ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for providing a blood pump system having a variable stiffness distal extension are disclosed. A variable stiffness distal extension may have at least one section of continuously varying stiffness, resulting in a stiffness profile that decreases in a distal direction along a length of the distal extension. The varying stiffness may be accomplished by varying one or more radial dimensions of the extension. For example, in some implementations, an outer diameter of a distal extension may decrease along at least a portion of a distal extension. The distal extension may include a lumen configured to receive a longitudinally extending element.

Fig. 1