

Editor's page

A fond farewell from the editors of *Revista Española de Cardiología* 2015–2021Despedida del equipo editorial de *Revista Española de Cardiología* 2015–2021

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INTRODUCTION

The “Editor's page” is the medium through which the editorial team of *Revista Española de Cardiología* (*Rev Esp Cardiol*) reviews the journal's overall activity during the last year, in addition to communicating novelties and future plans. This year will be the sixth “Editor's page” drafted by this editor and his editorial team, and the last. The past 6 years have been dizzying and fascinating for the entire team. We have strived to maintain and even increase the scientific quality of *Rev Esp Cardiol* while improving its dissemination and consolidating its visibility in the group of cardiovascular journals with the greatest impact. In the following pages, we present a brief but broad overview of the events of these 6 years for *Rev Esp Cardiol* in all their facets and critically evaluate whether the editorial team has achieved the goals laid out in 2015. In addition, we describe how the transition to the new team will be conducted.

The challenge raised by this “Editor's page” is by no mean small. As well as being the last such article, the previous year has truly been anomalous. The tsunami represented by the COVID-19 pandemic will not be easily forgotten. The last few months have tested us, both individually and as a group. We have had to turn our respective roles upside down and inside out to adapt to the new situation, all in a record time. The circumstances have also affected *Rev Esp Cardiol*, whose editorial office has made every effort to deal with a considerable amount of extra scientific material, as discussed below.

PUBLICATIONS OF REV ESP CARDIOL

Our most loyal readers will notice that some of the figures presented in this section and the next differ slightly from those of previous years. This is due to a change in the method used to extract and analyze the data. From this year, we have decided to report the information on article reception and decisions taken during each calendar year (we previously indicated the editorial decisions regarding articles received in the calendar year, which invariably meant that, at publication of the “Editor's page”, some articles received in the previous year were awaiting a final

decision). As a consequence of this new policy, the data presented are definitive, although it must be remembered that the article reception and decision figures are not fully comparable, given that decisions were made on some articles in a subsequent period.

Figure 1 shows the number of manuscripts received by *Rev Esp Cardiol* in almost the entire period of this editorial team. As can be seen, despite annual variations, the demand for publication was stable at between 950 and 1150 manuscripts per year and grew markedly in the last year. Indeed, a historic high was reached in 2020 with 1263 manuscripts received. If we, for example, compare this number with the volume at the end of the previous decade (2010; 712 manuscripts received), we see a greater than 75% increase. If we refer exclusively to submission of original articles (figure 2), 2020 marked a new historic record, with 529 original articles received, almost 30% higher than the previous high in 2016. Although we had already detected a considerable increase in original articles received in 2019, the most important factor underlying this sudden increase has been the submission of manuscripts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 3 shows the demand for the publication of articles related to this topic between March and December, which traces a curve very similar to that of the epidemiology. Readers may be able to envision the workload that this has represented for the editorial office, whose members must be thanked deeply for their effort. The other journals in the REC Publications group have also responded to this situation, publishing official material of major interest.^{1–4}

The increased demand (figure 1 and figure 2), although a barometer of the good health of *Rev Esp Cardiol*, cannot unfortunately go hand-in-hand with an increase of the same magnitude in the number of articles ultimately published. For example, although the acceptance and rejection rates for original articles have been stable for the last 5 years and more articles of this category were accepted in 2020 than in previous years, the number of original articles rejected increased due to the jump in such articles received (figure 4). This situation has generated a stock of original articles awaiting publication that must be reduced in the mid-term.

Figure 5 shows the number of articles published by type in recent years. Although we have recently opted for a certain stability regarding the numbers of original articles published per issue, we decided to increase the space allowed for these articles in 2021, from 5 to 6 per issue, in order to reduce the stock generated. In addition, original manuscripts rejected for publication by *Rev Esp*

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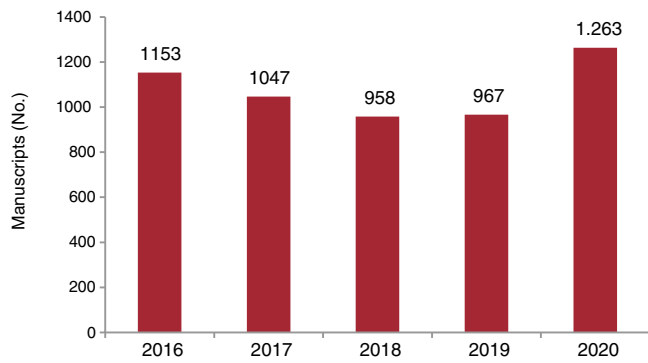


Figure 1. Evolution of the total numbers of manuscripts received by *Rev Esp Cardiol* from 2016 to 2020.

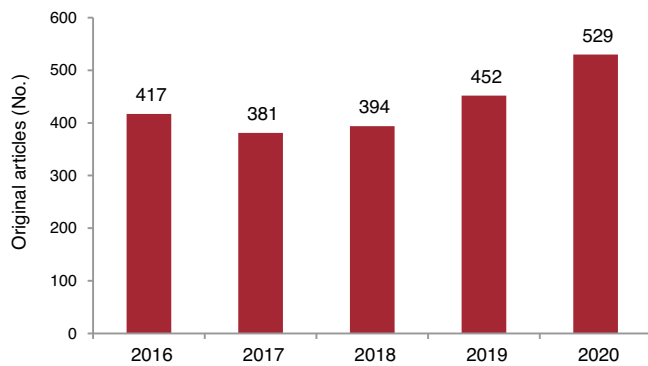


Figure 2. Evolution of the total numbers of original articles received by *Rev Esp Cardiol* from 2016 to 2020.

Cardiol can be transferred to either of the other journals of REC Publications. During 2020, a transfer possibility was offered to 170 manuscripts (of these, 130 were original articles). In the same year, slightly more than 15% were transferred to one of the other journals of the REC Publications group and considered for publication. We encourage authors to consider publication of their work in *REC: CardioClinics*⁵ and *REC: Interventional Cardiology*,⁶ either through direct submission or consideration of a transfer when it is offered.

What can be clearly seen in the last 5 years is a significant decrease in the number of reviews published (whether in the form of review articles or focus articles), particularly in the last 2 years. As already announced in the “Editor’s page” of 2020,⁷ the reason for this decrease was the extraordinary competitiveness of this

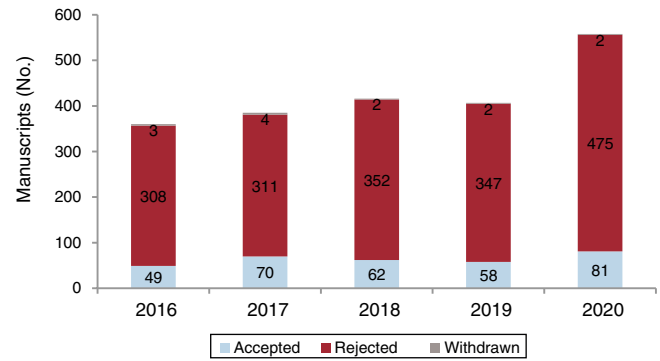


Figure 4. Final editorial decisions concerning original articles taken by *Rev Esp Cardiol* from 2016 to 2020.

format in the cardiovascular field. Regardless, we have dedicated the space available for this type of article to first-rate manuscripts and we would like to congratulate the authors for the quality of their work.^{8–18} Any decision regarding the number of reviews to be published by *Rev Esp Cardiol* in the coming years will be left to the next editorial team. We believe that, regardless of their bibliometric potential, they constitute an excellent educational resource that must continue.

During recent years, the number of scientific letters published has varied significantly, with an increase in the first few years and a marked decrease in the last 2 years. This variation is related to various factors. One reason is the transfer of the publication of the “Advances in cardiology” articles from the scientific letter format in *Rev Esp Cardiol* to a longer format in a dedicated issue of the journal *REC: CardioClinics*.¹⁹ Independently of this factor, we decided upon a change in the editorial policy that involved a progressive decrease in the number of scientific letters published to avoid suspicion of impact factor distortion, as discussed in the previous “Editor’s page”.⁷

Two specific sections have been introduced during this editorial period, both in 2017. The first is the section “Atrium”,²⁰ a written summary of the issue contents by the Editor-in-Chief. This section continued until December 2020. The second, named “Viaje al corazón de las palabras” (“Into the heart of terminology”),²¹ is a magnificently written section by Fernando A. Navarro, a member of our Advisory Board, whose aim is to comment entertainingly on the doubts and peculiarities of scientific language.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that, during the last year, a boost has been given to *Rev Esp Cardiol* Supplements, with a total of 5 published on various topics in 2020.^{22–26}

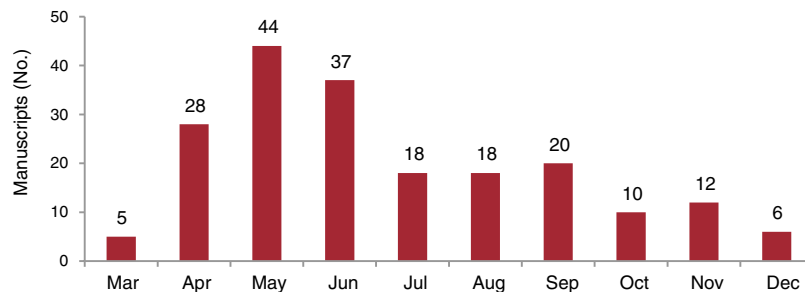


Figure 3. Number of manuscripts concerning COVID-19 received for publication by *Rev Esp Cardiol* between March and December 2020.

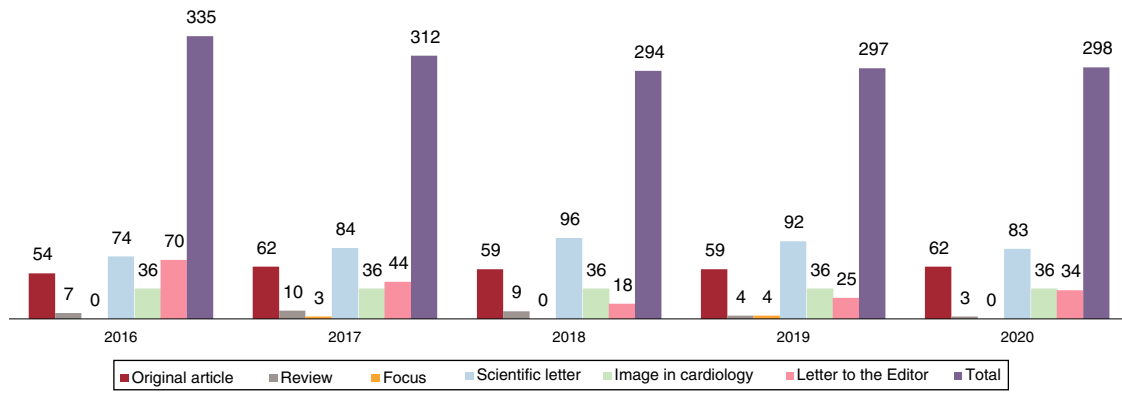


Figure 5. Manuscripts published in *Rev Esp Cardiol* from 2016 to 2020. The datum corresponding to the total for each year includes other types of articles not individually shown in this graph.

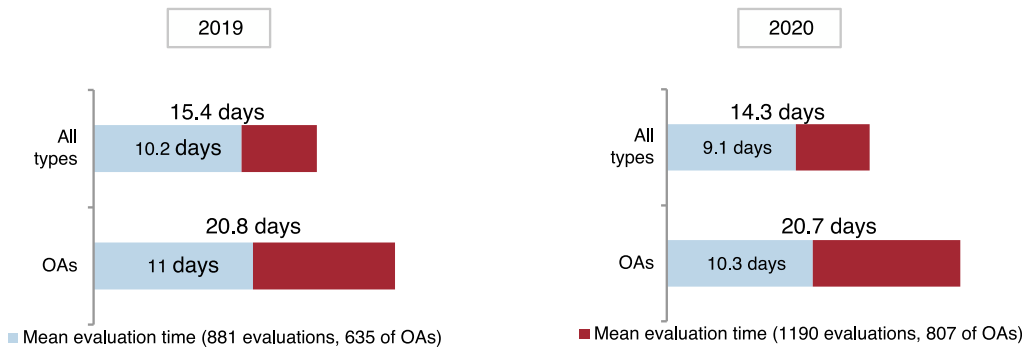


Figure 6. Time to first decision (days) and times for reviewers, both overall and exclusively for original articles. OAs, original articles.

Digital format and social media

Our website²⁷ continues to be one of the main worldwide sources of information on cardiology in Spanish. In 2020, 5 million users consulted our digital edition, with a total of 11.5 million page views and a 4.7% increase in time spent on the site vs the previous year. The main countries of origin of our users have not changed: Spain at number 1, followed by Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina. In February 2020, Dr Pablo Avanzas replaced Dr José Juan Gómez de Diego at the forefront of social media for REC Publications, whose activity continues to grow: from our Twitter accounts,²⁸ with more than 17 000 followers, and Facebook,²⁹

with over 10 300 fans, users share and comment on the contents of the 3 journals in the family, both *Rev Esp Cardiol* and *REC: CardioClinics* and *REC: Interventional Cardiology*, which continue their consolidation in all parameters. The Blog of *Rev Esp Cardiol*³⁰ regularly publishes interviews with the authors of our articles. This approach provides a direct insight into their research process and its main findings.

To respond to the strong interest in the COVID-19 pandemic, all articles related to this topic are available in open access and have been collected in a specific section on the website.³¹ The pandemic has also prompted a change in the format of the interviews in our Editor videos,³² which are now recorded via streaming.

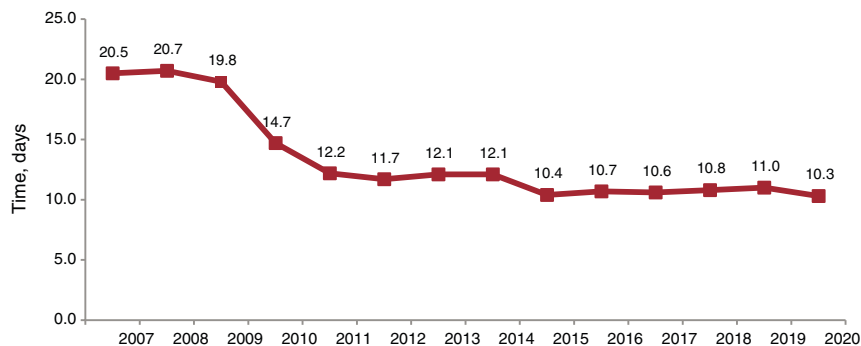


Figure 7. Changes in reviewer response times for *Rev Esp Cardiol* (for first submission of original articles) between 2007 and 2020. Time is expressed in days.

Table 1

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

Juan Acosta
Harry Acquatella
Alejandro Adsuar
Rosa M. Agra
Finn Akerström
Arístides Alarcón
Dimpna C. Albert
José M. Alegret
Fernando Alfonso
Manuel Almendro
Joaquín Alonso
Pau Alonso
Rafael Alonso-González
Gonzalo L. Alonso-Salinas
Ezequiel Álvarez
Miguel Álvarez
Ignacio J. Amat
Dominick Angiolillo
Ignasi Anguera
Manuel P. Anguita
Eduardo Arana
Albert Ariza
Pedro Armario
Ángel Aroca
Pablo Avanzas
Pablo Ávila
Enrique J. Balbacid
José Banegas
Jordi Bañeras
Eneko Barbería
Alfredo Bardají
Eduardo Barge
Gonzalo Barge
Gonzalo Barón
José Barrabés
Manuel Barreiro
Roberto Barriales
Vivencio Barrios
Antonio J. Barros
Teresa Bastante
Antoni Bayés-Genís
Víctor Bazán
Javier Bermejo
J. Luis Bernal
José R. Berrazueta
Vicente Bertomeu-Martínez
Agustín Blanco
Vicente Bodí
Rafael Bonfante
Alberto Bouzas
Serge Boveda
Ramón Bover
Marisol Bravo
Montserrat Bret
María Brión
Pilar Cabanas

Table 1 (Continued)

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

David Calvo
Francisco E. Calvo
Naiara Calvo
Óscar Cano
Eva M. Cantero
Victoria Cañadas
Manuel Carnero
Juan Caro
Amelia Carro
José Casasnovas
José M. Castellano
Pilar Cejudo
Ángel R. Cequier
Marinela Chaparro
Fernando Civeira
Luciano Consuegra
Alberto Cordero
Félix Coserria
Juan Cosín-Sales
Eliecer Coto
David Couto
Ignacio Cruz
José M. Cubero
Regina Dalmau
Tomás Datino
José A. de Agustín
David de Gonzalo
Jesús M. de la Hera
Gonzalo de la Morena
José M. de la Torre-Hernández
Irene R. Dégano
Juan F. Delgado
Mónica Delgado
Victoria Delgado
Leonel Díaz-González
Jesús Díaz-Gutiérrez
Elena Díaz-Peláez
Javier Díez
Pablo Díez-Villanueva
David Dobarro
Fernando Domínguez
Laura Domínguez-Pérez
Alberto Domínguez-Rodríguez
Laura Dos
Sonia Eiras
Rocío Eiros
Jaime Elízaga
Carlos Escobar
Laura Escolà-Vergé
M. Pilar Escribano
Alberto Esteban-Fernández
Virginia Esteve-Luque
Rodrigo Estévez-Loureiro
Arturo Evangelista
Lorenzo Fácila
Ángel L. Fernández

Table 1 (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

Juan Fernández-Armenta
José A. Fernández-Díaz
Leticia Fernández-Friera
Covadonga Fernández-Golfín
Nuria Fernández-Hidalgo
Ignacio Fernández-Lozano
Carlos Fernández-Palomeque
José L. Ferreira
Adolfo Fontenla
Alberto Forteza
José F. Forteza
Eduardo Franco
Laura Galián
María Gallego-Delgado
Ana García-Álvarez
Juan García de Lara
Miguel García-Fernández
Alberto García-Lledó
Xavier García-Moll
Rocío García-Orta
Pablo García-Pavía
José M. García-Pinilla
José A. García-Robles
Juan C. García-Rubira
José M. García-Ruiz
Carlos García Santos-Gallego
Juan M. Gil-Jaurena
Juan Gimeno
Javier Goicolea
Josébe Goirigolzarri-Artaza
Manuel Gómez-Bueno
Juan J. Gómez-Doblas
Joan A. Gómez-Hospital
Josep Gómez-Lara
Jesús Gómez-Salineró
Teresa González-Alujas
Antonio González-Calle
José González-Costello
Herminia González-Navarro
Elvira González-Obeso
Álvaro González-Rocafort
José M. González-Santos
Esteban González Torrecilla
Francisco González-Vílchez
Nieves Gonzalo
Ferrán Gran
Antonio Grande-Trillo
José Guerra
Carlos Guijarro
Encarnación Gutiérrez-Carretero
Enrique Gutiérrez-Ibañes
Gabriela Guzmán-Martínez
Felipe Hernández-Hernández
Rocío Hinojar
Ignacio Iglesias-Gárriz
Carmen Jiménez

Table 1 (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

Javier Jiménez-Candil
Juan Jiménez-Jáimez
Manuel Jiménez-Navarro
Justo Juliá
Alfonso Jurado-Román
Iñaki Lekuona
Javier Limeres
Vicenta Llorente
Pablo Loma-Osorio
Esteban López-de-Sá
Teresa López-Fernández
José R. López-Mínguez
Ramón López-Palop
José López-Sendón
Gerard Loughlin
Íñigo Lozano
Emilio Luengo
Francisco Lupiáñez
Alfonso Macías
Begoña Manso
Pedro Marcos-Alberca
Francisco Marín
Gerard Martí-Aguasca
Isaac Martínez-Bendayán
Efrén Martínez-Quintana
Manuel Martínez-Sellés
Lluis Masana
María D. Masiá
María Melendo-Viu
Ana Méndez
Irene Méndez
Dolores Mesa-Rubio
Raúl Millán
Susana Mingo
Emilio Monguió
Lorenzo Monserrat
Vanessa Moñivas
Raúl Moreno
César Morís
Luis Nombela
Julio Núñez
Raymundo Ocaranza
Soledad Ojeda
José M. Oliver
Jordi Ordóñez-Llanos
Joaquín Osca
Remedios Otero
Loreto Oyarzábal
Julián Palomino
Manuel Pan
Ana Pardo
Domingo A. Pascual
Isaac Pascual
Pablo Pazos
Rafael Peinado
Carlos Peña-Gil

Table 1 (Continued)

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

María L. Peña-Peña
Pablo Peñafiel
Daniel Pereda
Esther Pérez-David
Leopoldo Pérez de Isla
Armando Pérez de Prado
Jesús Peteiro
Antonia Pijuan-Domènech
Xavier Pinto
Jesús Piqueras
Marta Pombo
Joan Pons
Francisco Portela
Susanna Prat
Raquel Prieto
Juan Quiles
Sergio Raposeiras
Elena Refoyo
Juan J. Ríos
Tomás Ripoll
Fernando Rivero
Ivo Roca-Luque
Sergio Rodríguez de Leiras
Ramón Rodríguez-Olivares
Luis Rodríguez-Padial
José Rodríguez-Palomares
Inmaculada Roldán
Nieves Romero
Xavier Rosselló
José M. Rubín
Fernando Rueda
Joaquín Rueda
Marisol Ruiz-Meana
Juan M. Ruiz-Nodar
Manel Sabaté
Rafael Salguero
Luisa Salido
Pablo Salinas
Antonia Sambola
José A. San Román
Inmaculada Sánchez
Pedro L. Sánchez
Violeta Sánchez
Juan Sanchis
Laura Sanchis
Marcelo Sanmartín
Gloria Santos
María P. Sanz-Ayán
Fernando Sarnago
Marta Saura
Inés Sayago
Javier Segovia
Luis J. Serratos
Jacobo Silva
Alessandro Sionis
Gisela Teixidó

Table 1 (Continued)

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers with *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2020

Antonio Tello-Montoliu
Luis Teruel
Daniel Tobler
Jorge Toquero
José Tuñón
Leire Unzué
Aitor Urbarri
Gerard Urrútia
Israel Valverde
Sonia Velasco
Rafael Vidal
Isidre Vilacosta
Gemma Vilahur
Eduardo Villacorta
David Vivas
Gilbert W. Michel Wijntjens
Fernando Worner
Juan I. Zabala
Elisabet Zamora
Carlos Zaragoza
Esther Zorio

EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

Once again, we have analyzed the journal's production and publication times, an aspect increasingly more relevant due to the strong competition among journals. On the one hand, we analyzed the times from manuscript submission to the first decision (figure 6) and, on the other, the mean reviewer response times (figure 7). The times required for the editorial process are stable, at less than 3 weeks for original articles, which includes desk rejection. As we have seen during the entire period of this editorial team, our reviewers maintained excellent mean review times (figure 7). Once again, their endeavors deserve our sincere gratitude. We also reiterate our thanks to all of the reviewers who work with *Rev Esp Cardiol* (table 1), many of them without belonging to our Editorial or Advisory Boards. As always, due to the high standard of their work, the elite reviewers deserve special recognition (table 2).

As mentioned, the stability of the response times of the reviewers has been one of the constants during this editorial period,^{7,33–35} as in previous eras. We believe that this is one of the healthiest indices of *Rev Esp Cardiol* because it likely indirectly indicates that the reviewers feel as if they are a part of *Rev Esp Cardiol*, which is undoubtedly one of our journal's greatest assets. And although this editorial team and the previous teams have attempted to reward the efforts of the reviewers through various acts (access to the Elsevier Reviewer Recognition Platform,³⁶ granting of training credits, inclusion of elite reviewers in the Editorial Committee, and invitations to write editorials), the reality is that the effort made exceeds any compensation that can be offered by *Rev Esp Cardiol*.

BIBLIOMETRIC ASPECTS

As in each year, we must discuss the latest published impact factor (IF), that for 2019 (published in the 2020 edition of Journal

Table 2
Elite reviewers 2020

Fernando Alfonso
Roberto Barriales
Juan Caro
Amelia Carro
David Couto
Tomás Datino
José M. de la Torre-Hernández
Nuria Fernández-Hidalgo
Pablo García-Pavía
Ramón López-Palop
Juan Sanchis

Citation Reports [JCR]³⁷). There was a slight but clear decrease in the IF in absolute terms to 4.642 (previously, 5.078). However, the decrease is lower in relative terms, that is, if we analyze the relative position of *Rev Esp Cardiol* vs the other cardiovascular journals indexed. This year, we are placed at number 30 of a total of 138, whereas we were placed at number 27 of a total of 136 in the previous year, both times within the first quartile. In reality, the IF decrease in absolute terms has generally affected most journals and is related to a change made by Clarivate to the bibliometric counting process.³⁸

Figure 8 shows the bibliometric trend for *Rev Esp Cardiol* in both absolute and relative terms. The most appropriate conclusion is the consolidation of *Rev Esp Cardiol* from the bibliometric point of view in the last 3 years in the first quartile of cardiovascular journals. Nonetheless, we believe that this situation deserves discussion. Given the variable nature of IFs, reliant on the editorial policy and idiosyncrasies of each journal, we must emphasize the value of an impartial and self-critical consideration of the real “visibility” of *Rev Esp Cardiol* compared with other cardiovascular journals. This visibility is probably highly correlated with the ability of *Rev Esp Cardiol* to generate external citations (citations from other journals) for each article published. If we specifically focus on this parameter, *Rev Esp Cardiol* has consistently been placed in the last 3 years within the 35% of cardiovascular journals with the most external citations generated per article. We consider this to be the best indicator of the visibility of *Rev Esp Cardiol*. Regardless of the IF ranking of the journal within the first quartile, we believe that this fact, impartial and objective, must be a source of satisfaction for the entire Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC).

Given all of the above, it is more than acceptable to highlight the work with the highest dissemination and scientific visibility in recent years. The publications of 2017 and 2018 influence the impact factor for 2018, whereas those published in 2018 and 2019 influence the impact factor for 2020 (which will be published in JCR in 2021); those published in 2020 influence the immediacy index, a reflection of the speed of the scientific visibility of a publication.

Table 3 shows this information,^{11,39–64} extracted from the Web of Science⁶⁵ at the start of 2021. As always, the editorial team congratulates the authors of these articles. Finally, as in every year, we must mention and commend the authors of the publications receiving the awards conferred by the SEC based on scientific impact and quality (table 4).

COROLLARY: EDITORIAL PAST AND FUTURE OF REV ESP CARDIOL

Rev Esp Cardiol is the official scientific publication of the SEC and one of its vehicles of expression. This editorial team began its journey in October 2015 with great enthusiasm and striving for excellence. Undoubtedly, we started out from a privileged position thanks to the excellent work of the previous editorial teams, whom we must praise. We also benefited from the contributions and professionalism of the staff in the editorial office. Eva M. Cardenal, María González Nogal, Helena Gómez-Lobo, and Belén Juan have been, are, and will be key to the publication of a first-rate journal and essential for taking on new challenges. The Editorial Director, Iria del Río, deserves special recognition because her proven commitment and professionalism in the editorial management of *Rev Esp Cardiol* ensures the high-quality of our journal, with this editorial team and those to come.

During the 6 years of this editorial period, the general working lines have revolved around several principles: a) maintaining the rigor of the editorial process, particularly regarding peer review; b) prioritizing original material, often at the expense of other more official or educational material and while attempting to maintain the difficult but essential balance that ensures all fields of knowledge are represented; c) encouraging the external visibility of *Rev Esp Cardiol* via international commissioned editorials; d) an almost real-time monitoring of the visibility of *Rev Esp Cardiol* in international bibliometric databases, which has enabled us to anticipate and make decisions from the editorial perspective that we believe to have had positive effects at the bibliometric level; and e) transparency in the decisions made and access for readers, authors, and SEC members. Based on these

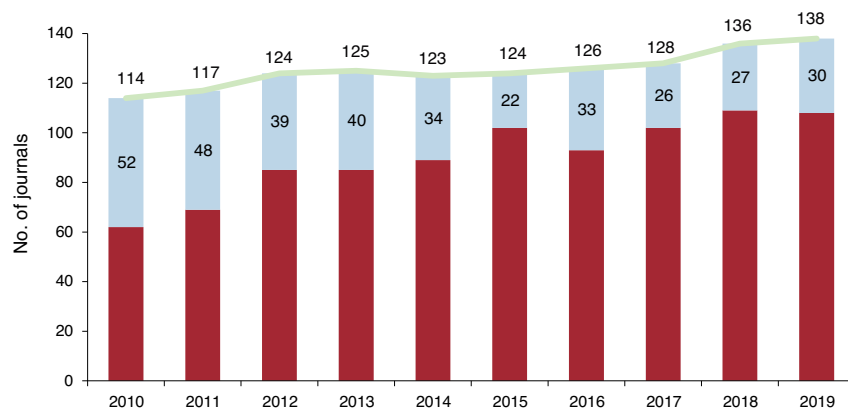


Figure 8. Position of *Rev Esp Cardiol* among cardiovascular journals (Cardiac & Cardiovascular Systems) according to impact factor in Journal Citation Reports.³⁷

Table 3

Research articles, position papers and reviews published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 receiving the most citations in 2020*

Year	Title	Type of publication	Total citations
2017	Burden of Recurrent Hospitalizations Following an Admission for Acute Heart Failure: Preserved Versus Reduced Ejection Fraction ³⁹	Original	12
	Relationship Between <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> Infective Endocarditis and Colorectal Neoplasm: Preliminary Results From a Cohort of 154 Patients ⁴⁰	Original	12
	Three-dimensional Printed Cardiac Models: Applications in the Field of Medical Education, Cardiovascular Surgery, and Structural Heart Interventions ⁴¹	Review	11
	Cardio-Onco-Hematology in Clinical Practice. Position Paper and Recommendations ⁴²	Position paper	10
	The Ratio Between Visceral and Subcutaneous Abdominal Fat Assessed by Computed Tomography Is an Independent Predictor of Mortality and Cardiac Events ⁴³	Original	10
	Diagnosis and Treatment of Transthyretin Cardiac Amyloidosis. Progress and Hope ⁴⁴	Review	10
2018	Impact on Mortality of Different Network Systems in the Treatment of ST-segment Elevation Acute Myocardial Infarction. The Spanish Experience ⁴⁵	Original	9
	Perioperative and Periprocedural Management of Antithrombotic Therapy: Consensus Document of SEC, SEDAR, SEACV, SECTCV, AEC, SECPRE, SEPD, SEGO, SEHH, SETH, SEMERGEN, SEMFYC, SEMG, SEMICYUC, SEMI, SEMES, SEPAR, SENEC, SEO, SEPA, SERVE, SECOT and AEU ⁴⁶	Position paper	13
	Association Between a Healthy Lifestyle Score and the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in the SUN Cohort ⁴⁷	Original	12
	Spanish Catheter Ablation Registry. 17th Official Report of the Spanish Society of Cardiology Working Group on Electrophysiology and Arrhythmias (2017) ⁴⁸	Special article	10
	Comparison of the Hemodynamic Performance of the Balloon-expandable SAPIEN 3 Versus Self-expandable Evolut R Transcatheter Valve: A Case-matched Study ⁴⁹	Original	10
	Spanish Cardiac Catheterization and Coronary Intervention Registry. 27th Official Report of the Spanish Society of Cardiology Working Group on Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Cardiology (1990-2017) ⁵⁰	Special article	8
	Association of General and Abdominal Obesity With Hypertension, Dyslipidemia and Prediabetes in the PREDAPS Study ⁵¹	Original	7
2019	Number of Patients Eligible for PCSK9 Inhibitors Based on Real-world Data From 2.5 Million Patients ⁵²	Original	7
	Excess Weight in Spain: Current Situation, Projections for 2030, and Estimated Direct Extra Cost for the Spanish Health System ⁵³	Original	16
	Recommendations of the Geriatric Cardiology Section of the Spanish Society of Cardiology for the Assessment of Frailty in Elderly Patients With Heart Disease ⁵⁴	Position paper	10
	High-intensity Interval Training Dosage for Heart Failure and Coronary Artery Disease Cardiac Rehabilitation. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis ⁵⁵	Original	10
	Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Cardiology. The Future is Already Here ¹¹	Review	9
	Long-term Event Reduction After Left Atrial Appendage Closure. Results of the Iberian Registry II ⁵⁶	Original	9
	Clinical and Administrative Data on the Research of Acute Coronary Syndrome in Spain. Minimum Basic Data Set Validity ⁵⁷	Original	8
2020	Vasoactive Inotropic Score as a Predictor of Mortality in Adult Patients With Cardiogenic Shock: Medical Therapy Versus ECMO ⁵⁸	Original	7
	Recommendations on antithrombotic treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Position statement of the Working Group on Cardiovascular Thrombosis of the Spanish Society of Cardiology ⁵⁹	Position paper	11
	Coronavirus: the geriatric emergency of 2020. Joint document of the Section on Geriatric Cardiology of the Spanish Society of Cardiology and the Spanish Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology ⁶⁰	Position paper	8
	Direct oral anticoagulants versus vitamin K antagonists in real-world patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation. The FANTASIA study ⁶¹	Original	6
	Left atrial appendage occlusion for stroke despite oral anticoagulation (resistant stroke). Results from the Amplatzer Cardiac Plug registry ⁶²	Original	6
	Transcatheter mitral repair according to the cause of mitral regurgitation: real-life data from the Spanish MitraClip registry ⁶³	Original	5
	Fulminant myocarditis due to COVID-19 ⁶⁴	Scientific letter	5

* Source: Clarivate Analytics Web of Science, 5 Jan 2021.

principles, major steps have been taken. The most important is perhaps the launch of 2 new journals within the REC Publications family, which we believe to have been highly positive for the SEC. Major milestones have been reached, such as the highest IF of the entire history of *Rev Esp Cardiol*, the highest level of external citation (with the associated reduction in self-citations), and the awarding of the 2019 MEDES (*MEDicina en Español* [Medicine in

Spanish]) prize. In parallel, the processes in the editorial office have been streamlined, which, together with the incorporation of 2 new colleagues (Helena Gómez-Lobo and Belén Juan), has allowed us to markedly boost the quantity and quality of manuscripts handled in *Rev Esp Cardiol*. All of this has improved efficiency, which has gone hand-in-hand with cost containment and better results for the journal that favor its sustainability.

Table 4

Articles receiving an award from the Spanish Society of Cardiology in 2020

1. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology for articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol
<i>First prize</i>
Palau et al. Inspiratory Muscle Training and Functional Electrical Stimulation for Treatment of Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction: The TRAINING-HF Trial. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:288–297.
<i>Second prize</i>
Sambola et al. Colchicine Administered in the First Episode of Acute Idiopathic Pericarditis: A Randomized Multicenter Open-label Study. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:709–716.
2. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology for the articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol with the greatest international impact
Most-cited articles, long-term
<i>First prize</i>
Kocabay et al. Normal Left Ventricular Mechanics by Two-dimensional Speckle-tracking Echocardiography. Reference Values in Healthy Adults. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2014;67:651–658.
<i>Second prize</i>
Gómez-Doblas et al. Prevalence of Atrial Fibrillation in Spain. OFRECE Study Results. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2014;67:259–269.
Most-cited articles, midterm
<i>First prize</i>
Ladeiras-Lopes et al. The Ratio Between Visceral and Subcutaneous Abdominal Fat Assessed by Computed Tomography Is an Independent Predictor of Mortality and Cardiac Events. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2017;70:331–337.
<i>Second prize (awarded to 2 articles)</i>
Gómez-Otero et al. Mid-range Ejection Fraction Does Not Permit Risk Stratification Among Patients Hospitalized for Heart Failure. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2017;70:338–346.
Saltijeral et al. Attainment of LDL Cholesterol Treatment Goals in Children and Adolescents With Familial Hypercholesterolemia. The SAFEHEART Follow-up Registry. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2017;70:444–450.
3. Prize awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology for the best article published in REC: CardioClinics
Félix-Redondo et al. Performance of cardiovascular risk functions proposed for Spain in the Extremadura population of the HERMEX cohort. <i>REC CardioClinics.</i> 2019;54:173–182.
4. Prize awarded by the Interventional Cardiology Association for the best article published in REC: Interventional Cardiology
Cortés et al. Quantitative flow ratio in myocardial infarction for the evaluation of non-infarct-related arteries. The QIMERA pilot study. <i>REC Interv Cardiol.</i> 2019;1:13–20.
5. Prizes awarded by the Clinical Cardiology Association for the best articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol
Escobar Cervantes et al. Direct Oral Anticoagulants Versus Vitamin K Antagonists in Real-life Patients With Atrial Fibrillation. A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:305–316.
Raposeiras-Roubín et al. Usefulness of the PARIS Score to Evaluate the Ischemic-hemorrhagic Net Benefit With Ticagrelor and Prasugrel After an Acute Coronary Syndrome. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:215–223.
6. Prize awarded by the Ischemic Heart Disease and Acute Cardiac Care Association for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol
Mate Redondo et al. Hospital Mortality in 415 798 AMI Patients: 4 Years Earlier in the Canary Islands Than in the Rest of Spain. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:466–472.
7. Prize awarded by the Ischemic Heart Disease and Acute Cardiac Care Association for the best publication
Estruch et al. Effect of a high-fat Mediterranean diet on bodyweight and waist circumference: a prespecified secondary outcomes analysis of the PREDIMED randomised controlled trial. <i>Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol.</i> 2019;7:e6–e17.
8. Prize awarded by the Heart Rhythm Association for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol
Calderón Parra et al. Proposal for a Novel Score to Determine the Risk of Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device Infection. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:806–812.
9. Prize awarded by the Pediatric Cardiology and Congenital Heart Disease Section for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol
Rodríguez-Serrano et al. Changes in Adrenoceptor and GRK Expression in Patients With Chronic Pulmonary Regurgitation. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:569–576.
10. Prize awarded by the Section on Familial Heart Disease and Cardiovascular Genetics for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol
Marí-Alexandre et al. Thickness and an Altered miRNA Expression in the Epicardial Adipose Tissue Is Associated With Coronary Heart Disease in Sudden Death Victims. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:30–39.
11. Prize awarded by the Section on Cardiac Pacing on cardiac pacing
García-Fernández et al. Safety and efficiency of a common and simplified protocol for pacemaker and defibrillator surveillance based on remote monitoring only: a long-term randomized trial (RM-ALONE). <i>Eur Heart J.</i> 2019;40:1837–1846.
12. Eighth Magda Heras prize for the best article published in an Iberoamerican cardiovascular journal
<i>First prize</i>
Carrero et al. Bicuspid Aortic Valve: Prolapse and Aortic Valve Calcification are Markers of Significant Valve Dysfunction and Major Cardiovascular Events at 5 Years. <i>Rev Argent Cardiol.</i> 2019;87:441–448.
<i>Second prize</i>
Franco-Gutiérrez et al. Carotid plaque is a predictor of major adverse cardiac and cerebrovascular events in patients undergoing coronary angiography. <i>Arch Cardiol Mex.</i> 2019;89:5–11.
<i>Third prize</i>
Palau et al. Inspiratory Muscle Training and Functional Electrical Stimulation for Treatment of Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction: The TRAINING-HF Trial. <i>Rev Esp Cardiol.</i> 2019;72:288–297.

Nonetheless, we undoubtedly have made decisions that could be questioned. Possibly the least enjoyable aspect of our activity is the need to reject a higher number of manuscripts to fit the available publication space, although our results reveal rejection rates similar to those of previous years. Nonetheless, the rejection of manuscripts has sometimes been an issue for authors. We wish to reiterate that decisions made regarding manuscript acceptance or rejection have always been based on a careful and thoughtful consideration of not only reviewer comments, but also editorial priorities, with the focus on the selection of the best of the material available. Regardless, manuscript rejections that have led to an author appeal have always been reassessed by the editorial team and sometimes by other external reviewers.

Perhaps one of the most novel initiatives of this team has been the establishment of a competitive process⁶⁶ for the selection of a new Editor-in-Chief. The selection is based on curriculum, previous experience, and the presentation by the candidates of a project/plan for *Rev Esp Cardiol* in the coming years. Although this is the first time that we have launched a procedure of this type, we believe that it will be highly positive, enabling the discovery of new talent while boosting the prestige and rigor of the new editorial team and the journal itself. By the time this manuscript is published, the person who will take on the role of Editor-in-Chief for the next editorial period will possibly already have been selected. The next step will be an overlap period lasting several months to enable the new Editor-in-Chief to learn the journal procedures and select the new editorial team. The activity of the new team will finally begin in October 2021. All of us here would like to encourage the members of the next team and wish them the best in their coming adventure. The challenge is considerable but highly rewarded by the privilege of being one of the most important assets of the Spanish Society of Cardiology.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Once again, we wish to highlight the efforts of the translation and proofreading teams, whose meticulous work, attention to detail, and perceptive comments enhance the standard of *Rev Esp Cardiol*. The translation team for the English version, comprising Simon Bartlett, Helen Casas, Celine Cavallo, Kevin Clayton, Simon Coxon, Jane Marshall, Greg Morley, and Anne Murray, with Gail Craigie as copy-editor, has played an essential role in the international prestige of our journal, with the resulting positive impact on the visibility of Spanish cardiology. We would also like to thank all departments at the SEC's headquarters, *Casa del Corazón*, whose work has boosted the visibility of the journal.

Finally, a very special thanks to the successive Executive Committees of the SEC since 2015 for their constant unyielding support to this editorial team and for making this task so rewarding.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

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