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### UNH Researchers Discover Way to Create New Smart Material

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# NEWSROOM (//WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS)



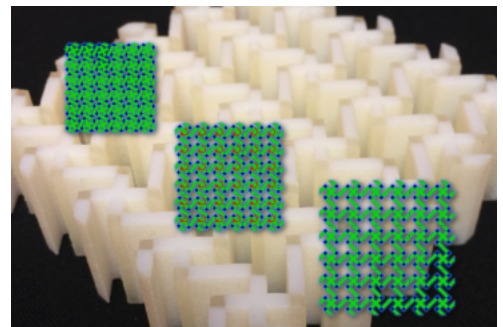
## UNH Researchers Discover Way to Create New Smart Material

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

(HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS)  
U=HTTPS://WWW.UNH.EDU/UNHTODAY/NEWS  
RESEARCHERS  
DISCOVER  
WAY- WAY- WAY-  
CREATE  
NEW- NEW- NEW-  
SMART  
MATERIAL

DURHAM, N.H. – For the first time, researchers at the University of New Hampshire have shown that rotating cells in chiral cellular solids, a foam-like substance, could lead to the creation of a new smart material. Manipulating the solids by increasing the cell size could lead to safer and lighter weight foam protection in helmets, packaging and armor, and may have biomedical applications in stent designs and drug delivery systems.

“Changing the geometry of the chiral auxetic cellular solids can allow the material to respond differently to certain things like temperature, humidity, light, or impact,” says Yaning Li, assistant professor of mechanical engineering. “For instance, foam in a helmet made of this material could



JIANG, Y. AND LI, Y. (2016), 3D PRINTED CHIRAL CELLULAR SOLIDS WITH AMPLIFIED AUXETIC EFFECTS DUE TO ELEVATED INTERNAL ROTATION . ADV. ENG. MATER..  
DOI:10.1002/ADEM.201600609

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become denser on impact and offer more protection, or a smart medical bandage could be triggered to release medicine based on different levels of swelling.”

In the study, recently published online in *Advanced Engineering Materials* (3D Printed Chiral Cellular Solids with Amplified Auxetic Effects Due to Elevated Internal Rotation (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/adem.201600609/abstract;jsessionid=870836ACE680EC0CF49CCBBE892DFD97.f04t03>)), the researchers outline their approach to alter the behavior of the foam material by changing it on a cellular level. After increasing the rotation of the cells, the researchers used a 3D printer to create a new model that showed an elevated internal efficiency, which allowed it to absorb more energy.

Chiral auxetic cellular solids, or foam, are very flexible in volume change which makes them a good candidate for energy absorption and enhanced protection applications, such as cushioning for helmets, packing materials, and sports or military protective armor. Chiral cellular solids can also be used as a smart facade in buildings, where each cell can open or close automatically when the light intensity or temperature changes during the day to help save energy.

This work has been supported by the National Science Foundation through grants CMMI-1554468 (CAREER), and CMMI-1362893, and DoD/AFOSR through Summer Faculty Fellowship Program (SFFP) and grant FA9550-16-1-0011.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, health and human services, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH's research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

**Editor's Notes:****Videos to download:**

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The 3D-printed basic single-material chiral specimen (specimen 1) under uniaxial compression (20.0x) before cell manipulation.  
Credit: University of New Hampshire.

[http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner\\_id/391611/uiconf\\_id/2516021/entry\\_id/1\\_ha9dj8uy/embed/auto?](http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/391611/uiconf_id/2516021/entry_id/1_ha9dj8uy/embed/auto?)  
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Credit: University of New Hampshire.

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