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(71) Applicant: **Boston Scientific Limited St. Michael (BB)**

(72) Inventors:
• **Suorsa, Veijo T. Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US)**

• **Mendoza, Dennis Tracy, CA 95376 (US)**
• **Bautista, Richard Palo Alto, CA 94306 (US)**

(74) Representative: **Pfenning, Meinig & Partner GbR Patent- und Rechtsanwälte Theresienhöhe 13 80339 München (DE)**

Remarks:

This application was filed on 25 - 07 - 2006 as a divisional application to the application mentioned under INID code 62.

(54) **Focused ultrasound transducers and systems**

(57) The present invention provides ultrasound transducers, and imaging assemblies and catheters employing such transducers, that provide improved imaging capabilities. In one embodiment, an ultrasound imaging assembly (50) includes a housing having a distal end (56), a proximal end (57) and a longitudinal axis. A transducer element (54) is included having an outer face. The outer face has a first radius of curvature along a first axis and a second radius of curvature along a second axis. The transducer element is operably attached to the distal end to position the first axis to be generally parallel to the longitudinal axis to provide improved cross-plane resolution.

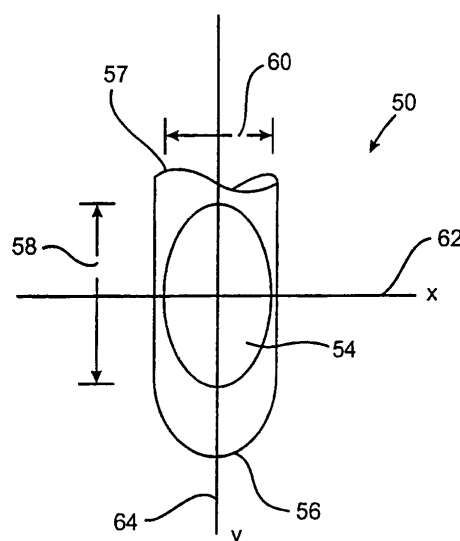


FIG. 3A