**Specification**

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the inventionto which the claims are directed. Suggested title “a manipulator used to drive a surgical device that treats a body tissue ”.

**Drawing**

The drawings are objected to because Fig. 2-14 are not showing the labels and/legends in the picture clearly and the pictures are hazy and vague.Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled,the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes,made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumberingof the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

**Claim rejection under 35 USC 112**

**The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112(a):**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilledin the art to which it pertains,or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same, and shall set forth the best mode contemplatedby the inventor or joint inventor of carrying out the invention.

**The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 112(b):**

(b) CONCLUSION.—The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctlyclaiming the subject matter which the inventor or a joint inventor regards as the invention.  
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 112 (pre-AIA), second paragraph:The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(b) or 35 U.S.C. 112 (pre-AIA),second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the inventor or a joint inventor, or for pre-AIA the applicant regards as the invention.

**Claim rejection under 35 USC 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(a)(1) the claimed invention was patented, described in a printed publication, orin public use, on sale or otherwise available to the public before the effectivefiling date of the claimed invention.

**Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(1) as being anticipated by XXXXX et al (US )**

Claim rejection under 35 USC 103

**The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

A patent for a claimed invention may not be obtained, notwithstanding that the claimed invention is not identically disclosed as set forth in section 102 of this titleif the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious before the effective filing date of the claimedinvention to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the claimed invention pertains.Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over XXXXXXX (US 20160142003) in view of XXXXXXX. (US ).

**Regarding claim 1**. A work support comprising:  
a support rod (3) inserted in an insertion hole (2) provided through a leading end portion of a housing (1), the support rod (3) being configured to be movable in the housing (1) toward a leading end side and toward a base end side in an axial direction of the support rod (3); a collet (5) fitted over an outer peripheral wall of the support rod (3); a piston (12) inserted in the housing (1) so as to be movable in the axial direction, the piston (12) being configured to be actuated by compressed gas supplied to an actuation chamber (13) to drive the support rod (3) for locking via the collet (5); an output member (24) inserted in a cylinder hole (22) provided in a base end portion of the housing (1) so as to be movable in the axial direction; a biasing means configured to bias the support rod (3) and the output member (24) so that the support rod (3) and the output member (24) recede from each other; an inlet chamber (29) provided in the cylinder hole (22) and on the base end side in the axial direction relative to the output member (24); an outlet chamber (32) provided in the cylinder hole (22) and on the leading end side in the axial direction relative to the output member (24); a switching means (40) structured by a communication hole (41) opening onto a peripheral wall surface of the cylinder hole (22) and by an outer peripheral surface of the output member (24), the switching means (40) being configured to switch, through movement of the outer peripheral surface of the output member (24) across the communication hole (41), between a state in which the actuation chamber (13) is communicatively connected to the inlet chamber (29) via the communication hole (41) and a state in which the actuation chamber (13) is communicatively connected to the outlet chamber (32) via the communication hole (41); and a discharge passage (42) including an annular space (2 a), created between the insertion hole (2) and the support rod (3), and a discharge port (42 a) provided at the leading end portion of the housing (1), the discharge passage (42) being configured so that compressed gas in the outlet chamber (32) is discharged through the annular space (2 a) to an outside of the housing (1) from the discharge port (42 a), wherein the work support is designed so that an amount of gas pushed out of the outlet chamber (32) by the output member (24) when the output member (24) moves from its base-end-side limit position to its leading-end-side limit position in the axial direction is larger than a capacity of an accommodation chamber (45) created on the base end side relative to the support rod (3) due to movement of the support rod (3) from its base-end-side limit position to a leading-end-side position.   
   
**Regarding claim 2**. The work support according to claim 1, wherein  
an opening/closing valve (44) is provided to the discharge passage (42); and the opening/closing valve (44) is structured by a dust seal (43) attached to an inner peripheral wall of the insertion hole (2) and by an outer peripheral surface of the support rod (3), with which a lip portion (43 a) of the dust seal (43) is in close contact in a slidable manner.   
   
**Regarding claim 3**. The work support according to claim 1, wherein:  
a passage (47, 52) which communicatively connects the annular space (2 a) to the outside of the housing (1) is provided at the leading end portion of the housing (1), and the passage (47, 52) structures a part of the discharge passage (42); an opening/closing valve (48, 53) is provided to the passage (47, 52); and the opening/closing valve (48, 53) is configured to allow a flow of compressed gas from the annular space (2 a) to the outside of the housing (1) and to block the reverse flow.   
   
**Regarding claim 4**. The work support according to claim 1, wherein:  
an inlet passage (66) which communicatively connects a tubular hole (3 c) of the support rod (3) to an outside of a leading end portion of the support rod (3) is provided in the leading end portion of the support rod (3), and the inlet passage (66) and the tubular hole (3 c) each structures a part of the discharge passage (42); an opening/closing valve (61) is provided to the inlet passage 66; and the opening/closing valve (61) is configured to allow a flow of compressed gas from the tubular hole (3 c) to the outside of the leading end portion of the support rod (3) and to block the reverse flow.