

REVIEW ARTICLE

Advances in biomanufacturing and medical applications of three-dimensional-printed organoids: A review

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Abstract

The emergence of organoid technology has bridged critical gaps between conventional two-dimensional cell cultures and *in vivo* systems by offering self-organized three-dimensional (3D) microtissues that recapitulate organ-specific architecture, cellular heterogeneity, and functional dynamics. However, traditional organoid models face inherent limitations in structural precision, scalability, and physiological relevance, particularly in replicating vascular networks, mechanical microenvironments, and multicellular interactions. Recent advancements in 3D bioprinting have enabled unprecedented spatial control over cellular and extracellular matrix organization, unlocking new frontiers in engineering organoids with enhanced biomimicry and functionality. This review systematically examines the integration of bioprinting technologies with organoid science, spanning biomaterial innovations, vascularization strategies, and dynamic microenvironmental cues that drive functional maturation. By synthesizing interdisciplinary advances in stem cell biology, materials science, and computational modeling, the work highlights applications across regenerative medicine, disease pathophysiology, and personalized drug screening. Key challenges, including immunogenicity, long-term stability, and clinical scalability, are critically evaluated alongside emerging solutions such as four-dimensional bioprinting, organ-on-chip integration, and artificial intelligence-driven bioink optimization. Through a comprehensive analysis of bioprinted organoids for physiology and 3D disease modeling, this review aims to establish a translational roadmap for leveraging spatially programmed organoids to address unmet clinical needs, revolutionize therapeutic development, and advance precision medicine.

Keywords: High-throughput screening; Patient-derived organoids; Regenerative medicine; Spatiotemporal control; Three-dimensional-bioprinting; Vascularization

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1. Introduction

Organoid technology has emerged as a paradigm-shifting innovation in biomedical research, enabling the *in vitro* reconstruction of self-organized three-dimensional (3D) microtissues that recapitulate structural, functional, and developmental features of native organs.¹ Originating from breakthroughs in stem cell biology and developmental signaling pathways, organoids are typically derived from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) or various tissue-derived cells, including adult stem cells, differentiated cells, or cancer cells, through spatially controlled differentiation protocols. These models have transcended the limitations of conventional two-dimensional (2D) cultures by preserving cell polarity, cell–cell interactions, and tissue-specific functionality, which are critical for modeling organogenesis, disease progression, and therapeutic responses.^{2,3} Additionally, they are particularly useful in cancer research due to their ability to preserve genetic and phenotypic stability, as well as their compatibility with cryopreservation techniques.^{4,5} Despite being a relatively nascent field, organoid technology continues to face considerable challenges in both construction and cultivation. For instance, the processes of manual passaging and cultivation are both labor-intensive and financially burdensome.⁶ Organoids exhibit a lower level of complexity compared to native tissues, primarily due to the absence of immune and vascular systems. Meanwhile, the integration of organoids with tissue engineering scaffolds and the mass production of organoids, along with their application in drug development, remains a complex endeavor. In response to these challenges, researchers have been actively exploring various biofabrication techniques, including 3D bioprinting, to enhance the development of organoids.

Concurrently, 3D bioprinting has evolved from prototyping tools into a sophisticated biofabrication platform, enabling precise deposition of cell-laden bioinks with microscale resolution. This technology leverages additive manufacturing principles to construct spatially organized tissues through layer-by-layer assembly of living cells, biomaterials, and bioactive cues.^{7,8} Modern bioprinting modalities, including extrusion-based, laser-assisted bioprinting, and digital light processing systems, offer unparalleled control over tissue architecture, permitting the engineering of vascular channels, heterogeneous cellular zonation, and mechanically graded matrices (Figure 1).⁶ Unlike traditional organoid culture, which relies on self-organization within undefined matrices like Matrigel, bioprinting imposes engineered self-organization, a hybrid approach combining bottom-up biological principles with top-down spatial guidance. This synergy addresses critical gaps in organoid technology.

Bioprinting provides structural fidelity and reproducibility, while organoids contribute physiological relevance through inherent cellular differentiation programs.

The strategic combination of these modalities creates a transformative framework for precision tissue engineering. On that basis, bioprinting can spatially arrange organoid-forming progenitors within vascularized scaffolds, overcoming the diffusion-limited growth of conventional organoids.⁹ Advanced bioinks functionalized with decellularized extracellular matrix (dECM) components or synthetic mimetic peptides further enhance organoid maturation by replicating tissue-specific biochemical niche. From a translational perspective, automated bioprinting platforms enable scalable production of standardized organoid arrays, facilitating their integration into high-throughput drug screening pipelines and personalized disease modeling. Recent demonstrations include bioprinted hepatorganoids with zoned metabolic activity for toxicity testing, and patient-derived tumor organoids incorporating immune cells for immunotherapy evaluation.

This review examines how the strategic integration of 3D bioprinting and organoid technologies is redefining the frontiers in regenerative medicine and pathophysiological modeling. It analyzes the technological synergies that resolve historical limitations of both fields: the capacity of bioprinting to impose architectural control on organoid self-organization and the ability of organoids to confer innate biological complexity to bioprinted constructs. Emerging applications in multiscale vascularization, neurovascular interface engineering, and immune-competent tumor modeling are critically evaluated. By delineating current achievements and persistent challenges, this work aims to chart a roadmap for next-generation biofabricated organoid systems that bridge the gap between *in vitro* models and clinical translation.

2. Functional bioprinted organoids for physiology and regenerative medicine

Bioprinted organoids hold transformative potential for regenerative medicine. However, clinical translation requires addressing vascularization deficits, functional maturation, and standardization of bioink formulations.

2.1. Engineered hard-tissue organoids

Bone defects are frequently observed in orthopedic clinical research. Traditional treatment strategies often fall short of expectations, due to the distinctive architecture of hard tissue. Bone organoids—3D tissue constructs cultivated *in vitro*—aim to mimic the structure and function of native bone tissue for research and regenerative purposes.¹⁰ The integration of cutting-edge biomaterials and additive manufacturing techniques enables the creation of 3D

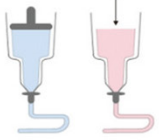
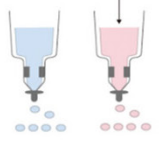
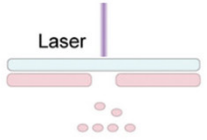
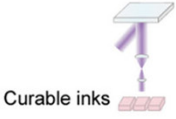
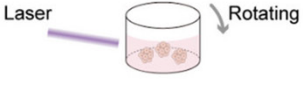
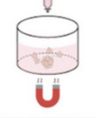
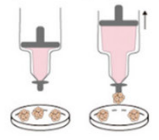
Bioprinting technology	Advantages	Disadvantages	Types of organoid
<p>Extrusion bioprinting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versatility • Large-scale printing • High cell survival rate • Lower cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower resolution • Slower printing speed • Material limitations • Post-processing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bone • Liver • Cardiac • Kidney • Cancer
<p>Droplet-based bioprinting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resolution • High controllability • Low cost • Rapid prototyping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material limitations • Low cell viability • Limited printing speed • Nozzle clogging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bone • Intestinal • Kidney • Assembloids
<p>Stereolithography (SLA)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resolution • Materials options • Smooth surface • High precision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material limitations • Low cell survival rate • Printing speed • Complex post-processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer
<p>Digital light processing (DLP)</p>  <p>Curable inks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resolution • High speed • Good surface quality • High flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material limitations • Cell viability • High equipment cost • Resin processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bone • Intestinal
<p>Volumetric bioprinting</p>  <p>Laser Rotating</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast speed • High resolution • Cell-friendly • Uniformity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material complexity • Equipment complexity • Technology maturity • Light scattering issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liver
<p>Magnetic-assisted bioprinting</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contactless printing • High precision • Good compatibility • Strong repeatability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnetic particle influence • Complicated equipment • Material limitations • Early stage of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembloids • Cancer
<p>Aspiration-assisted bioprinting (AAB)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High precision • Cell-friendly • Material diversity • High flexibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slower speed • Technology maturity • Equipment complexity • High material consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembloids

Figure 1. Organoid three-dimensional bioprinting technologies and their advantages, disadvantages, and applications. Adapted with permission from Hu et al. © Copyright © Wiley 2025.

tissues that can self-assemble into cell aggregates and organoids in response to physiological and induced signals.^{11,12} They also help in evaluating the effectiveness of pharmacological treatments aimed at improving bone density and reducing fracture risk.

Bioprinting has been instrumental in engineering hard tissue, where the fabrication of a bone extracellular matrix (ECM) analog has been achieved to properly mimic the 3D-mineralized ECM components. This approach enables precise spatial control over osteogenic cell populations, thereby inducing specific cell fates and functions^{13,14} and facilitating the maturation of bone organoids.¹⁵ Bioprinting enables precise manipulation of biophysical properties, including organoid size, cell number, and conformation, with modifications in organoid conformation substantially increasing secreted yield per initial cell number.¹⁶ Rooted in synthetic biology, recent advancements in light-based 3D printing of DNA hydrogels offer promising potential to revolutionize current ECM-assembling approaches. These hydrogels offer key advantages, including resistance to enzymatic degradation, programmability, precise structural control, and desirable mechanical properties.¹⁷

Recent advances in bioink design, including gelatin methacrylate/alginate methacrylate/hydroxyapatite (GelMA/AlgMA/HAP) composites, have facilitated the creation of self-mineralizing scaffolds that support long-term maturation of bone organoids.¹⁸ Utilizing cutting-edge 3D bioprinting technology and bone matrix-inspired bioink formulations, researchers have developed a platform for generating bone organoids from bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells.¹⁹ This method involves combining bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells with hydrogels to create bioinks, which are then employed in light-curing 3D bioprinting to produce bone organoids (Figure 2A). Upon implantation into an animal model, these organoids exhibited spontaneous mineralization and maturation processes, leading to the formation of fully developed and vascularized bone tissue (Figure 2B).^{20,21} Li et al.²² added hydroxyapatite nanowires to osteoblast precursor cell spheroids, providing numerous material exchange channels for internal cells by interpenetrating them into cell spheroids. The incorporation of nanowires enhanced the osteogenic phenotype and effectively improved the biological activity of core cells in spheroids, which can potentially be used as building blocks for the construction of large, high-density biomimetic tissues and organoids using 3D bioprinting technology (Figure 2C).²² Fang et al.²³ successfully printed highly vascularized bone organoid tissues using a granular aggregate-pre-vascularized bioink and found that the pre-vascularized mesenchymal spheroids developed an interconnected vascular network through angiogenic

sprouting.²³ These constructs promote osteogenic differentiation and support fracture repair mechanisms.

However, challenges persist in replicating the hierarchical mechanical properties of native hard tissues, particularly in achieving stiffness values that match those of human bones (10–30 GPa) while maintaining cell viability.²⁴ Innovations in nozzle-free bioprinting techniques, which eliminate shear stress on encapsulated cells, have improved organoid post-printing viability (>95%) and preserved multicellular polarization.^{25,26} De Leeuw et al.²⁷ found that elevated cellular density increases the rates of mineralization and enhances the mechanical stiffness of 3D-bioprinted patient-derived bone organoids when exposed to dynamic loading conditions.²⁷ The present research on bone organoids is in its early developmental phase. These organoids currently emulate only limited aspects of bone tissue functionality. Beyond the standard functionalities and essential characteristics of organoids, bone organoids must replicate both the micro- and macro-architectures of bone tissue. They should also offer sufficient mechanical support and incorporate a bone marrow microenvironment capable of hematopoietic activity. Furthermore, bone organoids are expected to produce immune cells and establish functional interactions with the nervous, immune, lymphatic, and vascular systems. These attributes will facilitate the ability of bone organoids to more accurately replicate the physiological functions of native bone tissue.²⁸ Other directions include integrating patient-specific stem cells, osteogenesis under compressive stimulation, and computational modeling to optimize printed scaffold porosity and load-bearing capacity for clinical translation.^{10,29–31}

2.2. 3D reconstruction of biomimetic cardiovascular organoids

A 3D culture system for cardiomyocytes can replicate physiological and dynamic conditions effectively for cardiovascular assessment.^{32,33} The 3D system addresses limitations seen in 2D monolayer setups, such as inadequate spreading size, excitation-contraction coupling (T-tubules), mature calcium ion channels for active force stimuli, and efficient energy conversion through oxidative metabolism.³⁴ Cardiomyocytes and other cardiac cells are cultured within solid biomaterials (like scaffolds or hydrogels) in this microenvironment to enhance cardiac tissue formation and simulate the heart's physiological conditions.^{35,36} The geometric morphology of cardiomyocytes, myofibril expression, and junction protein formation differ significantly between 3D and 2D cell cultures.³⁷ Furthermore, 3D culture offers cardiomyocytes protection against drug-induced mechanical stress and apoptosis.³⁸ Recently, organoids have been developed

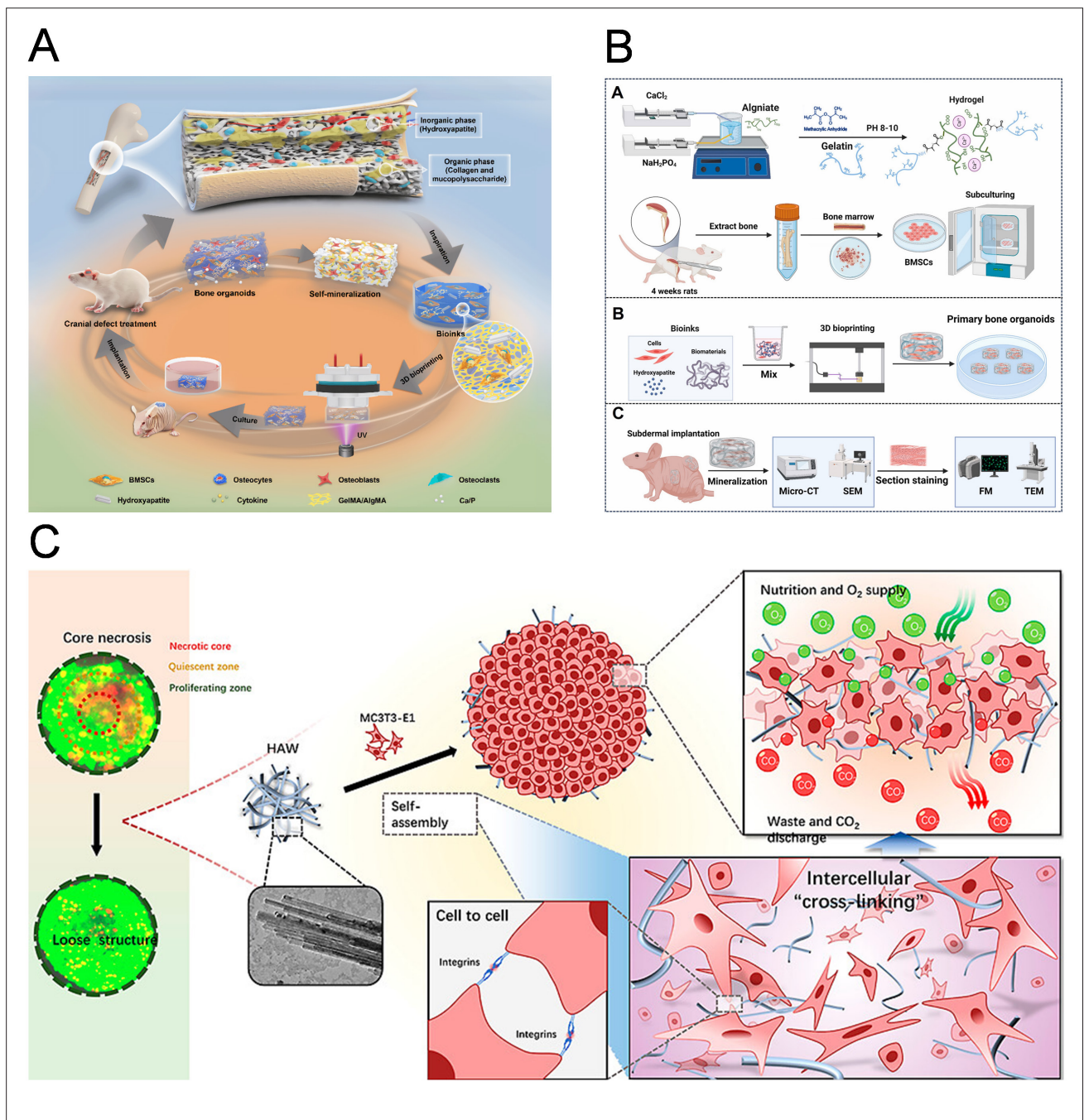


Figure 2. Representative advances in bioprinted bone organoids. (A) Large-scale bioengineered self-mineralizing bone organoid platform printed by bone matrix-inspired hydroxyapatite hybrid bioinks. Adapted with permission from Wang et al.¹⁹ Copyright© Wiley 2024. (B) Bioprinted bone organoids exhibit great mineralization and vascularization properties *in vivo* without external stimuli. Adapted with permission from Wang et al.²¹ Copyright© Elsevier 2025. (C) Bioprinted bone organoids exhibit great mineralization and vascularization properties *in vivo* without external stimuli. Adapted with permission from Li et al.²² Copyright© American Chemical Society 2024.

as artificial cardiac tissues to mimic cardiac structures and functions by adjusting their size, shape, and configuration. The reconstruction of functional cardiac organoids requires biomimetic architectures that emulate the electromechanical coupling and vascularization of native heart tissue.³⁹ Human cardiac organoids are created through the self-assembly of differentiating cardiomyocytes from human pluripotent stem cells.⁴⁰ Consequently, cardiac organoids serve as promising models for replicating native cardiac elements, including inflow-outflow territories, cardiac chamber architecture, and heart-related regulation.⁴¹

Recent breakthroughs in multi-material bioprinting have allowed for the recreation of complex cardiac structures, enabling the fabrication of ventricle models with perfusable vascular networks, a feat unattainable with traditional 3D printing methods.⁴² Fang et al.⁴² have successfully developed Sequential Printing in a Reversible Ink Template technology, enabling the fabrication of ventricle models with hierarchical vascular networks by combining sacrificial ink printing with microgel-enhanced bioinks.⁴² This approach allows sequential deposition of structural bioinks to form cardiac chambers, followed by sacrificial ink removal to create perfusable channels. The resulting constructs exhibit synchronized contractions and action potential propagation, mimicking the helical fiber orientation critical for ventricular ejection dynamics (Figure 3A). Despite structural progress, achieving electrophysiological maturity comparable to adult myocardium remains challenging. Current cardiac organoids often lack the ion channel density and calcium handling capacity required for sustained rhythmic activity. To overcome this obstacle, 4D bioprinting with shape-memory hydrogels has been employed to spatiotemporally align cardiomyocytes into anisotropic architectures in response to physiological stimuli, enhancing action potential propagation velocity by 2.3-fold compared to static cultures.⁴³ Additionally, the incorporation of organoid-derived pacemaker cells into bioprinted patches has enabled arrhythmia modeling, demonstrating abnormal conduction patterns under β -adrenergic stimulation.

Intriguingly, Zhang et al.⁴⁴ have further advanced vascular integration using six-axis robotic bioprinters, which enable omnidirectional cell deposition on complex arterial scaffolds. By employing a mineral oil-based suspension system, endothelial cells adhere to vascular scaffolds without shear stress, forming confluent monolayers that subsequently sprout capillaries under angiogenic factors. This “print-culture” iterative strategy, where alternating layers of cardiomyocytes and endothelial cells are cultured to promote vascular network maturation, has yielded myocardial tissues that maintain rhythmic contractions

for over 6 months *in vitro* (Figure 3B). By combining cardiomyocytes, endothelial cells, and conductive bioinks, researchers have achieved synchronized contractions and action potential propagation in bioprinted cardiac patches. These models replicate the helical myocardial fiber orientation critical for ventricular ejection dynamics.⁴⁵

Nevertheless, limitations in scalability and electrophysiological maturity remain, as current cardiac organoids lack the structural complexity of adult myocardium. Emerging strategies, such as 4D bioprinting with shape-memory hydrogels, aim to dynamically align cells into anisotropic tissue geometries under physiological stimuli.^{46,47} Additionally, the integration of organoid-derived pacemaker cells could advance arrhythmia modeling and personalized drug testing.⁴⁸ This synthesis of bioprinting and organoid technologies represents a paradigm shift in cardiovascular research, offering unprecedented opportunities to model congenital heart defects, ischemic injury, and pharmacogenomic responses with physiological fidelity.

2.3. Brain organoids

Conventional self-assembly methods often yield structurally inconsistent neural spheroids with limited vascularization and incomplete regional specification.^{49,50} Pioneered in 2009, early cerebral organoids derived from embryonic stem cells and iPSCs demonstrated self-organized cortical regions, neural progenitor zones, and rudimentary laminar organization.⁵¹ These primitive models laid the groundwork for investigating neurodevelopmental trajectories, interspecies divergence, and pathological mechanisms.⁵² The convergence of 3D bioprinting with cerebral organoid technology has revolutionized our capacity to replicate human neurodevelopment *in vitro*. Cadena et al.⁵³ printed a high-throughput, adjustable, and repeatable scaffold for precisely controlling the development and patterns of brain organoids, achieving real-time monitoring of calcium signaling and synaptic plasticity.⁵³ It was confirmed that the fabricated scaffold exhibited stiffness values comparable to the developing human brain. The organoids cultured long-term within the bioprinted scaffold remain healthy and exhibit expected neuroectodermal differentiation. In addition, the endothelial cells within the printed channel structures demonstrated the ability to migrate and infiltrate the embedded brain organoids. Advanced bioprinting strategies enable the spatial orchestration of neural progenitor cells within tunable ECMs, achieving unprecedented control over cortical layering and synaptic connectivity patterns.^{54,55} Innovative bioink formulations combining decellularized brain ECM with thermo-responsive hydrogels have demonstrated enhanced neurite outgrowth (2.3-fold increase versus Matrigel

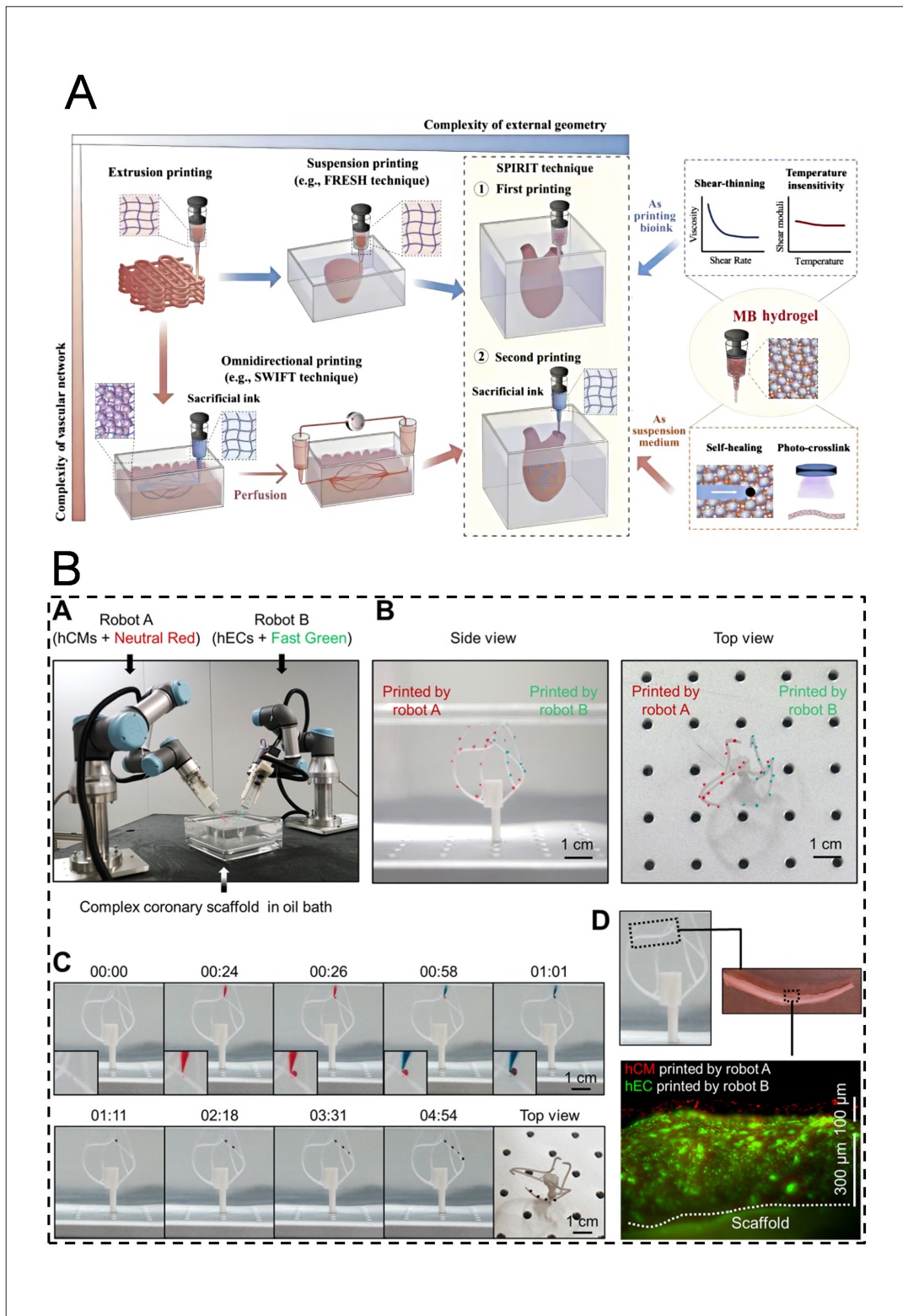


Figure 3. Recent advancements in bioprinting technologies for vascularized organ construction. (A) Expanding embedded three-dimensional bioprinting capability for engineering complex organs with freeform vascular networks. Adapted with permission from Fang et al.⁴² Copyright© Wiley 2023. (B) Two-robot platforms, enabling cooperative bioprinting of different bioinks onto complex-shaped scaffolds, are jointly bioprinting on a vascular scaffold resembling major coronary vessels using two bioinks. Scale bar: 1 cm. Adapted with permission from Zhang et al.⁴⁴ Copyright© Elsevier 2022.

controls) while maintaining stem cell pluripotency during the printing process.⁵⁶ Such matrices permit dynamic stiffness modulation from 0.5 kPa (emulating embryonic neuroepithelium) to 8 kPa (mimicking adult parenchyma), guiding targeted differentiation into specialized subtypes, including dopaminergic neurons and Bergmann glia.^{50,57} Yan et al.⁵⁸ engineered functional neural tissues using iPSC-laden viscoelastic bioinks, demonstrating synaptically active neuronal networks with electrophysiological signal propagation.⁵⁸ Furthermore, hierarchical cell assembly strategies permit the integration of differentially matured neural populations, thereby enhancing functional maturation beyond conventional culture constraints.⁵⁹

Cutting-edge protocols now incorporate vasculature-mimicking channels within organoids, addressing limitations in nutrient diffusion and long-term viability.⁶⁰ Recent breakthroughs employ multi-material extrusion systems to co-print endothelial cells alongside iPSC-derived neuroectodermal populations, generating perfusable vascular networks that sustain organoids beyond 150 days *in vitro*.⁵⁹ This vascularization breakthrough addresses the critical limitation of necrosis in traditional models, allowing the maturation of functional gamma-aminobutyric acid-ergic and glutamatergic circuits detectable through calcium imaging and patch-clamp electrophysiology.^{54,61}

While bioprinted organoids exhibit basic electrophysiological activity, they lack the cytoarchitectural sophistication (e.g., six-layered neocortex, glial diversity) of native cerebral tissue. Additionally, challenges center on achieving single-cell resolution printing for accurate synaptic connectivity and integrating optogenetic components for real-time circuit modulation.⁵⁵ Generative artificial intelligence-assisted optimization of bioink rheology and machine learning-driven printing parameterization could enhance structural fidelity. Microfluidic organ-on-chip systems may further simulate interregional brain connectivity. The emergence of clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)-edited reporter cell lines promises to overcome these limitations, paving the way for clinically transplantable neural constructs.⁶² The development of immunoevasive bioinks with tunable mechanical properties and neuroimmunomodulatory functions will be pivotal for transitioning from investigational models to implantable therapeutics.

2.4. Bioprinting for hepatorganoids

Liver diseases represent a leading cause of global morbidity and mortality. Due to the scarcity of donor organs and complications like immune rejection, liver failure remains a critical challenge. 3D bioprinting offers a transformative approach, surpassing traditional 2D cell

cultures, animal models, and organoids by enabling the fabrication of vascularized tissues and organs in terms of hepato-pancreato-biliary models.^{63,64} Vascularized hepatorganoids generated via high-throughput bioprinting systems exhibit improved metabolic activity and drug response compared to static cultures.⁶⁵⁻⁶⁷ Shrestha et al.⁶⁸ separately differentiated epithelial cell adhesion molecule⁺ endodermal progenitor cells and mesoderm-derived vascular progenitor cells from the same human iPSC line, which were then mixed in a 2-mercaptoethanol matrix on a pillar plate platform and concurrently differentiated into vascular human hepatorganoids.⁶⁸ Remarkably, this 3D-bioprinted expandable model exhibited significantly superior maturity than vasculature-free hepatorganoids, as demonstrated by increased coagulation factor secretion, albumin secretion, drug-metabolizing enzyme expression, and bile acid transportation, likely due to enhanced nutrient and signaling molecule diffusion. Scientists developed a 3D bioprinting technique using GelMA hydrogel to create hepatorganoids resembling hepatic lobules, exhibiting reduced hypoxia, increased albumin and urea secretion *in vitro*, and supporting angiogenesis post-implantation. By incorporating vascular endothelial growth factor and human umbilical vein endothelial cells, vascularized hepatorganoids with enhanced vascularization were produced.^{69,70} Upregulation of growth arrest-specific protein 6/AXL and laminin beta 3/integrin subunit alpha 3 pathways in vascularized hepatorganoids promoted vascularization and proliferation. Orthotopic implantation of vascularized hepatorganoids showed prolonged survival, elevated biomarkers, and increased vascularization in grafts. These studies highlight the efficacy of orthotopic implantation of hepatorganoids for enhanced vascularization, benefiting transplantation, drug screening, and therapy.⁷⁰

Bioinks, typically hydrogel-cell composites, serve as a foundational material.^{71,72} A key innovation is the use of spheroid-based bioinks, which preserve hepatic polarity and zonation patterns during printing.^{25,73} This technology encompasses four principal methods: inkjet-based, extrusion-based, laser-assisted, and vat photopolymerization bioprinting. In hepatorganoids, hepatocytes are often combined with non-parenchymal cells such as hepatic stellate cells, sinusoidal endothelial cells, and Kupffer cells.⁷⁴ Hydrogels derived from dECM are commonly utilized in bioprinted hepatorganoids due to their ability to mimic the native tissue microenvironment and retain essential growth factors and cytokines.^{71,75} This characteristic renders them highly biocompatible for 3D bioprinting applications. In the field of hepatorganoids bioprinting, these hydrogels, in combination with liver-

derived cell types, can serve as suitable *in vitro* hepatic models for drug efficacy testing and studies on liver metabolism.⁷⁶ Moreover, these hydrogels can be viewed as compliant with good manufacturing practices for expanding liver cells and organoids, offering a safer alternative to basement membrane extracts derived from tumorigenic cell lines commonly used in research. Despite challenges such as weak mechanical properties and limited printability that impede the direct use of dECM hydrogels as bioinks, various modifications to both the dECM and the bioprinting process have been implemented to address these issues. Challenges in scaling up and manufacturing dECM hydrogels include undefined manufacturing standards, variable production methods affecting reproducibility, and considerations for animal-derived sources, such as variability, harvesting conditions, and bioburden reduction.

Bioprinted hepatorganoids have demonstrated remarkable progress in recapitulating hepatocytic functions, including albumin secretion, cytochrome P450 activity, and bile canaliculi formation.^{77,78} These advancements hold significant potential for disease modeling, pharmaceutical development, and regenerative therapies.^{79,80} Nevertheless, challenges persist, including the need for diverse fabrication techniques, real-time monitoring of drug responses in perfusion cultures, the ability to replicate intricate microenvironments of live sinusoids, and the achievement of long-term functional stability (>30 days) *in vitro*. Despite these hurdles, 3D bioprinting remains a groundbreaking strategy for hepatorganoid engineering. Advances in machine learning-guided parameter optimization and perfusion bioreactors are addressing these limitations, enhancing the scalability of hepatorganoids for transplantation.^{78,81,82}

2.5. Recapitulation of glandular properties via bioprinting

Glandular organoids, such as pancreatic islets and salivary glands, demand precise biomaterial cues to maintain secretory functions and ductal morphogenesis. The ability of 3D bioprinting to spatially define cellular architectures and ECM microenvironments has revolutionized the engineering of glandular tissues, enabling precise replication of secretory epithelia, ductal networks, and functional polarization.⁸³ In parallel, bioprinting technology has successfully recreated branching ductal networks in mammary and prostate organoids using hyaluronic acid-based bioinks functionalized with growth factor gradients.^{6,84} Recent advances highlight its potential in reconstructing salivary, pancreatic, and mammary gland models with native-like secretory functions and structural hierarchies.

2.5.1. Structural recapitulation of glandular units

Glandular tissues, characterized by intricate acinar-ductal networks, demand bioprinting strategies that mimic their branched morphology. For salivary glands, magnetically guided 3D bioprinting enables precise assembly of epithelial spheroids using iron oxide nanoparticles, replicating acinar-ductal polarity and neural responsiveness.^{85,86} Similarly, coaxial microfluidic bioprinting generates cell-laden microfibers and tubules, bypassing xenogeneic matrices like Matrigel to create hierarchical ductal systems.⁸⁵ In sweat gland regeneration, GelMA-printed pore-structured matrices (300 μm diameter) guide epidermal progenitors to self-organize into lumenized glands, a process absent in non-printed controls.⁸⁷ These findings underscore the critical role of bioprinted scaffolds in dictating morphogenesis through topographical and mechanical cues.

2.5.2. Functional maturation and secretory capacity

Functional maturation of bioprinted glands relies on dynamic biochemical signaling and perfusion. For endocrine glands, the encapsulation of stem cell-derived β -cells within alginate/gelatin scaffolds has been shown to restore glucose-responsive insulin secretion in diabetic models.⁸⁸ Another pancreatic organoid demonstrated that mouse insulinoma 6 β -cell constructs, printed using the freeform reversible embedding of suspended hydrogels technique and embedded in vascularized hydrogels, exhibited glucose-stimulated insulin secretion under perfusion, achieving a 4.6-fold increase in insulin output compared to static cultures.⁸⁹ In salivary glands, magnetically assembled organoids demonstrate acetylcholine-responsive fluid secretion, mirroring native neuroepithelial interactions.⁸⁵

Bioink design is pivotal for maintaining cell viability and glandular functionality. Chitosan-based bioinks blended with polycaprolactone or glycine methacrylate enhance printability and mechanical strength while supporting acinar cell proliferation.⁹⁰ Shear-thinning nanocellulose-alginate composites enable high-resolution printing of cartilage-like structures, with chondrocyte viability exceeding 86% after 7 days, a principle adaptable to glandular applications.⁹¹ These advancements highlight the interplay between bioink rheology, crosslinking kinetics, and glandular morphogenesis.

A critical challenge lies in mimicking the dynamic ECM remodeling of native glands, which regulate cell differentiation through stiffness gradients and protease-sensitive linkages.⁹² Recent work leveraging 4D bioprinting with enzyme-responsive polymers has enabled time-dependent ECM degradation, guiding self-organization of acinar and ductal structures.^{46,93} Notably, 4D bioprinting

with light-responsive bioinks (e.g., GelMA/poly[ethylene glycol] dimethacrylate) introduces temporal control over scaffold remodeling, enabling post-printing structural anisotropy to support secretory epithelial polarization.¹² Such innovations bridge the gap between structural fidelity and functional integration.

2.5.3. Vascularization and nutrient transport

Vascularization poses a key hurdle for glandular bioprinting, with strategies such as multi-material bioprinting integrating endothelial cells with glandular parenchyma to establish perfusable networks. Evidence shows that pancreatic constructs combining mouse insulinoma 6 cells and vascular bioinks develop anastomosed capillaries under bioreactor perfusion, enhancing nutrient delivery and insulin secretion.⁸⁹ A novel tissue-specific bioink was formulated by blending pancreatic ECM with hyaluronic acid methacrylate.⁹⁴ The 3D-printed islet organoids created using this bioink can replicate the pancreatic microenvironment, preserving islet cell adhesion and morphology via the Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 1/rho-associated protein kinase/myosin light chain kinase signaling pathway (Figure 4A). This approach enhances islet function and activity. Moreover, the 3D-printed structures enhance the formation of vascular networks, while the hyaluronic acid methacrylate/pancreatic ECM hydrogel supports the adhesion and proliferation of new blood vessels, thereby augmenting the density of vascular structures. Nanocellulose-alginate bioinks further improve mechanical stability and osteogenic differentiation, suggesting adaptability for vascularized glandular models.⁹¹ Emerging platforms like the Human Islet-like Cellular Aggregates and Vasculature platform simulate native pancreatic vascular niches, promoting β -cell survival and functional maturation.⁹⁵

Traditional organoids lack precise structure and scalability, whereas bioprinting overcomes these limitations by facilitating the efficient production of millimeter-scale constructs with specific geometries. Bioprinted mammary tumor models incorporate cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) and endothelial cells, recapitulating chemoresistance mechanisms absent in 2D cultures (Figure 4B & C).^{96,97} Despite advancements, several challenges remain. Functional longevity is a concern as printed glands often display temporary secretory activity due to inadequate innervation or vascular integration. Co-printing with neuronal progenitors or utilizing optogenetic stimulation could potentially improve sustained functionality. Immunogenicity is another obstacle, which can be addressed by employing patient-specific iPSC-derived cells and dECM bioinks to reduce the risk of immune rejection. Achieving multi-scale resolution

is crucial, and this can be accomplished by integrating microfluidic bioprinting with two-photon polymerization to replicate sub-10 μm ductal features.

Future applications should include patient-specific glandular models for autoimmune disease studies and hormone replacement therapies.^{98,99} As bioink formulations and multi-omics validation evolve, bioprinted glands will likely transition from disease modeling to clinical transplantation, addressing critical shortages in organ replacement therapies.

3. Disease modeling based on three-dimensional bioprinted organoids

3D bioprinted organoids offer a unique advantage in disease modeling due to their ability to replicate the heterotypic organization of multicellular solid organs and the nanoscale precision of pathological processes. It provides a platform for studying the complex microenvironments that regulate cell behavior in various diseases, offering insights into fundamental biological processes and potential therapeutic strategies. A significant advantage of organoids in disease modeling and drug development is the ability to create personalized models using patient-derived cells, which has been studied extensively. Early in 2015, Freedman et al.¹⁰⁰ developed kidney tubular organoids from human pluripotent stem cells with drug responses similar to those found in clinical settings.¹⁰⁰ The model was also amenable to CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing, which was used to induce polycystic kidney disease characteristics in the organoid. Votanopoulos et al.¹⁰¹ conducted a study using patient-specific immune-enhanced tumor/node organoids for immunotherapy screening. The responses of the organoids to various immunotherapy drugs were very similar to the clinical response, showing the feasibility of these organoids for patient-specific drug testing.¹⁰¹ However, further studies are needed to fully understand and widen the applications of organoids. This section discusses advancements in modeling inflammatory, genetic, metabolic, immune, and neurodegenerative disorders using bioprinted organoids.⁴

3.1. Inflammatory-related disorders

Chronic inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, neuroinflammation, liver inflammation, and osteoarthritis (OA) are intricate disorders characterized by persistent inflammation and tissue damage.^{14,102,103} The pathophysiology of these ailments involves a blend of genetic, environmental, and immunological factors, leading to diverse patient responses to conventional therapies, necessitating a more personalized treatment approach.^{104,105} Recently, the fusion of 3D bioprinting technologies with patient-

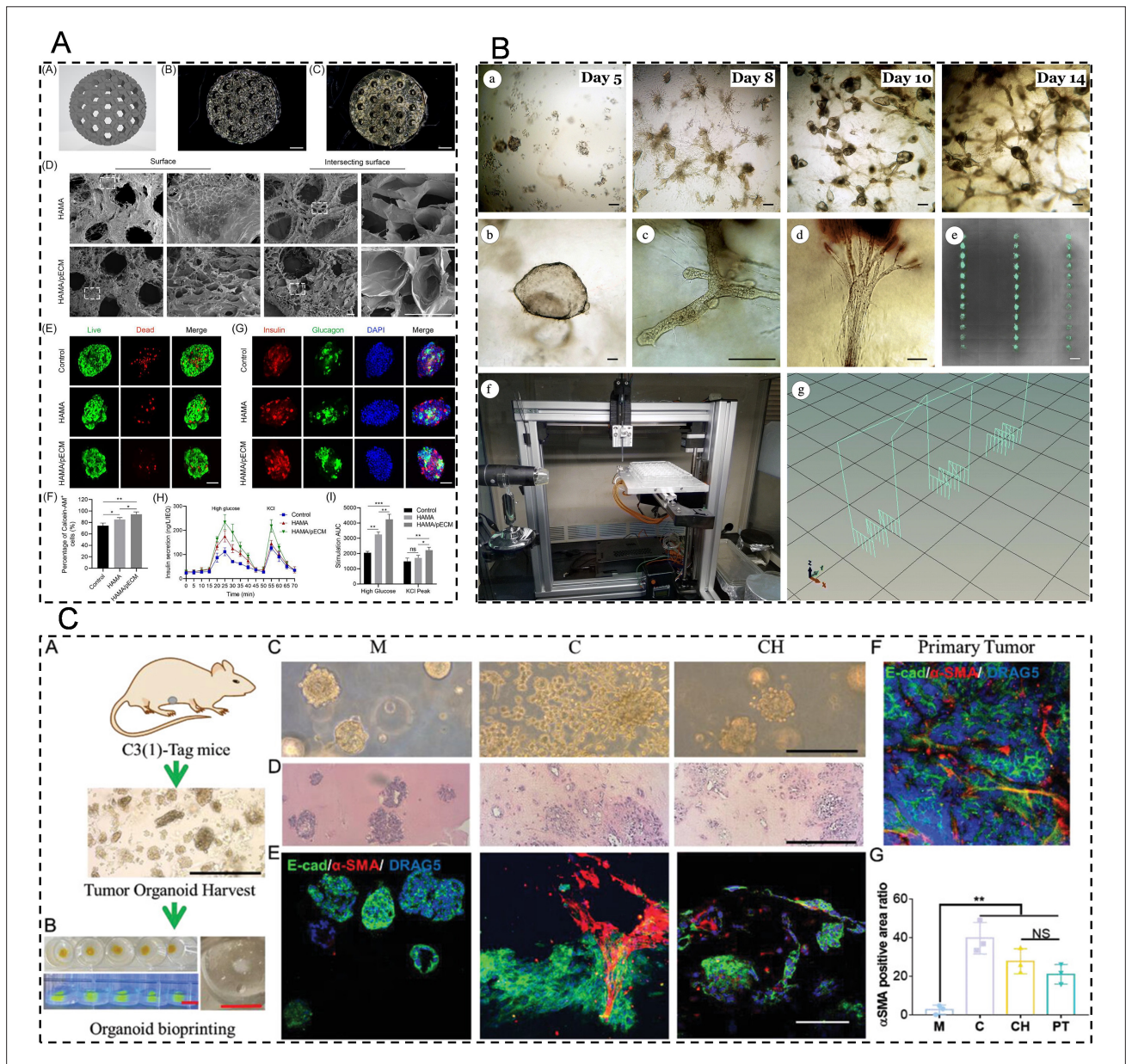


Figure 4. Bioprinting strategies for engineering functional and disease-specific organoids. (A) Design and construction of three-dimensional (3D)-printed hyaluronic acid methacrylate/pancreatic extracellular matrix islet organoids. (B) Scale bar = 2 mm, (C) Scale bar = 2 mm, (D) Scale bar = 300 μ m, (E) Scale bar = 50 μ m, (G) Scale bar = 50 μ m. 4A: (B) Scale bar = 2 mm, (C) Scale bar = 2 mm, (D) Scale bar = 300 μ m, (E) Scale bar = 50 μ m, (G) Scale bar = 50 μ m. Adapted with permission from Wang et al.⁹⁴ Copyright© Elsevier 2023. (B) Low-cost and computer numerical control-driven 3D bioprinting for mammary epithelial organoid, including “sphere-like,” “duct-like,” and “star-like” cells. Scale bar = 200 μ m. Adapted with permission from Reid et al.⁹⁶ Copyright© BMC 2018. (C) The embedded bioprinted breast tumor organoids in low-concentration collagen-based bioink recapitulated *in vivo* tumor morphology. Scale bar = 200 μ m. Adapted with permission from Shi et al.⁹⁷ Copyright© Wiley 2022.

derived organoids has revolutionized precision medicine by facilitating the creation of personalized disease models and advancing therapeutic research.^{98,103} By incorporating immune cells, stromal cells, and other pertinent cell types as well as vascular networks into organoid models, the ability to embed organoids within customizable bioprinted geometries allows researchers to simulate the spatial heterogeneity of inflammatory microenvironments, including immune cell infiltration and cytokine gradients, and delve into the exploration of disease mechanisms, such as the impact of specific genes and signaling pathways in inflammation, and facilitate the screening of potential therapeutic interventions.^{106,107} Bioprinted organoids offer valuable insights into the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis, characterized by persistent joint inflammation and cartilage degradation. By mimicking interactions between synovial tissue and immune cells, these models facilitate the investigation of inflammatory mediators and genetic determinants. Furthermore, they enhance the optimization of pharmacological interventions that target inflammatory pathways, holding promise for personalized medicine.¹⁰⁸

Intestinal organoids incorporating patient-derived cells have been leveraged to study gut inflammation and epithelial barrier dysfunction, providing insights into inflammatory bowel disease pathogenesis.^{109,110} 3D bioprinting is notably applied in generating gastrointestinal organoids, which demonstrate distinctive transcriptomic and secretomic signatures in patients with Crohn's disease, elucidating disease-specific mechanisms and responses.¹¹¹ The quest to replicate the small intestine's intricate architecture and physiology *in vitro* has driven innovations in 3D bioprinting. Conventional planar epithelial monolayers lack the 3D villi topography essential for mimicking native absorption and barrier dynamics. Stereolithographic 3D printing now addresses this gap through the precision fabrication of villus-like micropillar arrays using tunable poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate hydrogels.¹¹² These scaffolds sustain month-long Caco-2 cultures, inducing apicobasal polarization akin to *in vivo* epithelial organization, which serves as a critical advance for physiologically relevant transport and metabolic studies (Figure 5A). A key innovation lies in dual-material printing strategies that integrate diffusion-open villus microstructures with diffusion-closed hydrogel walls. This compartmentalization isolates epithelial transport processes, emulating the luminal-interstitial interface while enabling high-throughput analysis. Functionally, Caco-2 cells on these platforms form confluent barriers with tight junctions, validated by transepithelial electrical resistance and fluorescent tracer assays (Figure 5B). The compatibility with compound

screening allows real-time evaluation of barrier integrity under pharmacological challenges, offering a scalable tool for drug permeability and toxicity studies. Similarly, Jonathan et al.¹¹³ have developed the BATE technique to create centimeter-sized gastrointestinal tissues with self-organizing features, enhancing the scalability and applicability of bioprinted organoids in various research areas.¹¹³ By merging microstructural fidelity with functional compartmentalization, these approaches transcend the limitations of traditional models.¹¹⁴ Their scalability and adaptability pave the way for advanced intestinal niches incorporating dynamic cues or microbial interactions, promising transformative applications in drug discovery and gut pathophysiology research.

3.2. Genetic diseases

Genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis and hereditary metabolic defects have been modeled using bioprinted organoids derived from iPSCs. Bioprinting enables the precise arrangement of wild-type and mutant cells within organoids, facilitating the analysis of cell-autonomous versus non-cell-autonomous disease mechanisms. Human iPSC-derived neural organoids with patterned differentiation have been used to study neurodevelopmental disorders caused by genetic mutations.⁸⁴ Organoids offer valuable insights into the cellular mechanisms involved in such disorders and the effectiveness of gene editing tools such as CRISPR/Cas9 for potential therapeutic applications.¹¹⁵ The integration of CRISPR genome editing techniques (including knockout, base editing, and prime editing) with 3D organoid cultures has enabled the modeling of disease progression and the investigation of genetic disorders. This approach effectively bridges the gap between patient-derived cells and our understanding of diseases.¹¹⁶ Schene et al.¹¹⁷ demonstrated the utility of prime editing in repairing genetic defects within patient-derived organoids, showcasing the precision and therapeutic potential of this gene editing strategy.¹¹⁷ Leigh syndrome, an untreatable mitochondrial disorder associated with a *SURF1* mutation, has been addressed using Cas9 genome editing to rectify the mutated *SURF1* gene in patient-derived organoids.¹¹⁸ This approach has provided insights into the physiological correlation between *SURF1* and Leigh syndrome. Additionally, patient-specific iPSCs have been utilized to replicate macrocephaly/autism phenotypes, demonstrating the adaptability of patient-derived organoids in investigating intricate genetic conditions. Furthermore, the CRISPR-Cas9 system has been employed in brain organoid models to induce models of congenital nervous system malformation diseases, facilitating the exploration of these intricate disorders.^{119,120} Additionally, bone organoids bioprinted with GelMA bioinks have replicated genetic bone disorders, like osteogenesis

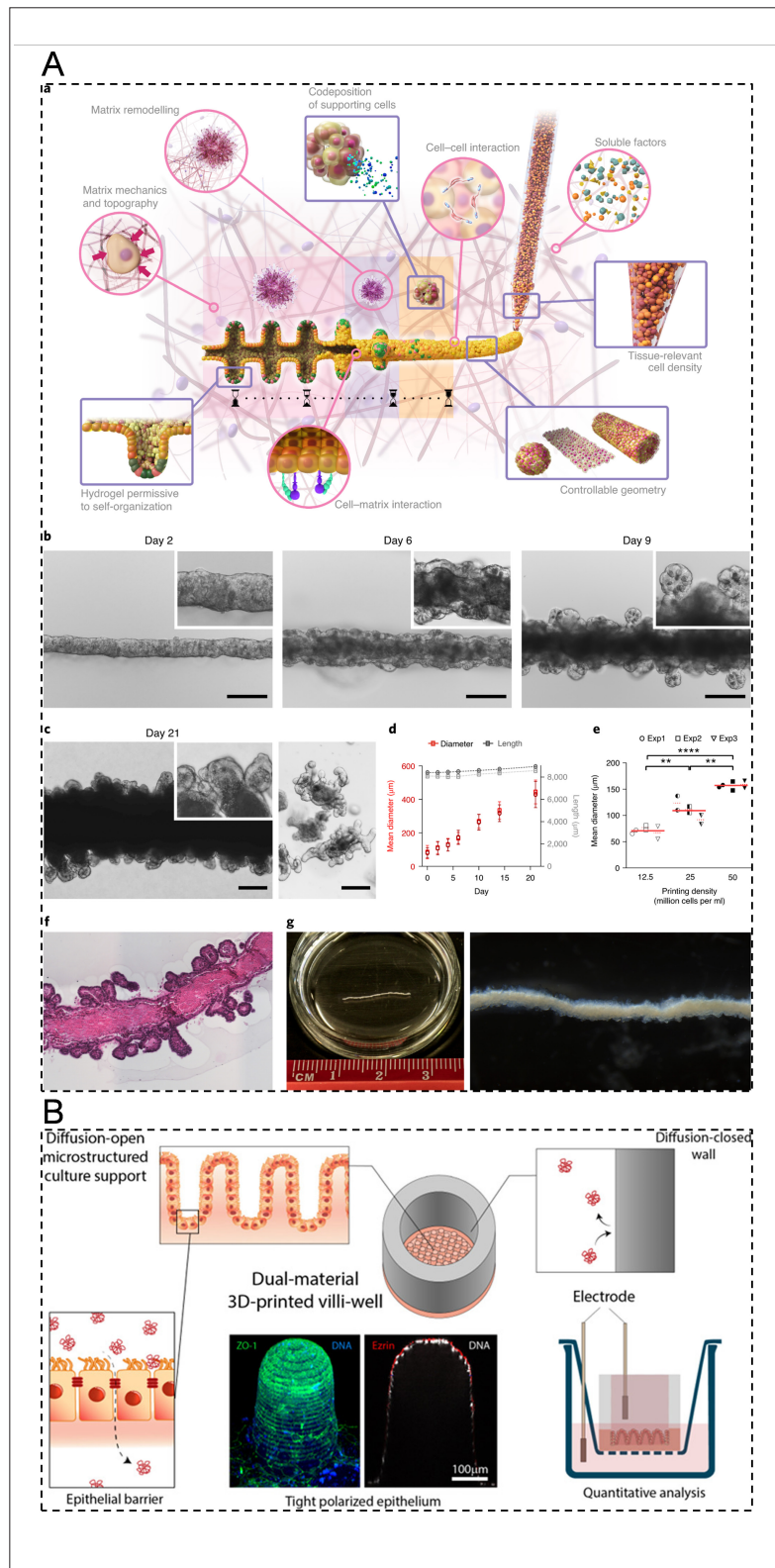


Figure 5. Bioprinted models for engineering functional intestinal structures and analysis platforms. (A) Macroporous intestinal tube printing. Scale bar: 200 µm. Adapted with permission from Brassard et al.¹¹³ Copyright© Nature 2021. (B) Engineering monolithic transport analysis devices with villi-like surface microstructures. Adapted with permission from Taebnia et al.¹¹² Copyright© American Chemical Society 2021.

imperfecta, characterized by brittle bones, enabling the study of mutations in collagen-producing genes and their impact on bone structure and strength.¹²¹

3.3. Metabolic diseases

Metabolic diseases, including diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, have been modeled using bioprinted hepatic and pancreatic organoids. Bioprinted liver organoids with perfusable vascular networks mimic the zoned metabolism of hepatocytes, enabling the study of lipid accumulation and insulin resistance.⁷⁸ Recent advances in nozzle-free bioprinting have preserved organoid polarization and liver-specific enzyme activity, which are critical for replicating metabolic dysfunction.²⁵ Breakthroughs in bioprinted pancreatic organoids have demonstrated transformative potential for diabetes research and β -cell regeneration. A seminal study by Ahn et al.¹²² has achieved functional restoration in diabetic murine models through extrusion-based bioprinting of human iPSC-derived β -cells co-encapsulated with endothelial progenitors in a tunable alginate matrix. These constructs exhibited glucose-responsive insulin secretion and sustained normoglycemia post-implantation, attributed to the integration of pre-vascular networks via co-printed endothelial cells. This enabled perfusable microvasculature formation within 7 days and an immunoprotective hydrogel design balancing crosslinking density to permit metabolic exchange while evading immune detection.¹²² Furthermore, vascularized pancreatic organoids have been employed to investigate β -cell dysfunction and insulin secretion dynamics under hyperglycemic conditions.¹²³ Bone/cartilage organoids enable the study of metabolic pathways in cartilage development and pathologies. Analyzing the metabolomic profiles of these organoids reveals insights into metabolic changes linked to conditions such as OA. Understanding these alterations is vital for designing therapies targeting specific metabolic pathways to manage cartilage degradation. Integrating metabolomics with organoid technology offers new research opportunities in bone and cartilage biology, disease mechanisms, biomaterials, and pharmacology. This approach lays the groundwork for future research utilizing metabolomics for enhanced diagnostics, treatments, and regenerative approaches.¹²⁴

3.4. Immune diseases

Bioprinted organoids are increasingly used to model autoimmune and immune-mediated disorders. The incorporation of endothelial and immune cells into bioprinted constructs allows the recapitulation of immune cell trafficking and vascular inflammation.^{123,125} For example, vascularized skin organoids with hierarchical structures have been developed to study dermatological

and lupus-related vasculopathy.^{39,125} Parallel advancements in psoriatic modeling have been achieved through laser-assisted bioprinting of stratified skin organoids by Michael et al.¹²⁶ Their multilayered architecture, incorporating patient-derived keratinocytes, fibroblasts, and immune cells, recapitulated hallmarks of disease pathogenesis, including hyperproliferative epidermis, interleukin-23/interleukin-17 axis dysregulation, and T-cell infiltration dynamics visualized via integrated microfluidics.^{127,128} The platform's dual utility in mechanistic interrogation and therapeutic screening was evidenced by the successful suppression of inflammatory markers using anti-tumor necrosis factor alpha biologics.¹²⁹ Nevertheless, the absence of neural components limits its capacity to model neuroimmune crosstalk, which is particularly relevant to pruritus mechanisms.¹³⁰ Future iterations incorporating sensory neurons and Schwann cells could bridge this gap, enabling a comprehensive study of itch pathways while preserving the strength in real-time immune monitoring and high-content drug evaluation.¹³¹

Additionally, lymph node organoids with spatially organized stromal and immune cell populations provide platforms to investigate antigen presentation and T-cell activation in autoimmune contexts.¹³² The translational challenge for immune organoid research lies in modeling sensitivity and resistance to immunotherapies, encompassing checkpoint inhibition, novel pathways, and adoptive cell transfer strategies. The identification of underlying resistance pathways also holds considerable promise for human tumor immunotherapy.¹³³ Together, these studies exemplify how spatial precision in bioprinting accelerates both disease deconstruction and regenerative strategy development.¹³⁴ Furthermore, combining organoids with advanced imaging techniques and multi-omics approaches can enhance our understanding of immune responses and disease progression, paving the way for more effective therapeutic interventions.

While significant progress has been made in modeling metabolic and immune diseases using bioprinted organoids, further research is needed to overcome technical challenges and translate these models into clinical applications. The integration of organ-on-a-chip technology with metabolomics and advanced imaging techniques will undoubtedly continue to drive innovation in disease modeling and therapy development.

3.5. Neurodegenerative diseases

Neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases have been modeled using bioprinted neural organoids. Multi-material bioprinting of human iPSC-derived neural stem cells and endothelial progenitors has generated cortical organoids with layered regions and

perfusible microvasculature, mimicking the blood–brain barrier and neuronal degeneration.⁸⁴ These models enable the study of amyloid- β aggregation and tauopathy in a 3D microenvironment. Moreover, bioprinted midbrain organoids containing dopaminergic neurons have been used to evaluate mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress in Parkinson's disease.^{84,123} Wang et al.¹³⁵ aimed to create a Corti organoid using 3D bioprinting, integrating a “3D culture scaffold + multiple induction signals + inner ear stem cells.” This approach addressed the limitation of regenerated hair cells in forming functional ciliary bundles and establishing synaptic connections with spiral ganglion cells in a 2D system, hindering the achievement of effective physiological repair of hearing. Their study demonstrated that the organoids facilitated the adhesion and proliferation of inner ear stem cells, leading to the generation of both hair cells and nerve cells. This work presents a promising avenue for investigating auditory cell regeneration and repairing hearing loss.¹³⁵

3D bioprinting of organoids has significantly advanced disease modeling by combining stem cell self-organization with engineered architectures. While challenges remain in replicating the full complexity of human tissues, recent innovations in vascularization,^{123,125} multicellular patterning,⁸⁴ and biomaterial design are bridging these gaps.^{25,121} Future efforts should focus on integrating dynamic stimuli, such as mechanical forces and immune cues, to further enhance pathophysiological relevance.¹⁰⁶

4. Bioprinting tumor organoids: simulacrum or throughput

Bioprinting technology can recreate the spatial topological relationships between different cellular components within tumor organoids, including immune cells, CAFs, and vascular and lymphatic structures, thus reproducing the heterogeneous structure of the primary tumor.¹³⁶ Emerging platforms such as organ-on-a-chip, organoids, and bioprinting within micro-physiological systems are increasingly employed to elucidate these interactions. These systems accurately recapitulate key features of tumor microenvironments (TMEs) and immune responses, offering physiologically relevant platforms for investigating cancer progression, immune evasion, and therapeutic interventions.¹³⁷ In addition, the application of bioprinting technology has been extended to high-throughput screening in tumor model systems.¹³⁸ Tumor organoids, which can be produced at scale and tested systematically through automated bioprinting processes, play a pivotal role in drug development and personalized treatment strategy optimization. The advancement of this technology has facilitated more rapid and precise

evaluation of anticancer drug efficacy while also enabling the exploration of personalized cancer therapies.

4.1. Tumor biology-based bioprinting of tumor-like organoids

3D printing enables the reconstruction of quasi-native spatial topological relationships among different cell types within tumor tissue components. This primarily involves the first-level tumor cell components and specific structures, particularly those located on the periphery of the tumor cells, such as immune cells, blood vessels, lymphatic vessels, nerves, and paracancerous cells. Using 3D printing technology, a complex co-culture model with three or even multiple components can be established based on predefined spatial positioning and cell composition ratios. Additionally, the spatial arrangement of different clones between tumor cells and their biological interactions warrants further emphasis. Such intricate constructs of tumor-induced organs or organoids cannot be achieved by conventional methods and necessitate the use of 3D bioprinting. Bioprinting technologies have revolutionized the fabrication of tumor organoids by enabling precise spatial control over cellular and extracellular components, thereby recapitulating the heterogeneous architecture of native tumors. This approach addresses the critical limitations of conventional organoid models, which often fail to mimic the multicellular complexity and spatial organization of TMEs.^{25,99}

4.1.1. Spatial arrangement of tumor niche

The spatial heterogeneity of tumor subclones and their dynamic crosstalk with stromal components, driven by genetic and epigenetic variations, constitute a hallmark of cancer progression and therapeutic resistance. Single-cell and spatial transcriptomic analyses reveal that intra-tumoral heterogeneity in gastric cancer arises not only from genetic diversity but also from spatially organized interactions between proliferative/invasive cancer cells and tumor-associated fibroblasts,^{139,140} among which CAFs emerge as central orchestrators. CAFs secrete transforming growth factor-beta and matrix metalloproteinases to remodel the ECM, thereby creating biomechanical niches that promote immune evasion and chemoresistance.¹⁴¹ Multi-material bioprinting strategies enable the integration of tumor cells, patient-derived CAFs, and immune cells into predefined geometries, mimicking the *in vivo* spatial hierarchy observed in solid tumors.^{42,99,142,143} Studies have elucidated how CAF-secreted interleukin-6 and C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 12 gradients drive epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer organoids, while nanoparticle-mediated targeting of fibroblast activation protein enhances T-cell infiltration in murine models.^{144,145} Such models have captured dynamic

feedback loops between transforming growth factor-beta-mediated matrix remodeling and tumor cell migration, offering unprecedented resolution of microenvironmental regulation.

Advanced 3D bioprinting platforms have achieved precise reconstruction of spatial topology to organize triple-negative breast cancer cells (MDA-MB-231) alongside stromal fibroblasts and endothelial cells by extrusion-based multi-nozzle bioprinting. This approach replicates the cellular and TME diversity observed in native tumors, preserving subclone viability and minimizing mechanical stress during printing.^{25,84} Stratified deposition of *KRAS*-mutated and wild-type cells recapitulates *in vivo* spatial competition dynamics, mirroring the clonal hierarchy observed in native tumors.¹⁴⁶ Complementary approaches, such as magnetic levitation 3D culture systems, have successfully replicated the radial distribution of CD133⁺ glioblastoma stem cells and non-stem counterparts, mimicking their *in situ* spatial organization.¹⁴⁷ Similarly, bioprinted pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma models demonstrated the self-organization of cancer cells into heterogeneous aggregates, reflecting the clonal dynamics and spatial complexity of human tumors.¹⁴⁸ Microfluidic-integrated bioprinting systems permit the spatial embedding of vascular endothelial cells, CAFs, and immune cells within biomimetic matrices, thus establishing oxygen/nutrient gradients that emulate tumor ecological heterogeneity.¹⁴⁹ Notably, in GelMA hydrogels containing 10% Matrigel, CAFs self-organize into 50–100 μm fibrous bundles, guiding tumor cells along defined invasion trajectories. These engineered architectures provide a physiologically relevant platform to investigate paracrine signaling networks among sub-clonal niches.

Integration of fluorescent barcoding with 3D bioprinting allows real-time tracking of sub-clonal spatial dynamics, which enables the quantitative profiling of spatial heterogeneity. In hepatocellular carcinoma models, serial section imaging revealed epidermal growth factor receptor-high subclones preferentially colonizing nutrient-rich zones within 300 μm of artificial vasculature, exhibiting a 2.3-fold proliferation advantage over peripheral populations.^{149–151} Spatial transcriptomics further identified elevated Wnt/ β -catenin pathway activity in these regions, correlating with immunohistochemical patterns in clinical specimens.¹³⁶

Bioprinted glioblastoma models with concentric architectures simulate temozolomide diffusion gradients, revealing that CD133⁺ cells located 800 μm from drug release sites demonstrated 4.7-fold higher survival rates, attributable to hypoxia-induced adenosine triphosphate binding cassette subfamily G member 2 upregulation.¹⁴⁶

Intriguingly, macrophage incorporation exacerbated peripheral cell resistance via interleukin-6/Janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 activation, highlighting spatially compartmentalized stroma-tumor interactions in therapeutic evasion.¹⁵²

These models have demonstrated clinical utility in predicting colorectal cancer liver metastasis patterns (82% accuracy), optimizing anti-angiogenic dosing regimens (37% survival extension in murine models, and deconvoluting transforming growth factor-beta/receptor activator of nuclear factor- κB ligand synergy in breast cancer bone niches.^{149,153,154} Convergence with spatial omics and smart biomaterials promises to reconstruct tumor evolutionary landscapes at single-cell resolution, heralding a new era in precision oncology research.

4.1.2. Intercellular communication within tumor organoids

Bioprinting allows for the exact positioning of different cell types and biomaterials in a 3D space with the help of a mechanical and computer-assisted system to mimic the *in vivo* spatial architecture of a tissue or tumor and its microenvironment. This facilitates the study of bidirectional signaling between cancer cells and stromal components, such as CAFs, immune cells, and endothelial cells.¹⁰⁵ A key advantage of bioprinting-based preclinical cancer models is the standardization of cell deposition,¹⁵⁵ along with the ability to construct artificial 3D tumors incorporating multiple cell types, structural elements, and ECM. This capability enhances the potential for more accurate personalized medicine strategies.¹⁵⁶ Early research primarily utilized bioprinted cancer cell lines or single-cell suspensions to generate such models.¹⁵⁷ More recently, advancements in dispersing organoids and tumoroids alongside stromal cells have enabled the development of co-culture models that incorporate the TMEs.¹⁵⁸ It also facilitates the construction of vascularized tumor organoids by embedding perfusable channels lined with endothelial cells, thereby simulating nutrient exchange and immune cell trafficking.^{39,42,123} Sequential printing of sacrificial inks enables the creation of hierarchical vascular networks that support long-term organoid survival and maturation.^{42,159}

The mammary microenvironment has been shown to suppress tumor progression by redirecting cancer cells to adopt a normal mammary epithelial progenitor fate *in vivo*. However, the mechanism(s) by which this alteration occurs have yet to be defined. A 3D bioprinted fibroblast-mediated breast tumor organoid revealed that CAFs enhance ECM remodeling and paracrine communication, promoting tumor stiffness and conferring resistance to radiotherapy. Similarly, researchers evaluated mitochondrial transfer in 3D bioprinted chimeric organoids to test the hypothesis

that mitochondrial transfer from normal mammary epithelial cells to breast cancer cells plays a role in the redirection process. Their results demonstrate that mitochondrial transfer contributes to microenvironmental redirection of cancer cells through alteration of metabolic and molecular functions of the recipient cancer cells, which is the first description of a 3D bioprinter-assisted organoid system for studying mitochondrial transfer. Furthermore, these studies are also the first mechanistic insights into the process of mammary microenvironmental redirection of cancer, providing a framework for new therapeutic strategies to control cancer.¹⁶⁰ Khan et al.¹⁶¹ introduced a human bone marrow organoid capable of sustaining the proliferation of primary cells derived from individuals with myeloid and lymphoid hematologic malignancies. This model facilitates in-depth investigations into the pathophysiology of blood cancers within their TMEs and offers a valuable *ex vivo* platform for evaluating novel therapeutic agents.¹⁶¹ Chen et al.¹⁶² generated colorectal cancer microtissues based on patient-specific colonoscopy images by printing photodynamic therapies enclosed by healthy organoids to mimic the tumor's interaction with adjacent normal tissue.¹⁶² The *in vitro* response of these microtissues to standard 5-fluorouracil therapy mirrored patient responses, suggesting the model's potential as a physiologically relevant platform for drug screening. Furthermore, the model enabled the calculation of patient-specific risk for tumor invasion into neighboring tissues by assessing the quantity and proximity of invading tumor cells. This approach offers a real-time quantitative assessment for studying cancer advancement and metastasis.

In a recent study, microtissues comprising patient-derived lung tumoroids were co-cultured with corresponding CAFs and endothelial cells. The process involved printing vessel structures, seeding CAFs, and subsequently printing tumoroids suspended in a hydrogel sourced from porcine lung tissue into the same compartment. Notably, an active fusion between stromal cells and tumoroids occurred, leading to the formation of microvessels that directly engaged with other cell types. Upon administering the drug poziotinib through the vessel structures, it was observed that both endothelial cells and CAFs, along with the CAF-secreted matrix, shielded the lung tumoroids from the treatment. Consequently, this model holds promise for investigating the impact of cell-cell and cell-matrix interactions on the effectiveness of drug delivery to tumor tissues.¹⁶³

In ovarian cancer models, bioprinted microtumors composed of leukemia (HL-60) and stromal cells exhibited dynamic cell-cell interactions, where stromal cells modulated cancer cell proliferation and invasion through cytokine signaling. Such models underscore the

role of bioprinting in capturing the dynamic crosstalk within the TME, which drives drug resistance and tumor progression. Additionally, the incorporation of neural cells and lymphatic analogs into bioprinted models has revealed insights into tumor innervation and immune evasion mechanisms.^{39,159} These models also capture cytokine-mediated crosstalk, such as CAF-driven ECM remodeling and immunosuppressive signaling, which are pivotal for drug resistance studies.¹²¹

4.2. High-throughput tumor organoid auto-printing for drug screening

Conventional organoid cultures face challenges in terms of batch-to-batch variability and labor-intensive protocols. Automated bioprinting systems, however, ensure consistent deposition of cells and bioinks, enabling mass production of uniform tumor organoids, which greatly avoids the bias caused by operators' manipulation.^{78,159,164} Kim et al.¹⁶⁴ engineered a fully automated workstation that streamlines the entire workflow from tissue dissociation to drug screening, achieving a 20-fold increase in processing efficiency. Capable of handling 200 specimens per run, this system eliminates manual variability while enabling large-scale phenotypic and molecular profiling. Hou et al.¹⁶⁵ engineered a high-throughput screening-compatible approach that standardizes organoid generation in conventional flat-bottom 384- and 1536-well plates.¹⁶⁵ This method integrates magnet-assisted bioprinting technology with cell-repellent surface engineering to ensure precision and scalability. To demonstrate its applicability in automated drug discovery workflows, the researchers conducted a pilot cytotoxicity assessment of approximately 3300 clinically approved compounds. The results underscore the platform's breakthrough to facilitate large-scale drug screening through patient-derived 3D oncology models. By enabling robust analysis of clinically relevant tissues, this innovation represents a critical advancement toward personalized therapeutic development.

For personalized medicine, bioprinted constructs using patient-derived cells have been utilized to predict drug responses. In head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, bioprinted models maintained epithelial phenotypes and exhibited reduced cytotoxicity to radiochemotherapy compared to spheroids, better reflecting clinical resistance patterns.^{166,167} Ovarian and colorectal tumor models bioprinted with nanocomposite hydrogels were screened for gemcitabine and oxaliplatin responses, revealing drug-specific resistance mechanisms.¹⁶⁸ These advances highlight the potential of automated bioprinting to generate patient-specific organoids at scale, bridging the gap between *in vitro* assays and clinical outcomes. Tebon et al.¹⁶⁹ introduced an integrated platform combining bioprinted tumor

organoids with label-free, time-resolved imaging using high-speed live cell interferometry and machine learning-driven analytical tools (Figure 6A).¹⁶⁹ Bioprinting generates 3D tumor structures that preserve native histology and transcriptional profiles. Coupled with high-speed live cell interferometry, this system enables non-invasive, parallelized mass quantification of thousands of organoids over time. Machine learning algorithms further enhance segmentation accuracy and phenotypic classification. They also demonstrated the platform's ability to distinguish organoids exhibiting transient or persistent sensitivity versus resistance to targeted therapies. This approach provides a scalable framework for resolving temporal and heterotypic adaptations in tumor populations, offering actionable insights to accelerate personalized therapeutic decision-making. Nonetheless, shortcomings exist in cost constraints, the availability of specific cell types, the time needed for model establishment and growth, and success rates. Parallel innovations in miniaturization have redefined screening economics. Phan et al.¹⁷⁰ pioneered a nanoscale microplate platform (200 nL/well) coupled with artificial intelligence-driven hyperspectral imaging, permitting simultaneous evaluation of 1536 drug combinations per assay.¹⁷⁰ This approach reduces reagent consumption and operational costs to 20% of conventional methods without compromising data resolution. Individual models vary in their representation of important features such as tumor heterogeneity, spatial interactions between tumor and stromal microenvironments, metabolic and nutritional gradients, and immunological responses. Consequently, a strategic integration of diverse models may be necessary to enhance the efficacy of clinical studies by bolstering the foundation of preclinical data.¹⁷¹

Long-term organoid modeling enables complex therapeutic screening. However, technical challenges include limited user-friendliness in long-term dynamic cell culture, incompatibility with rapid cell encapsulation in biomimetic hydrogels, and low throughput for compound screening. To address these issues, a micro-solenoid valve-driven bioprinting system was developed by Joshi et al.¹⁷¹ This system fabricates the alginate-encapsulated Hep3B liver tumor spheroids in a 144-well plate, achieving rapid biomimetic tissue formation for large-scale compound screening.

Bioprinting offers applications beyond TME-mimicking models, including standardized cell dispensing for high-throughput studies. A key limitation, however, is the tendency of bioinks to spread within small wells, compromising the structural integrity required for 3D cell culture.¹⁷³ To address this issue, researchers have employed strategies such as mixing patient-derived glioblastoma

or sarcoma cells with hyaluronic acid-collagen bioinks, printing them onto gelatin-coated wells, and subsequently replacing the gelatin with culture medium.¹⁷⁴ Alternatively, acoustic bioprinting has been used to deposit small droplets onto hydrophobic substrates, generating bladder cancer-derived tumoroids containing both cancer cells and CAFs.¹⁷⁵ This approach enables the scalable production of uniform tumoroids that recapitulate the TME while remaining compatible with high-throughput drug screening for personalized therapy. While 3D bioprinted models enhance reproducibility in drug testing and facilitate the study of multicellular interactions in a 3D context, they remain static systems. Consequently, they fail to incorporate dynamic mechanical forces (e.g., fluid flow) or chemical gradients, both of which critically influence tumor cell behavior *in vivo*.¹⁷⁶

5. Beyond organoids: three-dimensional-printed biocompatible accessories

The convergence of 3D-printed biocompatible accessories, like artificial intelligence-driven design, organ-on-chip technologies, and organoid morphology recognition and deconvolution, enhances the functionality and realism of the models, enabling intelligence and automation in the construction of high-fidelity organoid models.¹⁷⁷⁻¹⁷⁹ This section explores the role of functional biocompatible accessories beyond 3D-printed organoid culture, focusing on structural supports, functional interfaces, and integrated systems that augment organoid utility.¹⁸⁰ By leveraging advanced biomaterials, innovative printing techniques, and interdisciplinary engineering, these accessories bridge the gap between *in vitro* organoids and *in vivo* physiological complexity, opening new frontiers in precision medicine, tissue engineering, and regenerative therapy.^{181,182}

5.1. Microfluidic devices for perfusable cultures

Microfluidic systems mimic the physiological flow of body fluids, allowing precise control of nutrient delivery, shear stress, and waste removal.^{183,184} 3D bioprinting facilitates the fabrication of complex microchannels with integrated sensors or valves, creating organ-on-a-chip platforms that combine organoids with fluidic networks.^{89,182,185,186} 3D-printed microfluidics can also create chemical gradients (e.g., oxygen, growth factors) to guide organoid morphogenesis.¹⁸⁷ Researchers have employed printed gradient chambers to induce regional differentiation in hepatic organoids, forming distinct zones of hepatocytes and cholangiocytes, similar to native liver lobules.^{188,189} Such spatial control over microenvironments is crucial for modeling organ-level functional zonation.^{82,190} Recent advancements in 3D printing technology have enabled the creation of more complex gradient-generating devices,

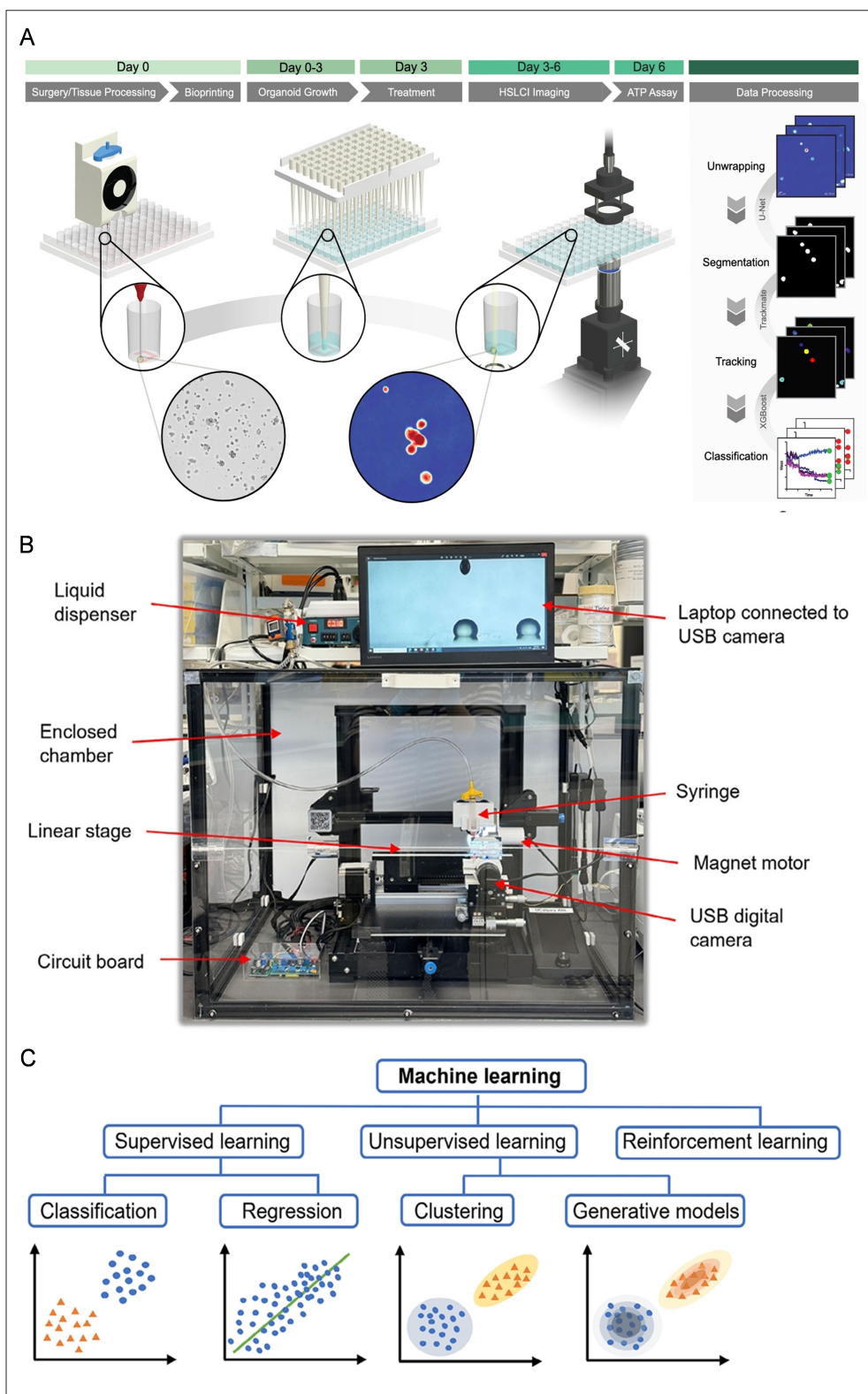


Figure 6. Emerging bioprinting-integrated platforms for high-throughput organoid analysis and fabrication. (A) Extrusion-based bioprinting enables single-organoid tracking with high-speed live cell interferometry (HSLCI). Adapted with permission from Tebon et al.¹⁶⁹ Copyright© Nature 2023. (B) Overview of machine learning setup. (C) Modified and developed cellular droplet three-dimensional bioprinting setup for high-throughput precision. Adapted with permission from Shin et al.²²¹ Copyright© Wiley 2025.

which can generate multiple gradients simultaneously and with higher precision, further improving the ability to control organoid development.^{191–193}

5.2. Sensory accessories for real-time monitoring

Incorporating sensors into 3D printed accessories allows non-invasive monitoring of organoid physiology, including metabolic activity, electrical signals, and mechanical strain.¹⁹⁴

5.2.1. Biosensors for metabolite detection

Printable conductive materials, like carbon nanotubes and graphene oxide, can be integrated into scaffolds to create electrochemical sensors.¹⁹⁵ For instance, a glucose-sensitive sensor printed within a pancreatic islet organoid scaffold continuously monitored insulin secretion in response to glucose challenges, providing real-time data for diabetes research.^{196,197} Similarly, lactate sensors in printed brain organoid cultures correlated metabolic activity with neuronal network maturation, offering insights into neurodevelopmental disorders.^{196,198} These biosensors have the potential to revolutionize the field of organoid research by providing real-time, non-invasive monitoring of organoid function, which can help to better understand the underlying mechanisms of disease and develop more effective treatments.

5.2.2. Electrophysiological probes for neural organoids

Traditional organoid research has been constrained by the limitation of surface-level signal acquisition, rendering the spatiotemporal dynamics of internal physiological activities inaccessible, which is a critical drawback, particularly in cardiac and neural organoid studies. To address this challenge, Park et al.¹⁹⁹ developed a soft bioelectrode platform based on liquid metal 3D printing.¹⁹⁹ This system enables customizable geometric parameters (height, diameter) to accommodate diverse organoid structures while maintaining mechanical compliance comparable to biological tissues. This compatibility prevents mechanical damage to cardiac organoids during contraction or fluidic movement, enabling stable, long-term monitoring. The electrode array further facilitates simultaneous electrophysiological monitoring of 32 organoids, successfully capturing drug-induced electrophysiological responses. This scalable capability establishes a robust platform for high-throughput drug screening and disease modeling.

Lee et al.²⁰⁰ extended the potential of liquid metal microelectrodes through high-resolution 3D printing. By precisely embedding electrodes into specific inner layers of retinal organoids, the researchers achieved spatiotemporally controlled electrophysiological recordings of retinal

ganglion cell activity. This approach not only validated developmental patterns of inner retinal signaling but also revealed critical insights into early-stage neural organoid modeling of retinal degeneration. The findings underscore the technology's utility in dissecting disease mechanisms through dynamic, cell-type-specific observations. Both studies leverage liquid metal's mechanical adaptability to overcome the limitations of rigid conventional electrodes, yet their designs diverge to address distinct challenges. Park's approach emphasizes scalability and dynamic stability for cardiac electrophysiology, whereas Lee's work prioritizes submillimeter precision for neural circuit interrogation. This complementary framework establishes a modular toolkit for organoid electrophysiology, enabling researchers to tailor electrode configurations to specific experimental demands. Integration with multimodal sensing technologies could further advance applications in organ development studies, disease progression modeling, and personalized medicine, paving the way for unprecedented insights into biological systems at the organoid scale. The elucidation of brain function in neural organoids necessitates precise electrophysiological monitoring of neuronal activity.²⁰¹ To this end, 3D-printed microelectrodes, coated with biocompatible polymers, have been engineered to penetrate cerebral organoids, enabling the detection of action potentials and synaptic connectivity.²⁰² A pioneering study by Acha et al.²⁰² employed printed multi-electrode arrays (MEAs) to systematically map electrical signals in cortical organoids. Their findings revealed spontaneous network oscillations resembling those observed in fetal brain development, underscoring the utility of these systems in modeling neurodevelopmental dynamics.^{203–205} The research introduced shell-like MEA configurations analogous to electroencephalography caps, designed to interface with the surface of neural organoids while enabling 3D spatiotemporal recording. This design not only facilitated non-invasive longitudinal monitoring of neuronal firing but also demonstrated a statistically significant increase in action potential generation following external stimulation. Crucially, the biocompatible architecture preserved organoid viability, thereby supporting prolonged *in vitro* studies of neurodevelopmental processes.

A novel microfabrication technique has further advanced this field by addressing the mechanical constraints of traditional MEAs. By depositing material layers over a sacrificial template and strategically releasing internal stresses, researchers constructed vertically protruding cantilever microelectrodes. These slender beams extend over 200 μm from their base, allowing deep penetration into organoid interiors. This innovation enables the recording of local field potentials from deeply

embedded neurons, previously inaccessible with surface-based systems, thereby offering unprecedented insights into intracellular network dynamics.

Complementary advancements in 3D microfabrication further expanded the versatility of electrophysiological platforms. For instance, curved microfluidic systems and self-folding electrodes have been proposed to optimize spatial compatibility with diverse organoid morphologies. These customizable tools adapt to the unique structural demands of specific neural organoid models, enhancing data accuracy and experimental reproducibility. Such innovations collectively establish a modular framework for electrophysiological analysis, bridging the gap between *in vitro* organoid systems and complex *in vivo* neural activity.

5.3. Actuating accessories for mechanical stimulation

Mechanical stimuli, such as cyclic stretch and compression, are critical determinants of tissue maturation, particularly in the context of muscular and cardiovascular organoids. To replicate the dynamic mechanical microenvironments encountered *in vivo*, researchers have increasingly employed 3D-printed actuators, including pneumatic and hydraulic microsystems, as precise tools for delivering controlled mechanical signals.²⁰⁵ This approach has been pivotal in advancing the functional maturation of engineered tissues.

In cardiac organoid models, silicone-based 3D-printed actuators have been instrumental in applying cyclic stretching, which facilitates myofibril alignment and enhances contractile performance.^{205,206} Furthermore, studies utilizing 3D-printed piston-driven systems demonstrated that mechanical stimulation can significantly improve the electrophysiological properties of cardiac tissues, rendering them more physiologically relevant for disease modeling, such as arrhythmia studies.^{207,208} Recent advancements have expanded this paradigm by incorporating additional mechanical modalities, such as shear stress and torsion, to further refine cardiac organoid maturation, thereby elevating their functional complexity and utility in both research and translational applications.^{209,210}

Beyond cardiovascular systems, 3D printing has enabled the development of piezoelectric scaffolds capable of generating ultrasonic vibrations to simulate physiological mechanical loading. Such scaffolds have been shown to promote osteoblast differentiation and mineralization by mimicking *in vivo* mechanical cues, with studies reporting a 40% increase in calcium deposition in bone organoids compared to static culture conditions.¹²¹ The customizable nature of 3D-printed piezoelectric structures further

allows tailoring their mechanical properties to specific bone organoid models, thereby optimizing stimulation efficacy and enhancing the structural quality of engineered bone tissues.²¹¹

5.4. Multicomponent bio-assembly for complex organoid models

5.4.1. Heterotypic co-culture platforms

3D bioprinting enables the precise co-deposition of multiple cell types and biomaterial components, creating heterotypic co-culture systems that replicate complex tissue–tissue interfaces and physiological interactions.²¹²

A compelling application is the integration of brain organoids with endothelial cells and astrocytes within perfusable scaffolds, which generates a functional blood–brain barrier model.²¹³ These platforms exhibit robust tight junction formation and selective permeability, offering a physiologically accurate platform to study neurotoxicity, drug permeability, and blood–brain barrier dysfunction.^{214,215} Recent advances have refined these systems by incorporating species-specific cell lines, bioactive ECM components, and dynamic perfusion protocols to better mimic *in vivo* microenvironments, thereby enhancing model fidelity.^{216,217}

Similarly, cancer organoids co-cultured with stromal cells or immune cells within 3D-printed matrices recapitulate critical features of TMEs. For instance, colorectal cancer organoids embedded with immune cells in printed matrices enabled the evaluation of immunotherapy efficacy in a context that mirrors clinical tumor-immune interactions.²¹³ Such systems hold transformative potential for cancer research, offering insights into tumor progression, metastasis, and therapeutic resistance.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. Heterotypic co-cultures require meticulous regulation of cell–cell interactions, as uncontrolled cross-talk may lead to signal interference or cross-contamination over time. Additionally, maintaining physiological relevance across diverse cell populations demands precise spatiotemporal control of growth factors, mechanical cues, and metabolic gradients, which is a complex interplay that necessitates further optimization.

5.4.2. Miniature bioreactors for scalable culture

The integration of 3D-printed scaffolds with microfluidic bioreactors has enabled high-throughput organoid culture systems capable of parallel production, monitoring, and analysis.²¹⁸ These platforms, often equipped with automated sampling and imaging capabilities, are indispensable for accelerating drug discovery and toxicity testing.^{201,219}

A notable example is the 3D-printed polycarbonate perfusion bioreactor, which supports the simultaneous culture of hundreds of hepatic organoids under controlled perfusion. By maintaining consistent metabolic activity for up to 4 weeks, these systems address a critical limitation of traditional static cultures and advance their utility in drug metabolism studies.²²⁰ Recent design improvements prioritize uniform nutrient delivery, efficient waste removal, and minimized shear stress, thereby enhancing organoid viability and experimental reproducibility.¹⁷⁵

To standardize output, another 3D bioprinting platform presents a promising alternative. Shin et al.²²¹ addressed the limitations of optimization of critical process variables (bioink viscosity, nozzle size, printing duration, pressure, and cell density) by leveraging machine learning to streamline parameter optimization and enable real-time prediction of cellular droplet dimensions.²²¹ This high-throughput bioprinting system was engineered to generate over 50 cellular droplets per cycle, facilitating the rapid compilation of datasets essential for robust algorithmic training. Five machine learning models were evaluated for performance, with the multilayer perceptron exhibiting superior predictive accuracy and the decision tree achieving the shortest computational latency. To enhance practical utility, these optimized algorithms were embedded into an intuitive interface designed for seamless integration into experimental workflows, which bridges bioprinting automation with data-driven parameter refinement, holding significant potential to advance scalable organoid manufacturing (Figure 6B & C). By harmonizing precision and efficiency, this framework is poised to synergize with diverse biomanufacturing technologies, accelerating applications in drug development, disease modeling, and regenerative medicine.

Complementary to perfusion systems, inkjet bioprinting enables the precise deposition of organoids onto pre-patterned substrates, forming high-density arrays ideal for large-scale screening. A 96-well plate format with printed ECM microdots, for instance, facilitates uniform culture of intestinal organoids and accelerates high-throughput toxicity testing of anticancer agents.^{222,223} Such array-based systems significantly streamline drug discovery workflows, reducing time and resource demands while improving data consistency.

Despite these strides, scaling organoid cultures requires balancing system complexity with cost-effectiveness. Future innovations in bioreactor design must prioritize scalability, automation, low-cost accessibility, computer numerical control-driven platform, and integration with artificial intelligence-driven analytics to fully unlock the

potential of organoid-based platforms in translational research.⁹⁶

5.5. Challenges and future directions

Despite advancements in printing vascular networks, seamless anatomical and functional integration between engineered vessels and organoid-derived microvasculature remains elusive. Overcoming this hurdle requires innovations in two key areas. First, the co-printing of endothelial cells with angiogenic factors to promote vasculogenesis, and second, the development of advanced imaging or sensor-based tools to evaluate vascular functionality and optimize tissue-tissue interfaces. Meanwhile, short-term biocompatibility does not guarantee safety over extended periods, as degradation byproducts may trigger inflammatory responses or compromise organoid viability. Future efforts must prioritize the development of fully biodegradable materials that mimic the dynamic turnover of native ECM while exerting immunomodulatory effects. Concurrently, systematic investigations into the long-term biological impacts of material degradation are essential to refine strategies for mitigating adverse outcomes.

Current 3D-printed systems excel at providing structural frameworks but often fail to induce functional maturation, such as the formation of innervated muscle or vascularized glomeruli. To bridge this gap, researchers must integrate multifaceted stimuli into engineered environments, including mechanical forces, electrical signaling, and spatiotemporal biochemical gradients. Furthermore, elucidating the molecular and cellular mechanisms governing maturation will inform the design of targeted interventions.

Innovations in artificial intelligence present a transformative opportunity for clinical translation. Artificial intelligence-driven platforms can streamline organoid design through rapid screening, enable high-resolution analysis of multiscale imaging and multi-omics datasets, and facilitate precise preclinical drug testing and disease modeling.²²⁴ Achieving clinical relevance also demands rigorous standardization. Scalable production protocols must ensure precision and reproducibility, while standardized sterilization, cell seeding, and functional validation procedures are indispensable for safe patient applications.

6. Conclusion

Advances in bioprinting have profoundly advanced our comprehension of organoid and tumoroid development, regeneration, pathophysiological mechanisms, drug sensitivity assessment, and clinical translation.²²⁵

Innovations in culture optimization and the discovery of novel ECM-mimetic scaffold materials have partially mitigated longstanding challenges related to poor standardization and suboptimal cell yield.²²⁶ However, persistent technical barriers impede progress, particularly in balancing geometric precision with the preservation of cellular viability and functional integrity. Current systems often struggle to achieve high-fidelity without compromising the metabolic and physiological activity of encapsulated cells.

To unlock the full potential of 3D bioprinted organoids, future research must prioritize three interrelated avenues: (i) the engineering of advanced bioinks with tunable mechanical, biochemical, and degradation properties to better emulate native tissues, (ii) the refinement of printing methodologies to enhance spatial resolution while minimizing mechanical stress on delicate cellular components, and (iii) the synergistic integration of organoid systems with complementary biofabrication technologies (e.g., microfluidics, organ-on-a-chip platforms) to construct physiologically relevant, multi-tissue models. Such advancements will not only address existing technical limitations but also expand the scope of organoid applications in precision medicine, disease modeling, and high-throughput drug screening.

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Conflict of interest

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