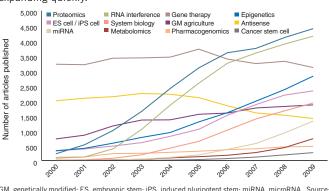
Trends in biotech literature 2009

Wayne Peng

Proteomics, small RNA-related and stem cell research continue their rapid growth in the literature, with epigenetics and systems biology showing recent expansion. The past decade has witnessed a boom

Historic trends in biotech fields

 RNA interference, proteomics, micro RNA and epigenetics are all expanding quickly.



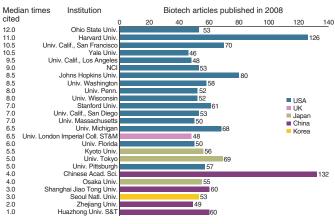
GM, genetically modified; ES, embryonic stem; iPS, induced pluripotent stem; miRNA, microRNA. Source: National Center for Biotechnology Information, PubMed.

Data obtained by using fields (e.g., "gene therapy") as search term. ES cell/iPS cell = ("ES cells" OR "iPS cells" OR "induced pluripotent stem cells" OR "embryonic

stem cells") GM agriculture = ("genetically modified" OR "genetically engineered") AND ("food" OR "crop" OR "plant" OR "meat")

Top 25 institutions publishing in biotech

Some Chinese institutions publish a high volume, but papers from US institutions are most cited.



Data obtained by searching 12 predefined 'biotech' fields for articles published in 2008 Source: ISI-Thomson Reuters, Web of Science

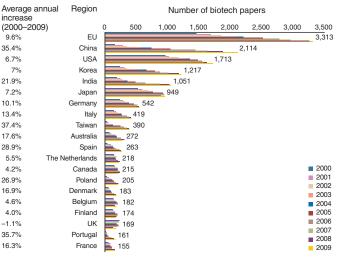
Biotech journal impact

2009 impact factor
29.495
23.563
16.058
12.125
11.342
9.432
8.791
8.250
2009 impact factor
29.059
22.468
17.000
11.235
7.820
6,909
0.909

in biotech publications from Asian countries, except for Japan, with Chinese authors now publishing more papers in the area than their US peers but accruing fewer citations.

Number of biotech articles by region

China now publishes more 'biotech' papers than the US.



Source: National Center for Biotechnology Information, PubMed EU represents the aggregated number of all EU member countries.

Top cited papers by fields

Top cited pape	is by fields			Number of	
Field	Author	Title	Citation	times cited	
iPS cells/ES cells	Takahashi, K. <i>et al.</i>	Induction of pluripotent stem cells from adult human fibroblasts by defined factors.	<i>Cell</i> 131 , 861–872 (2008)	1,319	
Genomic medicine	Zeggini, E. et al.	Meta-analysis of genome-wide associa- tion data and large-scale replication identifies additional susceptibility loci for type 2 diabetes.	<i>Nat. Genet.</i> 40 , 638–645 (2008)	376	
microRNA	Vasudevan, S., Tong, Y. & Steitz, J.A.	Switching from repression to activa- tion: MicroRNAs can up-regulate translation.	Science 318 , 1931–1934 (2008)	362	
Next-generation sequencing	Parsons, D.W. et al.	An integrated genomic analysis of human glioblastoma Multiforme.	Science 321, 1807–1812 (2008)	350	
Kinase	Karaman, M.W. et al.	A quantitative analysis of kinase inhibitor selectivity.	Nat. Biotechnol. 26, 127–132 (2008)	266	
Nanobiotech	Poland, C.A. et al.	Carbon nanotubes introduced into the abdominal cavity of mice show asbestos-like pathogenicity in a pilot study.		, 217	
Epigenetics	Meissner, A. et al.	Genome-scale DNA methylation maps of pluripotent and differentiated cells.	Nature 454, 766– 770 (2008)	211	
Cancer stem cell	Quintana, E. <i>et al.</i>	Efficient tumor formation by single human melanoma cells.	Nature 456 , 593– 598 (2008)	196	
Diagnostics	Nagrath, A.M. et al.	Isolation of rare circulating tumor cells in cancer patients by microchip technology.	Nature 450 , 1235– 1239 (2008)	196	
Gene therapy	Maguire, A.M. et al.	Safety and efficacy of gene transfer for Leber's congenital amaurosis.	N. Engl. J. Med. 358 2240–2248 (2008)		
Imaging	Qian, X. <i>et al.</i>	<i>In vivo</i> tumor targeting and spectro- scopic detection with surface-enhanced Raman nanoparticle tags.	Nat. Biotechnol. 26 83–90 (2008)	, 179	
Food biotechnology	Besselink, M.G.H. <i>et al.</i>	Probiotic prophylaxis in predicted severe acute pancreatitis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.	<i>Lancet</i> 371 , 651– 659 (2008)	151	
Metabolic engineering	Atsumi, S., Hanai, T. & Liao, J.C.	Nonfermentative pathways for synthe- sis of branched-chain higher alcohols as biofuels.		115	
Agricultural biotechnology		The draft genome of the transgenic tropical fruit tree papaya (<i>Carica</i> papaya Linnaeus)	Nature 452 , 991– 996 (2008)	86	
Environmental biotechnology	Frias-Lopez, J. et al.	Microbial community gene expression in ocean surface waters.	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 105, 3805–3810 (2008)	77	
Synthetic biology	Stricker, J. et al.	A fast, robust and tunable synthetic gene oscillator.	Nature 456 , 516– 519 (2008)	64	
Source: ISI-Thomson Reuters, Web of Science. Citation data as of 7/13/10.					

Wayne Peng is Emerging Technology Analyst, Nature Publishing Group