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Tao et al.

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(54) **LASER EMITTING MATERIAL, METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME AND USE THEREOF**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** **372/6, 53, 372/39, 43.01, 51, 70; 607/88, 89, 91, 94; 2/905, 906**

See application file for complete search history.

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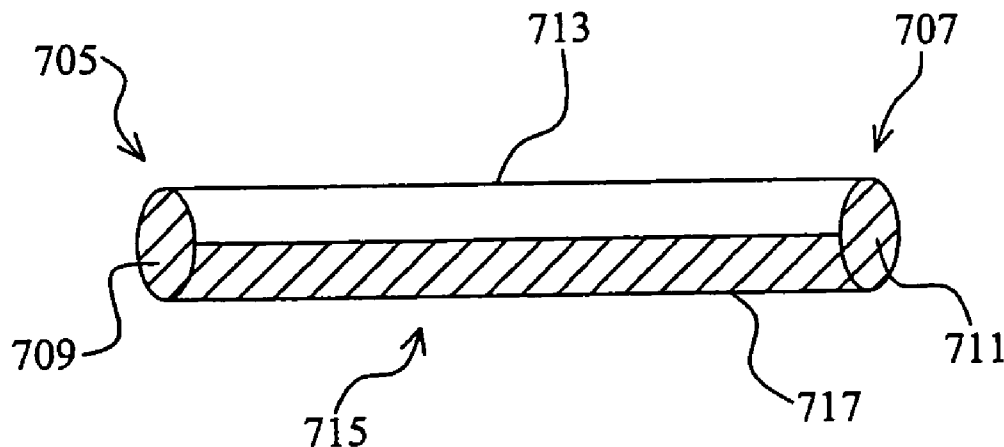
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A solid-state laser emitting material for use in conjunction with a light source includes a polymer matrix functioning as host materials, containing laser dye of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain materials and nano-submicron particles as scatters therein. The lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting material is approximately 5 mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm² for 630 nm emission.

17 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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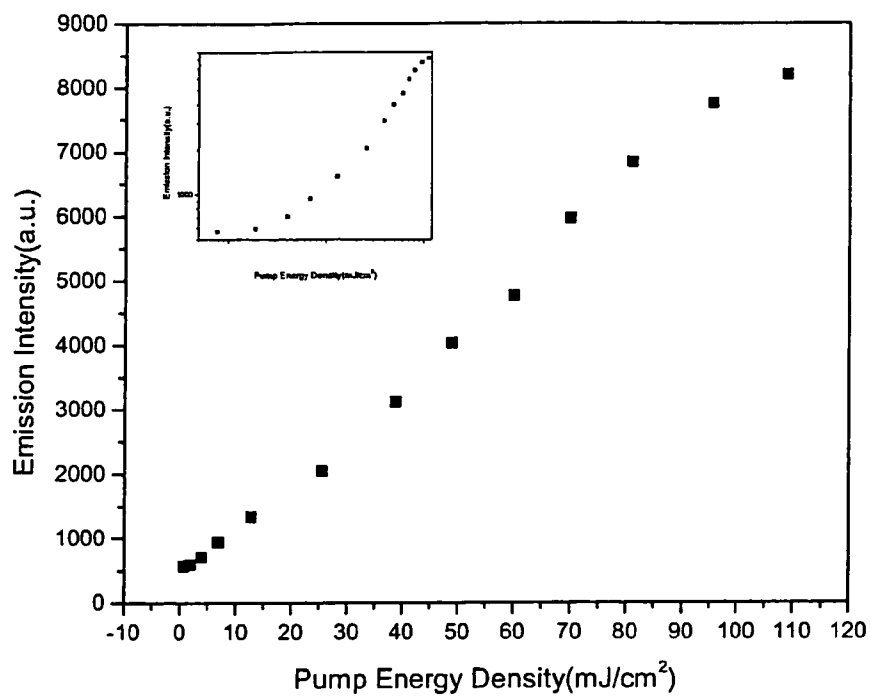
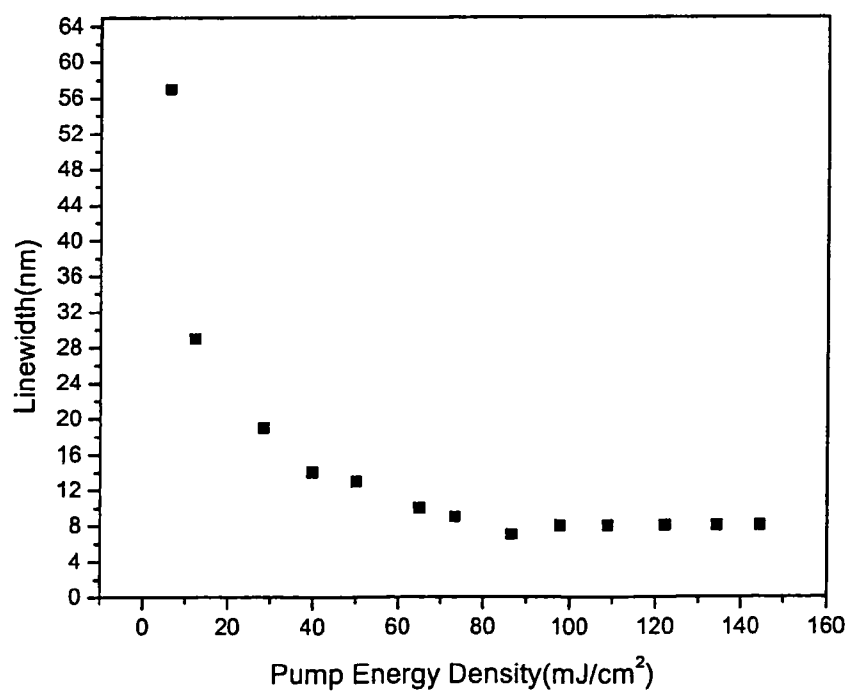
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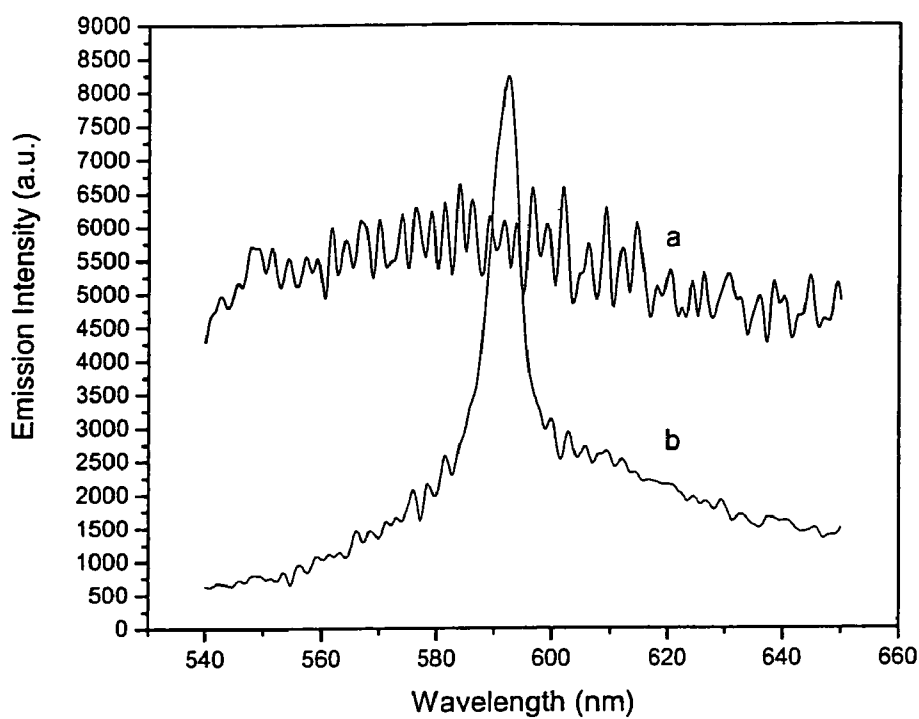
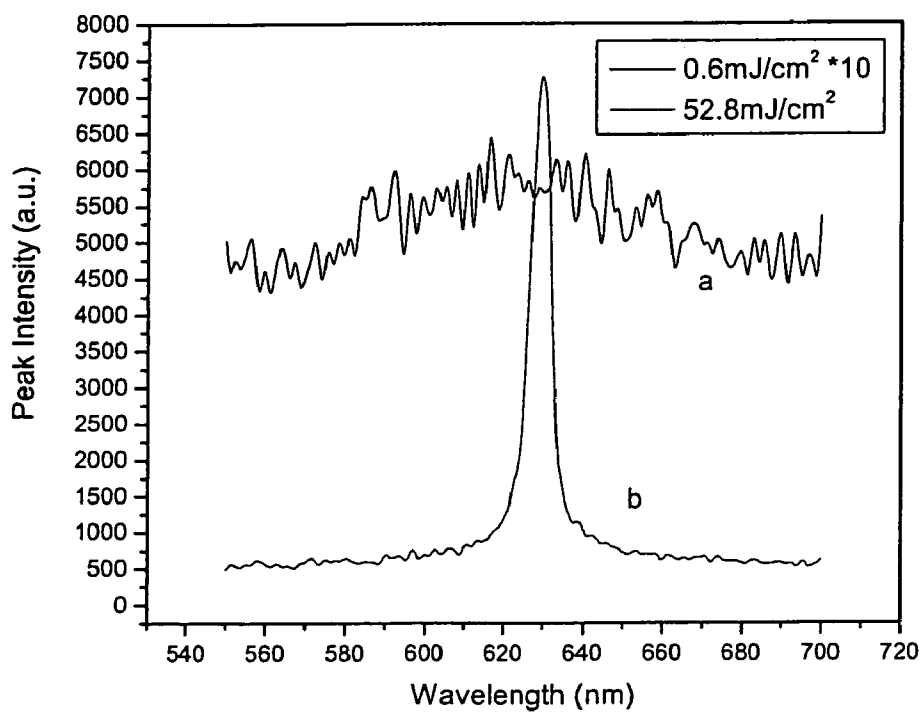
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*Figure. 1**Figure. 2*

*Figure. 3**Figure. 4*

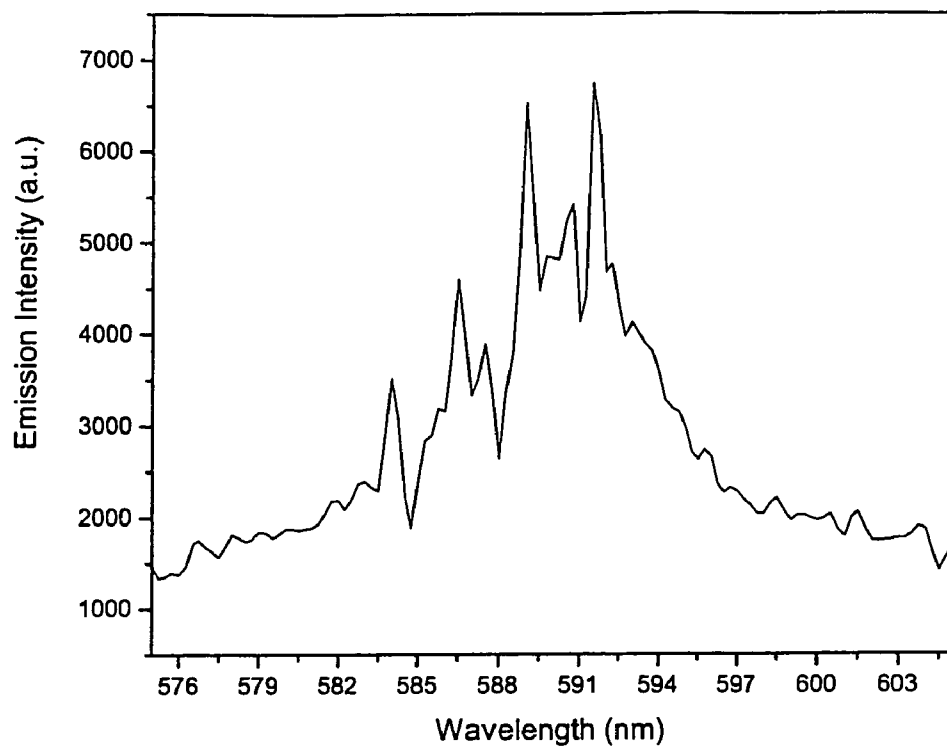


Figure. 5

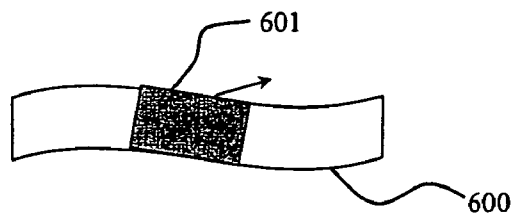


Figure. 6

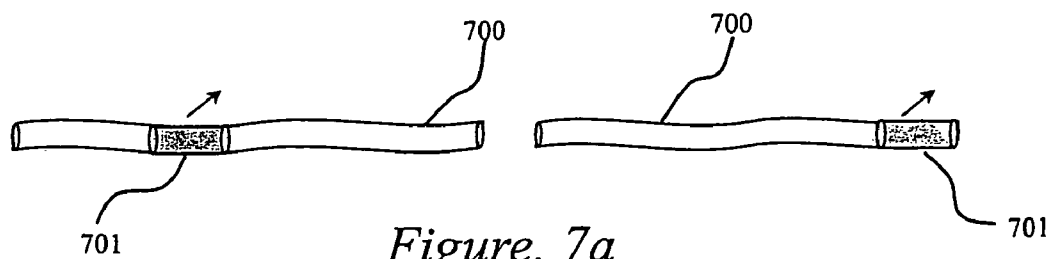
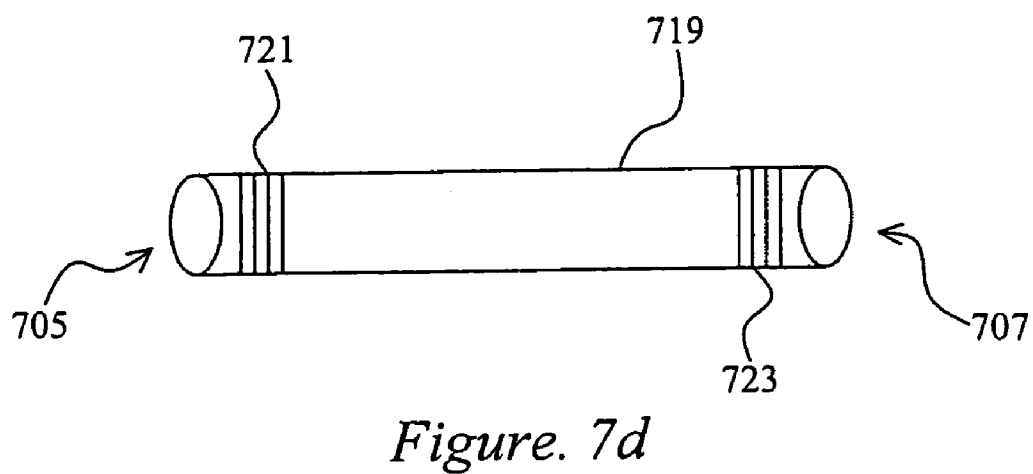
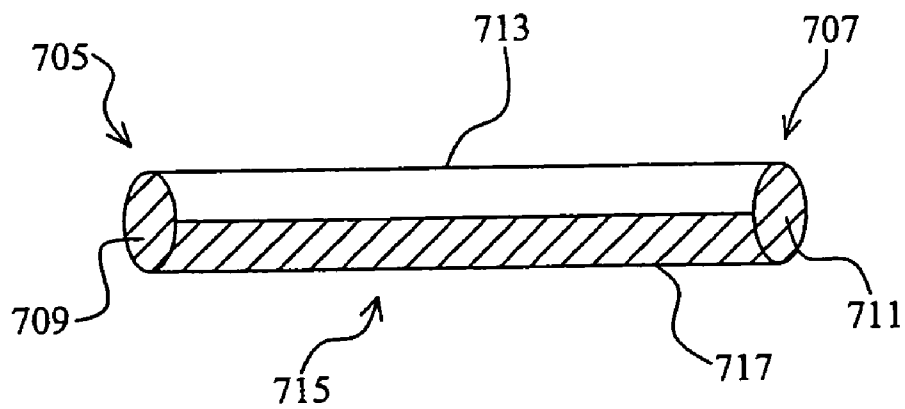
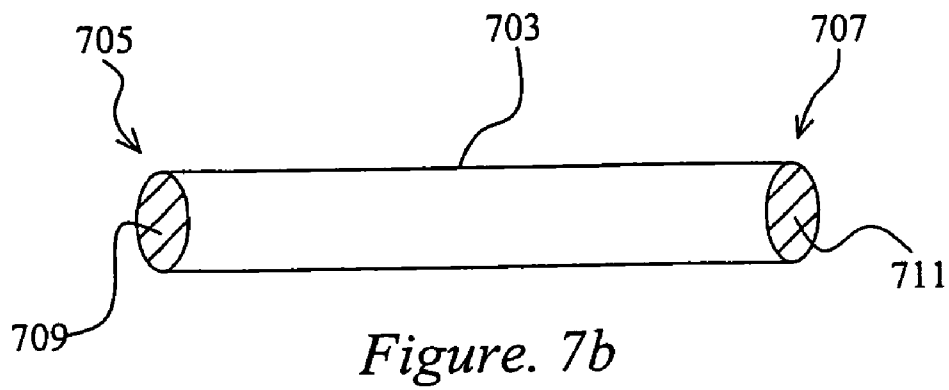


Figure. 7a



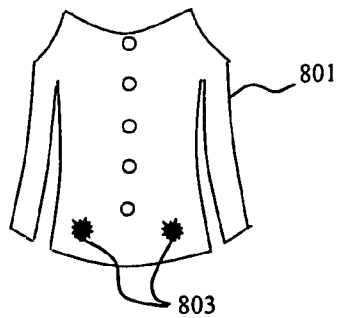


Figure. 8

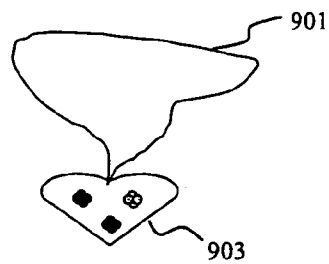


Figure. 9

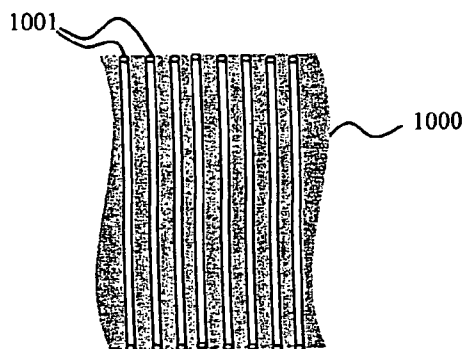


Figure. 10

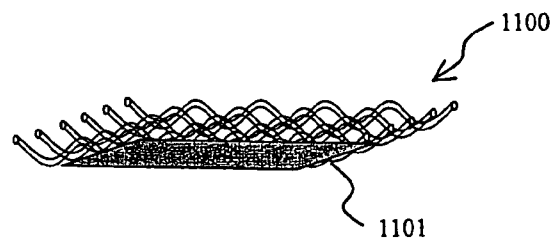


Figure. 11

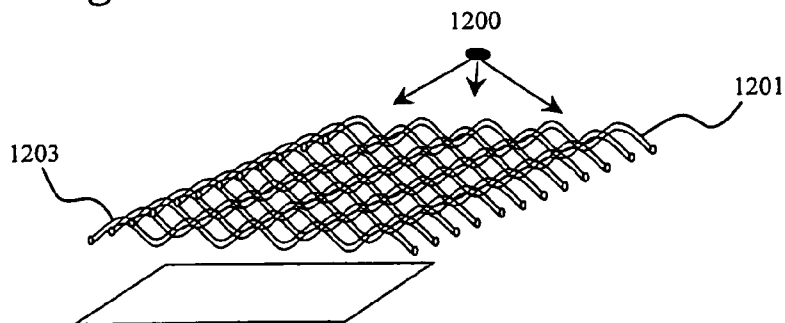


Figure. 12

LASER EMITTING MATERIAL, METHOD FOR MAKING THE SAME AND USE THEREOF

This is a continuation of application Ser. No. 11/244,399
filed Oct. 6, 2005 now abandoned.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

The present application relates to laser emitting devices,
method for making the same and use thereof.

2. Background of the Invention

Random laser devices have been known in the art For
example, C. Zacharakis, "Random lasing following two-
photon excitation of highly scattering gain media Applied
Physics Letters," 81, 2511 (2002) discloses the use of a fem-
tosecond pulse laser at the wavelength of 800 nm to two-
photon excite Coumarin 307 colloid solution to obtain 480
blue emission. B. Raghavendra Prasad, et al, "Lasing in
active, sub-mean-free path-sized systems with dense, ran-
dom, weak scatterers," Applied Optics, 36, 7718 (1997), dis-
closes yellow emission by using a frequency-doubled
Nd:YAG laser to pump colloid solution containing
Rhodamine 590 perchlorate and polystyrene microspheres.
S. John et al, "Theory of lasing in a multiple-scattering
medium," Phys. Rev. A, 54, 3642 (1996), H. Cao, "Lasing
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215. (2003) and H. Cao, et al, "Transition from amplified
spontaneous emission to laser action in strongly scattering
media," Physical Review E 61, 1985 (2000) have disclosed
red emission in colloid solutions.

The above-mentioned-laser devices are in a generally liq-
uid format. A skilled person in the art would appreciate that
stimulated emission from polymeric solids is much more
attractive in terms of applications, stability and cost However,
up to now, very few workable polymeric systems have been
reported. R. M. Balachandran, et al, "Laser action in poly-
meric gain media containing scattering particles," Applied
Optics 35, 640 (1996) and Y. Ling, et al. "Investigation of
random lasers with resonant feedback," Physics Review A 64,
063808-1 (2001) disclose red emission in PMMA at a thresh-
old of 15 mJ/cm².

However, the relatively high threshold of Balachandran
and Ling's laser devices may restrict its applicability.

Furthermore, laser devices have been used in various appli-
cations such as for therapy purposes. For example, laser
devices with wavelengths of 532 nm, 690 nm and 755 nm are
known for their effect to eliminate or reduce black flecks, and
a 585 nm laser can clean the red flecks, improve the skin
properties and prevent aging. Exemplary applications of laser
devices have been disclosed in various prior patents or patent
publications, for example, in U.S. Pat. No. 5,625,456, entitled
"Optical sources having a strongly scattering gain medium
providing laser-like action" and issued to Nabil M. Lawandy
on Apr. 29, 1997; PCT publication no. WO04026586A1,
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level laser therapy apparatus" and issued to Jackson Streeter
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2001.

However, the threshold restrictions on the laser devices
using polymeric solids may inhibit the use of such lasers in
these applications as well.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide
an improved laser device with a relatively lower threshold, or
at least provide the public with a useful choice.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an
improved laser therapy device with a relatively lower thresh-
old, or at least provide the public with a useful choice.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an aspect of the present invention, a solid-
state laser emitting material for use in conjunction with a light
source includes a polymer matrix functioning as host mate-
rials, containing laser dye of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine
610 as gain materials and nano-submicron particles as scat-
ters therein. The lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting
material is approximately 5 mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and
2 mJ/cm² for 630 nm emission.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, a
laser emitting fiber for use in conjunction with a light source
includes a polymer matrix functioning as host materials, con-
taining laser dyes of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain
materials and nano-submicron particles as scatters therein.
The lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting device is
approximately 5 mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm²
for 630 nm emission.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, a laser
emitting textile is woven, knitted, embroidered, braided or
intermingled by a plurality of laser emitting fibers and is for
use in conjunction with a light source. Each fiber includes a
polymer matrix functioning as host materials, containing
laser dyes of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain mate-
rials and nano-submicron particles as scatters therein. The
lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting device is approxi-
mately 5 mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm² for 630
nm emission. Further, the textile includes two opposite sides,
with one side coated with a reflective film.

According to a forth aspect of the present invention, a laser
therapy device induces a laser emitting material of a laser
emitting film, a laser emitting fiber, a laser emitting textile, or
a combination thereof and is for use in conjunction with a
light source. The laser emitting material includes a polymer
matrix functioning as host materials, containing laser dyes of
rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain materials and nano-
submicron particles as scatters therein, and the lowest lasing
threshold of the laser emitting device is approximately 5
mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm² for 630 nm emis-
sion.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, a
laser emitting fabrics for use in conjunction with a light
source, includes, normal fabrics coated with laser emitting
materials. The laser emitting material includes a polymer
matrix functioning as host materials, containing laser dyes of

rhodamine 590 and rhodamine 610 as gain materials and nano-submicron particles as scatters therein, and the lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting device is approximately 5 mJ/cm² for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm² for 630 nm emission.

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which description illustrates by way of example the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is illustrates the peak emission intensity of an exemplary laser emitting film containing Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles according to an aspect of the present invention. The inset is the log-log scale;

FIG. 2 shows the peak line-width of the film of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 illustrates the emission spectra of an exemplary laser emitting film doped with Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles with a pumping energy density (a) 1.9 mJ/cm², (b) 95 mJ/cm² scaled up by a factor of 10;

FIG. 4 illustrates the emission spectra of another exemplary laser emitting laser emitting film doped with Rh610 and TiO₂ particles pumped at (a) 0.6 mJ/cm² (b) 52.8 mJ/cm² scaled up by a factor of 10;

FIG. 5 illustrates the multimode laser line output above the threshold in the film containing rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles;

FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary plaster with a random laser film according to another aspect of the invention;

FIG. 7a illustrates an exemplary fiber with random laser materials;

FIG. 7b illustrates an exemplary laser emitting fiber having its ends coated with a reflective film;

FIG. 7c illustrates an exemplary laser emitting fiber having a side coated with a reflective film;

FIG. 7d illustrates an exemplary laser emitting fiber having gratings at its ends;

FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary clothes pasted with exemplary laser films;

FIG. 9 illustrates a necklace with exemplary laser emitting clusters;

FIG. 10 illustrates textiles with exemplary laser emitting fibers;

FIG. 11 illustrates fabrics coated with exemplary random laser films; and

FIG. 12 illustrates the textile of FIG. 10 used as a therapy device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As discussed in details below, the exemplary laser emitting device embodiments of the present invention can be in the format of laser films, textiles, micro laser clusters or random laser fibers. Each includes three major components, namely, a polymer matrix as the host material (for example PMMA or PVA), gain or amplifying media or materials (for example laser dyes or conjugated polymer), and particles as scatters (for example TiO₂ or ZnO, etc). When a wide-banded flash lamp or pulsed laser pumps the gain materials of such laser emitting devices, the laser emitting devices emit monochromatic lasers with high power. By changing the gain materials, laser emission with different wavelength such as 585 nm and 610 nm can be realized. In addition, particles have scattering functions and can enlarge the path photons pass in the medium. The path increase produces Amplified Spontaneous

Emission. Ordered particle distribution in the localized field act as a feedback cavity and provide random laser emission. Specifically, particles (scatters) may increase the distance a photon travels in the medium. This may increase the probability that one photon is changed into multiple photons.

Furthermore, with the increase of pump energy at 532 nm and 8 ns pulse to duration, a slope change and unsaturated input occurs in the linear input-output characteristics. By adjusting the output energy and laser dyes, flecks and stains in different depth and with different color can be treated. Therefore, the present invention may have applications in skin photothermolysis therapy.

Nano-Composites Film

To form an exemplary laser emitting film (not shown) according to an embodiment of the invention, firstly, 2.2 mg Rhodamine 590 or 610 and 2.4 mg TiO₂ nano-particles are mixed in 2 ml of dichloromethane until the dye is dissolved completely. Then 2 ml 13 wt % PMMA dichloromethane solution is added to the above mixture. The mixture is sonicated until a homogeneous solution was formed. A PMMA film containing Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles can then be formed by cell-casting of 1 ml of the solution.

FIG. 1 is peak emission intensity of a PMMA film containing Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles plotted against pump energy density. The inset is its log-log curve. The lasing threshold is 5 mJ/cm². This shows a laser-like characteristic. FIG. 2 shows peak line-width of a PMMA film containing Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles plotted against pump energy density. Line-width narrowing phenomenon is observed. The laser line-width is 8 nm. In FIG. 3, Emission spectra of PMMA film doped with Rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ particles with a pumping energy density (a) 1.9 mJ/cm², (b) 95 mJ/cm². A is scaled up by a factor of 10. In FIG. 4, the emission spectra of PMMA film doped with Rh610 and TiO₂ particles pumped at (a) 0.6 mJ/cm² (b) 52.8 mJ/cm². The amplitude of the spectrum in a has been scaled up by a factor of 10. FIG. 5 shows the multimode laser line output above the threshold in PMMA film containing rhodamine 590 and TiO₂ nano-particles. The light source for pumping the PMMA film is a pump laser of a double-frequency Nd:YAG laser which produced pulses of 8 ns at a repetition rate of 10 Hz.

FIG. 6 is an embodiment of a therapy device using the laser emitting films. FIG. 6 shows a plaster 600 with a random laser film 601. When the plaster 600 is placed onto the skin with flecks or stains (not shown) and is pumped by a flash lamp (not shown), the flecks can be eliminated.

Furthermore, a high-reflectivity mould (not shown) made of Aluminum Foil, acting as a reflector to reflect photons back to the film and to decrease the light loss, can be attached to a side of the laser emitting film to improve its laser-emitting capacities.

Nano-Composites Particles

Laser emitting particles (not shown) can also be obtained by spray drying to produce particles with random laser effect by atomizing a solution or slurry and evaporating moisture from the resulting droplets by suspending them in a hot gas. The production of dry, spherical particles from a liquid feed in a single processing step makes spray drying a unique and important unit operation. A nozzle laboratory current spray drier (not shown) equipped with a peristaltic pump (not shown) for feed fine control and cyclone collector of powder is used in this exemplary embodiment. Sampling along drying is performed under the following drying conditions: 170° C./96° C. (Inlet/outlet temperatures), volumetric airflow was 75 m³/h in all cases, while feed rate is 1.2 L/h and can change for each experiment.

Nano-Composites Fiber

In the production of an exemplary laser emitting fiber according to the present invention, Monomer MMA, TiO_2 particle and dye and other additive are mixed absolutely. Then ultrasonic is used to make the TiO_2 particle dispersed in the solution. Afterwards, the solution is polymerized under 50°C . for 4 hours, and then cured at 80°C . for 8 h. Further, the cured solution is spun into fibers **701**, **703**, **713** and **719** by using melt spinning method.

FIG. **7a** illustrate such laser emitting fibers **700** with nano composite fiber **701** in different locations. FIG. **7b** illustrates another nano-composites fiber **703** with its two ends **705**, **707** each coated with a reflective film of Aluminum **709**, **711**. FIG. **7c** illustrates a third nano-composites fiber **713** embodiment with its two ends **705**, **707** and half a side surface **715** each coated with a reflective film of Aluminum **709**, **711**, **717**. FIG. **7d** illustrates yet another nano-composites fiber **719** embodiment having gratings **721**, **723** created at its two ends **705**, **077** for adjusting wavelength of the laser.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention may use the highly monochromatic sources (narrow spectral line-width) described thereabove to provide skin photothermolysis therapy. Various embodiments of such therapy devices can overcome the shortcomings of conventional large apparatus and expensive payment by using a film or textiles and a fiber to provide the skin therapy. For example, FIG. **8** illustrates clothes **801** pasted with laser films **803**, which clothes can be used as therapy devices when worn by a patient. FIG. **9** illustrates a necklace **901** with colorful laser clusters **903**. FIG. **10** illustrates textiles **1000** with laser fibers **1001**, and FIG. **11** illustrates the fabrics **1100** coated with random laser material **1101**. In FIG. **12** laser or flash lamp **1200** pumps fabrics **1201** made from random laser fibers **1203** so as to emit lasers for therapy purpose.

What is claimed is:

1. An item of clothing for use in providing a laser-therapy to a wearer of the item of clothing, the item of clothing comprising:

a solid-state laser emitting material configured as at least one of a fiber and a film, the solid state laser emitting material including polymer matrix functioning as host materials, containing laser dye of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain materials and nano-submicron particles as scattering particles therein, the scattering particles being selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 nano-submicrons particles, ZnO nano-submicrons particles, their mixtures, and their mixtures with TiO_2 nano-submicrons particles thereof,

the lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting material being approximately 5 mJ/cm^2 for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm^2 for 630 nm emission; and

a light source configured for use in conjunction with the solid-state laser emitting material for stimulating laser emission from the solid-state laser emitting material;

wherein the solid-state laser emitting material is configured for attachment to a flexible fabric of the item of clothing such that when the item of clothing is ordinarily worn by the wearer, laser emissions from the solid state laser emitting material are able to be flexibly directed into contact with the wearer's skin to effect laser therapy.

2. The item of clothing of claim 1, further comprising a reflector attached to the polymer matrix.

3. The item of clothing of claim 2, wherein the reflector is designed to be a metal reflective film.

4. The item of clothing of claim 3, wherein the reflective film is made of aluminum.

5. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the host materials are selected from a group of polycarbonate (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polystyrene (PS) or mixtures thereof.

6. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the light source is designed to be a pump laser of a double-frequency Nd:YAG laser which produced pulses of 8 ns at a repetition rate of 10 Hz.

7. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the fiber extends in an at least a substantially longitudinal direction and terminates at two opposite ends, further comprising at least a reflector positioned at one of said ends.

8. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the reflector is designed to be a metal reflective film.

9. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the fiber extends in an at least substantially longitudinal direction and terminates at two opposite ends, further comprising at least a reflector positioned along at least a portion of a side surface of the fiber along the longitudinal direction.

10. The item of clothing of claim 9, wherein the reflector is designed to be a metal reflective film.

11. The item of clothing of claim 1, wherein the fiber extends in an at least substantially longitudinal direction and terminates at two opposite ends, further comprising at least a grating created at one of said ends.

12. The item of clothing as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solid-state laser emitting material is configured as a plurality of fibers which are woven, embroidered, braided or intermingled to form a textile, and wherein

the textile further comprising two opposite sides, with one side coated with a reflective film.

13. The item of clothing as claimed in claim 12, wherein the reflective film is made of aluminum.

14. The item of clothing as claimed in claim 1 configured as a plaster.

15. A method of forming an item of clothing for use in providing a laser-therapy to a wearer of the item of clothing comprising a solid-state laser emitting material configured as at least one of a fiber and a film, the solid state laser emitting material including polymer matrix functioning as host materials, containing laser dye of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 as gain materials and nano-submicron particles as scattering particles therein, the scattering particles being selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 nano-submicrons particles, ZnO nano-submicrons particles, their mixtures, and their mixtures with TiO_2 nano-submicrons particles thereof, the lowest lasing threshold of the laser emitting material being approximately 5 mJ/cm^2 for 585 nm emission and 2 mJ/cm^2 for 630 nm emission; and a light source configured for use in conjunction with the solid-state laser emitting material for stimulating laser emission from the solid-state laser emitting material; wherein the solid-state laser emitting material is configured for attachment to a flexible fabric of the item of clothing such that when the item of clothing is ordinarily worn by the wearer, laser emissions from the solid state laser emitting material are able to be flexibly directed into contact with the wearer's skin to effect laser therapy, the method including the steps of: mixing a laser dye of rhodamine 590 or rhodamine 610 and nano-submicrons scattering particles in a dichloromethane resolution until the laser dye is dissolved; adding a dichloromethane resolution of a polymer matrix to the mixture of the laser dye and nano-submicrons scattering particles; after addition of the dichloromethane resolution of the polymer matrix, sonificating the mixture until an at least

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substantially homogeneous solution is formed; and cell-casting the solution for forming the film.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the weight ratio of the laser dye to polymer matrix is in a range of approximately 0.46 wt %-0.57 wt %.

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17. The method of claim **15**, wherein the weight ratio of TiO₂ particles to the polymer matrix is approximately 0.57 wt %.

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