

# World Journal of *Gastroenterology*

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## Bibliometrics analysis based on the Web of Science: Current trends and perspective of gastric organoid during 2010-2023

Kai-Lin Jiang, Yue-Bo Jia, Xue-Jiao Liu, Qing-Ling Jia, Li-Kun Guo, Xiang-Xiang Wang, Ke-Ming Yang, Chen-Heng Wu, Bei-Bei Liang, Jiang-Hong Ling

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### Abstract

#### BACKGROUND

Three-dimensional organoid culture systems have been established as a robust tool for elucidating mechanisms and performing drug efficacy testing. The use of gastric organoid models holds significant promise for advancing personalized medicine research. However, a comprehensive bibliometric review of this burgeoning field has not yet been published.

#### AIM

To analyze and understand the development, impact, and direction of gastric organoid research using bibliometric methods using data from the Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) database.

#### METHODS

This analysis encompassed literature pertaining to gastric organoids published between 2010 and 2023, as indexed in the WoSCC. CiteSpace and VOSviewer were used to depict network maps illustrating collaborations among authors, institutions and keywords related to gastric organoid. Citation, co-citation, and burst analysis methodologies were applied to assess the impact and progress of research.

## RESULTS

A total of 656 relevant studies were evaluated. The majority of research was published in gastroenterology-focused journals. Globally, Yana Zavros, Hans Clevers, James M Wells, Sina Bartfeld, and Chen Zheng were the 5 most productive authors, while Hans Clevers, Huch Meritxell, Johan H van Es, Marc Van de Wetering, and Sato Toshiro were the foremost influential scientists in this area. Institutions from the University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology (Utrecht), and University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH, United States) made the most significant contributions. Currently, gastric organoids are used mainly in studies investigating gastric cancer (GC), *Helicobacter pylori*-infective gastritis, with a focus on the mechanisms of GC, and drug screening tests.

## CONCLUSION

Key focus areas of research using gastric organoids include unraveling disease mechanisms and enhancing drug screening techniques. Major contributions from renowned academic institutions highlight this field's dynamic growth.

**Key Words:** Gastric organoid; Gastric disease; Bibliometrics analysis; Gastric cancer; Gastritis

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**Core Tip:** This study highlights the pivotal role of organoid technology in gastric disease research, emphasizing its growth in publications and citations. Key contributions from leading researchers and institutions, particularly in understanding gastric cancer and *Helicobacter pylori*-infective gastritis, mark advances in the field. Focused on deciphering cancer mechanisms and improving drug screening, this area of exploration provides crucial insights for future gastroenterology research.

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## INTRODUCTION

The term “organoid” was first introduced as an anatomical diagnosis of tumors in a study of tumor mechanisms in 1946 [1]. Organoid generally refers to tissues or structures that are similar to organs used *in vitro* biology. A gastric organoid is a specific cluster of cells derived from gastric or pluripotent stem cells [2,3]. Gastric organoids are highly similar to gastric epithelial tissue in terms of cellular components, tissue architecture, and specific functions, and have corresponding functional characteristics, which enable the replication of gastric epithelial tissues *in vitro* [4]. Gastrointestinal organoid technology represents a technical revolution compared with conventional cell biology methods. In conventional cell culture, a single-cell clone is cultured in a two-dimensional environment. However, in gastric organoid culture, many cell clones from the stomach can be cultured in a three-dimensional (3D) environment exhibiting a higher degree of similarity to the *in vivo* microenvironment, thus providing a more accurate and physiologically pertinent model for study [5,6]. Gastric organoids cultured *in vitro*, especially those derived from human tissues, provide a new platform for the study of human gastric physiology and diseases [7]. Since Barker first described a protocol using mouse leucine-rich repeat-containing G-protein coupled receptor 5+ (Lgr5+) gastric stem cells to construct gastric organoids in 2010, gastric organoids have attracted increasing attention in the field of digestive tract research [8].

In recent years, numerous living biobanks of tumor organoids have been established. For instance, a human gastric cancer (GC) organoid biobank encompasses 34 patients and 63 organoid lines, capturing the heterogeneity of tumor subtypes and enabling therapeutic screening [9]. These established organoid biobanks serve as biomaterial for human cancer research and personalized medicine. They have been widely used in fundamental research investigating gastric physiology and pathology, clinical areas, such as diagnostic processes, pharmacological screening and development, as well as gene therapy applications [10,11]. Hans Clevers from Utrecht University in the Netherlands is a pioneer in the field, having made significant contributions to the technology [12].

The Web of Science Core Collection (WoSCC) database houses many published academic studies. Because these publications are fragmented, strong conclusions from studies investigating gastric organoids should coherently bring research findings together. In the present study, we used bibliometric analysis to generate a network map of author(s), institution(s), keywords, and co-cited references derived from publications addressing gastric organoids. We then systematically analyzed the main topics based on the results of this analysis to build an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of research investigating gastric organoids.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Data collection

Literature sources included in this study were retrieved from the WoSCC database. The database was searched by combining the terms “organoid”, “gastroid”, “spheroid”, “gastric”, “gastritis”, and “stomach”. Studies published from 2010 up to September 2023 were searched to form the basis of data processing and analysis.

### Data analysis

Data extracted from the studies retrieved in the literature search of the WoSCC database included author information, title, keywords, abstract, and references, and underwent preliminary screening. Quantitative variables were analyzed using spreadsheet software (Excel 2019, Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA, United States). Citespace version 6.1.R3, developed by Chen Chaomei, and VOSviewer version 1.68, developed by Nees Jan van Eck and Ludo Waltman, were used for scientific knowledge mapping and analysis[13,14]. VOSviewer 1.68 was used to calculate citations and publications of authors and institutions, and to depict the keyword network graph[15,16]. Citespace 6.1.R3 was used to calculate co-cite and citation frequencies, centrality, keyword bursts, references, as well as to depict a network graph of authors, institutions, and a timeline graph of keywords[17].

Citation analysis is a statistical method of illustrating the quantity of cited studies to identify patterns and measurement characteristics. Generally, the more often a study is cited, the greater its impact. Co-citation is when 2 studies are cited by  $\geq 1$  study at the same time, which indicates how closely the 2 studies are related[18,19]. Moreover, the greater the number of studies cited simultaneously, the closer the relationship between the two. Centrality is an indicator of the importance of a node in a network, and documents with high centrality are often the key hubs connecting two different domains. Evolution of a field of knowledge can be indicated by references with citation bursts. A burst is a keyword/citation reference that has received scholarly attention in a particular field. The timeline is presented as a blue bar, while the interval, when a topic is found to have a burst, is presented as a red section indicating the year it started, the year it ended, and the time of the burst. Higher intensity indicates a higher citation frequency.

Each circle on the network map represents an “individual”, and the size of the circle represents the active degree and the number of publications of the keyword. The closer the distance between an “individual” and an “individual”, the closer the relationship between them. The increased number of connected lines indicates the increased number of co-citations between the “individual”[14].

## RESULTS

### General information

A total of 656 articles were retrieved in the literature search. The successful culture of gastric-like organs was first reported in 2010, and relevant research developed slowly and steadily in the ensuing years[8]. The number of publications and citations exhibited stable growth from 2010 to 2016 and then a sharp increase after 2017 (Figure 1A). Researchers discovered the great advantage of the organoid model in the past 5 years; therefore, relevant publications and citations have increased rapidly. Most articles have been high quality and were published in *Gastroenterology*, *International Journal of Molecular Science*, *Cancers*, *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Nature Communications*, *Cancer Research*, *Cancer Science*, and *Gut* (Figure 1B). These journals focus mainly on cancer and gastroenterological diseases.

### Authors

A total of 474 investigators published research in this area, with 32 publishing > 5 studies. Yana Zavros, Hans Clevers, James M Wells, Sato Toshiro, and Koo Bon-kyoung were the 5 most productive authors. Hans Clevers, Huch Meritxell, Johan H van Es, Marc Van de Wetering, and Sato Toshiro were the 5 most popular scientists. Hans Clevers, Yana Zavros, and Richard Peek demonstrated high centrality (0.04). Most of the productive and influential investigators were from The Netherlands and the United States, mainly from the University Medical Center Utrecht (Utrecht, Netherlands) and the University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH, United States), respectively. Table 1 summarizes the top 15 most cited researchers and their respective countries.

Hans Clevers, Sato Toshiro, Sina Bartfeld, N Barker, Huch Meritxel, and Marc van de Wetering established a close and vital cooperative network. HHN Yang worked closely with T Seldlitz, G Vlachogiannis worked closely with L Broutier, and another network was formed between S Takaishi and A Jemal. The co-authorship network diagram is presented in Figure 2A.

### Institutions

A total of 314 institutions published research on this topic, and 54 published > 5 studies. The top 5 most-productive institutions in this context were the University of Cincinnati, Hiroshima University, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI, United States), Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN, United States), and the University Medical Center Utrecht. The top 5 most cited institutions were the University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology Utrecht, University of Cincinnati, University of Hong Kong, and the University of Michigan. The top 15 most-cited institutions, which were mostly from the Netherlands, United States, China, and Japan, are summarized in Table 2. The University of Cincinnati had the highest centrality (0.25), followed by the University Medical Center Utrecht (0.18).

**Table 1 The top 15 most cited scholars in gastric organoid field**

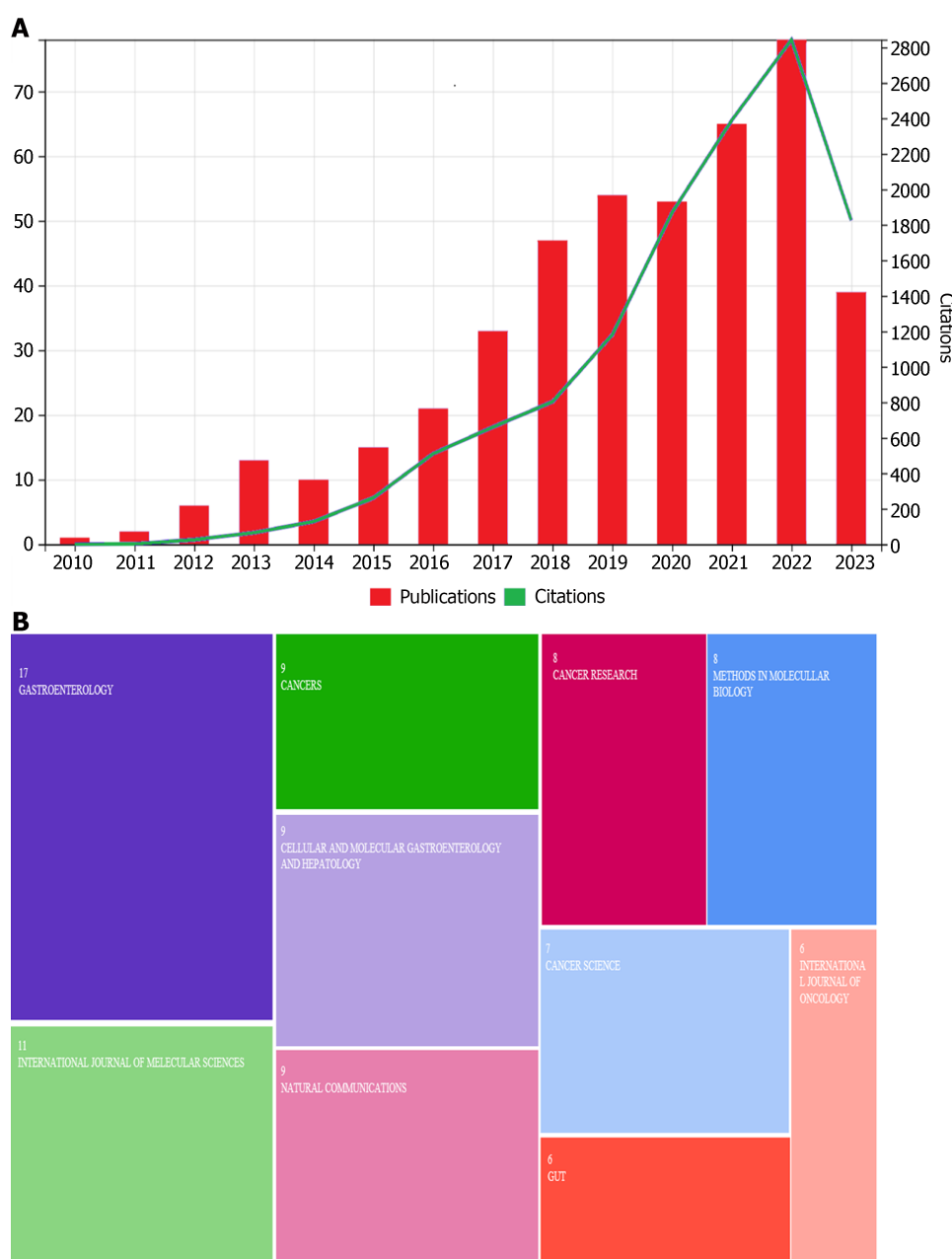
Rank	Author	Publications	Citations	Country	Centrality
1	Clevers, Hans	30	5144	Netherland	0.08
2	Huch, Meritxell	10	3987	German	0.04
3	Van es, Johan	7	3244	Netherland	0.00
4	Van de Wetering, Marc	6	3175	Netherland	0.00
5	Sato, Toshiro	14	3141	Japan	0.08
6	Stange, Daniel	12	1764	German	0.01
7	Barker, Nick	13	1707	Netherland	0.03
8	Koo, Bon-kyoung	15	1618	Netherland	0.25
9	Bartfeld, Sina	13	1405	German	0.03
10	Zavros, Yana	46	1312	United States	0.04
11	Wells, James	22	1040	United States	0.01
12	Spence, Jason	7	973	United States	0.00
13	Peek, Richard	5	715	United States	0.05
14	Schumacher, Michael	6	657	Japan	0.00
15	Chen, Zheng	12	615	United States	0.03

**Table 2 The top 15 most cited institutions in gastric organoid field**

Rank	Institution	Country	Publications	Citations	Centrality
1	University Medical Center Utrecht	Netherland	19	5083	0.18
2	Netherlands Institute for Developmental Biology Utrecht	Netherland	8	3064	0.00
3	University of Cincinnati	United States	33	1451	0.25
4	University of Hong Kong	Hongkong, China	6	1148	0.08
5	University of Michigan	United States	22	1104	0.04
6	Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center	United States	16	999	0.07
7	Columbia University	United States	11	986	0.05
8	Vanderbilt University	United States	22	941	0.25
9	Stanford University	United States	11	881	0.02
10	Cambridge University	United Kingdom	7	758	0.08
11	Harvard University	United States	12	731	0.08
12	Shinshu University	Japan	17	625	0.07
13	Keio University	Japan	13	602	0.13
14	Nanjing med University	China	14	600	0.20
15	Miami University	United States	7	556	0.00

The United States had the most extensive cooperative network. The University of Cincinnati, Vanderbilt University, University of Michigan, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medicine Center formed the centers of each United States-collaborating institution. Chinese and Japanese scientists contributed the most to research from Asian institutions. Nanjing University (Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China), Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China), and Fudan University (Shanghai, China) played central roles in the Chinese institutional network of collaborations, radiating out to other institutions. Japanese institutions were dominated, in this context, by Hiroshima University (Hiroshima, Japan), with more collaborations with the University of Cincinnati and other Japanese and Korean institutions.

The University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands has a network of collaborations with European institutions. A network diagram illustrating institutional collaboration is presented in [Figure 2B](#).



**Figure 1** Publication and citation trends in gastric organoid. A: The number of publications and citations per year from 2010 to 2023. The red bars represent the number of publications, and the green line indicates the number of citations, showing an overall upward trend in both metrics over the given period; B: Citations in different medical journals in a recent year, with each color-coded section corresponding to a different journal. The size of each section reflects the number of citations, and the number is provided within each, with *Gastroenterology* and *Cancers* being among the journals with the highest citation counts.

### Keywords and hotspots for gastric organoids

VOSviewer was used to construct a keyword network graph. Based on the network analysis the high-frequency keywords of published articles were clustered into 4 categories. The orange area (cluster #1, “Gastric organoid formation”) included the main terms related to gastric organoid construction such as stem cells, gastric epithelium, pyloric gland, and fundic gland. The green area (cluster #2, “Gastric cancer organoid formation”) explored gastric organoid construction such as tumor stem cells, tumor proliferation and differentiation, and immunohistochemistry. The blue area (cluster #3, “Applications of gastric cancer organoids”) occupied a large panel and described the application of organoids in GC therapeutic research, which indicated the study of tumor drug resistance, gene mutations, signaling pathways, and immunohistochemistry. It contains proteins such as WNT, kif11, and pi3k. Another interesting finding in these network diagrams is the red cluster, which is related to the application of organoids in gastritis (cluster #4, “Application of organoid in gastritis research”), including *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection, inflammatory pathway activation, and cagA proteins (Figure 3). Many early studies investigating organoids focused on the formation and differentiation of GC organoids, whereas more recent studies focused on the treatment and mechanism of gastritis and GC.

After filtering out non-relevant and repetitive keywords, such as “expression” and “identification”, the 20 most popular keywords in the field of gastric organoids were shortlisted and are summarized in Table 3. GC and *H. pylori*-

Table 3 The 20 most popular keywords in the field of gastric organoids

Keyword	Freq	Centrality
Gastric cancer	177	0.06
Stem cell	110	0.04
Cancer stem cell	45	0.10
Differentiation	41	0.06
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	32	0.01
Metastasis	30	0.19
Proliferation	30	0.04
Resistance	29	0.06
Epithelial cell	27	0.16
Self-renewal	26	0.11
Apoptosis	22	0.07
Progression	22	0.04
Protein	20	0.03
Progenitor cell	18	0.04
Gene expression	18	0.05
Chief cell	17	0.04
Migration	16	0.01
Chemotherapy	16	0.07
Epithelial mesenchymal transition	14	0.02
Mutation	15	0.03

related gastritis were identified as the most prevalent diseases. Stem cells, cancer stem cells, epithelial cells, progenitor cells, and chief cells were identified as the main cellular “hotpot”. Cellular events related to cancer development and progression, such as metastasis, proliferation, apoptosis, migration, epithelial-mesenchymal transition, and mutation have received more attention.

In addition, burst keywords were considered to be the indicators of emerging trends. Overall, it can be classified into 3 phases, beginning from 2010 to 2014 with high intensity in drug resistance, cancer stem cell, and self-renewal, followed by that from 2015 to 2020 with epithelium, carcinoma, epithelial-mesenchymal transition, *H. pylori*, inflammation, and regeneration year by year, and the third phase from 2020 until present with mutation, response, tumor microenvironment, and paclitaxel. Figure 4 depicts the keywords with the strongest citation bursts in this field.

The timeline view of the keywords in gastric organoid is presented in Figure 5. There were a total of 17 main research clusters incorporating gastric organoid applications. In addition, the typical labels in each cluster are reported in Table 4.

### Co-cited references and references burst

A total of 492 references were co-cited, 11 of which were co-cited > 30 times. Table 5 summarizes the top 10 co-cited studies, and Figure 6 illustrates the main elements of these important studies investigating gastric organoids and the significant findings. McCracken *et al*[20] used human pluripotent stem cells to form gastric organoids by adding essential cellular factors [such as EGF, BMP4, WNT5a, and fibroblast growth factors (*e.g.*, FGF10)]. Bartfeld *et al*[6] used flow cytometry to sort 4 specific cell lines, pit mucous cells, gland mucous cells, chief cells, and enteroendocrine cells, and successfully cultured the corresponding organoid lines. Schlaermann *et al*[7] pioneered a culture protocol for the spheroid formation of the gastric corpus and body, which can be used as an *in vitro* model of *H. pylori* infection. Vlachogiannis *et al* [21] compared the responses of 21 patients with gastrointestinal tumors and patient-derived organoids (PDOs) to targeted drugs or chemotherapy and found that sensitivity and specificity to predict drug treatment for patients were 100% and 93%. Yan *et al*[9] established an organoid biobank and recorded differentially expressed genes between tumor organoids and paired tumor tissues. Seidlitz *et al*[22] and Nanki *et al*[23] demonstrated that human and mouse GC organoid models can mimic the typical human GC characteristics and altered signal pathways, demonstrating their potential role as biomarkers of treatment response.

Burst analysis displayed the minimum duration of the bursts as 1 year, although the longest was 5 years. Of these citations, 28% (7/25) of the bursts occurred before 2015, with 36% (9/25) of literature bursts in 2015 and 36% (9/25) after 2017[24]. Twelve percent (3/25) of the citation outbreaks occurred in the past 2 years. Of the top 25 references, the strongest citation burst (14.3) was for studies by Barker *et al*[25], with the longest citation burst. Barker *et al*[25] reported



Table 4 The typical labels in each cluster

No.	Cluster label	Year	Label
0	Stem cell	2015	Stem cell; cancer; differentiation; model; acid gastric cancer; signet ring carcinoma; matrix metalloproteinase; spdef; transcription factor; stem cell; regeneration; gastric cancer; progenitor; <i>in vitro</i> expansion
1	Mouse	2018	Gastric cancer; transcription factor; regeneration; tumor suppressor genes; identification <i>in vitro</i> ; expansion; liver; leptin deficiency; en-y gastric bypass; mouse; liver; infection; bariatric surgery; gastrointestinal cancer
2	Noncanonical nuclear factor-kappa B	2019	Gastric cancer; her2; capecitabine; open label; oxaliplatin drug screening; cancer organoids; precision medicine; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; living biobanks; cancer organoids; organoid; drug screenin; tptep1; secretion
3	Gastric cancer	2013	Gene; differentiation; receptor; lgr5; r spondin, gastric cancer; morphogenetic protein; epidermal growth factor receptor; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; tissue engineering; tumor microenvironment; receptor; gastric intestinal metaplasia; gene; csc markers (6.04, 0.05)
4	Targeted therapy	2016	Gastric cancer; cancer stem cell; endothelial growth; mammary stem cell; gastric cancers, cancer stem cells; translational research; tumor suppressor genes; gastric organoids; cancer microenvironment; abcg2; cancer stem cell; lgr4; acbp-3; cycle arrest
5	Polypeptide expression	2017	Cancer; progression; microenvironment; mmp 9; angiogenesis, gene expression; endoderm; gastrointestinal tract; mouse small intestine; gata4; gene expression; angiogenesis; epstein barr virus; toripalimab; mmp 9
6	Cell	2015	Goblet cell carcinoid; crypt cell adenocarcinoma; appendix; mucinous; neuroendocrine; amphophilic; crypt cell adenocarcinoma; appendix; amphophilic; mucinous; neuroendocrine
7	Expression	2012	Survival; tumor suppressor; her2; poor prognosis; amplification, organoids; stomach; chemotherapy; gastroids; proliferation; amplification; gastroids; myc; inactivation; conditional mouse model
8	Synthetic lethality	2019	Gastric cancer; gastric organoids; gland fission; gastric stem cells; mtor; mtor; gland fission; gastric stem cells; gastric organoids; gastric cancer
9	Autophagy	2014	Gastric cancer; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; base excision repair; stomach neoplasms; gastric stem cells, nf kappa; trefoil protein; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; robust model; atrophic gastritis; NF kappa b; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; inflammation; antral epithelium; dynamic histology
10	Cancer organoids	2020	Gastric cancer; resistance; cancer; cetuximab; heterogeneity, cancer stem cell; lauren classification; mucin phenotype expression; cluster; transcription factor; gastric cancer; cd44; stomach; cancer stem cell; chemoresistance
11	Tumor microenvironment	2017	Gastric cancer; t-cell infiltration; recombinant protein; precision oncology; cancer model, stem cell; stomach; promote; cancer; gene expression; targeted therapy; self-renewa; promote; anti-egfr single domain antibody; cancer evolution
12	abcg 2	2012	Gastric cancer; cancer stem cells; <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> ; beta catenin; wound repair identification; stem cell; expression; inhibition; stomach; polypeptide expressing metaplasia; contribute; network; immune response; inhibition
13	Gene expression	2013	Gastric cancer; drug sensitivity; shaker; albumin-bound paclitaxel; stomach, breast cancer; model; growth; drug; identification; cell; breast cancer; growth; recombinant protein; irgd
14	Crypt cell adenocarcinoma	2018	Expression; stomach; stem cell; identification; progenitor cell, gastric cancer; stem cells; cancer biology; beta-galactoside alpha; sialic acid; expression; identification; pathogenesis; metaplasia; progenitor cell
15	Amplification	2015	Gastric cancer; cell adhesion; cell matrix interaction; magnetic resonance imaging; hereditary diffuse gastric cancer, synthetic lethality; discoidin domain receptor; diffuse gastric cancer; magnetic resonance imaging; hereditary diffuse gastric cancer; synthetic lethality; hdgc; e cadherin; e-cadherin; chemoprevention
16	mTOR	2015	Gastric cancer; stem-like subtype; adult mouse; cluster; cathepsin c ovarian; shaker; dynamic; fluid; peritoneal; autophagy; hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha; cancer; metastasis; fibroblasts

that single Lgr5<sup>+</sup> stem cells generated gastric-like organs *in vitro* and that the WNT pathway promoted Lgr5<sup>+</sup> stem cell transformation, thereby promoting gastric adenoma formation. The second-highest citation burst appeared in a study by Stange *et al*[19], with a burst strength of 11.39 from 2015 to 2017. Stange *et al*[19] reported that Troy<sup>+</sup> cells at the gland base can generate all gland cells, which represents remarkable plasticity ability in the field of epithelial stem cell biology. Molecular characterization of gastric adenocarcinoma also demonstrated a citation burst from 2018 to 2019, with a strength of 10.83[26]. In the past 2 years, Steel *et al*[27] reported that patient tissues exhibited a response to combination drug therapy similar to PDOs and PDOs, which resembled the original patient's tissue gene mutation, which made a citation burst. Another review from Drost *et al*[28], which commented on current cancer organoid protocols and the method as a reliable model for cancer research also presented a burst. Figure 7 depicts the citation bursts for the 25 most-cited references.

## DISCUSSION

Professor Hans Clevers, a prolific scientist in the field of adult stem cells and organoid technology, identified Lgr5 as a marker of intestinal stem cells and established the first *in vitro* 3D organoid culture system for intestinal stem cells with his team. This pioneered the area of organoid research as a disease model for diagnostics, basic science, and preclinical

Table 5 The Top10 co-cited literature

Ref.	Title	Journal	Freq	Centrality
Bartfeld <i>et al</i> [6], 2015	<i>In vitro</i> expansion of human gastric epithelial stem cells and their responses to bacterial infection	<i>Gastroenterology</i>	50	0.10
Bray <i>et al</i> [24], 2018	Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries	<i>CA Cancer J Clin</i>	49	0.00
Yan <i>et al</i> [9], 2018	A Comprehensive Human Gastric Cancer Organoid Biobank Captures Tumor Subtype Heterogeneity and Enables Therapeutic Screening	<i>Cell Stem Cell</i>	45	0.05
Vlachogiannis <i>et al</i> [21], 2018	Patient-derived organoids model treatment response of metastatic gastrointestinal cancers	<i>Science</i>	43	0.06
Seidlitz <i>et al</i> [22], 2019	Human gastric cancer modelling using organoids	<i>GUT</i>	43	0.02
Schlaermann <i>et al</i> [7], 2016	A novel human gastric primary cell culture system for modelling <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> infection <i>in vitro</i>	<i>GUT</i>	37	0.09
Mccracken <i>et al</i> [20], 2014	Modelling human development and disease in pluripotent stem-cell-derived gastric organoids	<i>Nature</i>	35	0.05
Nanki <i>et al</i> [23], 2018	Divergent Routes toward Wnt and R-spondin Niche Interdependency during Human Gastric Carcinogenesis	<i>Cell</i>	32	0.07
Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network[26], 2014	Comprehensive molecular characterization of gastric adenocarcinoma	<i>Nature</i>	31	0.05
Stange <i>et al</i> [19], 2013	Differentiated Troy+ chief cells act as reserve stem cells to generate all lineages of the stomach epithelium	<i>Cell</i>	28	0.12

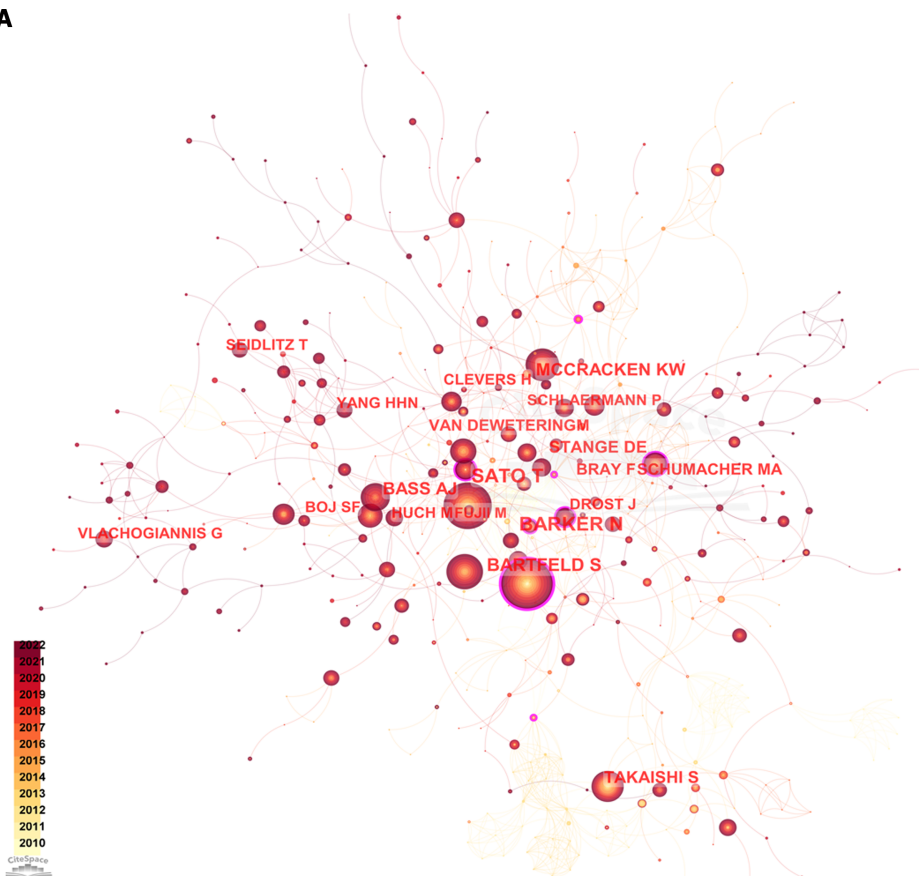
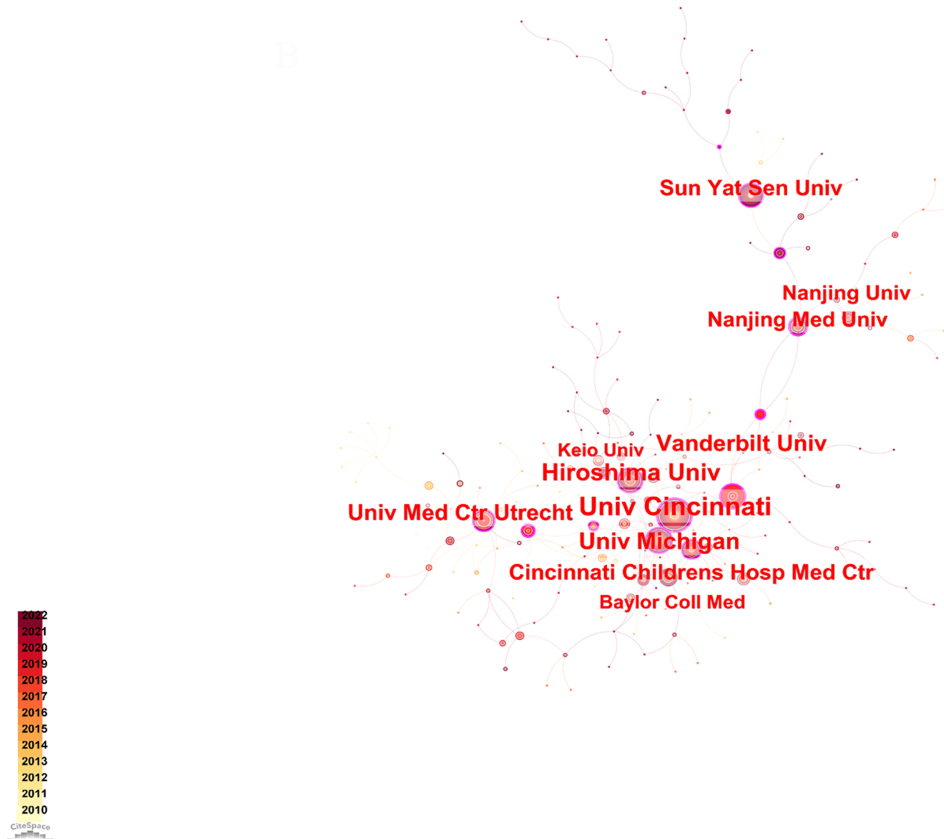
testing. Sato Toshiro exhibited the highest centrality among Asian researchers. He was a postdoctoral researcher in Hans Clevers' laboratory and was involved in the initial establishment of "mini-guts" in culture, after which he returned to Keio University (Tokyo, Japan) to focus on digestive tract organoids. The most predominant researchers were from the Clevers' laboratories, including Sina Bartfeld, Johan H Van es, Marc Van de Wetering, and Huch Meritxell[29-31].

The main institutions were those of the more influential authors, such as the University Medical Center Utrecht, University of Cincinnati, University of Michigan, and Keio University. The first research investigating gastrointestinal organoids establishment from the University of Cincinnati was in collaboration with Keio University, where Toshiro Sato worked[32]. Institutions in Europe, the United States, and Japan were more willing to form collaborative networks. Notably, Chinese institutions formed closer collaborations within the country than with external agencies. Chinese researchers are characterized by a lack of influence, which may be attributed to the lack of external collaboration(s), thus necessitating encouragement to form partnerships with institutions around the world[33,34].

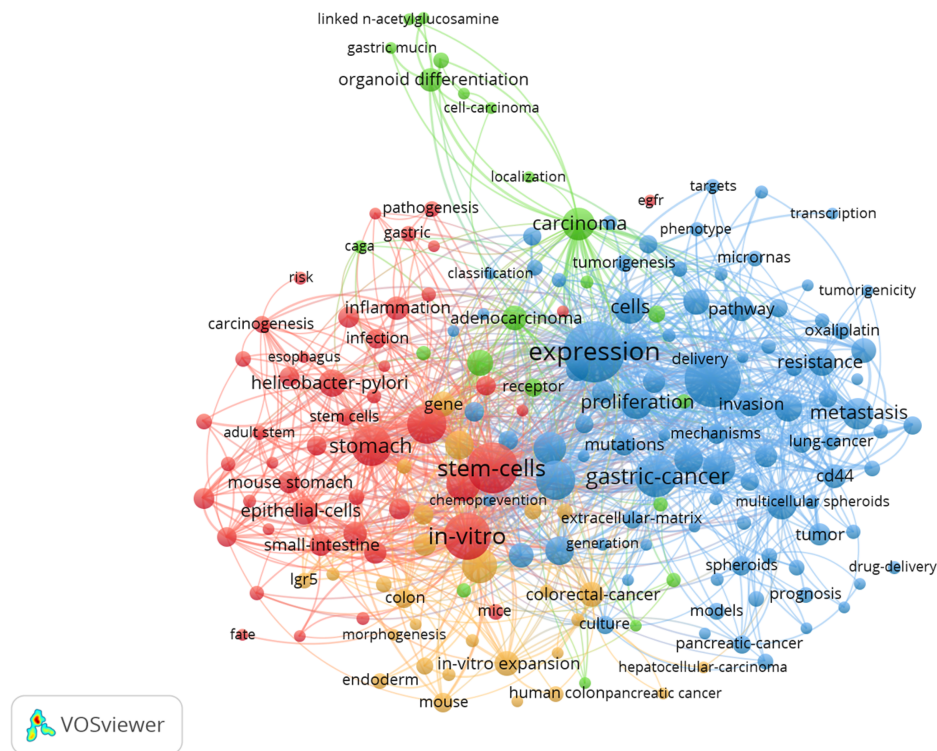
The network diagram of keywords revealed that the study of gastric organoids is currently being applied to 2 diseases: *H. pylori*-infective gastritis and GC. The timeline and burst analysis of keywords reflect past research hotspots and possible future research trends. Based on changes in keywords in this field in this decade, research investigating gastric organoids has gradually shifted from the exploration of model building in the early years to basic research and clinical applications, with the main focus on the mechanism of GC and drug sensitivity testing. In addition, research investigating *H. pylori* has received attention. The gastric organoid is expected to become a stable and powerful preclinical model in the future.

The results of co-cited literature in this decade suggest a shift from the earliest attempts to successfully construct gastric-like organs to a greater focus on the establishment of gastric organ biobanks. Work by Barker *et al*[8,25] was the initiating study in this field, laying the foundation for culturing gastric glands in culture dishes and the culture protocol by Bartfeld *et al*[6], which has become the reference standard for most studies[22,23,35,36]. In clinical applications, isolating GC tissues from patients to establish an organoid sample bank requires high technical expertise[9]. In addition, current technology cannot acquire pure cancer organoids because PDOs are always mixed with healthy tissues[23]. These limitations are offset by many advantages, such as their 3D physiology and the ability to test patient tumor tissues over time to facilitate clinical decision making. Several studies have compared organoid and patient responses to chemotherapeutics and achieved encouraging results[9,22,23,27]. Studies investigating larger-population cohorts are needed to confirm the accuracy of the predictive value of organoids to antitumor drugs. Drug screening for tumor organoids is more likely to be used as a predictive model similar to antibiotic susceptibility testing. Until then, larger samples require diagnostic tests to determine their sensitivity and specificity. To achieve effective clinical translation, clinical research investigating tumor organoids should focus on improving the efficiency and accuracy of drug screening and reappearing the tumor characteristics of patients to the greatest extent. Although these challenges need to be addressed, the overall outlook for predicting clinical outcomes is promising[38,39].

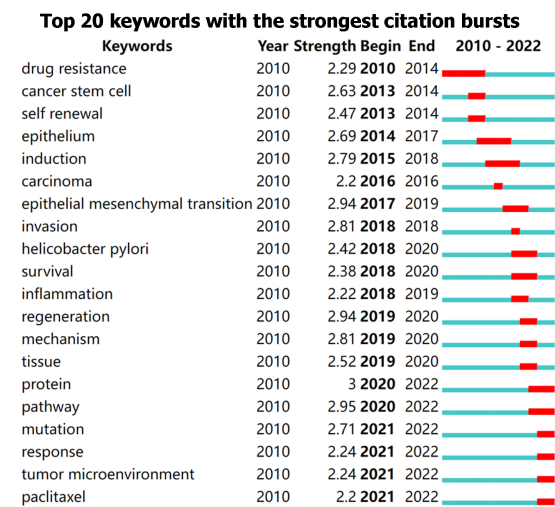
There were some limitations to the present study. Because gastric organoid research is an emerging field, the literature base is still in its infancy; as such, results of bibliometric analyses are inevitably limited. Second, there are currently some frontier technologies in gastric organoids; however, bibliometrics cannot highlight them because they are too innovative and have not been cited enough. These include organoid-on-chips[40] and clustered regularly interspaced palindromic repeats (*i.e.*, "CRISPR")-associated protein 9-mediated base editing organoids. Jeong developed an innovative human

**A****B**

**Figure 2 Network analysis of key scholars and institutions in gastric organoid research (2010-2023).** A: Depicts the collaboration and citation network among key scholars in the field, where the size of the nodes represents the citation count, and the color gradient indicates the year of publication (from light for 2010 to dark for 2023); B: The network positioning and relationships of major research institutions, with node size and color coding similarly representing the volume of citations and the temporal progression of research.



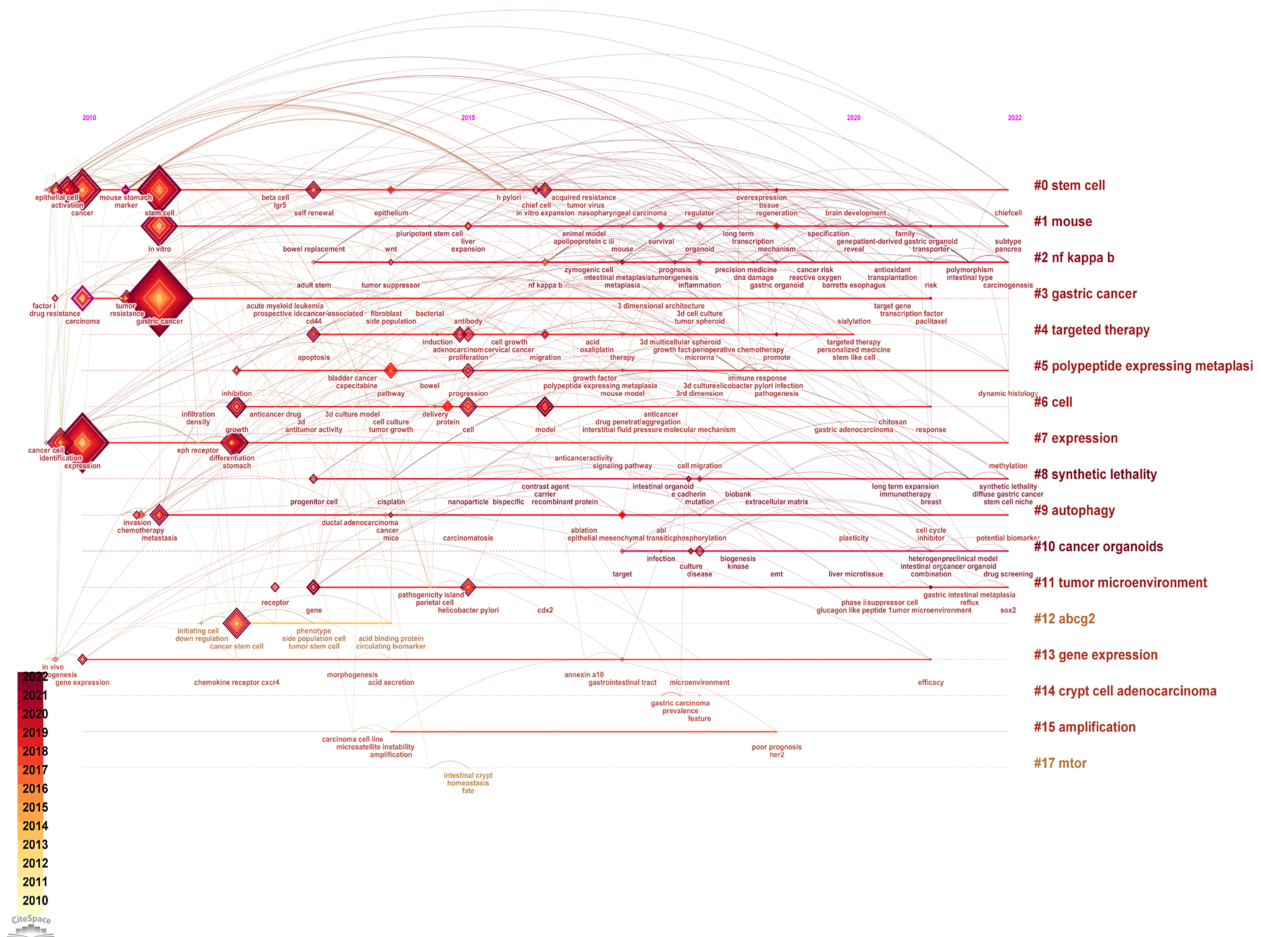
**Figure 3 Keyword co-occurrence network in gastric organoid research.** This visualization maps the interconnectivity of keywords within the gastric organoid literature, with node size indicating the frequency of keyword occurrence and edge thickness representing the strength of the keyword co-occurrence.



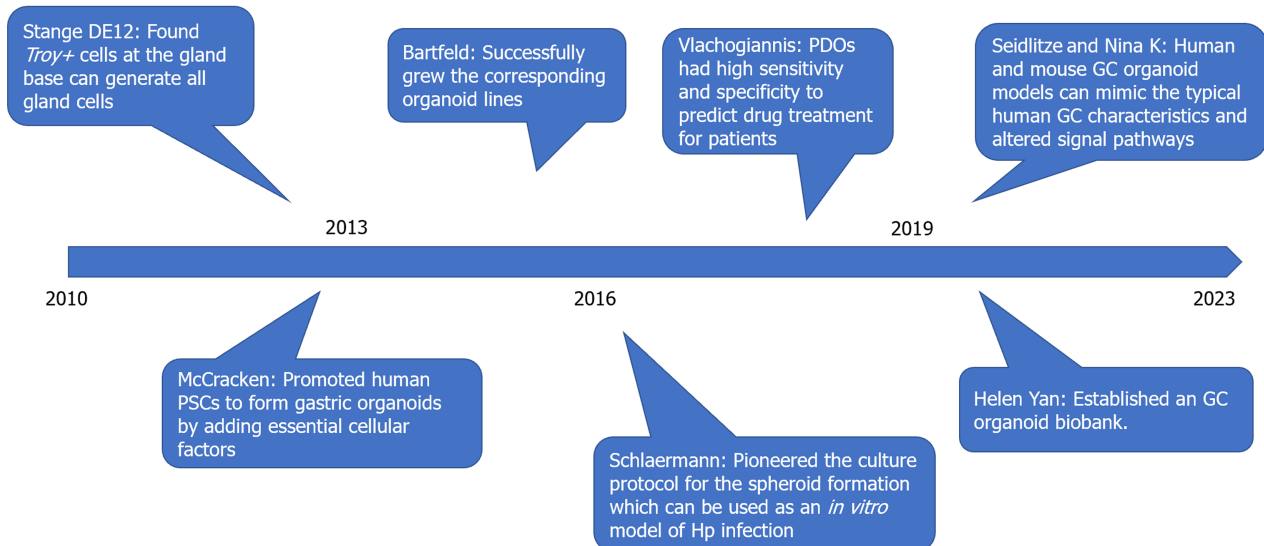
**Figure 4 Top 20 keywords with the strongest citation bursts.** The bar chart highlights keywords that have experienced significant surges in citations over specific time periods, with the length and color of the bars indicating the duration and intensity of the citation bursts, respectively.

stomach microphysiological system-on-a-chip (hsMPS), which exhibits a significantly improved gastric mucosal barrier. This advancement results from integrating MPS technology with organoid structures. In this hsMPS model, epithelial cells obtained from human antral organoids are co-cultivated with primary gastric mesenchymal stromal cells, isolated from gastric tissues, in an environment with regulated fluid dynamics[41]. Chen *et al*[42] utilized CRISPR technology in GCOs to reveal that SOX9-marked gastric stem cells play a pivotal role in the malignant transformation process, with biased symmetric cell division being crucial for their malignancy, particularly in regulating symmetric cell division and influencing the expansion of GC cells. Finally, the latest culture method described by Eicher *et al*[43], who differentiated human pluripotent stem cells into three germ layers, neuroglial, mesenchymal, and epithelial precursors, and subsequently cultured organoids to overcome the limitation of the lack of non-epithelial cells in organoids.





**Figure 5 Timeline visualization of thematic evolution in gastric organoid research.** This timeline graphically represents the evolution of research themes in the field of gastric organoids, with cluster size indicating the number of publications and connecting lines representing thematic shifts over time.



**Figure 6 Milestone timeline in gastric organoid research.** A chronological display of significant milestones in gastric organoid research, with each entry detailing a breakthrough and its impact on the field. PDO: Patient-derived organoids; GC: Gastric cancer; Hp: *Helicobacter pylori*; PSC: Pluripotent stem cell.

## Top 25 references with the strongest citation bursts

References	Year	Strength	Begin	End	2010 - 2022
Barker N, 2010, CELL STEM CELL, V6, P25, DOI 10.1016/j.stem.2009.11.013, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2010	14.3	2010	2015	
Sato T, 2009, NATURE, V459, P262, DOI 10.1038/nature07935, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2009	5.87	2010	2014	
Takaishi S, 2009, STEM CELLS, V27, P1006, DOI 10.1002/stem.30, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2009	7.39	2012	2014	
Sato T, 2011, NATURE, V469, P415, DOI 10.1038/nature09637, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2011	4.88	2012	2016	
Huch M, 2013, NATURE, V494, P247, DOI 10.1038/nature11826, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2013	4.15	2013	2016	
Arnold K, 2011, CELL STEM CELL, V9, P317, DOI 10.1016/j.stem.2011.09.001, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2011	4.02	2013	2016	
Sato T, 2011, GASTROENTEROLOGY, V141, P1762, DOI 10.1053/j.gastro.2011.07.050, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2011	6.47	2014	2016	
Stange DE, 2013, CELL, V155, P357, DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2013.09.008, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2013	11.39	2015	2017	
Mccracken KW, 2014, NATURE, V516, P400, DOI 10.1038/nature13863, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2014	9.25	2015	2019	
Schwank G, 2013, CELL STEM CELL, V13, P653, DOI 10.1016/j.stem.2013.11.002, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2013	6.22	2015	2017	
Khurana SS, 2013, J BIOL CHEM, V288, P16085, DOI 10.1074/jbc.M112.445551, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2013	4.78	2015	2017	
Wang K, 2014, NAT GENET, V46, P573, DOI 10.1038/ng.2983, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2014	4.72	2015	2019	
Li XN, 2014, NAT MED, V20, P769, DOI 10.1038/nm.3585, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2014	4.3	2015	2017	
Yui SR, 2012, NAT MED, V18, P618, DOI 10.1038/nm.2695, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2012	4.3	2015	2017	
Mahe MAXIMEM, 2013, CURR PROTOC MOUSE BIOL, V3, P217, DOI 10.1002/9780470942390.mo130179, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2013	4.01	2015	2018	
Koo BK, 2012, NAT METHODS, V9, P81	2012	3.98	2015	2016	
Bartfeld S, 2015, GASTROENTEROLOGY, V148, P126, DOI 10.1053/j.gastro.2014.09.042, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2015	6.71	2017	2020	
Van DEWETERINGM, 2015, CELL, V161, P933, DOI 10.1016/j.cell.2015.03.053, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2015	5.86	2017	2020	
Bertaux-skeirik N, 2015, PLOS PATHOG, V11, P0, DOI 10.1371/journal.ppat.1004663, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2015	4.03	2017	2020	
Bass AJ, 2014, NATURE, V513, P202, DOI 10.1038/nature13480, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2014	10.83	2018	2019	
Torre LA, 2015, CA-CANCER J CLIN, V65, P87, DOI 10.3322/caac.21262, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2015	5.29	2018	2019	
Ferlay J, 2015, INT J CANCER, V136, P0, DOI 10.1002/ijc.29210, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2015	4.2	2018	2020	
Bray F, 2018, CA-CANCER J CLIN, V68, P394, DOI 10.3322/caac.21492, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2018	9.44	2020	2022	
Steele NG, 2019, CELL MOL GASTROENTER, V7, P161, DOI 10.1016/j.jcmgh.2018.09.008, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2019	6.23	2020	2022	
Drost J, 2018, NAT REV CANCER, V18, P407, DOI 10.1038/s41568-018-0007-6, <a href="#">DOI</a>	2018	4.78	2020	2022	

**Figure 7 Top 25 references with the strongest citation bursts.** This list showcases the most influential publications in gastric organoid research, with the strength of the citation bursts providing a quantitative measure of their impact over the years indicated.

## CONCLUSION

Our study revealed a research area in continuous growth, highlighting a clear trend of increasing focus on GC and *H. pylori*-infective gastritis. The analysis demonstrated that gastric organoids, as a research platform, has made significant strides in decoding disease mechanisms, optimizing drug screening processes, and developing new therapeutic methods. By evaluating the increase in related publications, the rise in citation rates, and the shifts in keywords, we confirmed that gastric organoid research is an active and evolving branch within the field of gastroenterology. Significant academic contributions have come from top research institutions worldwide, particularly those in the Netherlands and the United States, which have led the way in advancing basic research and clinical applications. Additionally, the influence of individual researchers, such as Hans Clevers and Sato Toshiro, has highlighted the importance of personal contributions in driving scientific progress. Gastric organoid research has demonstrated its importance on multiple levels within gastroenterology and the broader field of biomedical science. It not only offers a platform that more accurately simulates the human physiological state but also opens new avenues for personalized medicine in the future. With technological advancements and methodological improvements, gastric organoid research is expected to continue as a focal point of biomedical innovation, particularly in understanding complex disease mechanisms and developing new treatment strategies.

## ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

**Research background**

This study conducts a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of gastric organoid research from 2010 to 2023, shedding light on its evolution and emerging trends.

**Research motivation**

To systematically map the progress and key developments in gastric organoid research, the study highlights the field's significance.

**Research objectives**

To analyze and understand the development, impact, and direction of gastric organoid research using bibliometric methods.

**Research methods**

Employed a combination of bibliometric tools and analytical techniques to assess publications and trends in gastric organoid research.

**Research results**

Identified key contributors and institutions in the field, highlighted the application of gastric organoids in studying



gastric cancer and *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastritis.

### Research conclusions

The study underscores the critical role of gastric organoids in advancing our understanding of disease mechanisms and drug screening processes.

### Research perspectives

Future research should further explore the potential of gastric organoids in personalized medicine and enhance our comprehension of gastric diseases.

## FOOTNOTES

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**Author contributions:** Jiang KL and Jia YB contributed to study conception and design; Liu XJ and Yang KM contributed to data collection; Jiang KL contributed to draft manuscript and data analysis; Jia QL and Guo LK contributed to figure revision; Wang XX contributed to make significant revisions to the thesis; Wu CH and Ling JH contributed to fund; Liang BB and Ling JH contributed to approval of the final version and quality of the paper for publication.

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