on the computer display 412 via selection of the mouse buttons 800 (e.g., right-click, left click, etc.). In some embodiments, a location sensor 801 of the mouse (e.g., a laser, mouse ball, or the like) detects movement of the mouse relative to the surface on which it is being moved, the mouse 408 transmits corresponding location/movement data to the computer (e.g., computer 130) for use in determining the location of the mouse, the movement of the mouse and the like. The location/movement data can be used to determine how the user is interacting with displayed content and to update the display of a pointer on the display screen to mimic the movement of the mouse. In some embodiments, data reflecting movement of the mouse is used to determine the length of time the employee has been interacting with the mouse 408. For example, the total amount of time the employee has been moving the mouse 408 may be used to determine whether the employee is experiencing muscle tension or other biomechanical and/or biometric conditions (e.g., characteristics/conditions/risks).

In some embodiments, the mouse system 470 includes various sensors 120 that can be used to collect health data 200. For example, mouse system 470 may include one or more temperature sensors 202, blood condition sensors 204, blood pressure sensors 206, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the various sensors 120 of the mouse system 470 are used to sense/measure various aspects of the employee's biometric and/or biomechanical health and provide corresponding health data 200 (e.g., temperature data 200a, blood condition data 200b, and/or blood pressure data 200c) to another device of system 100 (e.g., to a mouse controller, the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104) for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, the mouse system 470 includes a temperature sensor 202 including an infrared ("IR") sensor 802 integrated with the mouse 408 as depicted in FIGS. 8A-8B. The IR sensor 802 may be used to sense a body temperature of the employee while the employee is using the mouse 408. For example, while the employee's hand is grasping the mouse 408, such that employee's palm, finger or other portion of the hand is disposed above the IR sensor 802, the IR sensor 802 may sense a temperature of the corresponding portion of the palm, finger or other portion of the hand and transmit corresponding temperature data 200a to a mouse controller, the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104. In some embodiments, the IR sensor 802 employs an emitter to emit thermal radiation that is focused by a lens onto the skin of the employee and a detector that senses the radiant power reflected back to the detector.

In some embodiments, the mouse system 470 includes a blood pressure sensor 206 including a blood pressure cuff 804 integrated with the mouse 408 as depicted in FIGS. 8A-8C. The blood pressure cuff 804 may be used to detect the employee's blood pressure and/or heart rate. For

example, the employee may place the blood pressure cuff **804** about their wrist/arm, and the cuff **804** may be inflated to detect the variation in pressure as blood flows through the employee's wrist/arm. The detected variation in pressure may be used to determine the employee's blood pressure (i.e., the systolic and diastolic blood pressure numbers for the employee) and/or heart rate using known techniques. For example, the bladder of the cuff **804** may be inflated about the employee's wrist/arm, a pressure transducer may sense pressure oscillations in the cuff **804** that are indicative of the variation in pressure as blood flows through the employee's wrist/arm, the blood pressure cuff **804** may transmit corresponding blood pressure data **200c** to the mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**, and the blood pressure data **200c** (e.g., sensed pressure oscillations) may be processed to determine the employee's blood pressure and/or heart rate using known methods.

In some embodiments, the blood pressure cuff **804** may be fabricated to include at least one flexible, non-frangible-inflatable bladder disposed between two fabric cuff layers. The bladder may be fabricated from rubber or plastic and/or the fabric cuffs may be fabricated from nylon or polyester. In such an embodiment, only the fabric cuff layers, and not the surface of the bladder, may contact the employee's skin or clothing during use.

In some embodiments, the blood pressure cuff **804** is physically connected to the mouse **408**. For example, the blood pressure cuff **804** can be connected to the bottom portion **806** of the body **808** of the mouse **408** via a connector **810**. As discussed in more detail below, in some embodiments, connector **810** may include a hollow conduit (e.g., a pneumatic tube) that is physically coupled to the bladder of cuff **804**. The conduit may be used to supply/draw air to inflate/deflate the bladder and/or physically communicate air pressure within the bladder of cuff **804**. As discussed in more detail below, in some embodiments, connector **810** includes a wire (e.g., a coated wire or similar electrical conduit) for communicating electrical signals that can be used to operate cuff **804** and/or communicate blood pressure data **200c** to the mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the pressure transducer used to sense pressure oscillations and/or the pump used to inflate the cuff **804** is located within the body **808** of the mouse **408** (e.g., see FIG. **8E** discussed in more detail below). In such an embodiment, the connector **810** may include a pneumatic tube that is used supply air to inflate the bladder of the cuff **804** and/or physically communicate the pressure of the bladder to a pressure transducer used to sense the pressure in the bladder. For example, a pump located in the body of the mouse **408** may supply air to cuff **804** via the pneumatic tube **810** to inflate the cuff **804**, the pressure in the cuff **804** may be physically communicated through the pneumatic tube **810** to the pressure transducer located within the body **808** of the mouse **408**, the pressure transducer may sense the variations in pressure within the pneumatic tube **810**, and the pressure transducer may transmit corresponding blood pressure data **200c** to the mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, a pressure transducer and/or a pump used to inflate the cuff **804** is integrated with the cuff **804** (e.g., located in or on the cuff **804**) (e.g., see FIG. **8F** discussed in more detail below). In such an embodiment, the connector **810** may include a wire for communicating, to the mouse **408**, the pressure detected by the pressure transducer. For example, a pump located in mouse **408** and/or cuff **804** may supply air to inflate the cuff **804**, the pressure trans-

ducer located within the cuff **804** may sense the variations in pressure within the bladder of the cuff **804**, and the pressure transducer may transmit corresponding blood pressure data **200c** to the mouse controller via the wire connector **810**, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the cuff **804** may communicate with the mouse **408** or other components of the system **100** via wireless communication. For example, blood pressure data **200c** indicative of the sensed variation in pressure may be communicated from a pressure transducer of cuff **804** to a mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104** via a wireless communication (e.g., via Bluetooth communication, a WLAN connection and/or the like). Such an embodiment may eliminate the need for a connector **810** such that the cuff **804** is not physically tethered to mouse **408**, thereby allowing the employee to have more physical freedom (e.g., the employee can leave the workstation **102** without having to physically remove the cuff **804** from their arm/wrist).

In some embodiments, the mouse **408** includes a blood condition sensor **204** including a pulse oximeter **820**. The pulse oximeter **820** may be used to measure various aspects of the employee's blood that are indicative of the employee's blood oxygenation, heart rate, and/or the like and provide corresponding blood condition data **200b** to the mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the pulse oximeter **820** includes a transmissive type pulse oximetry sensor having an emitter (e.g., an LED emitter) **822a** for emitting light into and through the employee's fingertip pulp (or similar cross-section of an employee's body such as an earlobe) and a detector (e.g., an optical detector) **822b** for detecting the emitted light that passes through the fingertip pulp. For example, the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** may be placed on opposite sides (e.g., bottom and top) of the employee's fingertip, the pulse oximeter **820** may be activated such that emitter **822a** emits light at multiple/different wavelengths such that at least some of the light is transmitted through the employee's fingertip pulp and is detected by the detector **822b**, and corresponding blood condition data **200b** indicative of the light transmitted through and/or absorbed by the employee's fingertip pulp is provided to the mouse controller, the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**. The blood condition data **200b** indicative of the light transmitted through and/or absorbed by the employee's fingertip pulp may be used in accordance with known methods to determine measurements of the employee's blood oxygenation, heart rate and/or the like.

As depicted in FIGS. **8B** and **8C** a lid portion of **824** of the mouse **804** may be rotated into an "opened" position (see FIGS. **8B** and **8C**) to expose the pulse oximeter **820** located inside of the mouse **804**. As depicted, when the lid portion **824** of the mouse **804** is opened (e.g., rotated about hinge **826** upward and away from the body **808** of the mouse **408**) the resulting opening **828** may provide access to the pulse oximeter **820** located within the mouse **408**. During use, the employee may insert their fingertip into opening **828** and position the fingertip between an emitter **822a** and an optical detector **822b** of the pulse oximeter **820**. The lid portion **824** may be adapted such that in a "closed position" (see FIG. **8A**) the lid portion **824** is disposed on the computer mouse body **808** and the pulse oximeter **820** is enclosed within the shell of the mouse **408** (i.e., enclosed within the lid **824** and lower body **808** of the mouse **408**). In such a configuration, the mouse **408** looks, feels and operates like a traditional computer mouse. In some embodiments, the lid **824** may be

biased to the closed position and/or the opened position such the lid **824** stays closed while the mouse **408** is used in a traditional manner and/or the lid **824** stays open when the employee has opened lid **824** to access the pulse oximeter **820**. In such a configuration, the employee can easily place their fingertip into opening **828** without the lid **824** inadvertently closing. In some embodiments, the lid **824** may be biased to a closed position such that the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** squeezes about the employee's fingertip to provide an acceptable reading by the pulse oximeter **820**. In some embodiments, the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** may be aligned such when the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** are disposed about the employee's fingertip, the light emitted by the emitter **822a** is directed toward the detector **822b**.

As described above, when the employee's fingertip is located between the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b**, the pulse-oximeter sensor **820** may be activated such that emitter **822a** (e.g., an LED emitter) emits light at multiple different wavelengths and the optical detector **822b** detects the emitted light that is transmitted through the employee's fingertip. Although the illustrated embodiment includes the emitter **822a** disposed at a lower surface of the opening **828** (e.g., a top surface of body **808** of the mouse **408**) and the optical detector **822b** located on an underside of lid **824**, other embodiments may include any suitable number and location of emitters and detectors. For example, the positions of the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** may be swapped such that the detector **822b** is disposed at a lower surface of opening **826** and the emitter **822a** is located on an underside of lid **824**.

In some embodiments, the pulse oximeter **820** includes a reflectance type pulse oximeter sensor (e.g., having an emitter **822a** for emitting light into the employee's pulp and a detector **822b** that is located proximate the emitter **822a** for detecting the light that reflects back from the employee's pulp). In some embodiments, both of the emitter **822a** and the detector **822b** of the reflectance type pulse oximeter **820** may be provided in one of the locations where the emitter **822a** or the detector **822b** are illustrated in FIGS. **8B** and **8C**, or any other suitable location. In such an embodiment, the employee may simply need to dispose a portion of their skin onto the surface of the reflectance type pulse oximeter **820**, and, thus, may not have to place a cross-section of their body (e.g., their fingertip) between two separate sensing devices. For example, where the pulse oximeter **820** includes a reflectance type pulse oximeter having an emitter and detector located in the same position where emitter **822a** is illustrated the employee may simply have to place the bottom of their fingertip pulp onto the reflectance type pulse oximeter **820**. In some embodiments, the pulse oximeter **820** may be located elsewhere on the mouse **408**. For example, a reflectance type pulse oximeter **820** may be located at an exterior surface of the mouse **408** (e.g., in the same or similar location as the IR sensor **802**) such that readings may be taken while the user is grasping the exterior of the mouse **408**. A reflectance type pulse oximeter **820** is located at or near the location of temperature sensor **202** may take readings while the employee's palm, finger or other portion of the hand is disposed on the pulse oximeter (e.g., while the employee is grasping the mouse **408** during traditional use of the mouse **408**).

In some embodiments, the IR sensor **802** may be adapted to detect the employee's pulse oxygenation. For example, the IR sensor **802** may be employed to conduct a passive pulse oximetry or photoplethysmography test while the employee's palm, finger or other portion of the hand is

disposed above the IR sensor **802** (e.g., while the employee is grasping the mouse **408** during traditional use of the mouse **408**). In some embodiments, the IR sensor **802** may use photonic glucose crystal sensing/photoplethysmography to detect blood pressure, body temperature, heart rate and blood glucose as is understood in the art. Accordingly, the IR sensor **802** may be used to collect blood condition data **200b** and/or blood pressure data **200c**.

In some embodiments, the mouse **408** includes a cable **840** that is coupled to an external device (e.g., the employee computer **130**) for communicating and/or receiving power. For example, the cable **840** may include a USB cable that is plugged into a USB port of the I/O interface **304** of the employee computer **130**. The mouse **408** may receive power via the cable **840**, communicate with employee computer **130** regard to operations of the mouse **408** via the cable **840**, and/or transmit health data **200** via the cable **840**. In some embodiments, the mouse **408** may include a wireless mouse that communicates wirelessly with the employee computer **130** (e.g., via Bluetooth communication, WLAN connection, or the like). In such an embodiment, the mouse **408** may also include a battery for a power source such that the mouse is not physically tethered to the employee computer **130** or other components of system **100**.

FIG. **8D** is a block diagram that illustrates components of the mouse **408** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the mouse **408** includes a mouse controller **850** for controlling the operational aspects of mouse **408**. For example, the mouse controller **850** may provide for allocating power to the various sensors **120** of the mouse **408**, collecting health data **200** from the various sensors **120** of the mouse **408** and/or transmitting the collected health data **200** to the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**. In some embodiments, the mouse controller **850** includes a memory **852**, a processor **854** and an input/output (I/O) interface **856**. The mouse controller **850** may be a microcontroller device such as STMicroelectronics, ST10 (16-bit) and STM32 (32-bit); Atmel, AVR32 (32-bit) and AT91SAM (32-bit); Freescale ColdFire (32-bit); Hitachi SuperH (32-bit); and the Hyperstone E1/E2 (32-bit, full integration of RISC and DSP on one processor core), which is adapted for use in the functions described herein.

The memory **852** may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory **852** may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions **858** stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor **854**) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the mouse **408** and/or mouse system **470**. The program instructions **858** may include a mouse module **860** including program instructions that are executable by the processor **854** to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the mouse **408**.

The processor **854** may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor **854** may include a central processing unit ("CPU") that carries out program instructions (e.g., program instructions of the mouse module **860**) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of the mouse **408** and/or the mouse system **470**, including those described herein.

The I/O interface **856** may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to mouse controller

850. The I/O devices may include mouse buttons 800, location sensor 801, sensors 120 (e.g., a temperature sensor 202, a blood condition sensor 204, a blood pressure sensor 206), power source(s) 862 (e.g., a battery, AC/DC power delivered via cable 840, and/or the like), external device(s) 864 (e.g., the computer 130 and/or the server 104), and/or the like. The I/O devices may be connected to I/O interface 856 via a wired or wireless connection.

FIG. 8E is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary mouse system 470a including the blood pressure cuff 804 connected to the mouse 408 via a pneumatic tube 810 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The mouse system 470 includes a mouse controller 850 coupled to one or more IR sensors 802, a pulse oximeter 820, a pressure transducer 852, a pump 854, a battery 856, and a wireless antenna 858. In some embodiments, the wireless antenna 858 includes a Bluetooth transceiver for use in communicating with the employee computer 130 (e.g., e.g., via a complementary transceiver of computer 130).

In some embodiments, the pump 854 and/or the pressure transducer 852 are connected to an air bladder 860 of the blood pressure cuff 804 via the pneumatic tube 810. During use, the pump 854 may supply/draw air to inflate/deflate the bladder 860 via the pneumatic tube 810 and/or the pressure transducer 852 may take pressure readings from the pneumatic tube 810 that are indicative of the air pressure within the bladder 860. For example, the cuff 804 may be disposed about the employee's wrist, the pump 854 may supply air to the bladder 860 via the pneumatic tube 810 to inflate the bladder 860 about the employee wrist, the pressure within the bladder 860 may be communicated to the air within in the pneumatic tube 810, the pressure transducer 852 may take pressure readings of the air within the pneumatic tube 810 that are indicative of the air pressure within the bladder 860 (e.g., including the pressure oscillations due to the oscillations of the employee's blood pressure), blood pressure data 200c including the readings may be communicated to the mouse controller 850, and the bladder 860 may be deflated.

In some embodiments, the mouse controller 850 may employ the IR sensors 802, the pulse oximeter 820, and the pressure transducer 852 to collect corresponding measurements. For example, where the IR sensor 802 outputs a voltage indicative temperature and the pressure transducer 852 outputs a voltage indicative pressure, the mouse controller 850 may take voltage measurements from the IR sensor 802 and the pressure transducer 852. Where, for example, the pulse oximeter 622 outputs a data value indicative of blood oxygenation, the mouse controller 850 may query or otherwise read the data value. In some embodiments, the mouse controller 850 may control operation of the pump 854. For example, the mouse controller 850 may activate the pump 854 to inflate/deflate the bladder 860 as required. In some embodiments, the battery 751 provides power to operate the controller 750, to operate the pump 854, and/or to provide the power required to take measurements from the IR sensor(s) 802, the pulse oximeter 820, and/or the pressure transducer 852.

FIG. 8F is a block diagram that illustrates an exemplary mouse system 470b including the blood pressure cuff 804 wirelessly connected to the mouse 408 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the mouse controller 850 may employ the IR sensor 802 and/or the pulse oximeter 820 in a manner similar to that described with regard to FIG. 8E. As depicted, the blood pressure cuff 622 may include the pump 854, the

pressure transducer 852, a wireless antenna 862, a cuff controller 864, and/or a battery 866 integrated therein. In some embodiments, the battery 866 provides power to operate the cuff controller 864, to operate the pump 854, and/or provide the power required to take measurements from the pressure transducer 852. In some embodiments, the wireless antenna 862 includes a Bluetooth transceiver, or similar wireless communication device, for use in communicating with the mouse controller 850 (e.g., e.g., via the complementary antenna 858). In such an embodiment, the blood pressure cuff 622 may not be physically tethered to the mouse 408, thereby providing more physical freedom to the employee.

During use, the mouse controller 850 may query the blood pressure cuff 622 to provide various readings. For example, upon detecting the need for a blood pressure reading, the mouse controller 850 may send a request for a blood pressure reading to the cuff controller 864 (e.g., using wireless communication via antennas 858 and 862) and, in response to the request, the cuff controller 864 may operate the pump 854 to inflate the bladder 860, take a pressure reading indicative of the blood pressure from the pressure transducer 852, and transmit corresponding blood pressure data 200c, including the pressure reading, to the mouse controller 850 (e.g., using wireless communication via antennas 858 and 862).

FIG. 8G is a flowchart that illustrates a method 880 of operating the mouse system 870 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method 880 may include monitoring the need for health data 200, as depicted at block 882. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for health data includes determining whether or not there is a need to collect health data 200 (i.e., take a measurement) from one or more of the sensors 120 (e.g., the IR sensor 802, the pulse oximeter 820 and/or the blood pressure transducer 852). In some embodiments, the need for health data 200 is identified based on a request from another component of system 100. For example, the mouse controller 850 may determine that there is a need to collect health data 200 in response to a request for the health data 200 (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the health data 200) received from the computer 130, the server 104 and/or the employee 401.

Where it is determined that health data 200 is not needed, at block 884, method 880 may include returning to monitoring the need for health data 200, as depicted at block 882. Where it is determined that health data 200 is needed, at block 884, method 880 may include proceeding to monitoring of the sensors 120 of the mouse system 870 (e.g., the IR sensor 802, the pulse oximeter 820 and/or the blood pressure transducer 852) to collect the health data 200, as depicted at block 886. In some embodiments, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 includes monitoring the particular sensors 120 that provide the particular health data 200 needed. Where the health data 200 needed includes the employee's body temperature, blood oxygenation level and/or blood pressure, monitoring the sensors 120 to collect the health data 200 may include, for example, the mouse controller 850 taking measurements from the IR sensor 802, the pulse oximeter 820 and/or the blood pressure transducer 852, respectively, to collect the need health data 200 including measured voltages indicative of body temperature, values from the pulse oximeter that are indicative of the blood oxygenation level, and/or voltages/values indicative of the employee's blood pressure.

Method 880 may include storing the health data 200, as depicted at block 888. In some embodiments, storing the

health data 200 may include storing the collected health data 200 in local or remote memory. For example, the mouse controller 850 may store the values for corresponding to the measured body temperature, the blood oxygenation level, and/or blood pressure in memory 852. In some embodiments, storing the health data 200 may include buffering/queuing the health data 200 for transmission at a later time.

Method 880 may include transmitting the health data 200, as depicted at block 890. In some embodiments, transmitting the health data 200 includes transmitting the health data 200 to another component/entity of system 100. For example, the mouse controller 850 may transmit the health data 200 (e.g., collected via the sensors 120 of the mouse system 470 and stored in memory 852), to computer 130 and/or server 104 for use in monitoring the health of the employee. In some embodiments, the health data 200 is transmitted via a wired or wireless communication. For example, where the mouse 408 is connected to computer 130 and/or server 104 via a data cable (e.g., via cable 840) the mouse controller 850 may transmit some or all of the health data 200 to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via the data cable. Where the mouse 408 is in wireless communication with the computer 130 and/or the server 104 (e.g., via Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like), the mouse controller 850 may transmit some or all of the health data 200 to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via wireless communication. For example, the mouse controller 850 may communicate the health data 200 to the computer 130 and/or the server 104 via wireless antenna 858.

In some embodiments, after transmitting the health data 200, method 880 may progress back to monitoring the need for health data. Where the request for health data is still active and/or another request for health data is received, for example, the mouse controller 850 may execute another iteration of monitoring the sensors to collect health data, storing the health data and/or transmitting the health data.

It will be appreciated that the method 880 is an exemplary embodiment of a method that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method 880 may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method 880 may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method 880 may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as mouse module 860. The order of the method 880 may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

3D Position Sensor:

FIG. 9A is a front view of the 3D position sensor 212 for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. As depicted, the 3D position sensor 212 may include a one or more image sensors (e.g., red-green-blue ("RGB") video camera) 902, one or more 3D depth sensors 904, and/or audio sensors (e.g., a multi-array microphone) 906. In some embodiments, 3D position data 200f may include video, depth and audio data corresponding to events/actions that occur in the zone 420 acquired by the camera 902, 3D depth sensor 904 and/or microphone 906. The 3D position data 200f may be extrapolated to assess body position (e.g. the position of the employee's head, arms/hands, torso, legs, feet and so forth), the employee's posture, the employee's level of muscle tension, the employee's eye location/movements, the employee's level of eye fatigue and/or the like. For example, the 3D position data 200f/acquired by the 3D position sensor 212 may be used to determine relative position measurements of the employee and associated

peripherals. In some embodiments, 3D position sensor 212 includes a device such as the Kinect™ manufactured by Microsoft. Such a 3D position sensor 212 may include a software development kit that provides for employing the 3D position sensor 212 as a biomechanical sensor. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, though a specific 3D video camera device is described herein, other such cameras may be manufactured that can be adapted for use in the instant system. For example, any camera may be employed that is capable of capturing 3D body images such that movements may be "sensed" and corresponding data extrapolated for use in monitoring the health of the employee (e.g., via a posture analysis, eye fatigue analysis, etc.). In some embodiments, the audio sensor 906 may be used for acquiring audio data 200g that may be transmitted to other devices of the system 100, such as the computer 130 and/or the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, health data 200 provided from the mouse 408 and/or 3D position sensor 212 may be used to determine various biomechanical characteristics of the employee. For example, position information from the computer mouse 408 and the 3D position sensor 212 may also be used to locate the employee's hand position in the test zone relative to the computer screen, chair pad, and floor mat. In such embodiments, electronics in the computer mouse 408 used to locate a cursor position could be used in combination with the video data to extrapolate the relative position of the computer mouse 408 within the test zone 420, and the position of the computer mouse could be used to locate the employee's chair and/or the employee's head, arms/hands, torso, legs and feet.

FIG. 9B is a block diagram of components of the 3D position sensor 212 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the 3D position sensor 212 may include a 3D position sensor controller 950 for controlling the operational aspects of 3D position sensor 212. For example, 3D position sensor controller 950 may provide for allocating power to various sensors (e.g., image, depth and/or audio sensors) of the 3D position sensor 212, collecting health data 200 from the various sensors of the 3D position sensor 212 and/or transmitting the collected health data 200 to the employee computer 130 and/or the server 104. In some embodiments, the 3D position sensor controller 950 includes a memory 952, a processor 954 and an input/output (I/O) interface 956. The 3D position sensor controller 950 may be a microcontroller device such as STMicroelectronics, ST10 (16-bit) and STM32 (32-bit); Atmel, AVR32 (32-bit) and AT91SAM (32-bit); Freescale ColdFire (32-bit); Hitachi SuperH (32-bit); and the Hyperstone E1/E2 (32-bit, full integration of RISC and DSP on one processor core), which is adapted for use in the functions described herein.

The memory 952 may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory 952 may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions 958 stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor 954) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the 3D position sensor 212. The program instructions 958 may include a 3D position sensor module 960 including program instructions that are executable by the processor 954 to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to 3D position sensor 212.

The processor **954** may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor **954** may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., program instructions of the 3D position sensor module **960**) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of the 3D position sensor **212**, including those described herein.

The I/O interface **956** may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to 3D position sensor controller **950**. The I/O devices may include sensors (e.g., image, depth and/or audio sensors), power source(s) **962** (e.g., a battery, AC power, etc.), external device(s) **964** (e.g., the computer **130** and/or the server **104**), etc. The I/O devices may be connected to the I/O interface **956**, the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via a wired or wireless connection.

FIG. **9C** is a flowchart that illustrates a method **980** of operating the 3D position sensor **980** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **980** may include monitoring the need for health data **200**, as depicted at block **982**. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for health data includes determining whether or not there is a need to collect health data **200** (i.e., take a measurement) from one or more of the sensors **120** (e.g., the image sensor **902**, the depth sensor **904**, and/or the audio sensor **906**). In some embodiments, the need for health data **200** may be identified based on a request from another component of system **100**. For example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** may determine that there is a need to collect health data **200** in response to a request for the health data **200** (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the health data **200**) received from the computer **130**, the server **104** and/or the employee **401**.

Where it is determined that health data **200** is not needed, at block **984**, method **980** may include returning to monitoring the need for health data **200**, as depicted at block **982**. Where it is determined that health data **200** is needed, at block **984**, method **980** may include proceeding to monitoring of the sensors **120** (e.g., the image sensor **902**, the depth sensor **904**, and/or the audio sensor **906**) to collect the health data **200**, as depicted at block **986**. In some embodiments, monitoring the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200** includes monitoring the particular sensors **120** that provide the particular health data **200** needed. Where the health data **200** needed includes the employee's body position and/or eye movement, monitoring the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200** may include, for example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** taking measurements from the image sensor **902** and/or the depth sensor **904**, to collect the need health data **200** including 2D and/or 3D image data indicative of the employee's body position and/or eye position/movements. Where the health data **200** needed includes the employee's speech, monitoring the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200** may include, for example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** taking measurements from the audio sensor **906**, to collect the need health data **200** including, for example, audio data indicative of words spoken by the employee.

Method **980** may include storing the health data **200**, as depicted at block **988**. In some embodiments, storing the health data **200** may include storing the collected health data **200** in local or remote memory. For example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** may store the 2D image data, 3D image data and/or the audio data in the memory **952**. In some embodiments, storing the health data **200** may include buffering/queuing the health data **200** for transmission at a later time.

Method **980** may include transmitting the health data **200**, as depicted at block **990**. In some embodiments, transmitting the health data **200** may include transmitting the health data **200** to another component/entity of the system **100**. For example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** may transmit the health data **200** (e.g., collected via the sensors **120** of the 3D position sensor **212** and stored in memory **952**), to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** for use in monitoring the health of the employee. In some embodiments, the health data **200** may be transmitted via a wired or wireless communication. For example, where the 3D position sensor **212** is connected to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via a data cable the 3D position sensor controller **950** may transmit some or all of the health data **200** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via the data cable. Where the 3D position sensor **212** is in wireless communication with the computer **130** and/or the server **104** (e.g., via Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like), the 3D position sensor controller **950** may transmit some or all of the health data **200** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via wireless communication. For example, the 3D position sensor controller **950** may communicate the health data to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via a wireless antenna.

In some embodiments, after transmitting the health data **200**, method **980** may progress back to monitoring the need for health data. Where the request for health data is still active and/or another request for health data is received, for example, the mouse controller **950** may execute another iteration of monitoring the sensors to collect health data, storing the health data and/or transmitting the health data.

It will be appreciated that the method **980** is an exemplary embodiment of a method that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method **980** may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method **980** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method **980** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as 3D position sensor module **960**. The order of the method **980** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

In some embodiments, health data **200** provided from the mouse **408** and/or the 3D position sensor **212** is used to determine various biomechanical characteristics of the employee. For example, position information from the computer mouse **408** and the 3D position sensor **212** may also be used to locate the employee's hand position in the test zone relative to the computer screen, chair pad, and floor mat. In such embodiments, electronics in the computer mouse **408** used to locate a cursor position could be used in combination with the video data to extrapolate the relative position of the computer mouse **408** within the test zone **420**, and the position of the computer mouse could be used to locate the employee's chair and/or the employee's head, arms/hands, torso, legs and feet.

Neural Sensors:

FIG. **10A** is a perspective view of the neuro-headset **480** for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the neuro-headset **480** includes a neuro-headset frame **1002** having a plurality of neural sensors **218** (e.g., sixteen neural sensors **218**) coupled thereto. The neuro-headset frame **1002** may provide for positioning of the neural sensors **218** in discrete neural sensor locations about the employee's head while the neuro-headset **418** is being worn by the employee. FIG. **10B** is a top-view of an

employee's head that illustrates sixteen exemplary neural sensor locations **1004** about the employee's head/scalp in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. As discussed above, the neuro-headset **480** may be used to sense brain activity of the employee that can be used to detect neuro-signals (e.g., including alpha, beta, gamma, and delta waves) that can be used to determine the employee's emotional state, thoughts (e.g., cognitive thoughts, subconscious thoughts, intent), facial movements (e.g., facial expressions), motor functions and/or the like. In some embodiments, the neuro-headset **480** may be employed to sense brain activity and provide corresponding neural data **200i** that is indicative of the sensed brain activity. For example, the neuro-headset **480** may transmit neural data **200i** corresponding to brain activity sensed by the neural sensors **218** to or other device within the system **100** (e.g., to the computer **130** and/or the server **104**).

FIG. **10C** is a block diagram that illustrates components of the neuro-headset **480** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the neuro-headset **480** may include a neuro-headset controller **1050** for controlling the operational aspects of the neuro-headset **480**. For example, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may provide for allocating power to the neural sensors **418** of the neuro-headset **480**, collecting neural data **200i** from the neural sensors **418** of the neuro-headset **480**, and/or transmitting the collected neural data **200i** to the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**.

In some embodiments, the neuro-headset controller **1050** includes a memory **1052**, a processor **1054** and an input/output (I/O) interface **1056**. The neuro-headset controller **1050** may be a microcontroller device such as STMicroelectronics, ST10 (16-bit) and STM32 (32-bit); Atmel, AVR32 (32-bit) and AT91SAM (32-bit); Freescale ColdFire (32-bit); Hitachi SuperH (32-bit); and the Hyperstone E1/E2 (32-bit, full integration of RISC and DSP on one processor core), which is adapted for use in the functions described herein.

The memory **1052** may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory **1052** may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions **1058** stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor **1054**) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the neuro-headset **480**. The program instructions **1058** may include a neuro-headset module **1060** including program instructions that are executable by the processor **1054** to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the neuro-headset **480**.

The processor **1054** may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor **1054** may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., of the neuro-headset module **1060**) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of the neuro-headset **480**, including those described herein.

The I/O interface **1056** may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to neuro-headset controller **1050**. I/O devices may include neural sensors **218**, power source(s) **1062** (e.g., a battery, AC/DC power delivered via a cable, and/or the like), external device(s) **1064** (e.g., the employee computer **130** and/or the server **104**),

and/or the like. The I/O devices may be connected to the I/O interface **1056**, via a wired or wireless connection.

FIG. **10D** is a flowchart that illustrates a method **1080** of operating the neuro-headset **480** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **1080** may include monitoring the need for neural data **200i**, as depicted at block **1082**. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for neural data includes determining whether or not there is a need to collect neural data **200i** (i.e., take a measurement) from one or more of the neural sensors **218**. In some embodiments, the need for the neural data **200i** may be identified based on a request from another component of system **100**. For example, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may determine that there is a need to collect neural data **200i** in response to a request for the neural data **200i** (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the neural data **200i**) received from the computer **130**, the server **104** and/or the employee **401**.

Where it is determined that neural data **200i** is not needed, at block **1084**, method **1080** may include returning to monitoring the need for neural data **200i**, as depicted at block **1082**. Where it is determined that neural data **200i** is needed, at block **1084**, method **1080** may include proceeding to monitoring of the neural sensors **218** of the neuro-headset **480** to collect the neural data **200i**, as depicted at block **1086**. For example, the neural data **200i** collected may include a log of brain activity detected by each of the neural sensors **218**.

Method **1080** may include storing the neural data **200i**, as depicted at block **1088**. In some embodiments, storing the neural data **200i** includes storing the collected neural data **200i** in local or remote memory. For example, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may store a log of the neural data **200i** in memory **1052**. In some embodiments, storing the neural data **200i** may include buffering/queuing the neural data **200i** for transmission at a later time.

Method **1080** may include transmitting the neural data **200i**, as depicted at block **1090**. In some embodiments, transmitting the neural data **200i** includes transmitting the neural data **200i** to another component/entity of the system **100**. For example, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may transmit the neural data **200i** (e.g., stored in the memory **1052**), to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** for use in monitoring the health of the employee. In some embodiments, the neural data **200i** may be transmitted via a wired or wireless communication. For example, where the neuro-headset **480** is connected to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via a data cable, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may transmit some or all of the neural data **200i** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via the data cable. Where the neuro-headset **480** is in wireless communication with the computer **130** and/or the server **104** (e.g., via Bluetooth connection, WLAN connection, or the like), the neuro-headset controller **1050** may transmit some or all of the neural data **200i** to the computer **130** and/or the server **104** via wireless communication.

In some embodiments, after transmitting the neural data **200i**, method **1080** may progress back to monitoring the need for neural data. Where the request for neural data is still active and/or another request for neuro data is received, for example, the neuro-headset controller **1050** may execute another iteration of monitoring the neural sensors **218** to collect neural data **200i**, storing the neural data **200i** and/or transmitting the neural data **200i**.

It will be appreciated that the method **1080** is an exemplary embodiment of a method that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method

1080 may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method **1080** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method **1080** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as the neuro-headset module **1060**. The order of the method **1080** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

In some embodiments, neural sensors **218** are disposed in a surface that contacts and/or supports the employee's head. For example, neural sensors **218** may be disposed in the headrest of a chair. In some embodiments, such neural sensors **218** disposed in a surface that contacts and/or supports the employee's head may be used in place of or in conjunction with the neural sensors **218** of neuro headset **480**. For example, where an employee's chair includes neural sensors **218** implanted in a front surface of a headrest of the chair, the employee may not need to wear the neuro headset **480**. Neural data **200i** may be acquired via the neural sensors **218** implanted in the headrest that contact the back of the employee's head/scalp. In some embodiments, the employee may still wear neuro headset **480** such that neural data **200i** can be acquired via the neural sensors **218** of the neuro headset **480**, as well as the neural sensors **218** implanted in the headrest.

FIG. 10E is a perspective view of the chair **404** specially adapted to include neural sensors **218** for use in monitoring an employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. As depicted, in some embodiments, the chair **404** includes a high-back chair having one or more neural sensors **218** disposed in a surface of headrest **1010** (e.g., an upper portion of seat back **604**). Headrest **1010** may contact and/or support the back of the employee's head while the employee is seated in the chair **404**. The neural sensors **218** of the headrest **1010** may include dry electrodes that can be used to sense neuro signals. Such dry electrodes may require minimal or no skin preparation for engaging the neural sensors **218** on the employee's scalp for sensing the employee's brain activity. Accordingly, neural data **200i** for the employee may be acquired via the neural sensors **218** of the headrest **1010** when the employee's scalp contacts one or more of the neural sensors **218** of the headrest **1010**. Such a configuration may not require the employee to wear a neuro headset to acquire neural data **200i**.

In some embodiments, the chair **404** includes other sensors **120**. For example, a back support area **1012** on the front surface **604a** of seat back **604** may include temperature sensors **102**, position sensors **208**, and/or body fat sensors and/or a seat support area **1014** of the top surface **602a** may include temperature sensors **102**, position sensors **208**, and/or body fat sensors disposed therein (e.g., see FIG. 6C). Neural data **200i** may be acquired from neural sensors **218** provided at headrest **1010** in a manner that is the same or similar to that described with regard to method **1080**.

In some embodiments, neural sensors **218** provided at the headrest **1010** of the chair **404** can be provided via a chair pad (see FIGS. 6A and 6B). For example, the chair pad **450** may include neural sensors **218** disposed at or near a top of back-pad **612**. Such a chair pad **450** can be provided on the chair **404** such that the back of the employee's head/scalp contacts that the neural sensors **218** of the chair pad **450** when the employee is seated in chair **404**. In such an embodiment, neural data **200i** may be acquired from neural sensors **218** provided at the headrest **1010** in a manner that is the same or similar to that of method **680**.

Accordingly, the system **100** may provide for collecting employee health data via multiple points of contact with the employee. For example health data **200** may be collected via a first point of contact with the employee's head/eyes (e.g., via the 3D position sensor **212**), a second point of contact with the employee's arms/hands (e.g., via the 3D position sensor **212**, and/or the temperature sensor **202**, the blood condition sensor **204** and/or blood pressure sensor **206** of the mouse **408**), a third point of contact with the employee's torso/back/legs (e.g., via the 3D position sensor **212**, and/or the temperature sensor **202**, the position sensor **208** and/or the body fat sensor **210** of the chair pad **450**), a fourth point of contact with the employee's feet (e.g., via the 3D position sensor **212**, and/or the temperature sensor **202**, the position sensor **208** and/or the body fat sensor **210** of the floor mat **460**), and a fifth point of contact via the employee's head/brain (e.g., via the neural sensors **218** of the neuro-headset **480**).

FIG. 11 is a flowchart that illustrates a method **1100** of collecting health data **200** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **1100** may start at block **1102**. In some embodiments, such a method of collecting health data **200** (e.g., temperature data **200a**, blood condition data **200b**, blood pressure data **200c**, position data **200d**, body fat data **200e**, 3D position data **200f**, audio data **200g**, respiration data **200h**, and/or neural data **200i**) may be provided by the computer processor **302** executing program instructions of the employee computer module **308** to provide for collection of health data **200** from the various sensors **120** and/or transmission of the corresponding health data **200** to the server **104** for use in monitoring the health of the employee. Start of method **1100** at block **1102** may include initiating execution of a corresponding module (e.g., the computer module **308**) to provide for collecting needed health data **200** by the computer **130**. For example, the computer module **308** may be launched upon the employee successfully logging in to their workstation and/or the employee selecting to launch an employee health monitoring application as discussed in more detail below with regard to at least method **1500** of FIG. 15).

Method **1100** may include monitoring the need for health data **200**, as depicted at block **1104**. In some embodiments, monitoring the need for health data may include determining whether or not there is a need to collect health data **200** from one or more of the sensors **120** of the system **100**. In some embodiments, the need for health data **200** is identified based on a request from another component of system **100**. For example, the computer **130** may determine that there is a need to collect health data **200** in response to a request for the health data **200** (e.g., a request to initiate a health test and/or a query for the health data **200**) received from the server **104** and/or the employee **401**.

In some embodiments, the need for health data **200** is identified based on corresponding schedule (e.g., a health monitoring test schedule). For example, where a health test routine requires collection of health data **200** at 12:00 pm, it may be determined that health data **200** is needed if the current time is 12:00 pm or shortly thereafter. As another example, where a health test routine requires the continuous collection of a batch of health data **200** from 8:00 am-6:00 pm, it may be determined that health data **200** is needed if the current time is in the range of 8:00 am-6:00 pm. As yet another example, where a health test routine requires the repeated collection of health data **200** at an hourly interval from 8:00 am-6:00 pm, it may be determined that health data **200** is needed if the current time is 8:00 am, 9:00 am, and

so forth. It will be appreciated that these test schedules are exemplary, and other embodiments may include any suitable test schedule.

Where it is determined that health data **200** is not needed, at block **1106**, method **1100** may include proceeding to determining whether or not the test routine should be stopped, as depicted at block **1108**. In some embodiments, it may be determined that the test routine should stop based on an instruction to stop from another device of system **100**. For example, the computer **130** may determine that it should stop execution of the health monitoring test routine in response to an instruction from the server **104** and/or the employee **401** to stop the health test routine (e.g., a request to terminate the health test). Where it is determined that the health test routine should be stopped, the health test routine may be stopped, as depicted at block **1110**.

Where it is determined that health data **200** is needed, at block **1106**, method **1100** may include proceeding to monitoring of the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200**, as depicted at block **1112**. In some embodiments, monitoring the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200** includes monitoring the particular sensors **120** that provide the particular health data **200** needed. Where the health data **200** needed includes the employee's body temperature, for example, monitoring the sensors **120** to collect the health data **200** may include monitoring one or more of the standalone temperature sensor **202** located on desk **402**, the temperature sensor **202** of the chair pad **450**, the temperature sensor **202** of the floor mat **460**, the temperature sensor **202** of the mouse **408** and/or the like to sense/acquire temperature data **200a**. Other embodiments may include similar monitoring of any of the standalone or integrated sensors **120** to collect the needed health data **200**.

In some embodiments, the collected health data **200** may be transmitted between the various devices in route to the server **104**. Where the health data **200** needed includes the employee's body temperature, for example, the computer **130** may collect temperature data **200a** directly from the standalone temperature sensor **202**. As a further example, the chair pad **450**, the floor mat **460**, the mouse **408** may collect temperature data **200a** directly from the respective temperature sensors **202** integrated therein and forward the collected temperature data **200a** to the computer **130**. Similar techniques may be employed for collecting other forms of health data **200** from the various sensors **120** of the system **100**. For example, temperature data **200a**, blood condition data **200b**, blood pressure data **200c**, position data **200d**, body fat data **200e**, 3D position data **200f**, audio data **200g**, respiration data **200h**, neural data **200i** and/or the like, may be collected from the corresponding temperature sensors **202**, blood condition sensors **204**, blood pressure sensors **206**, position sensors **208**, body fat sensors **210**, 3D position sensors **212**, audio sensors **214**, respiration sensors **216**, neural sensors **218**, and/or the like, in a similar manner.

Method **1100** may include storing the health data **200**, as depicted at block **1114**. In some embodiments, storing the health data **200** includes storing the collected health data **200** in local or remote memory. For example, the employee computer **130** may store the health data **200** collected from the sensors **120** in local memory **300**. In some embodiments, storing the health data **200** includes buffering/queuing the health data **200** for transmission at a later time.

Method **1100** may include transmitting the health data **200**, as depicted at block **1116**. In some embodiments, transmitting the health data **200** may include transmitting the health data **200** to another component/entity of the system **100**. For example, the computer **130** may transmit the health

data **200** (e.g., the health data **200** stored in memory **300**) to the server **104** for use in monitoring the health of the employee **401**. In some embodiments, the health data **200** may be transmitted from the computer **130** to the server **104** via network **118**.

In some embodiments, the transmission of the health data **200** may be regulated based on a corresponding schedule for sending/transmitting the health data. For example, where a health test routine requires collection of health data **200** at 12:00 pm, the health data **200** may be collected and transmitted at or about 12:00 pm. As further example, where a health test routine requires the continuous collection and transmission of health data **200** from 8:00 am-6:00 pm, the health data **200** may be collected and transmitted from 8:00 am-6:00 pm such that a substantially continuous stream of health care data **200** is transmitted (e.g., from the sensors **120** to the computer **130** and/or from the computer **130** to the server **104**) for use in monitoring the employee's health. As a further example, where a health test routine requires the continuous collection of health data **200** from 8:00 am-6:00 pm and the transmission of the health data **200** in batches hourly, the health data **200** may be collected and stored over the period with the batches being transmitted at 9:00 am, 10:00 am and so forth).

In some embodiments, after transmitting the health data collected, method **1100** may progress to block **1108** to determine whether or not the acquisition of health data should continue. Accordingly, health data **200** may be collected from the various sensors **120** as required for monitoring the health of employees.

It will be appreciated that the method **1100** is an exemplary embodiment of methods that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method **1100** may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method **1100** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method **1100** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as employee computer module **308**. The order of the method **1100** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

Server:

The server **104** (see FIG. 1) may include a network entity that serves requests by other network entities. For example, the server **104** may serve request by client entities, such as the employee computer **130**, the employer computer **103** and/or the like. The server **104** may host a content site, such as a website, a file transfer protocol (FTP) site, an Internet search website or other source of network content. In some embodiments, the server **104** may host one or more applications, such as an employee health monitoring application. Some or all of the application may be executed locally on the server **104** and/or remotely by various other network entities, such as the employee computer **130** and/or the employer computer **103**. For example, the server **104** may cause the execution of remote applications/processes (e.g., an application executing the method **1100**) on the employee computers **130** to collect the health data **200** from each respective employees and execute a local applications (e.g., a health monitoring application) to conduct processing of the collected health data **200** for use in monitoring an employee's health.

In some embodiments, the server **104**, is connected to one or more of the employee computer workstations **130** (e.g., for interfacing with the employees in their work environment), one or more file servers **106** and associated databases **108** for accessing and storing employee health information **109**, one or more employer computers **103** (e.g., for allow-

ing the employer to review the health information of employees), one or more web servers **110** for connecting the computer server **104** to remote computers **112** (e.g., to provide communication with emergency response entities (e.g., a police, fire, ambulance station), health care entities (e.g., a doctor's office), an offsite workstation **102**, or the like that may allow emergency response personnel, health care providers and/or employees to be alerted by the health monitoring system, to remotely access the health monitoring system (e.g., access health information **109** stored in database **108**), and/or the like.

As shown, at least one file server **106** may be employed by the system to manage the employee health information **109** and/or to allow the computer server **104**, the employee computer **130**, the employer computer **103** and/or the remote workstation **112** to upload/download data (e.g., the employee health information **109**) via the file server **106**. The files server **106** may include or otherwise have access to the database **108**. The database **108** may include an employee health database for storing the employee health information **109** and/or an employee access database that stores credential data and permissions data for verifying user's right to access the system **100** based on the credentials and/or restricting access to the system **100** based on corresponding permissions. The file server **106** and/or the database **109** may include network attached storage ("NAS"), storage area networks ("SAN"), or direct access storage ("DAS"), or any combination thereof, including, e.g., multiple hard disk drives. The file server **106** may have stored thereon a database management system, e.g. a set of software programs that controls the organization, storage, management, and retrieval of the data in the database(s) **108**, such as the health information **109**.

The database **108**, and any other databases or files stored in the file server **106**, may be a database separate from other employee databases or the same database as other employee databases, e.g., commingled in a database containing, for example, employee benefit or pay information. The employee health information **109** can also be stored in a plurality of databases (e.g., distributed databases, tables, or fields in separate portions of the file server memory). As one skilled in the art will appreciate, the file server **106** may provide the computer server **104**, and the computer workstations **130** access to the database **108** through, e.g., database management software or other application. A database server may be used to store the database **108** instead of or in addition to the file server **106**. An exemplary structure of the database **108** is discussed in more detail below with regard to FIG. **14** below.

The computers **130**, **103** and/or **112** may include personal computers (PC) as is known in the art. The computers **130**, **103** and/or **112** may run UNIX, Linux, Windows®, or some other operating system compatible with the networked systems discussed herein. In some embodiments, the computers **130**, **103** and/or **112** may include remote terminals that enable a user to interact with various processes being controlled by the server **104**. For example, the operations described herein with regard to the employee computer **130** may be executed by the server **104** and the employee computer **130** may include a network terminal that provides for user interaction with the operations provided by the server **104**. Moreover, the computers **130**, **103** and/or **112** may provide access computer program instructions stored on the server **104**. For example, an application for providing employee data running on the server **104** may be accessible via the employee computer **130** such that the employee may provide access credentials to login to their account, the

server may verify their credentials/permissions, and the employee may be able to enter, via the employee computer **130**, their health profile information (e.g., their personal health profile data (e.g., age, sex, ethnicity, etc.), health goals (e.g., "lose 10 pounds" or "lower blood pressure") and/or the like). Thus, health information provided via the computer workstations **130** can be forwarded via the server **104** to the file server **106** for use in updating the employee's health information **109** stored in the database **108**. In some embodiments, the computer workstations **130** can interface with different servers (e.g., the web or network servers **104**, **106** or **110**) for accessing the health information **109** via the communications network **118**.

The employer computer **103** may provide an employer (e.g., the employee's manager, the employee's human resources manager, or the like) access to the employee health information **109** and/or corresponding reports for reviewing the health of one or more employees. For example, an employer may be provided regular reports and/or alerts regarding the health of some or all of their employees via the employer computers **103** and/or the employer may proactively initiate review of the employee health information **109** (e.g., via an interactive dashboard discussed in more detail below). Thus, for example, an employer may determine whether a health condition is affecting a given employee, determine whether or not an employee is following their health plan, determine whether some or all employees at a certain facility have are experiencing similar symptoms indicative of a facility wide health concern (e.g., a high percentage of employees at a given facility have developed asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease ("COPD"), or other chronic condition).

FIG. **12A** is a block diagram illustrating components of the server **104** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the server **1100** includes a memory **1202**, a processor **1204** and an input/output (I/O) interface **1206**.

The memory **1202** may include non-volatile memory (e.g., flash memory, ROM, PROM, EPROM, EEPROM memory), volatile memory (e.g., random access memory (RAM), static random access memory (SRAM), synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)), bulk storage memory (e.g., CD-ROM and/or DVD-ROM, hard-drives), or the like. The memory **1202** may include a non-transitory computer readable storage medium having program instructions **1208** stored thereon that are executable by a computer processor (e.g., the processor **1204**) to cause the functional operations described herein with regard to the server **104**. The program instructions **1208** may include server modules **1210** (e.g., user verification module **1210a**, calibration module **1210b**, monitoring module **1210c**, and/or display module **1210d**) including program instructions that are executable by the processor **1204** to provide some or all of the functionality described herein with regard to the server **104**.

The user verification module **1210a** may be employed by the server **104** to verify a user's login information and/or provide corresponding access to other portions of the system **100**, as discussed in more detail herein. For example, upon an employee, employer or other user attempting to login to the system **100**, the user verification module **1210a** may be executed to verify login credentials (e.g., a user ID and password) provided by an employee, employer or other user, and, upon verification of the credentials, grant access to the health information **109** of the database **108** in accordance with permissions associated with the credentials.

The calibration module may be executed by the server **104** to provide for calibrating the sensors **120** of the system

100, as discussed in more detail herein. For example, at start-up of monitoring of the employee's health or based on a request by the employee, the calibration module 1210b may be executed to provide for collecting a baseline set of data (e.g., initial measurement of temperature, weight, body fat heart rate, blood pressure, blood condition, body position, eye movement, and/or the like). Such data may be used to verify operation of the sensors 120 and/or to provide a baseline for comparing the health data collected during subsequent testing.

The monitoring module 1210c may be executed by the server 104 to provide for monitoring of the employee's health, as discussed in more detail herein. For example, the monitoring module 1210c may provide for collecting health data 200 from the various sensors 120 located about an employee's workstation (e.g., via conducting one or more health test) and processing the health data 200 to generate a health report including, for example determined health characteristics, health conditions, health risks and/or health plans for the employee. In some embodiments, the monitoring module 1210c may provide for conducting discrete health test at certain/limited times (e.g., "low productivity" times in which the employee is not as productive, such as the early morning, mid-afternoon, or the like). As one skilled in the art will appreciate, monitoring an employee at limited times may minimize any risk of over exposure of IR test measurements when photoplethysmography is used to monitor a health condition, e.g., to meet or exceed current government and safety protocols in relation to the frequency, intensity and duration of such test on the employee. In some embodiments, the monitoring module may provide for interpreting the incoming health data 200. For example, where the collected health data 200 includes raw electronic signals from the sensors 120, raw measurement values (e.g., datasets) or the like, the monitoring module 1210c may provide for converting the electronic signals and/or values to health characteristic data indicative of the actual health characteristics.

As discussed in more detail herein, the presentation module 1210d may be executed by the server 104 to provide for presenting employee health information (e.g., the employee's profile, health report, health plan, and/or the like) to the employee, the employer, and/or another user. For example, the presentation module 1210d may provide for displaying (e.g., via a health monitoring widget and/or an interactive health dashboard) or otherwise communicating the employee's health information and/or corresponding health alerts to the employee, an employer, emergency response personnel, the employee's physician, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the presentation module 1210d may provide for displaying a preventative plan for health maintenance, the employee's health statistics over time, the employee's progress relative to a predetermined health regime, display the employee's progress relative to a preventative plan calculated by the system and/or the like.

The processor 1204 may be any suitable processor capable of executing/performing program instructions. The processor 1204 may include a central processing unit (CPU) that carries out program instructions (e.g., of the server module(s) 1210) to perform arithmetical, logical, input/output and other operations of the server 104. The processor 1204 can be any commercially available processor, or plurality of processors, adapted for use in the computer server 104, such as Intel® Xeon® multicore processors manufactured by Intel Corporation, Intel® micro-architecture Nehalem manufactured by Intel Corporation, AMD Opteron™ multicore processors manufactured by AMD

Corporation, or the like. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, the processor 1204 may also include components that allow the server 104 to be connected to peripherals (e.g., a display and keyboard that would allow direct access to the processor and memory 1202, and/or application executing via server 104).

The I/O interface 1206 may provide an interface for connection of one or more I/O devices to the server 104. The I/O devices may include other network devices, such as the file server 106, the web server 110, the employee computers 130, the employer computers 103, the sensors 120, and/or the like. The I/O devices may be connected to the I/O interface 1206 via a wired or wireless connection.

In some embodiments, the server 104 uses the health data 200 collected by the sensors 120 to monitor the employee's health. FIG. 12B is a flowchart that illustrates a method 1220 of monitoring the employee's health in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention.

Method 1220 may include collecting health data, as depicted at block 1222. In some embodiments, collecting health data includes collecting health data 200 from other entities of the system 100. For example, as depicted in FIG. 13 (including a block diagram illustrating an exemplary dataflow within system 100 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention), the server 104 may collect health data 200 (e.g., including temperature data 200a, blood condition data 200b, blood pressure data 200c, position data 200d, body fat data 200e, 3D position data 200f, audio data 200g, respiration data 200h, neural data 200i, and/or the like) via the various sensors 120 and/or the computer 130 of the employee's workstation 102. Accordingly, the server 104 may collect health data 200 via multiple points of contact with the employee (e.g., a first point of contact with the employee's head/eyes, a second point of contact with the employee's arms/hands, a third point of contact with the employee's torso/back/legs, a fourth point of contact with the employee's feet, and a fifth point of contact with the employee's head/brain).

In some embodiments, collecting health data includes executing a single measurement by some or all of the sensors 120. For example, some or all of the sensors 120 may be employed to record a single measurement in sequence (e.g., one after the other) or in parallel (e.g., at the same time) and transmit corresponding health data 200 to the computer 130. The computer 130 may collect the single measurement from each of the sensors 120 and transmit corresponding health data 200 to the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, collecting health data includes executing multiple measurements by some or all of the sensors 120. For example, some or all of the sensors 120 may be employed to record a set of measurements (e.g., one per minute) over a given period of time (e.g., 5 minutes, 1 hour, 8 hours, or the like) and transmit corresponding health data 200 to the computer 130. The computer 130 may collect the measurements from each of the sensors 120 and transmit corresponding health data 200, as it is received, to the server 104 for use in monitoring the employee's health.

In some embodiments, the health data 200 is collected via health test that are initiated by the server 104. For example, the server 104 may execute a health monitoring routine that requires health data 200 to be sensed/collected according to a given test schedule/routine (e.g., sensed/collected from 8 am-6 pm, sensed/collected hourly from 8 am to 6 pm, and/or the like), the server 104 may determine that health data is required based on the schedule, and, in response to determining that health data is required, the server 104 may

transmit, to the computer **130** and/or the sensors **120** corresponding requests to sense, collect and forward, to the sever **104**, the health data **200** according to the schedule. For example, where a test schedule/routine requires collection of health data from 8 am to 6 pm, the server **104** may send, to the computer **130** at 8 am, a first request to initiate collection and forwarding of health data **200** to the server **104**, and send, to the computer **130** at 6 pm, a second request to terminate collection and forwarding of the health data **200** to server **104**. In such an embodiment, the computer **130** may continually acquire (and forward to server **104**), health data **200** from 8 am to 6 pm. The server **104** may transmit similar requests in accordance with any suitable test routine/schedule. For example, where a test schedule/routine requires collection of health data hourly from 8 am to 6 pm, the server **104** may send, to computer **130** at each of 8 am, 9 am, 10 am, and so forth, a request to collect and forward health data **200** to the server **104**. In such an embodiment, the computer **130** may collect (and forward to server **104**) a set of health data **200** each hour from 8 am to 6 pm (e.g., at 8 am, 9 am, 10 am, and so forth). In some embodiments, the health data **200** for one or more employees may be logged over time. The logged data may be used to generate health profiles and/or reports that are based on current and/or historical health data **200**.

In some embodiments, the server **104** may initiate a health test based on an external request/event, such as a request initiated by a user. For example, where an employee or an employer is interacting with an interactive health dashboard for a given employee (as discussed in more detail below) and the user requests to run a health test, the server **104** may determine that health data is required based on the request, and, in response to determining that health data is required, the server **104** may transmit a corresponding request to collect and forward health data **200** to the computer **130**. In such an embodiment, the computer **130** may collect a set of health data **200** at or near the time of the user's request to conduct a health test and forward the set of health data **200** to the server **104**. Thus, the server **104** may initiate health test automatically (e.g., based on a test schedule/routine) and/or in response to external request (e.g., from an employee, an employer, or other user).

Method **1220** may include processing the collected health data to generate a corresponding health profile, as depicted at block **1224**. In some embodiments, a health profile **1300** is generated based on processing of the collected health data **200**. The health profile **1300** may include health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, health risks **1306**, and/or health plans **1308** for the employee.

In some embodiments, the health characteristics **1302** may include a first level of health profile data that is derived from the collected health data **200**. For example, the server **104** may process the collected health data **200** to identify various biometric health characteristics **1302a** and/or biomechanical health characteristics **1302b** for the employee. Biometric health characteristics **1302a** may include, for example, the employee's sensed body temperature **1310**, body weight **1311**, body fat **1312**, heart rate **1313**, blood pressure **1314**, blood condition (e.g., blood oxygenation, blood glucose level, etc.) **1315**, respiration rate **1316**, neural/brain activity **1317**, and/or the like. Biomechanical health characteristics **1302b** may include, for example, the employee's sensed body position **1320** (e.g., the employee's physical positioning and/or movement of the employee's head, torso, arms, hands, legs, feet, and/or the like), eye movement (e.g., focal point, blink rate, pupil dilation of the eye, and/or the like) **1321**, neural/brain activity **1317**, and/or the like.

In some embodiments, some or all of the health characteristics **1302** are provided directly via the health data **200**. For example, the health data **200** may include a value for heart rate (e.g., 80 beats per minute ("BPM")). In some embodiments, some or all of the health characteristics **1302** are extrapolated from the health data **200**. For example, the health data **200** may include a set of measurements indicative of the number of employee's heart beats over a period of time (e.g., 20 heart beats over fifteen seconds) and the server **104** may process the set of data to determine the corresponding hear rate value (e.g., 80 BPM). The health data **200** may be received and/or processed in a similar manner to determine values for the other health characteristics **1302** based on received values and/or data sets.

In some embodiments, the body weight **1311** is based on forces measured by one or more sensors. For example, where only the force transducers **622** of the floor mat **460** sense a force, it may be determined that the employee is standing, and the force sensed by the force transducers **622** of the floor mat **460** may be used to determine the employee's weight. As a further example, where the force transducers **622** of the chair pad **450** and/or the force transducers **622** of the floor pad **460** sense a force, it may be determined that the employee is seated in the chair **404**, and the force sensed by the force transducers **622** of the seat pad **610** of the chair pad **450** and the floor may **460** may be added together to determine the employee's weight.

In some embodiments, the body fat **1312** is based on body fat data **200e** collected via one or more of the body fat sensors **210**. For example, the body fat **1012** may be determined using bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) of the impedance/resistance sensed by the body fat sensor **210**. Ideally, male employees will have a body fat measurement of about 8-17% and female employees will have a measurement between about 10-21%. The body fat **1012** may include a body fat percentage which is determined as the total weight of the person's fat divided by the person's weight.

In some embodiments, the heart rate **1013** is based on blood pressure data **200c** collected via one or more of the blood pressure sensors **206**. For example, the heart rate **1013** may be determined using the rate of pulsations of blood pressure which may correspond to the heart rate. In some embodiments, the heart rate **1313** is determined as the number of heart beats over a given period of time, typically sixty seconds. The heart rate may be determined from the blood pressure data **200c** which is indicative of the rate of pulsations of blood flow that correspond to the heart rate.

In some embodiments, the blood pressure **1314** is based on blood pressure data **200c** collected via one or more of the blood pressure sensors **206**. The blood pressure **1014** may be determined from the blood pressure data **200c** which is indicative of pressure pulsations due to blood flow. For example, the blood pressure **1014** may be determined based on a maximum blood pressure detected (e.g., the "systolic" blood pressure) and the minimum blood pressure detected (e.g., the "diastolic" blood pressure). The blood pressure **1314** may be recorded as the systolic blood pressure over the diastolic blood pressure (e.g., 90/60 mmHg).

In some embodiments, the blood condition **1315** is based on blood condition data **200b** collected via one or more of the blood condition sensors **204**. For example, the blood oxygenation, blood glucose level, and/or the like may be determined from blood condition data **200b** provided by a pulse oximeter or similar blood conditions sensor.

In some embodiments, the respiratory rate **1316** is based on respiration data **200h** collected via one or more of the

respiration sensors **216**. For example, the respiration rate may be determined based on a number of breaths sensed by the respiration sensor **216** over a given period of time. For example, where the respiration data **200h** indicates that the employee has taken four breaths in fifteen seconds, the employees respiration rate **1316** may be determined as sixteen breaths per minute (Vf).

In some embodiments, the brain activity **1317** is based on neural data **200i** collected via one or more of the neural sensors **218**. In some embodiments, the brain activity **1317** includes a log of neuro-signals (e.g., including alpha, beta, gamma, and delta waves) that are indicative of the employee's brain state, including the employee's emotional state, thoughts (e.g., cognitive thoughts, subconscious thoughts, and intent), facial movements (e.g., facial expressions), motor functions and/or the like. The brain activity **1317** may include or otherwise be extrapolated from the neural data **200i**. The brain activity **1317** may be both of a biometric and biomechanical characteristic based at least on its use in determining various biometric and biomechanical health profile data (e.g., various biometric and biomechanical conditions and identified/predicted health risks).

In some embodiments, the body position **1320** is based on body position data **200f** collected via one or more of the body position sensors **212**. In some embodiments, the body position **1320** is indicative of the position of the employee's head, torso, arms, hands, legs, feet or the like. The employee's body position **1320** may be provided by 3D position sensor **212**. In some embodiments, the employee's body position may be determined based on the forces sensed by various ones of the positions sensors **208**. For example, it may be determined that the employee is leaning back in their chair where a high force is sensed by a force transducer **622** located in the back-pad **612** of the chair pad **450** relative to a force sensed by a force transducer **622** located in the seat pad **610** of the chair pad **450**.

In some embodiments, one or more of the health characteristics **1302** may be used to determine one or more of the health conditions **1304**. The health conditions **1304** may include a second level of health profile data that is derived from the one or more of the health characteristics **1302** and/or the collected health data **200**. For example, the server **104** may process the health characteristics **1302** and/or the collected health data **200** to extrapolate various biometric health conditions **1304a** and/or biomechanical health conditions **1304b** for the employee. Biometric health conditions **1304a** may include, for example, a body mass index ("BMI") **1330**, a body composition **1331**, a fitness level **1332**, a resting heart rate ("RHR") **1333**, a maximum heart rate ("MHR") **1334**, a target heart rate ("THR") **1335**, and/or the like for the employee. Biomechanical health conditions **1304b** may include, for example, posture ("posture analysis") **1340**, muscle tension **1341**, a stress level **1342**, an injury **1343**, an eye fatigue level **1344**, facial movements **1345**, motor functions (e.g., gestures) **1346**, and/or the like for the employee.

In some embodiments a health condition **1304** may be determined based on one or more health characteristics **1302** and/or other data (e.g., the employee's personal profile). For example, BMI **1330** and/or body composition **1331** may be extrapolated from body weight **1311** and body fat **1312**. Fitness level **1332** may be based on weight **1311**, heart rate **1313**, and/or blood pressure **1314**. Resting heart rate **1333**, maximum heart rate **1334**, and/or target heart rate **1335** may be based on the heart rate **1313** and/or the employee's age. Emotions **1336** and/or thoughts **1337** may be based on the employee's brain activity **1317**. Posture **1340** and muscle

tension **1341** may be based on the observed body position **1320** of the employee (e.g., physical positioning and movement of the head, torso, arms, hands, legs, feet, and/or the like). Stress level **1341** and injury **1343** may be based on the observed body position **1320** and/or eye movement **1321** of the employee. Eye fatigue **1344** may be based on the observed eye movement **1321** of the employee. Facial movements **1345** and/or motor functions **1346** may be determined based on the brain activity **1317**.

The BMI **1330** may be the individual's body mass (m) divided by the square of their height (h). In some embodiments, BMI **1330** is determined using the following equation:

$$\text{BMI} = m * 703 / h^2 \quad (1)$$

Where "m" is the employee's mass (in kg. or lbs.) and "h" is the employee's height (in meters or inches). Using this relationship, the server **104** can determine whether the employee is of average weight (e.g., having a BMI in the range of about 18.5-25), overweight (e.g., having a BMI in the range of about 25-30), or obese (e.g., having a BMI over about 30).

The body composition **1331** may indicate a percentage of bone, fat and/or muscle in the employee's body. In some embodiments, the body composition is determined based at least on the body fat percentage and the body weight **1311**.

In some embodiments, the fitness level **1332** is indicative of the employee's body's ability to withstand a physical workload and/or recover in a timely manner. The fitness level **1332** may be based on the employee's heart rate. For example, an employee may be determined to have a good fitness level if their heart rate **1313** includes a resting heart rate (e.g., RHR **1334**) under about 100 BPM.

In some embodiments, the respiratory rate **1316** is indicative of the number of breaths taken within a set amount of time (e.g., 60 seconds). In some embodiments, the resting heart rate (RHR) **1333** is the measured heart rate (HR) **1313** taken at a period of low activity by the employee (e.g., while seated in the chair **404** and not engaging in any work activities). The maximum heart rate (MHR) **1334** may be determined using the following equation:

$$\text{MHR} = 205.8 - (0.685 \times \text{age}) \quad (2)$$

Where "age" is the age of the employee in years. The target heart rate (THR) **1335** may be calculated using the following formula (e.g., the "Karvonen method"):

$$\text{THR} = ((\text{MHR} - \text{RHR}) \times \% \text{ intensity}) + \text{RHR} \quad (3)$$

Where intensity is a percentage, typically about 65%-85%. The target heart rate **1335**, resting heart rate **1333** and maximum heart rate **1334** may be provided to the employee to aid the employee in safe exercise regimens, the formulation of a health plan, and the determination of whether the employee has met its health plan goals for the day, e.g., whether the employee has reached their target heart rate **1335** by the distance and length of time the employee has indicated to the program it has exercised. Also, if the employee's resting heart rate **1333** is above 100 beats per minute, for example, the system may provide the employee with an alert/warning regarding a risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke, or obesity via a health dashboard **1390** and/or a health report.

In some embodiments, the employee's emotions **1336**, thoughts **1337**, facial movements **1345** and/or motor functions **1346** are based on the sensed neuro signals (e.g., brain activity **1317**). For example, a plurality of predetermined brain wave patterns may be associated with corresponding

emotions, thoughts, facial movements and/or motor functions. During processing of the brain activity **1317**, the sensed/observed neuro signals may be compared to the plurality of predetermined neural signal patterns to identify a match there between. Upon matching the observed neuro signals to one or more of the predetermined neural signal patterns, it may be determined that the employee is engaged in corresponding emotions (e.g., happy, sad, excited, depressed, etc.) **1336**, thoughts (e.g., intent to take an action, etc.) **1337**, facial movements (e.g., facial gestures such as smiling) **1345** and/or motor functions (e.g., a sequence of movements) **1346**. In some embodiments, as described herein, an animated avatar may be used to mimic the employee's current emotional state and/or facial gesture. For example, when it is determined that the employee is happy and/or smiling, the avatar can be animated to include a smile, providing the employee or other persons reviewing the employee's health (e.g., the employer) with an indication of the employee's current emotional state and/or facial expression. In some embodiments, the ability to determine the employee's thoughts may be employed to assist the employee with completing their work duties. For example, where the system **100** is able to determine that the employee intends to open a word processing application, the system **100** may launch the word processing application based on the determined intent to act, without any physical interaction by the employee.

In some embodiments, a determination of the employee's posture **1340** may be based on body position **1320**. For example, the employee may be determined to have good posture that where one or more of the employee's hands, wrists, and forearms are straight, in-line and roughly parallel to the floor; the employee's head is level, or bent slightly forward, forward facing, and balanced, and generally in-line with the torso; the employee's shoulders are relaxed and its upper arms hang normally at the side of the body; the employee's elbows stay in close to the body and are bent at angles between about 90 and 120 degrees; the employee's feet are fully supported by the floor or a footrest (if the employee's desk height is not adjustable); the employee's back is fully supported when sitting vertical or leaning back slightly; the employee's thighs and hips are generally parallel to the floor; and/or the employee's knees are about the same height as the hips with the feet slightly forward. The posture **1340** may include a determined proper alignment of the head, torso, arms, and feet when the employee is sitting in the chair and the employee's deviation from the proper alignment based on the observed body position **1320**. In some embodiments, the actual body position of the employee, relative to the ideal body position may be determined and the posture **1340** may indicate, a percentage deviation of the actual body position to the ideal body position and/or may include suggestions for improving the employee's posture (e.g., sit up in chair with lower back firmly contacting chair lumbar support).

In some embodiments, the level of muscle tension **1341** may be determined based on the employee's body position **1320**, including, for example the employee's arm position and shoulder height (e.g., whether the employee's shoulders are raised and the arm is bent in a sub-optimum way), the employee's respiratory rate **1316**, and the length of time the employee's arm has been extended to operate the mouse **408**. For example, it may be determined that the employee is experiencing a high level of muscle tension where the employee's arm is extended to use the mouse **408** and/or shoulder is raised for over twenty minutes. Using these

measurements, the system can determine an estimate of the employee's muscle tension **1341** using known techniques.

In some embodiments, a level of eye fatigue **1344** may be determined based on the employee's eye movement **1321**. For example, it may be determined that the employee is experiencing a high level of eye fatigue **1344** where their blink rate has slowed to less than fifteen blinks per minute and/or the employee has been staring at substantially the same position (e.g., the monitor) for an extended period (e.g., over twenty minutes).

Although the illustrated embodiment includes sets of health characteristics **1302** and corresponding health conditions **1304** extrapolated therefrom, it will be appreciated that embodiments may include one or more of the listed health conditions **1304** being provided as health characteristics **1302** or vice versa. For example, where a sensor **120** provides a resting heart rate value, the resting heart rate may be provided as a health characteristic **1302** as opposed to a health condition **1304** extrapolated from the health characteristics **1302**. Similar characteristics may be provided for any of the health conditions **1304**.

The biometric and/or biomechanical health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304** and/or other data (e.g., personal profile information) may be used to identify/predict corresponding health risks **1306**. The health risks **1306** may include a third level of health profile data that is derived from one or more of the health conditions **1304**, the health characteristics **1302** and/or the collected health data **200**. For example, the server **104** may process the health conditions **1304**, the health characteristics **1302** and/or the collected health data **200** using predictive analytics to extrapolate various biometric health risks **1306a** and/or biomechanical health risks **1306b** for the employee (i.e., risks for developing the associated health condition). Risk **1306** may include a prediction of a health condition that may occur. For example, where the recent health data for an employee indicates a trend of increasing body weight for an employee, it may be predicted that the employee is at risk for becoming obese within a given time period. Biometric health risks **1306a** may include, for example, risk of obesity **1350**, risk of injury **1351**, risk of diabetes **1352**, risk of infection **1353**, risk of inflammation **1354**, risk of circulation problems **1355**, risk of cardiovascular disease **1356**, risk of a cardiovascular accidents (e.g., stroke) **1357**, risk of illness (e.g., the flu) **1358**, risk of developing asthma **1359**, risk of developing allergies **1360**, risk of developing bronchitis **1361**, risk of experiencing depression **1362**, and/or the like. Biomechanical health risks **1306b** may include, for example, risk of back injury **1363** (e.g., upper/lower back pain), risk of neck injury **1364**, risk of musculoskeletal syndrome ("MSD") **1365**, risk of carpal tunnel syndrome ("CTS") **1366**, risk of epicondylitis (i.e., tennis/golfer's elbow) **1367**, risk of a rotator cuff injury **1368**, risk of eye disease **1369**, risk of physical fatigue, and/or the like. The prediction of health issues and the identification of associated health risks may provide a proactive environment for predicting and responding to health risks before they escalate into actual health conditions.

Risks of obesity **1350**, injury **1351**, diabetes **1352**, and cardiovascular disease may be based on BMI **1330** and/or body comp **1331**. Risk of infection **1353**, inflammation **1354**, and circulation problems **1355** may be based on body temperature **1310**. Risk for cardio vascular disease **1356**, cardiovascular accidents **1357**, and obesity **1350** may be based on fitness level **1332**, blood pressure **1314**, and heart rate **1313**. Risk for illness **1358**, asthma **1359**, allergies **1360** and bronchitis **1351** may be based on respiratory rate **1316**.

Risk of depression **1362** may be based on the employee's emotions **1336** and thoughts **1337**. Risk of physical fatigue **1370** may be based on the employee's motor functions **1346**.

In some embodiments, an employee that is obese (e.g., having a BMI over about 30) is determined to have a high risk of diabetes **1352** (e.g., a risk that is 7.37 time greater than normal), a high risk of cardiovascular disease **1356** (e.g., a risk that is 2.5 time greater than normal), a high risk of circulation problems **1355** (e.g., a risk that is 6.38 times greater than normal risk for high blood pressure), a high risk of asthma **1359** (e.g., a risk that is 2.72 time greater than normal) and other conditions, such as a risk for high cholesterol that is 1.88 times greater than normal, for high arthritis that is 4.41 times greater than normal, and so forth.

In some embodiments, it is determined that the employee is at risk or already has the flu or other illness if the employee has one or more of a body temperature **1310** over 101 degrees Fahrenheit, a respiratory rate **1333** greater than 20 respirations per minute, and a heart rate **1313** greater than 100 BPM.

In some embodiments, it is determined that the employee is at risk for inflammation where, for example, the employee's blood pressure **1314** is elevated, the employee's heart rate **1313** is irregular and/or the body temperature **1310** is elevated above normal (e.g., above 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

In some embodiments, it is determined that the employee is at risk for circulation problems where, for example, the employee has a low body temperature **1310** (e.g., less than 35° C. (96° F.) measured at the extremities) or a high respiratory rate **1333** (e.g., greater than 20 respirations per minute).

In some embodiments, it is determined that an employee is at risk for depression where, for example, the employee's emotions **1336** and/or thoughts **1337** demonstrate a negative pattern. For example, the employee may be determined to be at risk for depression where they have been determined to have an emotion of "unhappy" for greater than 50% of an observed period of at least one week.

In some embodiments, it is determined that an employee is at risk for fatigue where, for example, the employee's motor functions **1346** are below their normal level. For example, the employee may be determined to be at risk for physical fatigue where their motor function **1346** is less than 75% of its normal level for greater than one hour.

In some embodiments, some or all of the health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, and/or health risks **1306** may be determined/identified using known techniques for extrapolating data. Although the illustrated embodiment includes an exemplary listing of health risks, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that other embodiments may include assessing any variety of health risks that may be of interest to the employee, the employer and/or other users.

In some embodiments, a health plan **1308** may be generated based on the health characteristics **1302**, the health conditions **1304** and/or the health risks **1306**. Accordingly, the health plan **1308** may be based on biometric and/or biomechanical health information for the employee. The health plan **1308** may provide a listing of health goals (e.g., lose ten pounds, reduce calorie intake to two-thousand calories per day, etc.), suggested actions for the employee to take to reach the health goals (e.g., an exercise plan, a diet regime, regular breaks from using the computer, etc.) and/or the like. In some embodiments, the health plan **1308** includes a preventative health plan to help maintain and improve the employee's health over time. In some embodi-

ments, the health plan **1308** may include an interactive health plan that can be modified by the employee and/or the employer and/or used to track the employee's progress relative to the plan goals, and/or the like.

In some embodiments, the health plan **1308** may be determined using a discrete health test, or formulated from a plurality of health tests (e.g., current and historical health profile data) to determine the plan based upon a health test trend (e.g., the employee's blood pressure is rising, the employee has gained weight, the employee's BMI is higher, the employee is underweight, the employee's resting heart rate is low or high based upon activity level, etc.). In some embodiments, the health plan is generated by calculating the employee's ideal health characteristics/conditions based on the current health characteristics/conditions/risks. In some embodiments, the difference between the current and ideal health characteristics/conditions/risks is used to identify or generate a corresponding health plan **1308**.

FIG. 13B illustrates an exemplary health report **1380** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Health report **1380** may be generated based on health profile **1300** and/or other profile information (e.g., personal profile data) for the employee. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the health report **1380** includes personal profile information **1382**, health test result data **1384** (e.g., corresponding to health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, and health risk **1306** of the health profile **1300**), health plan data **1386** (e.g., corresponding to the health plan **1308** of the health profile **1300**), and logged health activities **1388** (e.g., corresponding to activity entries by the employee, as discussed in more detail below).

Method **1220** may include providing a health profile, as depicted at block **1226**. Providing a health profile may include providing some or all of the content of the health profile **1300** for display to the employee, the employer, a medical practitioner, an emergency responder, or the like. In some embodiments, the health profile **1300** may be provided via a health report document. For example, the server **104** may serve, to the employee's computer **130** and/or the employer's computer **103** a health report document that is the same or similar to the health report **1380**.

In some embodiments, the health profile **1300** may be communicated via an interactive interface. For example, the server **104** may serve, to the employee's computer **130** and/or the employer's computer **103**, an interactive health dashboard **1390** for communicating/displaying information of the health profile **1300** to the employee (e.g., via computer **130**) and/or the employer (e.g., via computer **103**). In some embodiments, the interactive health dashboard **1390** may enable a user (e.g., the employee) to selectively view/edit health profile information **109** (e.g., including the health profile **1300**, the personal profile data **1382**, activity data **1388** and/or the like) for the employee. For example, an employee may login to the health dashboard **1390** via an application (e.g., a web browser or other network access application) of the computer **130** and interact with the dashboard **1390** to update their personal profile data **1382** (e.g., name, age, etc.), enter health activity information (e.g., food they have eaten, exercises they have competed, etc.), review the health profile data **1300**, initiate a health test and so forth.

Providing the health report (including the health characteristics **1302** and conditions **1304**) may help to "inform" the employee regarding their health status. Providing the health report (including the health risks **1306**) may help to "protect" the employee by alerting them to potential problems that may need to be addressed. Providing the health report

(including the health plans **1308**) may help to “reinforce” the employee by providing a course of action that suggests actions that the employee should take to reduce their risk of developing health problems.

In some embodiments, an interactive health dashboard **1390** may enable the employer to selectively view data of the health profile **1300** (e.g., including health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, health risks **1306** and/or health plans **1308**) for some or all of their employees. For example, an employer may login to the health dashboard **1390** via an application (e.g., a web browser) of the computer **103** and use the dashboard **1390** view/edit employees’ personal profile **1382**, the health profile **1300**, the health activities **1388**, and so forth.

In some embodiments, where the health profile **1300** is indicative of the employee incurring a health crisis (e.g., a stroke, heart attack, etc.), the server **104** may generate an alert to emergency personnel, the employer or others. For example, upon detecting that the employee is currently having a heart attack, the server **104** may send an automated alert to the employer (e.g., via computer **103**) and make an automated emergency call to the fire department, the police department, a hospital, onsite medical response personnel located at the work facility, and/or other emergency response personnel (e.g., via the network server **110**).

An alert may be generated where it is determined that the employee is experiencing a serious medical condition based on a health characteristic/condition falling outside of a normal range (e.g., falling below a minimum threshold value and/or exceeding a maximum threshold value) such as a respiration rate **1316** outside of the normal range of 12-120 breaths per minute, blood pressure **1314** outside of the normal range of 90/60-180/120, blood oxygenation level above 90%, a posture **1338** indicative of the employee being slumped over or on the floor and/or the like. In some embodiments, an abnormal characteristic or condition may be compared to other characteristics or conditions to confirm that they are, as a whole, consistent with an emergency actually occurring before alerting the corresponding response personnel, thereby reducing the likelihood of a false alert based on an inaccurate measurement (e.g., due to a faulty sensor **120**). For example, an alert may not be provided where the heart rate **1313** exceeds an upper threshold limit but the other characteristics and conditions remain relatively unchanged (i.e., they are not elevated or low compared to their baseline).

In some embodiments, where the health profile **1300** is indicative of the employee incurring a serious health risks (e.g., high potential for one of the health risk **1306** or the like), the server **104** may provide a notification to the employer and/or medical practitioners. For example, upon detecting that the employee is at risk of developing diabetes, the server **104** may transmit an automated notification to the employer (e.g., via the computer **103**) and/or the employee’s physician (e.g., via the network server **110**).

In some embodiments, the employee health information **109** for the employee includes a record/log of the employee’s health information. For example, the employee health profile data **109** may include, for each employee, employee personal profile data (e.g., name, age, etc.) **1312**, the current/historical employee health profile **1300**, the current/historical employee activity data **1318**, and so forth.

FIG. **14** is an exemplary database structure **1400** of health information **109** stored in the database **108** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the exemplary health information **109** is structured to include the following tables: employee data

1402, health test **1404**, protect **1406**, muscle tension **1408**, posture **1410**, employee profile **1412**, address **1414**, health plan **1416**, and health goals **1418**. Each of the tables for a given user (e.g., employee) may include the same primary key (“PK”) that is unique with respect to other users, and, thus, may be used to identify tables/records for the given user. For example, all of the tables having health information for the employee “John Doe” (having an employee ID of “1234”) may include the primary key of “1234”.

The employee data table **1402** may include the employee’s general user information. For example the employee data table **1402** may include entries for the employee’s last name, first name, password, social security number, a remote login code, e.g., RSA code, user identification number and/or the like.

The health test table **1404** may include entries that reflect results of one more health tests of the employee (e.g., health test conducted using sensors **120** of workstation **102**). The health test table **1404** may be dependent on employee data table **1402**. In some embodiments, health test table **1404** may include a unique test number, as well as measured data for the respective test. For example, the health test table **1404** may include data relating to measured health characteristics **1302** such as body temperature, body weight, body fat, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure, blood condition, body position, eye movement, and/or the like.

The protect table **1406**, the posture table **1410** and/or the muscle tension table **1408** may include entries that reflect one or more health conditions **1304** for the employee associated with the given test number of health test table **1404**. The protect table **1406**, the posture table **1410** and/or the muscle tension table **1408** may be dependent on health test table **1404**. In some embodiments, each of the protect table **1406**, the posture table **1410** and/or the muscle tension table **1408** may include a unique test number, as well as measured/determined data for the respective condition. For example, the protect table **1406** may include entries for the employee’s user ID, body mass, resting heart rate, target heart rate and maximum heart rate. The muscle tension table **1408** may include entries for related to the employee’s muscle tension. In some embodiments, the muscle tension table **1408** includes data used to assess muscle tension, such as arm position, test time, shoulder position, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the muscle tension table **1408** includes a muscle tension value indicative of the determined level of the employee’s muscle tension. The posture table **1410** may include entries for related to the employee’s posture. In some embodiments, the posture table **1410** includes data used to assess posture, such as head, arm, hand, feet, torso position and/or the like. In some embodiments, posture table **1410** includes a posture correction indicative of whether the employee’s posture is acceptable and/or suggestions for correcting/improving the employee’s posture. In some embodiments, similar tables may be generated for some or all of the other health conditions **1304** and/or health risks **1306**.

In some embodiments, tables (e.g., a health test table **1404**, protect table **1406**, posture table **1410**, muscle tension table **1408** and/or similar tables may be generated for other health conditions **1304** and/or health risks **1306** may be generated for each iteration of testing. For example, a set of tables may be generated for a first iteration of testing having test number “0001”, a second set of tables may be generated for a second iteration of testing having test number “0002”, and so forth. In some embodiments, the test number may represent the test iteration for the employee, such as a test number of “0001” is the first test taken by the employee, and

a test number of "0010" is the tenth test taken by the employee. In alternative embodiments, the test number may indicate a date and time of a test so that multiple tests in run in a day can be identified by date, time, and/or test iteration.

The employee profile table **1412** may be dependent from the employee data table **1402**. In some embodiments, the employee profile table **1412** may include primary keys of the employee's user ID and permissions that are indicative of which portion of the database the employee can access. For example, in some embodiments, administrators of the employee health program may have permission to download employee health profiles for a plurality of employees. In other embodiments, the permissions may grant some employees permission to access tables aggregating employee profile data, while other employees can only access their own profiles. In other embodiments, the permissions may be set by the employee to restrict the employer's access to health profile data (e.g., may allow no access, access for data aggregation only, or full access by restricted personnel). As one skilled in the art will appreciate, there are multiple different permission types that can be used to grant employees access to the data in the database, and all are included within the scope of this disclosure. The employee profile table **1412** may include entries for the employee's first name, last name, email address, physical address, age, sex, health goal and/or the like.

The address table **1412**, the health plan table **1416**, and the health goals table **1418** may be dependent from the employee profile table **1412**. The address table **1414** may include a primary key of the employee's user ID, and entries for the employee's street address, city, state, zip code, user/employee name and/or the like. The health plan table **1416** may include a primary key of the employee's user ID, and entries for the employee's employee name, weight, calorie intake, cholesterol level, sodium intake, exercise regimen, blood glucose level, and/or the like. Health plan table **146** may reflect aspect of health plan(s) **1308** for the employee. The health goals table **1418** may include a primary key of the employee's user ID, and entries for target weight, calorie intake, cholesterol level, sodium intake, exercise regimen, blood glucose level, and/or the like. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, some embodiments of the invention may include one, both or none of the health plan and health goals tables depending upon the implementation of the system. As one skilled in the art will also appreciate, the health plan table **1416** and health goals table **1418** can be compared to one another to determine a deviation between the two that is indicative of the employee meeting, exceeding or falling short of their health goals. In some embodiments, a notification indicative of the employee meeting, exceeding or falling short of their health goals may be provided to the employee and/or the employer (e.g., via the interactive health dashboard **1390**).

It will be appreciated that the method **1220** is an exemplary embodiment of methods that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The method **1220** may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The method **1220** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the method **1220** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as server modules **1210**. The order of the method **1220** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

Collecting and Displaying Health Information:

In some embodiments, a health monitoring application (e.g., executed by server **104**) provides various user inter-

faces for interacting with the employee health information, including health profile data, health reports, and the like. For example, a user may be able to login to the application to view or edit health information for themselves or employees. In some embodiments, health information may be communicated via a health monitoring widget and/or an interactive health dashboard (e.g., dashboard **1390**). For example, upon a user (e.g., an employee) logging in to the health monitoring application, the user's desktop may be populated with a widget that displays a summary of the most recent health profile data for the employee and/or the user may be able to launch an interactive health dashboard that allows the user to view/edit their health information and/or control the execution of health test for the employee.

FIG. **15** is a flowchart that illustrates an interactive health monitoring method **1500** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **1500** may include displaying a login screen, as depicted at block **1502**. In some embodiments, the login screen includes fields for entering user login credentials such as user ID, name, employee number, social security number, password, RSA code, and/or the like. For example, FIG. **16** illustrates an exemplary login screen **1600** that may be displayed to a user via a computer display in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The login screen **1600** includes a login dialog **1602** having name field **1604** for the entry of a user name, a password field **1606** for the entry of a user's password, and a login button **1608** that may be selected to submit the credentials for validation. In some embodiments, the login screen **1600** may be displayed to an employee, employer, or other personnel via a graphical user interface of the employee computer **130**, the employer computer **103**, a remote computer **112** and/or the like. Upon selection of the login button **1608**, the login credentials that have been entered by the user may be received as depicted at block **1504**. For example, the login credential submitted may be received by the server **104** for use in authenticating the user login credentials.

In some embodiments, method **1500** may include authenticating the login credentials as depicted at block **1506**. In some embodiments, authenticating the login credentials may be provided by execution of user verification module **1210a**. In some embodiments, authenticating the login credentials may include comparing the received credentials to user credentials stored in database **108** to determine whether or not the user has permissions to access the employee health monitoring application. Where the credentials are not authenticated, the user may be denied access, and returned to the display of the login screen as described with regard to block **1502**. Where the login credentials are authenticated, the method **1500** may proceed to displaying a home screen with an option to access the employee health monitoring application, as depicted at block **1508**. For example, if the login credentials are authenticated, a home page screen **1700** (e.g., a user desktop screen) including a user selectable employee health monitoring application icon **1702** may be displayed, as depicted in FIG. **17**.

In some embodiments, the home page screen **1700** may include an employee health status widget **1704**. The employee health status widget **1704** may be displayed on the user's home screen in response to the user successfully logging into the health monitoring application such that the employee can view at least some of their health information and/or corresponding health alerts while working with other applications (e.g., word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, etc.) on their computer **130**. The employee health status widget **1704** may provide the employee with

feedback regarding their health condition based on their most recent health tests and health reports. For example, the health status widget **1704** may include a health status avatar **1703**, a health summary **1706**, a performance indicator **1708**, an emotion avatar **1710**, and/or the like. The health status avatar **1703** may include a graphical depiction of the employee's current health. For example, the health status avatar **1703** may include a graphical depiction of a human body that provides a graphical depiction of areas of the employee's body that may require attention. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the health status avatar **1703** includes a graphic alert including the message "You are experiencing high blood pressure" and a heart graphic that may be displayed in response to determining that the employee has high blood pressure. Similar graphic alerts may be provided for other characteristics, conditions and/or risks. For example, a graphic alert including the message "Your eyes are fatigued" and a corresponding graphic at the eyes of the health status avatar **1703** may be provided in response to a determination that the employee's eye are fatigued.

In some embodiments, the health status avatar **1703** may include a coaching avatar that provides instructions, suggestions, and/or demonstrations that are intended to help coach the employee in improving their health and accomplishing one or more of their health goals. For example, as described herein, the health status avatar **1703** may provide an animated demonstration of an exercise that can be performed to help the employee alleviate a health alert condition, accomplish one or more of their health goals, or the like. In some embodiments, the health status avatar **1703** may provide the information audibly (e.g., via speakers of the user computer), with the avatar being animated such that it appears the avatar is speaking to the user.

In some embodiments, the health summary **1706** displays of some or all of the current health characteristics, conditions and/or risks for the employee. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the health summary **1706** includes a listing of various health characteristics/conditions each accompanied by a check indicative of the characteristic/condition being acceptable or a flag indicative of the characteristic/condition needing attention. Thus, the health summary **1706** may provide a listing of current health characteristics, conditions, and/or risks for the employee and corresponding alerts for health characteristics, conditions, and/or risks that may require attention.

In some embodiments, the performance indicator **1708** includes an indication of how the employee is performing. For example, the illustrated embodiment, the performance indicator includes a graphical scale indicating the current determined level of stress for the employee.

In some embodiments, the emotion avatar **1710** includes a graphical depiction of the employee's current emotional state, facial expression, gestures, and/or the like. For example, in response to determining that the employee is smiling and/or happy (e.g., via the determined emotion **1336** and/or the determined facial movement **1345**), the avatar **1710** may be dynamically updated to include a graphic illustration of a smile, as depicted, to mimic the current emotion and/or facial expression of the employee. Thus, the avatar **1710** may reflect the employee's current emotional state, current facial expressions, gestures, and/or the like.

In some embodiments, the health status information provided via the health widget **1704** is based on the most recent health report **1300** for the employee. For example, where the employee undergoes a health test once per hour, the health widget **1704** may be updated once per hour to display

information corresponding to the most recent health test. As a further example, where the employee undergoes continuous health testing (e.g., once per second, once per minute, etc.), the health widget **1704** may be updated continuously (e.g., once per second, once per minute, etc.) to display information corresponding to the most recent health test. Such an embodiment may provide the employee with real-time feedback regarding their current health status/profile.

In response to the user selecting the employee health monitoring application icon **1702** (and/or the health status widget **1704**), method **1500** may include proceeding to determining whether the user is an employee to be monitored or other type of user (e.g., an employer that has access to review employee health information **109**) as depicted at block **1512**. In some embodiments, the determination of the type of user is based on a "user type" associated with their user profile. For example, a first set of login credentials may be associated with an employee profile and a second set of login credentials may be associated with an employer profile. Where the user is determined to not be an employee, the method **1500** may proceed to providing a reviewer interface, as depicted at block **1514**. The reviewer interface is discussed in more detail below with regard to FIG. **27**.

Where the user is determined to be an employee, the method **1500** may proceed to determining whether the employee is a new employee or existing employee, as depicted at block **1516**. The user may be determined to be a "new employee" where, for example, the user has not previously logged into the system and/or has not yet provided basic employee personal profile information (e.g., sex, age, e-mail address, etc.). The user may be determined to be an "existing user" where, for example, the user has previously logged into the system and/or has already provided basic employee personal profile information. In some embodiments, upon determining that the user is a "new user", method **1500** may proceed to collecting user personal profile information, as depicted at block **1518**. For example, an edit profile dialog **1800**, as depicted in FIG. **18**, may be displayed, thereby prompting the user to enter employee personal profile information (e.g., the employee's height, age, gender, health goal, etc.). In some embodiment, the edit profile dialog **1800** may be pre-populated with any information that is already known (e.g., stored in database **108**). For example, where the user's name is known based on the login-credentials, the "name" field may be populated with the user's name. The user may enter/edit the personal profile information via the various user profile information fields **1802** and may submit the updated user profile information via section of the submit button **1804**. Method **1500** may include updating the employee's health information to reflect the updated employee personal profile information, as depicted at block **1520**. For example, upon the user entering/editing the various user profile information fields **1802** and selecting the submit button **1804**, the employee health information **109** stored in database **108** may be updated to reflect the updated personal profile data of the fields **1802**. Such profile data may be stored as separate records, tables or fields in the database (e.g., such as those discussed with regard to the data structure of FIG. **14**).

In some embodiments, upon the user having submitted their personal profile information (e.g., via edit profile screen **1800**) and/or determining that the user is not a "new user" (i.e., the user is an "existing user"), method **1500** may proceed to providing an interactive health dashboard (e.g., interactive health dashboard **1390**) as depicted at block **1522**. In some embodiments, the interactive health dashboard may include user selectable options to review/edit

their health information, review/edit their health profile data, and/or initiate one or more employee health tests.

FIG. 19 is a flowchart that illustrates a method 1900 for providing an interactive health dashboard in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method 1900 may include displaying the interactive health dashboard, as depicted at block 1902. In some embodiments, displaying the interactive health dashboard includes displaying a default view of the interactive health dashboard. For example, displaying a default view of the interactive dashboard may include display of a health dashboard 1390 similar to that described with regard to FIG. 21. As discussed in more detail herein, the health dashboard 1390 may include a profile tab 2102 that is user selectable to access employee personal profile data, a report tab 2104 that is user selectable to access employee health profile data, and a test tab 2106 that is user selectable to access employee health test functions. In some embodiments, the profile tab 2102 is displayed by default.

In some embodiments, upon the user selecting the profile tab 2102, as depicted at block 1904, method 1900 may include displaying the interactive profile tab 2102, as depicted at block 1906. FIG. 20 is a flowchart that illustrates a method 2000 for displaying the profile tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method 2000 may include displaying profile content, as depicted at block 2002. FIG. 21 illustrates an exemplary display of the profile tab 210 including profile content 2103 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the health profile content 2103 of the profile tab 2102 includes an interactive avatar 2110, health profile information 2112 and an edit profile button 2114. In some embodiments, the server 104 may serve the profile content 2103 to the employee computer 130 for display.

In some embodiments, the avatar 2110 may provide for communicating health information to the user. For example, the avatar 2110 may include an animated character that “speaks” to the user (e.g., via speakers of computer 130 and/or an audio headset) to communicate the profile information. For example, the avatar may ask audibly, “Would you like to update your user profile information? If so, select the ‘edit profile’ button.” Such communication may help to encourage the employee to interact with the employee health monitoring application and/or provide valuable instructions for how to use the application. In some embodiments, upon initially opening the employee health monitoring application, the avatar 2110 may direct the employee to certain data that may be of interest and/or task that should be completed. For example, at the initial display of the profile tab 2102, the avatar 2110 may state audibly, “You have not conducted a health test today, would you like to do so? If so, select the ‘test’ tab.” As a further example, at the initial display of the profile tab 2102, the avatar 2110 may state audibly, “Your test results indicate that you are at risk for eye fatigue and your posture is poor. Please select the report tab to receive suggestions on how to reduce eye fatigue and improve your posture.” In some embodiments, the avatar 2110 may include a “coaching avatar” that provides instructions, suggestions, and/or demonstrations that are intended to help coach the employee in improving their health and accomplishing one or more of their health goals of their health plan. For example, as described herein, the avatar 2110 may provide an animated demonstration of an exercise (e.g., how to perform sit-ups, stretching, or the like) that can be performed by the employee to accomplish one or more goals of

their health plan (e.g., complete a daily exercise goal) or otherwise improve their health (e.g., reduce an identified health risk).

As discussed herein, a similar avatar may be provided in each of the tab displays to help communicate the corresponding health information to the user and assist them with using the employee health monitoring application. Thus, an employee may be more likely to use the application and follow the health plan for the employee.

In some embodiments, the profile information 2112 reflects the current health information 109 stored in database 108. The profile information 2112, thus, may be based on personal profile information entered by the employee (e.g., the employee’s name) and/or health profile information obtained as a result of test (e.g., the employee’s weight). In some embodiments, upon user selection of the “Edit Profile” button 2114, as depicted at block 2004, an interface for editing the user’s personal profile information may be displayed, as depicted at block 2006. For example, the edit profile screen 1800 of FIG. 18 may be displayed, thereby prompting the user to enter/edit the employee personal profile information. Where the user edits their personal profile information (e.g., via entry of edits and selection of the “Submit” button 1804), as depicted at block 2008, the health information 109 stored in database 108 may be updated to reflect the updated personal profile information, as depicted at block 2010. Upon selecting the option to “Exit” (e.g., selecting the “Exit” button 1806), as depicted at block 2012, the method 2000 may return to displaying the interactive health dashboard as discussed with regard to block 1902.

In some embodiments, upon the user selecting the test tab 2106, as depicted at block 1908 of FIG. 19, method 1900 may include displaying the interactive test tab 2106, as depicted at block 1910. FIG. 22 is a flowchart that illustrates a method 2200 for displaying the interactive test tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method 2200 may include displaying health test content, as depicted at block 2202. FIGS. 23A and 23B illustrate exemplary displays of the test tab 2106 including health test content 2300 in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, health test content 2300 includes the avatar 2110, test schedule information 2302, a “Run Calibration” button 2304, a “Conduct Health Test” button 2306, and an “Exit” button 2308. In some embodiments, the server 104 may serve the health test content 2300 to computer 130 for display.

In some embodiments, upon initially displaying the test tab 2106, the avatar 2110 may direct the employee to certain data that may be of interest and/or task that should be completed relating to health test. For example, at the initial display of the test tab 2106, the avatar 2110 may state audibly, “A health test was conducted at 9 am and another one is scheduled for 10 am. Would you like to conduct a test now? If so, select the ‘Conduct Health Test’ button.” In some embodiments, the health test schedule information 2302 reflects when prior tests were conducted and/or when future tests are scheduled.

In some embodiments, upon user selection of the “Run Calibration” button 2304, as depicted at block 2204, a calibration routine (e.g., calibration module 1210b) may be conducted, as depicted at block 2206. For example, a scan of the sensors 120 may be conducted to collect a set of baseline measurements for some or all of the health characteristics 1302 and/or conditions 1304. The baseline measurements may be used to confirm the operation of the

sensors **120** and/or stored in health data **109** for use in comparisons to other health data collected. In some embodiments, the calibration collects normative data regarding the employee that can be used to properly interpret relative aspects of the health data. In some embodiments, the baseline measurements may not be added to the content of a health profile data and/or health report **1380** for the employee. In some embodiments, during execution of a calibration routine, a display similar to that of FIG. **23B** may be displayed, stating “Calibrating, Please Wait” such that the user is aware of the current state of system **100**.

In some embodiments, upon user selection of the “Conduct Health Test” button **2306**, as depicted at block **2208**, a health test routine (e.g., monitoring module **1210c**) may be executed, as depicted at block **2210**. For example, the sensors **120** may be monitored to collect health data **200** and/or a corresponding health profile data **1300** and/or a corresponding report **1380** may be generated. In some embodiments, during execution of the health test, a display similar to that of FIG. **23B** may be displayed, stating “Running Test, Please Wait” such that the user is aware of the current state of system **100**.

FIG. **24** is a flowchart that illustrates a method **2400** for conducting a health test in accordance with one or more embodiment of the present invention. Method **2400** may include monitoring health sensors to collect health data, as depicted at block **2402**. In some embodiments, monitoring health sensors to collect health data includes monitoring health sensors **120** (e.g., one or more temperature sensors (e.g., thermocouples, IR sensors, etc.) **202**, one or more blood condition sensors (e.g., pulse oximeters) **204**, one or more blood pressure sensors (e.g., blood pressure cuff) **206**, one or more position sensors (e.g., force transducers) **208**, one or more body fat sensors (e.g., metallic contacts) **210**, one or more 3D position sensors (e.g., video sensors) **212**, one or more audio sensors (e.g., microphone) **214**, respiration sensors **216**, neural sensors **218**, and/or the like) to collect health data **200** (e.g., temperature data **200a**, blood condition data **200b**, blood pressure data **200c**, position data **200d**, body fat data **200e**, 3D position data **200f**; audio data **200g**, respiration data **200h**, neural data **200i**, and/or the like). In some embodiments, the health data is received by the server **104** as discussed herein.

In some embodiments, method **2400** may include processing the collected health data to generate health profile data, as depicted at block **2404**. For example, the health data **200** collected may be processed by the server **104** to generate a health profile **1300** as described herein with regard to FIG. **13**, including health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, health risks **1306**, and/or health plans **1308**.

In some embodiments, method **2400** may include updating employee health information, as depicted at block **2406**. For example, the employee’s user health information **109** stored in database **108** (e.g., the tables of data structure **1400**) may be updated to include the data of the health profile **1300** (e.g., including health characteristics **1302**, health conditions **1304**, health risk **1306** and one or more health plans **1308**).

In some embodiments, method **2400** may include determining whether an alert condition exists, as depicted at block **2408**, and, if an alert condition does exist, providing an alert relating to the alert condition, as depicted at block **2410**. Such a determination may be made in the course of the health test such that an immediate alert may be provided to the necessary personnel. As discussed above, in some embodiments, determining whether an alert condition exists

may include determining whether the health data **200** and/or the health profile **1300** is indicative of the employee incurring a health crisis (e.g., a stroke, heart attack, etc.), and, if it is determined that the employee is experiencing a health crisis, providing a corresponding alert to emergency personnel and/or the employer. For example, upon detecting that the employee is currently having a heart attack, the server **104** may generate an automated alert to the employer (e.g., via computer **103**) and/or an automated emergency request call to the fire department, the police department, a hospital, onsite medical response personnel located at the work facility, and/or other emergency response personnel (e.g., via network server **110** and a remote computer **112**). In some embodiments, determining whether an alert condition exists may include determining whether the health report **1300** is indicative of the employee incurring a serious health risk (e.g., high potential for one of the health risk **1306** or the like), and, if it is determined that the employee is experiencing a serious health risk, the server **104** generating a notification to the employer and/or medical practitioners. For example, upon detecting that the employee is at risk of developing diabetes, the server **104** may generate an automated notification indicative of the risk to the employer (e.g., via computer **103**) and/or the employee’s physician (e.g., via network server **110** and a remote computer **112**).

In some embodiments, the determination of whether an employee is experiencing an alert condition may be based on comparison of the health data **200** and/or the health profile **1300** to predetermined threshold limits. For example, as discussed above, it may be determined that the employee is experiencing a serious medical condition where a health characteristic **1302** or condition **1304** falls outside of a predetermined normal/threshold range (e.g., falling below a minimum threshold value and/or exceeding a maximum threshold value) such as a respiration rate **1316** outside of the normal range of 12-120 breaths per minute, blood pressure **1314** outside of the normal range of 90/60-180/120, blood oxygenation level above 90%, a posture **1338** indicative of the employee being slumped over or on the floor. In some embodiments, an abnormal characteristic or condition is compared to other characteristics or conditions to confirm that they are, as a whole, consistent with an emergency actually occurring before alerting the corresponding response personnel, thereby reducing the likelihood of a false alert based on an inaccurate measurement (e.g., due to a faulty sensor **120**). For example, an alert may not be provided where the heart rate **1313** exceeds an upper threshold limit but the other related characteristics and conditions (e.g., blood pressure and blood oxygenation) remain relatively unchanged (i.e., they are not abnormally elevated or low compared to their baseline). In some embodiments, the employee may be displayed an option to override the alert prior to it being sent. Such an option may enable the employee to inhibit false alerts from being transmitted.

In some embodiments, method **2400** may include determining whether the health test is complete, as depicted at block **2412**, and terminating monitoring the health sensors where the health test is determined to be complete, as depicted at block **2414**. In some embodiments, the health test is determined to be complete when the required amount of health data has been collected and processed. For example, where the health test requires only a single set of measurements from the sensors **120** (e.g., a single measurement from each of the sensors **120**), the health test may be complete after a single iteration of monitoring, processing, updating, and checking for alert conditions. As a further example, where the health test requires a set of measure-

ments from the sensors **120** be collected over a given period of time (e.g., one minute, five minutes, one hour, eight hours), the health test may not be complete until the expiration of the given time period. Thus, for example, iterations of health testing may continue for one minute, five minutes, one hour, eight hours, or the like.

Although the illustrated embodiment refers to the method **2400** for conducting a health test being executed in response to a user request via selection of the “Conduct Health Test” button, it will be appreciated that such a test routine may be executed in response to any variety of requests. In some embodiments, the method **2400** is executed automatically in accordance with a corresponding test schedule as discussed above. For example, where a health test schedule requires collection of health data **200** at a given time (e.g., 12:00 pm), method **2400** may be automatically executed at 12:00 pm. As another example, where a health test schedule requires the continuous collection of a batch of health data **200** from 8:00 am-6:00 pm, method **2400** may be automatically executed at 8:00 am, and the health test may not be completed until 6:00 pm. As yet another example, where a health test schedule requires the repeated collection of health data **200** hourly from 8:00 am-6:00 pm, method **2400** may be automatically executed at 8:00 am, 9:00 am, and so forth. In some embodiments, the method may be executed in response to an employer’s request to execute a health test of the employee (e.g., via selection of the “Conduct Health Test” button **2306**).

Upon user selection of the option to “Exit” (e.g., selecting the “Exit” button **2308** or **2310** of FIG. **23A** or **23B**), as depicted at block **2212** of FIG. **22**, the method may return to displaying the interactive health dashboard as discussed with regard to block **1902**. In some embodiments, the user may abort a health test, using the exit button **2310**, regardless of whether the health test was initiated by the employee or initiated automatically by the system **100** (e.g., based on a test schedule).

In some embodiments, upon the user selecting the report tab **2104**, as depicted at block **1912** of FIG. **19**, method **1900** may include displaying the interactive report tab **2104**, as depicted at block **1914**. FIGS. **25A** and **25B** include a flowchart that illustrates a method **2500** for displaying the interactive report tab in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **2500** may include displaying health report content, as depicted at block **2502**. FIG. **26A-26G** illustrate an exemplary displays of the health report tab **2100** including health report content **2600** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the server **104** may serve the health report content **2600** to computer **130** for display.

In some embodiments, an initial/summary view **2601** of the health report tab **2102** includes the interactive avatar **2110**, an emotion avatar **2603**, an overview/summary of the health profile data **2602**, a “View Full Report” button **2603**, a “View Plan” button **2604**, a “View Info on Chart” button **2606**, a “View Neural Report” button **2608**, and an “Exit” button **2610** (See FIG. **26A**). The emotion avatar **2603** may be similar to the emotion avatar **1710** described with regard to FIG. **17**. For example, the emotion avatar **2603** may include a graphical depiction of the employee’s current emotional state, current facial expressions, gestures, and/or the like. In response to determining that the employee is smiling and/or happy (e.g., via the determined emotion **1336** and/or the determined facial movement **1345**), the avatar **2603** may be dynamically updated to include graphic illustration of a smile, as depicted, to mimic the current facial emotion and/or expression of the employee. Thus, the avatar

2603 may reflect the employee’s current emotional state, facial expressions, gestures, and/or the like

The overview of the health profile data **2602** may include the determined values for some or all of the health characteristics and/or health conditions of the most recent health profile data **1300** for the employee.

In some embodiments, where the health profile data **1300** identifies one or more health risk for the employee, a warning icon may be displayed in association to a user selectable link “View Risk Info”. For example, where the health profile data **1300** indicates the user is at risk for obesity and diabetes and/or heart disease, warning icon **2610** and the link to “View Risk Info” **2612** may be displayed in the summary view of the report tab **2104**. In some embodiments, where a condition is determined to be serious (e.g., where an alert condition exists), the warning icon **2610** may be replaced with an “alert icon” that is intended to communicate the importance of the alert condition. For example, the warning icon **2610** may include a yellow triangle, where as the “alert icon” may include a flashing red “X” intended to catch the employee’s attention. In some embodiments, upon selecting the alert icon, the employee may be prompted to override a corresponding alert or allow the alert to be transmitted. If the employee selects to override the alert, the alert may not be sent. Thus, a user may be able to control the sending of alerts, including those generated during execution of the health test of method **2000**. If the employee does not override the alert in a given period of time (e.g., 10 seconds) the alert may be transmitted. In some embodiments, a similar warning icon and/or interactive alert icon is displayed via the health status widget **1704**.

In some embodiments, where the health profile data **1300** identifies one or more health characteristics/conditions that may require attention/correction, a user selectable link for navigating to a corresponding set of information is displayed. For example, where the health profile data **1300** indicates the employee’s posture is incorrect or otherwise needs to be adjusted, a user selectable link to “View Posture Info” **2614** may be provided. As a further example, where the health profile data **1300** indicates the employee’s eyes may be fatigued, a user selectable link to “View Eye Info” **2616** may be provided.

Upon selection of the “View Plan” button **2604**, as depicted at block **2504**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying health plan interface view, as depicted at block **2506**. FIG. **26B** illustrates an exemplary health plan interface view **2620** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, the health plan interface view **2620** may include a health plan summary **2622**. The health plan summary **2622** may provide a summary of some or all of the current health plan **1308** for the employee. For example, the health plan summary **2622** may include a listing of health goals specified by health plan **1308**. In some embodiments, the employee can edit the plan **1308** by selecting and modifying a particular goal via the health plan interface view.

In some embodiments, the health plan interface view **2620** may include a health activity summary **2624** that reflects activities undertaken by the employee in an attempt to follow the health plan **1308**. For example, the health activity summary **2624** may include a listing of information related to what the employee has eaten that day (e.g., calorie, fat, sodium, and fiber intake) and/or exercises undertaken by the employee. In some embodiments, upon selection of an “Add Activity” button **2626**, an activity entry view **2630** may be displayed, as depicted in FIG. **26C**. The employee may select the “Food” button **2632** to enter a size/type of

food consumed (one serving of oatmeal), and or select the “Activity” button **2634** to enter a time/type of activity (e.g., running for 1 hour).

In response to receiving any edits to the plan (e.g., edit of the health plan and/or entry of activities), as depicted at block **2508**, the employee’s health information is updated to reflect the changes, as depicted at block **2510**. For example, the employee’s user health information **109** may be updated to include the modified health plan data and/or the activities entered. Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2628**, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary plan view of FIG. **26A**.

Upon selection of the risk icon/link **2610/2612**, as depicted at block **2512**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying a risk interface view, as depicted at block **2514**. FIG. **26D** illustrates an exemplary risk interface view **2640** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The risk interface view **2640** may include a health risk dialog **2642** that alerts the user to health risk **1306** identified in their current health profile data **1300**. For example, where the current health profile data **1300** indicates the user is at risk for obesity and diabetes and/or heart disease, the dialog may inform them of the risk. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may read the content of the dialog aloud to ensure the employee is aware of the risk. Alerting the employee to predicted health issues and/or associated health risks may enable the employee to proactively respond to predicted health issues and/or associated health risks before they escalate into actual health conditions.

In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may include a coaching avatar that provides instructions, suggestions, and/or demonstrations that are intended to help coach the employee in improving their health and accomplishing one or more of their health goals. For example, as described herein, the avatar **2110** may provide an animated demonstration of an exercise (e.g., how to perform sit-ups, stretching, or the like) that can be performed by the employee to accomplish on more goals of their health plan (e.g., complete a daily exercise goal) or otherwise improve their health (e.g., reduce an identified health risk). In some embodiments, the coaching avatar **2110** may include an animated character that talks to the employee to help communicate coaching and suggestions. For example, the avatar **2110** may provide suggestions, such as “Your blood pressure is high, try walking twenty minutes per day to reduce your blood pressure”. The avatar **2110** may provide the information audibly (e.g., via speakers of the user computer), with the avatar **2110** being animated such that it appears the avatar is speaking to the user. As a further example, the coaching avatar **2110** may provide coaching regarding the suggested actions. For example, where the health plan includes performing sit-up exercises, the coaching avatar **2110** may tell the user audibly, “This is how to do a sit-up properly” followed by the avatar **2110** being animated to provide a visual demonstration of how to do a sit-up (See avatar **2110**). Such an interface may provide an aspect of interaction that encourages the employee to listen to, comprehend and act on the provided information. Moreover, such coaching may help to reduce the employee’s level of anxiety about engaging in the suggested activities of the health plan by providing guidance that walks the employee through the steps for completing the suggested activities. Coaching avatars may be provided throughout the interactive health dashboard or similar interfaces (e.g., the health status avatar **1703** of the health status widget **1704**) for communicating

health information and coaching the employee in improving their health and/or accomplishing their health goals.

Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2644**, the method **2500** may return to displaying the initial/summary plan view of FIG. **26A**.

Upon selection of the “View Eye Info” link **2616**, as depicted at block **2516**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying an eye interface view, as depicted at block **2518**. FIG. **26E** illustrates an exemplary eye interface view **2650** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The eye interface view **2650** may include an eye information dialog **2652** that provides suggestions to the employee for reducing eye fatigue. For example, the dialog may suggest that the employee take a break from the computer every twenty minutes, and stare at an object twenty feet away for one minute during the breaks. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may read the content of the dialog aloud to ensure the employee is aware of the exercise. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may include a coaching avatar to help communicate the suggestions for reducing eye fatigue. For example, the avatar **2646** may include an animated demonstration of a user looking away from their monitor to another object located nearby. Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2654**, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary plan view of FIG. **26A**.

Upon selection of the “View Posture Info” link **2614**, as depicted at block **2520**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying a posture interface view, as depicted at block **2522**. FIG. **26F** illustrates an exemplary posture interface view **2660** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The posture interface view **2660** may include a posture information dialog **2662** that includes a summary of the employee’s body position **2664** (e.g., according to the most recent health test) and provides suggestions **2666** to the employee for improving their posture. For example, the suggestion **2666** may suggest that the employee move their lower back against the lumbar support of their chair. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may read the content of the dialog aloud to ensure the employee is aware of their posture and the suggestions to correct/improve their posture. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may include a coaching avatar to help communicate the suggestions for improving the employee’s posture. For example, the avatar **2110** may include an animated demonstration of how to sit in a chair properly. In some embodiments, the dialogue may include buttons to initiate testing of a particular aspect of their posture. For example, upon user selection of one of the “Neck”, “Head”, “Back” or “Hand” buttons **2668**, the server **104** may employ corresponding sensors **104** and/or the computer **130** to acquire health data **200** corresponding thereto, process the health data **200** to determine the current position of the employee’s neck, head, back or hand, and update the summary of their body position **2664** in the dialogue **2662** to reflect their current body position. Such an interactive feature may enable the employee to make incremental adjustments to their body position, initiate a test for one or more parts of the body, and receive instant feedback to ensure they are correcting their body position/posture. In some embodiments, a posture status icon **2667** may provide an indication of the employee’s posture. The icon **2667** may be a warning icon (e.g., yellow triangle) when the employee’s posture needs to be adjusted and may be a positive icon (e.g., a green check) when the employee’s posture is good and, thus, does not need to be adjusted. Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2669**, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary view of FIG. **26A**.

Upon selection of the “View Info on Chart” button **2606**, as depicted at block **2524**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying a chart interface view, as depicted at block **2526**. FIG. 26F illustrates an exemplary chart interface view **2670** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. The chart interface view **2670** may include a chart **2672** displaying a plot of selected parameters. For example, the chart may display a graph of the employee’s weight over a selected period of time (e.g., the last 3 months). In some embodiments, the employee may select one or more parameters (e.g., health characteristics **1302** and/or health conditions **1304**) to be graphed and/or a timeframe over which they are to be graphed, via a “Health Parameter” selection drop-down box **2674** and a “Timeframe” selection drop-down box **2676**, respectively. In some embodiments, the avatar **2110** may instruct the employee to select a parameter and a timeframe to be displayed via the drop-down selections. Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2678**, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary plan view of FIG. 26A.

Upon selection of the “View Report” button **2603**, as depicted at block **2528**, method **2500** may proceed to displaying a health report interface, as depicted at block **2530**. The health report interface may include display of some or all of the information of the health profile **1300** for the employee. For example, the health report interface may include display of a health report similar to that of health report **1380** of FIG. 13B. Upon completion of viewing the health report, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary view of FIG. 26A.

Upon selection of the “View Neural Report” button **2608**, as depicted at block **2532**, the method **2500** may proceed to displaying a neural report interface, as depicted at block **2534**. The neural report interface may include display of the health profile data relating to the neural/brain activity for the employee. For example, the neural report interface may include display of a neural report **2680** as depicted in FIGS. 26H-26K, including an EEG report **2682**, an FFT report **2684**, and a data packets report **2686**. The neural report **2680** may include a neural sensor graphic **2690** indicative of the status of various contacts points with the employee’s scalp. FIG. 26H illustrates an exemplary EEG report **2682** for multiple sensor channels. FIG. 26I illustrates an exemplary EEG report **2682** for a single selected sensor channel. The EEG report **2682** may include a real time data stream and/or log of the neuro signals received from the neural sensors **218**. FIG. 26J illustrates an exemplary FFT report **2684** for a single selected sensor channel. The FFT report **2684** may include a real time data stream and/or log of the neuro signals received from the neural sensors **218** and an FFT histogram display of the various signal types (e.g., delta, theta, alpha, beta, and/or custom bands). FIG. 26K illustrates an exemplary data packets report **2686**. The data packets report **2686** may include a log of data packets transmitted from the neural sensors **218** (e.g., from the neuro-headset **480**), including a log of any data packets that have been lost. Such a data packets report **2686** may help verify data integrity by enabling confirmation of the transmission of neural data **200i** to server **104**.

Upon completion of viewing the health report, the method may return to displaying the initial/summary plan view of FIG. 26A.

Upon selection of the “Exit” button **2610** illustrated in FIG. 26B, as depicted at block **2536**, the method **2500** may return to displaying the interactive health dashboard as discussed with regard to block **1902**.

Upon determining that the user is not an employee (see block **1514** of FIG. 15), but is instead, for example, an employer having permissions to review employee health profile, the method **1500** may proceed to providing a reviewer interface, as depicted at block **1514**. FIG. 27 depicts an exemplary reviewer interface **2700** in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In some embodiments, where the user has permission to review a set of employee’s health information, the drop-down selection box **2702** is populated with the names of the set of employees. Upon selection of an employee (e.g., John Doe), the reviewer interface **2700** may provide an interactive reviewer health dashboard **2704** that is the same or similar to the interactive dashboard that would be displayed to the employee (i.e., the same or similar to the interactive dashboard described above). Thus, for example, the reviewer may review and/or edit the selected employee’s health profile and health report, and even initiate a health test for the employee. Such review may enable the employer to identify health conditions that may need to be addressed, to track employees’ progress with regard to health plans, to ensure employees are engaging with the health monitoring system/application, and/or the like.

In some embodiments, a reviewer interface may enable a reviewer to select a plurality of employee’s to review. For example, a group drop-down box **2706** may enable a reviewer to select a particular facility, region, division, team, or the like. Upon selection of a group (e.g., a particular facility, region, division, team, or the like) the reviewer interface may display health data/reports corresponding the employees that work in the particular facility, region, division, team, or the like. For example, the reviewer may be presented with a report similar to that of report **1380** of FIG. 13B, for the selected group. Such a group report may include the average values of the health characteristics, conditions, risk, plans and/or the like for the group, and/or corresponding statistics that can be used to assess the health of the group (e.g., standard deviations, etc.). Such an embodiment may enable an employer to determine whether or not a particular group of employees (e.g., employees of a facility, region, division, team, or the like) is experiencing normal or abnormal health conditions. For example, where a report for a facility indicates that an abnormally high percentage of the employees at the facility have symptoms of allergies, the reviewer may determine that steps need to be taken at the facility to reduce airborne contaminants that may be causing the allergy symptoms. As a further example, where a report for a team indicates that an abnormally high percentage of the employee team members have symptoms of high stress or depression, the reviewer may determine that steps need to be taken to reduce the stress level and/or depression for the team. Thus, the review of employee health may enable the employer to take steps to improve employee health, which may, in turn, increase the employee’s productivity.

In some embodiments, system **100** may identify whether or not a plurality of employees appears to be experiencing similar conditions, characteristics, risks or the like, and may provide a corresponding alert to the employer. For example, where a report for a facility indicates that an abnormally high percentage of the employees at the facility have symptoms of allergies, the system **100** may generate an alert to the employer regarding the condition.

FIG. 28 is a flowchart that illustrates a method **2800** of assessing health information for a plurality of employees to determine whether an alert condition exists in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. Method **2800** may include monitoring health information for

a plurality of employees, as depicted at block **2801**. In some embodiments, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees may include reviewing the health profile data for a discrete group of employees. For example, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees may include reviewing health profile data for all of the employees that work in a particular facility, region, division, team, or the like. In some embodiments, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees includes determining the number/percentage of the plurality of employees that are experiencing a given characteristic, condition or risk. For example, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees may include determining the percentage of the employee's that have a body weight is above 113 kg (250 lbs.). In some embodiments, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees includes determining a single value for a given characteristic, condition or risk. For example, monitoring health information for a plurality of employees may include determining the average weight for the plurality of employees. Other embodiments may include similar determinations for various other characteristics **1302**, conditions **1304** and risks **1306**.

Method **2800** may include determining whether an alert condition exists based on the review of the health profile data for the plurality of employees, as depicted at block **2802**. In some embodiments, it may be determined that an alert condition exists based on comparison of results of the monitoring to predetermined threshold values. For example, where a threshold percentage for a group of employees over 113 kg (250 lbs.) is 50%, it may be determined that an alert condition exists if greater than 50% of the group of employees has a body weight above 113 kg (250 lbs.). As a further example, where a threshold average weight for a group of employees is 113 kg (250 lbs.), it may be determined that an alert condition exists if the average weight for the group of employees is above 113 kg (250 lbs.). Other embodiments may include similar determinations for various other characteristics **1302**, conditions **1304** and risks **1306**.

In response to determining that an alert condition exists, method **2800** may proceed to providing an alert to the employer relating to the alert condition, as depicted at block **2804**. In some embodiments, providing an alert to the employer relating to the alert condition may include providing the employer with an alert indicating that a plurality of the employees each have health profiles that are of concern. For example, upon logging into the health monitoring application, the employer may be provided with a homepage screen that includes an alert to the condition. Alerting the employer to predicted health issues and/or associated health risks may enable the employer to proactively respond to predicted health issues and/or associated health risks before they escalate into actual health issues. For example, where an alert indicates that a high percentage of employees at a facility are at risk for becoming obese, the employer may be able to implement a dietary program and/or an exercise program for the employees at the facility to help prevent the employees from becoming obese.

FIG. **29** illustrates reviewer homepage screen **2900** including an alert **2902** that may be displayed upon the reviewer logging into the health monitoring application in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present technique. Alert **2902** may include an icon, text, or other information that is indicative of a plurality of employees experiencing health characteristics, conditions, or risk that may be of concern. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the alert **2902** is provided in a widget on the employer's desktop and states, "Greater than 50% of the employees

at the West facility have body weights over 250 lbs.>". In some embodiments, a similar alert may be provided within the interactive health dashboard displayed to the employer. For example, referring to FIG. **27**, where the employer selects the "West Facility" in the "Group to review" dropdown box **2706**, the resulting display may include a similar alert stating "Greater than 50% of the employees at the West facility have body weights over 250 lbs.>". Such embodiments may provide employers with the ability to identify and remedy health issues that may be affecting a group of employees.

It will be appreciated that the methods **1500**, **1900**, **2000**, **2200**, **2400**, **2500** and **2800** are exemplary embodiments of methods that may be employed in accordance with techniques described herein. The methods **1500**, **1900**, **2000**, **2200**, **2400**, **2500** and **2800** may be modified to facilitate variations of its implementations and uses. The methods **1500**, **1900**, **2000**, **2200**, **2400**, **2500** and **2800** may be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof. Some or all of the methods **1500**, **1900**, **2000**, **2200**, **2400**, **2500** and **2800** may be implemented by one or more of the modules/applications described herein, such as server modules **1210** and/or computer module **308**. The order of the method **1500**, **1900**, **2000**, **2200**, **2400**, **2500** and **2800** may be changed, and various elements may be added, reordered, combined, omitted, modified, etc.

In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed a typical preferred embodiment of the invention, and although specific terms are employed, the terms are used in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. The invention has been described in considerable detail with specific reference to these illustrated embodiments. It will be apparent, however, that various modifications and changes can be made within the spirit and scope of the invention as described in the foregoing specification.

As used throughout this application, the word "may" is used in a permissive sense (i.e., meaning having the potential to), rather than the mandatory sense (i.e., meaning must). The words "include", "including", and "includes" mean including, but not limited to. As used throughout this application, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the content clearly indicates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to "an element" may include a combination of two or more elements. Unless specifically stated otherwise, as apparent from the discussion, it is appreciated that throughout this specification discussions utilizing terms such as "processing", "computing", "calculating", "determining" or the like refer to actions or processes of a specific apparatus, such as a special purpose computer or a similar special purpose electronic processing/computing device. In the context of this specification, a special purpose computer or a similar special purpose electronic processing/computing device is capable of manipulating or transforming signals, typically represented as physical electronic or magnetic quantities within memories, registers, or other information storage devices, transmission devices, or display devices of the special purpose computer or similar special purpose electronic processing/computing device.

The techniques described herein may include or otherwise be used in conjunction with techniques described in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/504,638 filed on Jul. 5, 2011 and titled "SYSTEM, COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHOD FOR IMPROVING AND MONITORING THE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,831 filed on

Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,790 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING COGNITIVE AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,796 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "COMPUTER MOUSE SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,800 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "CHAIR PAD SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,807 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "FLOOR MAT SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,810 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING BIOMETRIC HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,818 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR MONITORING AND IMPROVING BIOMECHANICAL HEALTH OF EMPLOYEES", and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/659,824 filed on Jun. 14, 2012 and titled "SYSTEMS, COMPUTER MEDIUM AND COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED METHODS FOR COACHING EMPLOYEES BASED UPON MONITORED HEALTH CONDITIONS USING AN AVATAR", the disclosures of which are each hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

In this patent, certain U.S. patents, U.S. patent applications, or other materials (e.g., articles) have been incorporated by reference. The text of such U.S. patents, U.S. patent applications, and other materials is, however, only incorporated by reference to the extent that no conflict exists between such material and the statements and drawings set forth herein. In the event of such conflict, any such conflicting text in such incorporated by reference U.S. patents, U.S. patent applications, and other materials is specifically not incorporated by reference in this patent.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for monitoring employee health, the system comprising:
 - an employee workstation comprising:
 - an employee computer comprising a display;
 - a computer mouse;
 - a chair disposed on a floor of the workstation, the chair comprising a seat portion and a back portion configured to support an employee seated in the chair;
 - a floor mat disposed on the floor of the workstation and configured to support feet of the employee seated in the chair; and
 - a set of biomechanical health sensors configured to collect health data via a plurality of points of contact

- with the employee seated in the chair and to output biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health data collected,
- the set of biomechanical health sensors in communication with a communications network and comprising temperature transducers, force transducers and a camera,
- the biomechanical sensor data comprising temperature data output by the temperature transducers that is indicative of a body position of the employee, force data output by the force transducers that is indicative of the body position of the employee, and image data output by the camera comprising three-dimensional images indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee;
- the floor mat comprising floor mat biomechanical sensors for detecting biomechanical characteristics of the employee via contact with feet of the employee defining a first point of contact with the employee, the floor mat biomechanical sensors comprising:
 - a floor mat temperature sensor comprising one of the temperature transducers configured to sense body temperature of the employee; and
 - a floor mat force sensor comprising one of the force transducers configured to sense a force applied to the floor mat,
- the chair comprising chair biomechanical sensors for detecting biomechanical characteristics of the employee via contact with portions of the employee seated in the chair defining a second point of contact with the employee, the chair biomechanical sensors comprising:
 - a chair temperature sensor comprising one of the temperature transducers configured to sense body temperature of the employee; and
 - chair force sensors comprising:
 - a chair seat force transducer located in the seat portion of the chair and configured to sense a force applied to the seat portion of the chair; and
 - a chair back force transducer located in the back portion of the chair and configured to sense a force applied to the back portion of the chair, and
- the camera positioned to capture images of the employee seated in the chair defining a third point of contact with the employee, the images of the employee seated in the chair comprising the three-dimensional images indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee;
- a database in communication with the communications network and storing employee health information associated with one or more employees; and
- a computer server in communication with the communication network, the computer server configured to:
 - conduct a health test of the employee comprising collecting, via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical health sensors;
 - determine a body position of the employee seated in the chair based on the temperature data, the force data, and the image data of the biomechanical sensor data collected;
 - determine at least one of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of an eye of the employee based on the image data of the biomechanical sensor data collected;

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determine, based on the body position of the employee determined, a posture analysis for the employee comprising a deviation from a predetermined ergonomic alignment of a head, a torso, arms, and feet of the employee seated in the chair;

determine, based on the at least one of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of the eye of the employee determined, an eye fatigue analysis for the employee comprising an indication of a level of eye fatigue for the employee seated in the chair;

determine a biomechanical health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected, the biomechanical health profile for the employee comprising the posture analysis for the employee and the eye fatigue analysis for the employee;

determine, based on the health profile for the employee, a health plan for the employee;

serve, to the employee computer, health content comprising the biomechanical health profile for the employee and the health plan for the employee, wherein the employee computer is configured to display the health content via the display; and

update the health information stored in the database to reflect the biomechanical health profile for the employee.

2. A system according to claim 1, the computer server further configured to determine, based on the body position of the employee seated in the chair, a muscle tension for the employee, wherein the biomechanical health profile for the employee comprises the muscle tension for the employee.

3. A system according to claim 1, the computer server further configured to determine, based on the biomechanical sensor data collected, one or more of a risk of musculoskeletal syndrome, risk of carpal tunnel syndrome, a risk of epicondylitis, a risk of a rotator cuff injury, a risk of eye disease, and a risk of physical fatigue for the employee.

4. A system according to claim 1, the computer server further configured to:

determine one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected;

compare one or more of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee to a corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks;

determine, based on the comparison, that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks;

in response to determining that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks, alert emergency response personnel regarding the at least one of the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined to be outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein conducting a health test of the employee comprises:

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identifying a need to initiate a health test using a predetermined test schedule that specifies times for collection of the biomechanical sensor data from the set of biomechanical health sensors;

in response to identifying a need to initiate a health test, querying the employee computer for the biomechanical sensor data, the employee computer being configured to collect the biomechanical sensor data from the set of biomechanical health sensors in response to the querying; and

receiving, from the employee computer via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health test.

6. A system according to claim 1, the computer server further configured to:

receive an employee initiated request to initiate a health test,

wherein collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical health sensors is conducted in response to receiving the employee initiated request to initiate a health test.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the health content comprises an interactive health dashboard that enables the employee to review and edit biomechanical health information associated with the employee.

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein the health content comprises a health status widget comprising a graphical display indicative of the biomechanical health profile of the employee, the health status widget being viewable on the display while the employee is working with other applications on the employee computer.

9. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium comprising program instructions for monitoring employee health, the computer program instructions being executable by a computer processor to cause the steps of:

conducting a health test of an employee comprising collecting, via a communications network, biomechanical sensor data output by a set of biomechanical health sensors of an employee workstation, the employee workstation comprising:

an employee computer comprising a display;

a computer mouse;

a chair disposed on a floor of the workstation, the chair comprising a seat portion and a back portion configured to support the employee seated in the chair;

a floor mat disposed on the floor of the workstation and configured to support feet of the employee seated in the chair; and

a set of biomechanical health sensors configured to collect health data via a plurality of points of contact with the employee seated in the chair and to output biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health data collected,

the set of biomechanical health sensors in communication with the communications network and comprising temperature transducers, force transducers and a camera,

the biomechanical sensor data comprising temperature data output by the temperature transducers that is indicative of a body position of the employee, force data output by the force transducers that is indicative of the body position of the employee, and image data output by the camera comprising three-dimensional images indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee;

the floor mat comprising floor mat biomechanical sensors for detecting biomechanical characteristics of

the employee via contact with feet of the employee defining a first point of contact with the employee, the floor mat biomechanical sensors comprising:
 a floor mat temperature sensor comprising one of the temperature transducers configured to sense body temperature of the employee; and
 a floor mat force sensor comprising one of the force transducers configured to sense a force applied to the floor mat,
 the chair comprising chair biomechanical sensors for detecting biomechanical characteristics of the employee via contact with portions of the employee seated in the chair defining a second point of contact with the employee, the chair biomechanical sensors comprising:
 a chair temperature sensor comprising one of the temperature transducers configured to sense body temperature of the employee; and
 chair force sensors comprising:
 a chair seat force transducer located in the seat portion of the chair and configured to sense a force applied to the seat portion of the chair; and
 a chair back force transducer located in the back portion of the chair and configured to sense a force applied to the back portion of the chair, and
 the camera positioned to capture images of the employee seated in the chair defining a third point of contact with the with the employee, the images of the employee seated in the chair comprising the three-dimensional images indicative of the body position and eye movement of the employee;
 determining a body position of the employee seated in the chair based on the temperature data, the force data, and the image data of the biomechanical sensor data collected;
 determining at least one of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of an eye of the employee based on the image data of the biomechanical sensor data collected;
 determining, based on the body position of the employee determined, a posture analysis for the employee comprising a deviation from a predetermined ergonomic alignment of a head, a torso, arms, and feet of the employee seated in the chair;
 determining, based on the at least one of a focal point, a blink rate, and a pupil dilation of the eye of the employee determined, an eye fatigue analysis for the employee comprising an indication of a level of eye fatigue for the employee seated in the chair;
 determining updated biomechanical health profile for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected, the biomechanical health profile for the employee comprising the posture analysis for the employee and the eye fatigue analysis for the employee;
 determining, based on the health profile for the employee, a health plan for the employee;
 serving, to the employee computer, health content comprising the biomechanical health profile for the employee and the health plan for the employee; and
 displaying, via the display of the employee computer, the health content.

10. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, the steps further comprising determining, based on the body position of the employee seated in the chair, a muscle tension for the employee, wherein the

biomechanical health profile for the employee comprises the muscle tension for the employee.

11. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, the steps further comprising determining, based on the biomechanical sensor data collected, one or more of a risk of musculoskeletal syndrome, a risk of carpal tunnel syndrome, a risk of epicondylitis, a risk of a rotator cuff injury, a risk of eye disease, and a risk of physical fatigue for the employee.

12. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, the steps further comprising:

determining one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks for the employee using the biomechanical sensor data collected;

comparing one or more of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee to a corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks;

determining, based on the comparison, that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks; and
 in response to determining that at least one of the one or more of the health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined for the employee are outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks, alerting emergency response personnel regarding the at least one of the one or more health characteristics, health conditions and health risks determined to be outside of the corresponding predetermined threshold range for the one or more of health characteristics, health conditions and health risks.

13. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein conducting a health test of the employee comprises:

identifying a need to initiate a health test using a predetermined test schedule that specifies times for collection of the biomechanical sensor data from the set of biomechanical health sensors;

in response to identifying a need to initiate a health test, querying the employee computer for the biomechanical sensor data, the employee computer being configured to collect the biomechanical sensor data from the set of biomechanical health sensors in response to the querying; and

receiving, from the employee computer via the communications network, the biomechanical sensor data corresponding to the health test.

14. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, the steps further comprising:

receiving an employee initiated request to initiate a health test,

wherein collecting the biomechanical sensor data output by the set of biomechanical health sensors is conducted in response to receiving the employee initiated request to initiate a health test.

15. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the health content comprises an interactive health dashboard that enables the employee to review and edit biomechanical health information associated with the employee.

16. A non-transitory computer readable storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the health content comprises

a health status widget comprising a graphical display indicative of the biomechanical health profile of the employee, the health status widget being viewable on the display of the employee computer while the employee is working with other applications on the employee computer.

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专利名称(译)	用于监控和改善员工生物力学健康的系统，计算机介质和计算机实现的方法		
公开(公告)号	US9808156	公开(公告)日	2017-11-07
申请号	US14/181006	申请日	2014-02-14
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	沙特阿拉伯石油公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	沙特阿拉伯石油公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	沙特阿拉伯石油公司		
[标]发明人	HORSEMAN SAMANTHA J		
发明人	HORSEMAN, SAMANTHA J.		
IPC分类号	A61B5/00 A61B5/11 A61B5/053 A61B5/0205 G06F19/00 A61B5/01 A61B5/021 A61B5/145 A61B5/08		
CPC分类号	A61B5/0008 A61B5/01 A61B5/021 A61B5/02055 A61B5/0537 A61B5/1113 A61B5/1114 A61B5/4872 A61B5/6887 A61B5/6891 A61B5/6892 A61B5/72 A61B5/7275 A61B5/7282 A61B5/742 G06F19/3418 G06F19/3487 A61B5/002 A61B5/6898 A61B5/08 A61B5/145 A61B5/40 A61B5/6803 A61B5/6897 A61B5/00 A61B5/0002 G16H15/00 G16H40/67		
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其他公开文献	US20140163337A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

提供了系统，计算机介质和计算机实现的方法的实施例，用于在雇员位于雇员工作站中时监视雇员的健康。一种方法，包括从遍布雇员工作站布置的多个生物力学传感器收集指示雇员的生物力学特征的生物力学健康数据，至少部分地基于所收集的生物力学健康数据确定雇员生物力学健康概况。员工的生物力学健康状况包括员工的生物力学健康特征，生物力学健康状况和/或生物力学健康风险。该方法包括至少部分地基于生物力学健康概况为雇员生成健康计划，以及向雇员显示雇员生物力学健康概况和健康计划。

