

Hans Clevers (1957) studied biology (PhD 1985) and medicine (MD 1984) at Utrecht university and pursued a postdoc at Dana-Farber CI with Cox Terhorst (1985-1989).

Employment History

1991-2002 : Professor in Immunology, University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU)
2002-2012 : Director of the Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht
2012-2015 : President Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
2015-2019 : Research-director Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology
2002- : Professor in Molecular Genetics, Utrecht University
2002- : Principal Investigator at the Hubrecht Institute
2015- : Principal Investigator Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology

Selected Academy Memberships

Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, Foreign Associate of the Académie des Sciences de l'Institut de France, Orden pour le Mérite (Germany), Royal Society (London), Royal Society (Edinburgh).

Selected Current Editorial Board Memberships

2004 Member of the Editorial Board of EMBO Journal
2009 Member of the Editorial Board of Cell
2012 Member of the Editorial Board of Stem Cell Reports
2013 Member of the Editorial Board of Cell Stem Cell
2014 Member of the Editorial Committee of Annual Review of Cancer Biology

Selected Prizes and Awards (out of ~40)

2001 Spinoza Award of the Netherlands Research Council (NWO)
2004 Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine, Geneva, Switzerland
2008 Meyenburg Cancer Research Award, Germany
2011 The Ernst Jung Medical Award, Germany
2012 Association pour la Recherche sur le Cancer (ARC) Léopold Griffuel Prize,
2012 William Beaumont prize of the American Gastroenterology Association
2012 The Heineken Prize for Medicine
2013 The Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences
2015 ISSCR-McEwen Award for Innovation
2016 The Körber European Science Prize, Germany
2016 The Ilse & Helmut Wachter award, Hamburg, Germany
2017 Princess Takamatsu Award of Merit, Tokyo, Japan
2019 Keio Medical Science Prize, Tokyo, Japan
2020 Meyerson Award Lecture, Philadelphia

Research summary

Wnt signals dictate cell fate decisions during animal embryogenesis. Clevers uncovered how Wnt signals control gene expression, i.e. through the interaction of Tcf transcription factors with the Wnt effector β -catenin. Looking beyond embryogenesis, he unveiled the role of Wnt signaling in colon cancer and in its physiological counterpart, the self-renewing gut epithelium. Combining these insights, he described the generic marker gene *Lgr5*, which has identified multiple novel adult stem cell types. Against prevailing views, these stem cells could be expanded indefinitely as organoids: mini-organs recapitulating healthy or diseased human tissue in a dish. Organoids are now widely used in basic and applied biomedicine, occupying a niche between 'classical' 2D cell lines and experimental animals.

Publication record

~750 peer-reviewed publications for >125,000 citations. H-index 165