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Soft Actuators: Design, Fabrication and Applications

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Soft robotics is a fascinating research field that integrates material sciences, robotics and biology to create the next generation of robots that can better adapt to natural environments with complex uncertainties and human-centric operations with strict safety requirements. As one of the core components of soft robots, soft actuators have constantly been the research focus of this particular field. Over the last decade, we have witnessed the rapid development of many novel soft actuators, such as pneu-net and electroactive polymers, which have enabled the agile locomotion and complex task operations of soft robots. These include achieving a more efficient/effective actuation of soft actuators through clever and elegant design; developing rapid, yet reliable, fabrication techniques to replace conventional, time-consuming casting for soft actuators; and developing novel applications for these soft actuators that exhibit their true potential in real-world settings.

This Special Issue will be devoted to state-of-the-art research on soft actuators, including the design, fabrication and applications of soft actuators.

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