

Revista Española de Cardiología 2007. Scientific Impact, Manuscript Management, Activity, and Diffusion

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As is our custom, on the December "Editor's Page" of *Revista Española de Cardiología* (REC) the editors take the opportunity to summarize our year-long editorial activity and analyze in detail the latest bibliometric data obtained by REC, its dissemination, and proposed new editorial policy.¹⁻³ Our objective is to share with authors, referees, and readers in general the most recent journal activity data and the editorial concerns that have guided our actions during the year.

The data we present here were fully analyzed at the annual meeting of the REC Editorial Committee, held during the Congress on Cardiovascular Diseases in Madrid. At the congress, part of the information we analyze here was presented at the Plenary Session of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC).

Bibliometric Indices

In 2007, we have achieved a substantial increase in our impact factor: 2.176⁴ (Figure 1), passing yet another milestone in the history of REC as we cross the psychological "2" barrier. Currently, we are located in the second quartile of all cardiovascular journals indexed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). So, according to the latest Science Citation Reports data, we find ourselves in 27th position in the select club of the 74 most prestigious international journals analyzed in 2007 in the field of cardiovascular research (in 2001 we ranked 50th in a league table of 65 journals). *Revista Española de Cardiología* remains the Spanish-language biomedical journal with the highest impact factor and has consolidated its leadership over other journals in our field in this popular bibliometric index.

The number of citations of articles published in REC continues to grow progressively. During 2006, 407 recent

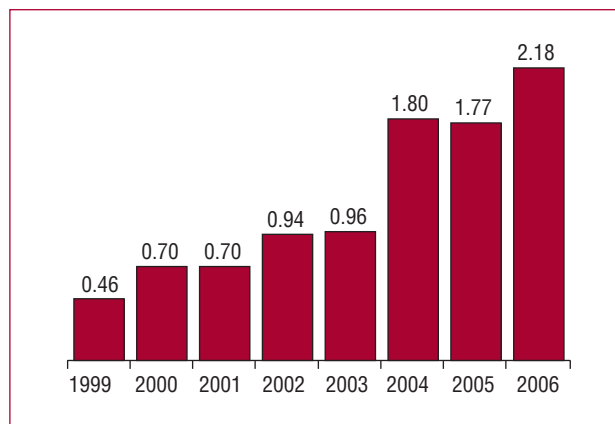


Figure 1. Time trend in the impact factor of *Revista Española de Cardiología*.

articles (ie, published in 2004-05) were cited (in ISI-indexed journals). Moreover, the number of external citations of REC (ie, in other international journals) has continued to increase, reaching 143 in 2007. At the same time, in 2006, total citations of REC (of articles published in any previous year) was 1131 (46% in other journals), an improvement over recent years that confirms the sustained, long-term interest aroused by our contents. Thus, in 2006 the "mean life" for citations of REC was 3.7 years. Furthermore, the immediacy index (ie, citations in 2006 of articles published in 2006) was 0.49, ranking REC in an attractive 25th place among the 74 ISI-indexed cardiovascular journals. Times of acceptance and publication, which we will comment on later, are decisive in this index.

Despite all this excellent news and the maturity and scientific respect achieved by REC, we must continue to insist on the importance of citing the most significant studies recently published in REC in new scientific articles submitted for publication (in REC or in other international journals). In this way, together, we all collaborate to boost the dissemination of the best cardiovascular research conducted in Spain and maintain the excellent bibliometric indices we currently enjoy.¹⁻³ As we have said elsewhere,⁴ this enables us to reinforce the "circle of prestige" we have entered, attracting more and better research studies

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to our pages, which in turn helps improve the quality of our contents and our scientific impact.

Electronic Manuscript Management

In February 2007, REC implemented an online electronic manuscript management system (available at: www.revespcardiol.org). Currently, almost all original research papers submitted for peer-review are sent via this system.⁵ The incorporation of this powerful editorial tool (Editorial Manager-Elsevier Editorial System) represents a new bid to offer maximum quality. It implies completely abandoning paper and has meant one of the greatest in-house transformations of work routines for the REC secretariat in the Casa del Corazón in recent years.

Without doubt, this has been the most important challenge we have faced in 2007.⁵ Our aim was to equip REC with the latest information technology (IT) tools available in the editorial field in order to continue to compete with other prestigious international journals that already offer them. In fact, REC is the first Spanish-language journal to incorporate this new technology and we should thank Elsevier Doyma for their inestimable help during the development of this exciting project. To achieve our objectives, we have not only had to adapt the system in-house so it met our editorial peculiarities but, moreover, the entire interface content for authors and referees was translated and incorporated into a bilingual English-Spanish version.⁵ Now, authors themselves generate the PDF copy of their manuscripts and upload them onto the system, together with all article metadata. Although this initiative is not directly obvious to readers, it enables us to enhance REC's attraction for authors and research groups all over the world. Following the internationalization of our readership, achieved in the last decade, our new objective is to increasingly "internationalize" our authors.

Electronic manuscript management represents a significant advantage for referees too, facilitating their work and making it more efficient. Reviews can be undertaken literally anywhere and referees now have access to the new biomedical search engine (SCOPUS) via the system itself. However, we would like to remind referees of the importance of accepting all invitations to conduct peer-reviews (now received directly in their already overflowing e-mail inboxes) and of carrying out their reviews with the same diligence and dedication that has characterized their work to date.

In 2007, we consider the system is still on trial and would like to take this opportunity to encourage all users to send suggestions on improvements to enable us to take further advantage of its great flexibility.⁵ A very similar system is currently in use at 2400 scientific publications and this uniformity can also help generate a certain "call effect." As we will see below, the first trends in the number of articles received make us very optimistic about this.

Articles Received

In 2007, the number of manuscripts submitted to REC has grown substantially (Figure 2). In fact, the increase has been 25% over 2006, which represents a sharp upturn when compared with the gentle upward slope of previous years. Fundamentally, this is an increase in original article manuscripts (an estimated 239 articles, a 47% increase), which confirms the growing attraction of REC to all investigators in cardiovascular research. We have also received substantially more manuscripts from abroad with submissions from Argentina and México increasing markedly. This has meant a significant increase in the number of contributions in English (47 in total, an increase of 176% with respect to 2006).

Reviews and Publication

Prior to September 2007, REC Editorial Committee members and referees had carried out 633 reviews of manuscripts (224 more than in 2006). Moreover, our experts in methodology and biostatistics had conducted 241 additional reviews. These figures only include first reviews so, if we remember that a substantial number of articles are sent for a second review, we can appreciate the feverish peer review activity conducted during the year. Probably as a result of incorporating electronic manuscript management, referees' review times have improved notably by comparison with 2006 (mean 20.2 [14.7] days) (Figure 3). However, due to the delay inherent in the editorial process, this improvement has still to be translated into a reduction in our total publication times (mean 309 days), which are very similar to those of 2006. By way of comparison, the estimated publication times of the *European Heart Journal* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* in the first 6 months of 2007 have been 255 and 265 days, respectively. However,

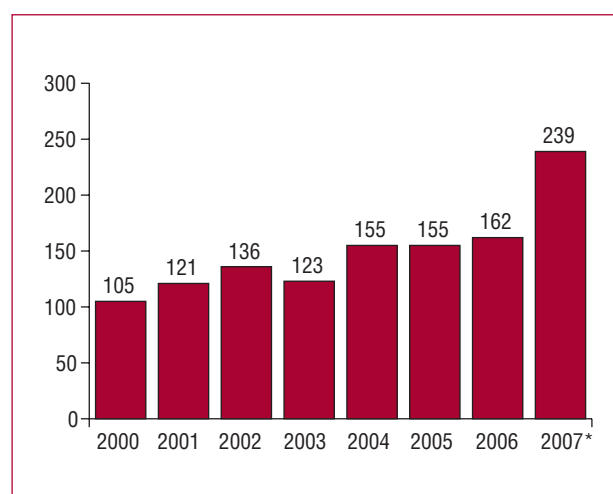


Figure 2. Time trend in the number of original articles received. *Data for 2007 include the estimate for the last 3 months of the year.

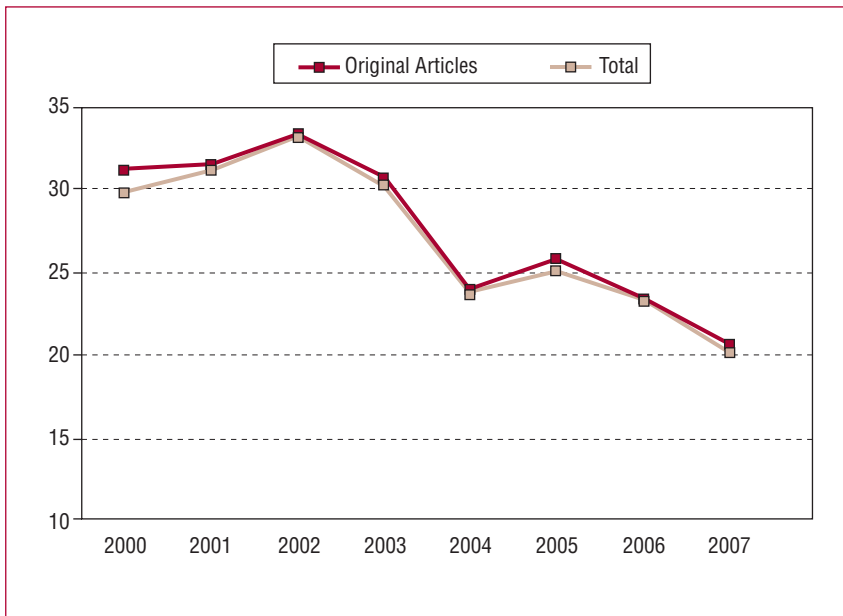


Figure 3. Time trend of the mean refereeing times of *Revista Española de Cardiología* referees.

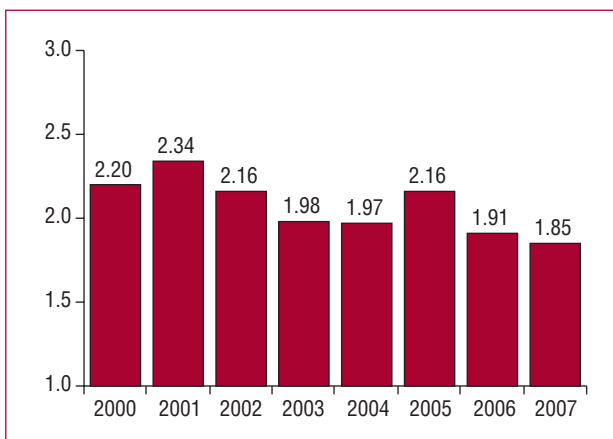


Figure 4. Time trend of mean scores awarded to articles by referees (acceptance: 4; minor changes: 3; major changes: 2; rejection: 1).

we are in no doubt these improvements will be reflected in our total publication times for 2008.

In spite of the reduction in review times, we must insist that reviews should be conducted in a maximum of 2 weeks to try to continue speeding up the editorial process. From our standpoint as editors, we occasionally witness somewhat schizophrenic situations in which authors complain bitterly at delays in refereeing their articles, who later – for different reasons – cause greater delays when acting as referees. Finally, our referees’ recommendations are more and more stringent (Figure 4). This, together with the growing number of manuscripts, obliges us to progressively reduce the rate of acceptance (Figure 5).

Table 1 presents the list of referees who have impartially reviewed work for REC in 2007. We would like to express to all of them our most sincere thanks.

It is very important to point out that the Editorial Committee’s external referees are assuming a growing responsibility in our peer-review process (30% of reviews in 2005, 34% in 2006, and 45% in 2007). These data, together with the growing number of manuscripts received and the fact that many have to be reviewed in English, has meant a genuine overload for all our referees. We would like to take this opportunity to remind readers of the transcendental nature of these reviews as an indispensable tool in the scientific process and an inestimable aid in making the final decision about manuscript publication. Faced with this new reality, it will be necessary to make the pertinent adaptations to our editorial policy. One first step in this direction has been to offer our referees “continuing education credits” to be granted by the Accreditation Committee of the SEC Continuing Education Committee. Clearly, the next essential step should be the renewal of our Editorial Committee.

Prizes Awarded for Articles Published

This year, for the first time, our objective that all SEC Scientific Sections should award a prize for the best article published in REC in their specific area of interest has been achieved (Figure 6). Consequently, the number of prizes and total prize money (26 prizes; 73 400 Euros) have increased substantially. These prizes, presented at the last Congress on Cardiovascular Diseases (Table 2), constitute a stimulus and much-deserved recognition of the best research articles published in REC. We would like to thank all the Scientific Sections and the SEC Executive Committee for their unconditional support in this initiative that, after all, is simply intended to contribute to encouraging the quality research conducted in Spain.

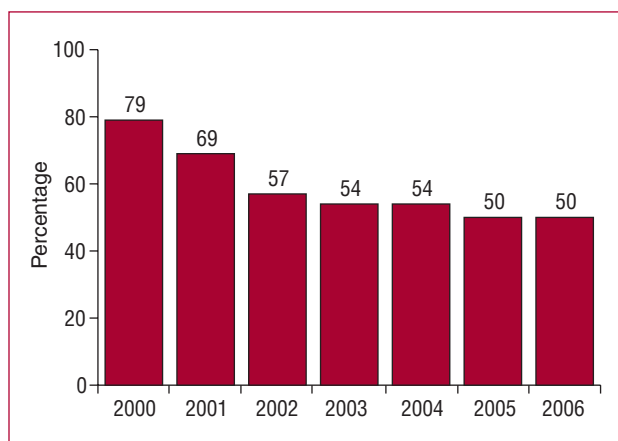


Figure 5. Time trend in the percentage of acceptance of original articles.

Supplements, Special Issues, and Special Articles

After the substantial increase in the number of supplements published in recent years,¹⁻³ in 2007 we have decided to stabilize this (8 in total). Activity has centered on carefully selecting topics and optimizing article quality, improving scientific interest and reinforcing the supplements' function within continuing education. Independently of the need for a sponsor, many supplements are currently generated on the initiative of SEC Scientific Sections. Since 2006, all supplements are produced in full color and are freely available on the REC website in full text (PDF) format. In the future, we intend to stimulate greater dissemination of the

TABLE 1. List of Collaborators of *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2007

Harry Acquatella	Francisco García Gallego	José Luis Moya Mur
Aristides de Alarcón	J. Alberto García Lledó	Luis Felipe Navarro del Amo
Luis Almenar Bonet	Pablo García Pavía	Enrique Novo García
Carlos Almería Valera	José A. García Robles	Gloria Oliva Oliva
Jordi Alonso Caballero	Luis García-Guereta Silva	Jesús Palomo Álvarez
Ángel María Alonso Gómez	Santiago Gil García	Agustín Pastor Fuentes
Ramón Arroyo-Espliguero	José María Girona Comas	Nicasio Pérez Castellano
Felipe Atienza Fernández	José María Goicolea Ruigómez	Leopoldo Pérez de Isla
José Ramón Banegas Banegas	M.ª del Val Gómez Martínez	Armando Pérez de Prado
Gonzalo Barón-Esquivias	Manuel Gómez Bueno	Matías Pérez Paredes
Roberto Barriales-Villa	José Juan Gómez de Diego	Esther Pérez-David
Vivencio Barrios Alonso	Juan José Gómez Doblas	Jesús C. Peteiro Vázquez
Antonio Bayés Genis	Javier Gómez-Nieto	Xavier Pintó Sala
José Bermejo García	M. Teresa González Alujas	Felipe Prosper Cardoso
Vicente Bodí Peris	Rosario González Mendiola	Manuel Rey Pérez
José Oriol Bonnin Gubianas	Esteban González Torrecilla	José Luis Rojo Álvarez
Araceli Boraíta Pérez	Ángel Grande Ruiz	Rafael J. Ruiz Salmerón
Ramón Brugada Terradellas	Felipe Hernández Hernández	Manuel Sabaté Tenas
José Ángel Cabrera-Rodríguez	José M. Hernández García	Pedro Luis Sánchez Fernández
Francisco E. Calvo Iglesias	Juan José Hicks	Damián Sánchez Quintana
Carlos Caramelo Díaz	J. Ignacio Iglesias Gárriz	Ángel Sánchez-Recalde
José A. Casasnovas Lenguas	Luis Jesús Jiménez Borreguero	Marcelo Sanmartín Fernández
Miguel Angel Cavero Gibanel	Miguel Josa García-Tornel	Antonio Sarria Santamera
Josep Comín Colet	Carlos Lahoz Rallo	Luis Serés García
M. Josefa Cortadellas Ángel	Pablo Lázaro y de Mercado	José Antonio Serra Rexach
Cristina Cortina Camarero	Rubén Gabriel Leta Petracca	Javier Serrano Hernandez
José María Cortina Romero	Ramón Francisco López Palop	Santiago Serrano Fiz
José Joaquín Cuenca Castillo	Iñigo Lozano Martínez-Luengas	José Antonio Serrano Sánchez
José María de la Torre Hernandez	Josep Lupón Roses	Jacobo Silva Guisasaola
M. Jesús del Cerro Marín	Alicia M. Maceira González	Lorenzo Silva Melchor
Oscar Díaz Castro	Nicolás Manito Lorite	Marta Sitges Carreño
Juan M. Durán Hernández	Josep M. Manresa Domínguez	Alberto Tejedor Jorge
Roberto Elosua Llanos	Pedro Marcos-Alberca Moreno	Luis Tercedor Sánchez
M. Pilar Escribano Subias	Ángel Martínez Martínez	Ignacio Terol Esteban
Jordi Estornell-Erill	Manuel Martínez Sellés	Jorge Toquero Ramos
Ignacio Fernández Lozano	Luis Masana Marín	Celia M. Vaticón Herreros
Juan Fernández-Yáñez García-Monge	Pedro Mata López	Raquel Yotti Álvarez
Salvador Fojón Polanco	Iván Mendoza	Juan Ignacio Zabala Argüelles
Juan Carlos Gallego Page	Enrique Molinero de Miguel	J. Antonio Zabala Goiburua
Carlos Gamallo Amat	Gonzalo de la Morena Valenzuela	Javier Zueco Gil
Ignacio García Bolao	Javier Moreno Planas	
Ramón García Calabozo	M. del Mar Moreno Yangüela	

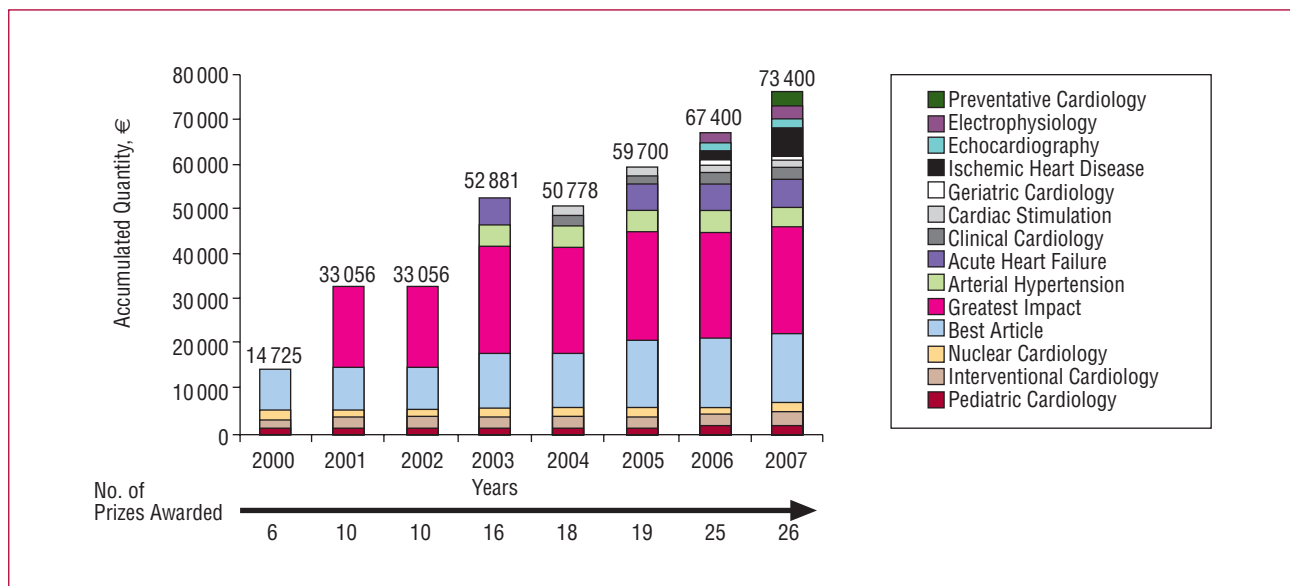


Figure 6. Time trend in the prizes awarded for the best articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología*.

supplements including them in prestigious bibliometric databases.

In the special issue of “Current topics in cardiology,” edited annually for the last 4 years, we ask SEC Scientific Sections for a review article summarizing the most important advances in their respective areas of interest.⁶ In this indexed number, the Sections count on an extremely valuable tool to express their concerns and explain to readers their evaluation of recent scientific advances, the most relevant data in their registers of activity, and the merits of the articles they have awarded prizes to.⁶

Some “Special Articles” (16 in 2007) can already be considered classics. At REC, we have tried to collaborate in disseminating the results of the most important recent clinical trials (Late Breaking Clinical Trials) regularly publishing translations of abstracts.^{7,8} The Scientific Sections’ official registers of activity are also published as special articles.⁹⁻¹³ Moreover, we translate European Society of Cardiology clinical practice guidelines, which – together with expert commentaries – we publish as special articles in electronic format only.¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Although this last initiative requires a huge deployment of editorial resources, we know it is much appreciated by all our readers and contributes to facilitating local implementation of these guidelines.

Dissemination

This year has seen an unprecedented increase in visits to our websites both in Spanish (1 037 657 visits until September) and in English (90 767 visits until September). Now, new IT tools (Google Analytics) give the editorial office a much more precise view of these visits than previously and we are frankly satisfied with the latest data. Similarly, the number of PDF downloads of full-

text articles (278 714 in Spanish and 39 099 in English, until September) has also grown substantially in 2007 and has surpassed all our predictions.¹⁻³

Other Editorial Considerations

As editors, we are continually at pains to improve the editorial quality of REC, increase the international dissemination of our contents and, definitively, achieve excellence.¹⁻³ We currently collaborate closely with different international editorial initiatives (the HEART group and the European Society of Cardiology Editor’s Club) to boost still further the scientific recognition of our journal. A publication’s prestige clearly depends on its bibliometric indices, on rigorously meeting all international quality standards, and on achieving the greatest possible impact for its scientific contents.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ However, we are fully conscious that one of the fundamental objectives of scientific journals is to satisfy readers’ concerns and, in our case, we will pay special attention to our readers’ needs to update knowledge and develop their continuing education.²⁰

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TABLE 2. Articles Published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* Awarded Prizes in 2007

1. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) for articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología*
- 1st Prize: Magda Heras et al, on behalf of the PRIAMHO study researchers. Reduction in Acute Myocardial Infarction Mortality Over a 5-Year Period. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:200-8.
- 1st accessit: José G. Galache Osuna et al. Does Intracoronary Abciximab Improve the Outcome of Percutaneous Coronary Interventions? A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:567-74.
- 2nd accessit: Marcelo Sanmartín et al. Influence of Shear Stress on In-Stent Restenosis: In Vivo Study Using 3D Reconstruction and Computational Fluid Dynamics. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:20-7.
2. SEC prizes for articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* with greatest international impact (most citations)
- Long-term impact
- 1st prize: Miguel Fiol et al, on behalf of the IBERICA study researchers. Variability in the In-Hospital Management of Acute Myocardial Infarction in Spain. IBERICA Study (Investigación, Búsqueda Específica y Registro de Isquemia Coronaria Aguda). *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2001;54:443-52.
- 1st accessit: José Ramón González Juanatey et al. The Role of High Blood Pressure in Cardiac Diseases in Spain. The Cardiotens Study 1999. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2001;54:139-49.
- 2nd accessit: Roberto Barriales Villa et al. Adult Congenital Anomalies of the Coronary Arteries Described over 31 Years of Angiographic Studies in the Principado de Asturias: Angiographic and Clinical Characteristics. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2001;54:269-81.
- Mid-term impact
- 1st prize: Borja Ibáñez et al. Tako-Tsubo Transient Left Ventricular Apical Ballooning Is Associated With a Left Anterior Descending Coronary Artery With a Long Course Along the Apical Diaphragmatic Surface of the Left Ventricle. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2004;57:209-16.
- 1st accessit: Gloria Oliva et al. Antiproliferative Drug-Eluting Stents: Systematic Review of the Benefits and Estimate of Economic Impact. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2004;57:617-28.
- 2nd accessit: Rubén Leta et al. Non-Invasive Coronary Angiography With 16 Multidetector-Row Spiral Computed Tomography: a Comparative Study With Invasive Coronary Angiography. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2004;57:217-24.
3. Prize awarded by the Clinical and Outpatient Cardiology Section
- Joan Puig-Barberà et al. Cardiac Complications of Major Elective Non-Cardiac Surgery: Incidence and Risk Factors. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:329-37.
4. Prize awarded by the Geriatric Cardiology Section
- Martín Ruiz Ortiz et al. Oral Anticoagulation for Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation: Are Scientific Recommendations Effective and Safe in Daily Clinical Practice? *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:688-95.
5. Prize awarded by the Pediatric Cardiology and Congenital Cardiopathy Section
- Benito Morentin et al. Myocardial Disease Mortality in Children and Young Adults. A Population-Based Observational Study. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:238-46.
6. Prize awarded by the Ischemic Heart Disease and Coronary Units Section
- Fernando Arós et al, on behalf of the PRIAMHO II researchers. Effect of Combined Beta-Blocker and Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitor Treatment on 1-Year Survival After Acute Myocardial Infarction: Findings of the PRIAMHO-II Registry. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:313-20.
7. Prize awarded by the Electrophysiology and Arrhythmia Section
- Rodrigo Isa-Param et al. Inducibility of Atrial Arrhythmias After Adenosine and Isoproterenol Infusion in Patients Referred for Atrial Fibrillation Ablation. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:559-66.
8. Prize awarded by the Cardiac Stimulation Section
- Rafael Barba Pichardo et al. Permanent His-Bundle Pacing in Patients With Infra-Hisian Atrioventricular Block. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:553-8.
9. Prizes awarded by the Arterial Hypertension Section
- 1st prize: José Ramón González-Juanatey et al. Knowledge and Implementation of Cardiovascular Risk Clinical Practice Guidelines by General Practitioners and Specialists. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:801-6.
- Accessit: Gonzalo Barón-Esquívias et al. Analysis of Head-Up Tilt Test Responses in Patients Suffering From Syncope and High Blood Pressure. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:68-71.
10. Prize awarded by the Preventative Cardiology and Rehabilitation Section
- Martín Laclaustra-Gimeno et al. Cardiovascular Risk Factor Progression in Young Males at 15-Year Follow-Up in the General Military Academy of Zaragoza (AGEMZA) Study. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:671-8.
11. ABBOT Award for the best article on Acute Heart Failure
- Julián Álvarez et al. Hemodynamic Effects of Levosimendan Compared With Dobutamine in Patients With Low Cardiac Output After Cardiac Surgery. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:338-45.
12. Izasa prizes for studies in interventional cardiology:
- 1st prize: Pilar Jiménez-Quevedo, et al. Efficacy of Sirolimus-Eluting Stent Implantation in Diabetic Patients With Very Small Vessels (≤ 2.25 mm). Insights from the DIABETES Trial. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:1000-7.
- 2nd prize: José M. de la Torre Hernández et al. Prospective Use of an Intravascular Ultrasound-Derived Minimum Lumen Area Cut-Off Value in the Assessment of Intermediate Left Main Coronary Artery Lesions. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2007;60:811-6.
13. BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB prize for the best article on Echocardiography
- Ángel M. Alonso Gómez et al. Stress Echocardiography in the Identification of Left Anterior Descending Coronary Artery Disease in Patients With Inferior Myocardial Infarction and a Positive Exercise Electrocardiography. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:545-52.

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