Soft Matter

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ISSN 1744-683X CODEN SMOABF 6(4) 694–810 (2010)

Cover
See W. Wu *et al.*, pp. 739–742.
A schematic of a biomimetic microvascular network that mimics ivy leaf venation; different colors denote microchannels of varying diameter. (Image by W. Wu and J.A. Lewis).
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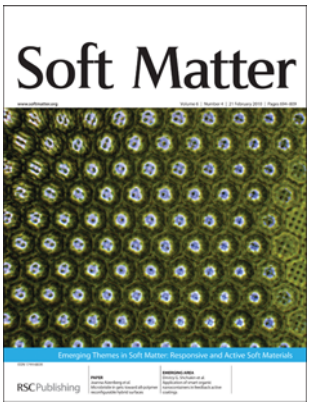


Inside cover
See P. Kim *et al.*, pp. 750–755.
A microbristle–hydrogel hybrid surface exhibiting dynamically changing surface patterns upon wetting/drying.
Image reproduced by permission of Joanna Aizenberg from *Soft Matter*, 2010, **6**, 750.

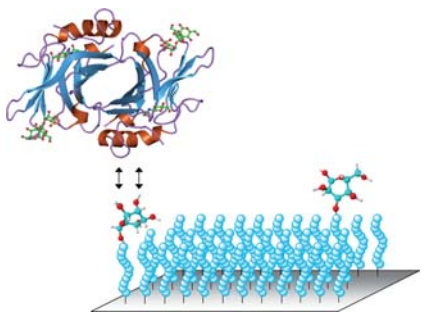
EDITORIAL

Emerging themes in soft matter: responsive and active soft materials

Anna C. Balazs and Julia M. Yeomans

This theme issue of *Soft Matter* focuses on the emerging theme of responsive and active materials. It covers a range of research looking into "smart" materials that are capable of producing a global behavior in response to a local signal.

HIGHLIGHTS



Smart bioactive surfaces

Erik Wischerhoff, Nezha Badi, Jean-François Lutz* and André Laschewsky*

This highlight discusses the field of synthetic bioactive surfaces. Different types of man-made materials capable of interacting with biological objects (*e.g.* proteins, viruses, bacteria or cells) are analyzed and discussed.

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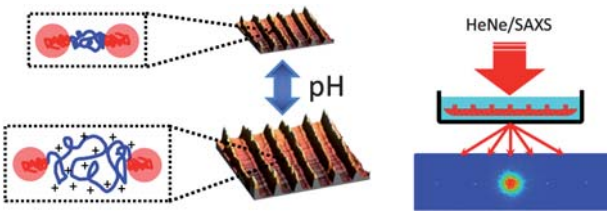
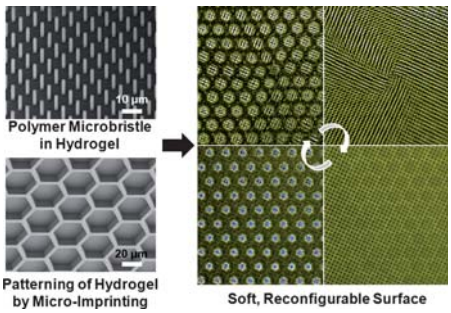
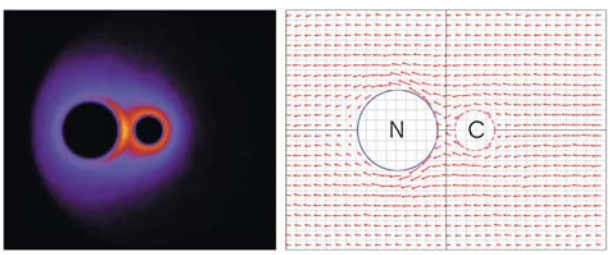
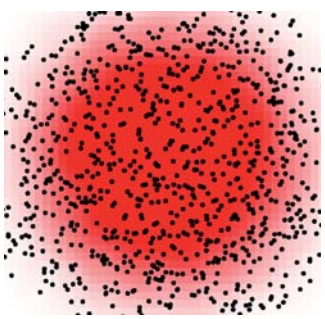
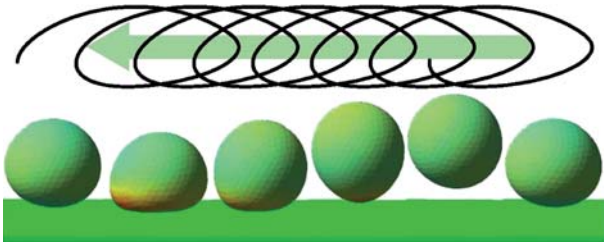


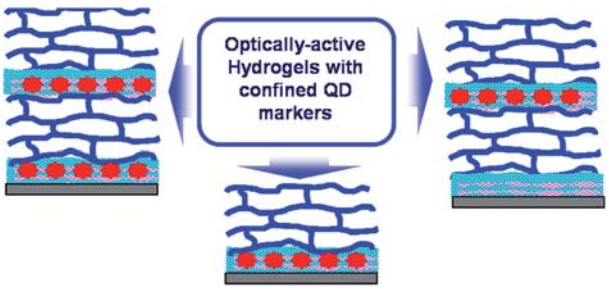






PAPERS





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