### **Accepted Manuscript**

Bio-inspired soft robotics: Material selection, actuation, and design

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 PII:
 S2352-4316(17)30231-6

 DOI:
 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eml.2018.05.003

 Reference:
 EML 369

**Extreme Mechanics Letters** 

Received date :27 December 2017Revised date :17 April 2018Accepted date :22 May 2018

To appear in:



Please cite this article as: S. Coyle, C. Majidi, P. LeDuc, K.J. Hsia, Bio-inspired soft robotics: Material selection, actuation, and design, *Extreme Mechanics Letters* (2018), https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eml.2018.05.003

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# Bio-inspired Soft Robotics: Material Selection, Actuation, and Design Stephen Coyle<sup>a</sup>, Carmel Majidi<sup>a</sup>, Philip LeDuc<sup>a</sup>, and K. Jimmy Hsia<sup>a,b,\*</sup> <sup>a</sup> Department of Mechanical Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

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Keywords:	ABSTRACT
Morphology Biomimetic Pneumatic Artificial Muscle (PAM) Material Jamming Bio-Hybrid	Animals exploit the deformability of soft structures to move efficiently in complex natural environments. These soft structures are inherently compliant and enable large strains in components not typically found in robotics. Such capabilities have inspired robotic engineers to
Mechanical Dynamics Actuation Embodied Intelligence Degrees of Freedom Compliance Storage Modulus Loss Modulus Energy Density	incorporate soft technologies into their designs. One goal in soft robotics is to endow robots with new, bioinspired features that permit morphologically adaptive interactions with unpredictable environments. Here, we review three key elements of bioinspired soft robots from a mechanics vantage point, namely, materials selection, actuation, and design. Soft materials are necessary for safe interaction and overall actuation of bio-inspired robots. The intrinsic properties of materials in soft robots allow for an "embodied intelligence" that can potentially reduce the mechanical and algorithmic complexity in ways not possible with rigid-bodied robots. Finally, soft robotics can be combined with tissue engineering and synthetic biology to create bio- hybrid systems with unique sensing, dynamic response, and mobility. Bioinspired soft robots have the ability to also expedite the evolution of
	co-robots that can safery interact with numans.

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