

Revista Española de Cardiología 2009: Editorial Reflections

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In the month of December, it is now traditional that on the "Editor's Page" we summarize for our readers the activity data and main bibliometric results obtained by *Revista Española de Cardiología* in the past year. In addition, especially for 2009, we will include some general considerations about the journal's achievements over the last 6 years and final reflections on our editorial policy.¹⁻¹¹ This information was previously presented at the Editorial Committee's annual meeting held during the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) Congress on Cardiovascular Diseases in Barcelona.

BIBLIOMETRIC ISSUES AND ACTIVITY DATA

Bibliometric Indices

This year, we have once again achieved a highly substantial improvement in our impact factor: 2.880 (Figure 1). This represents 30% growth with respect to the already good impact factor obtained the previous year (2.207). The improvement in our rating on this popular bibliometric index places the journal among the most attractive international cardiovascular publications. Only the most prestigious journals are included in the exclusive "club" of cardiovascular publications selected by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), whose data are analyzed and compared annually in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR).¹² Our relative situation has clearly improved, too. We now find ourselves ranked 27th among the 78 most prestigious international cardiovascular journals evaluated in 2008, placing us in the upper half of the second quartile in terms of impact factor. *Revista Española de Cardiología* is not just the Spanish-language biomedical journal with the

highest impact factor but this year our leadership among journals in our field has been reinforced with respect to this ISI index.⁸⁻¹¹

The editors are delighted to observe the continuing growth in the number of citations received by articles we publish. In 2008, *Revista Española de Cardiología* received 602 citations (in ISI indexed journals) of recent articles (published in 2006 and 2007), which represents a 38% increase over the previous year (with 437 recent citations). Moreover, the number of recent "external" citations received by our publication from other ISI-indexed international journals has also risen by a noteworthy 53% (276 in 2008 vs 180 in 2007).⁸⁻¹¹ It is wellknown that national scientific society journals published in languages other than English systematically present high levels of self-citation. This is considered perfectly natural both from the editorial and scientific points of view.¹² However, it is very gratifying to see that external citations increasingly contribute to our impact factor growth. If we consider only our external citations, the time trend of a theoretical "external impact factor"¹¹ shows a highly satisfactory 45% growth (Figure 2) and actually surpasses the complete or classic impact factor (including self-citations) of most European national societies' cardiovascular journals.

Finally, "total" citations of *Revista Española de Cardiología* (to articles from any previous year) have also recorded a highly significant 43% increase during 2008 (1705 vs 1195 citations in 2007). This confirms the interest our contents continue to arouse despite the passing of time (citations received have a mean life of 3.8 years). Furthermore, the immediacy index (citations received in 2008 of articles published during the same year), a faithful reflection of any publication's editorial dynamism, was 0.517 and ranks us 31st among the 78 ISI evaluated cardiovascular journals.

To summarize, our articles are more and more frequently cited in other international publications. This guarantees our influence in the advancement of scientific knowledge and confirms the credibility *Revista Española de Cardiología* has attained.⁸⁻¹¹

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

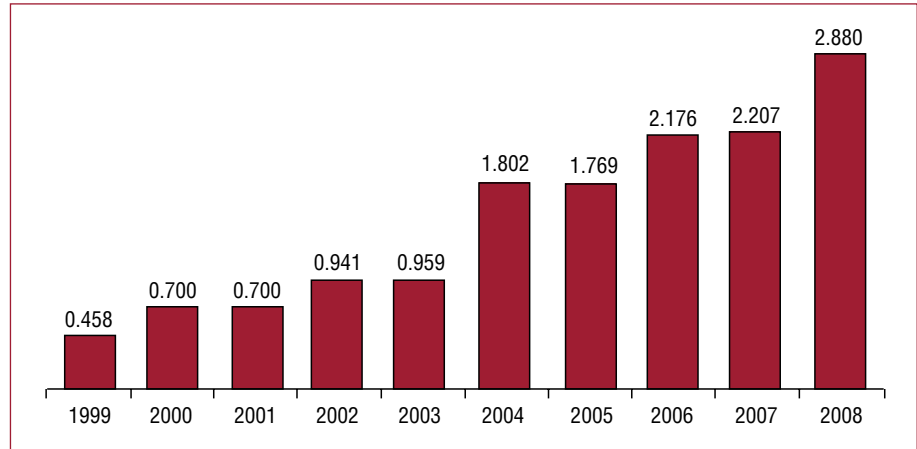
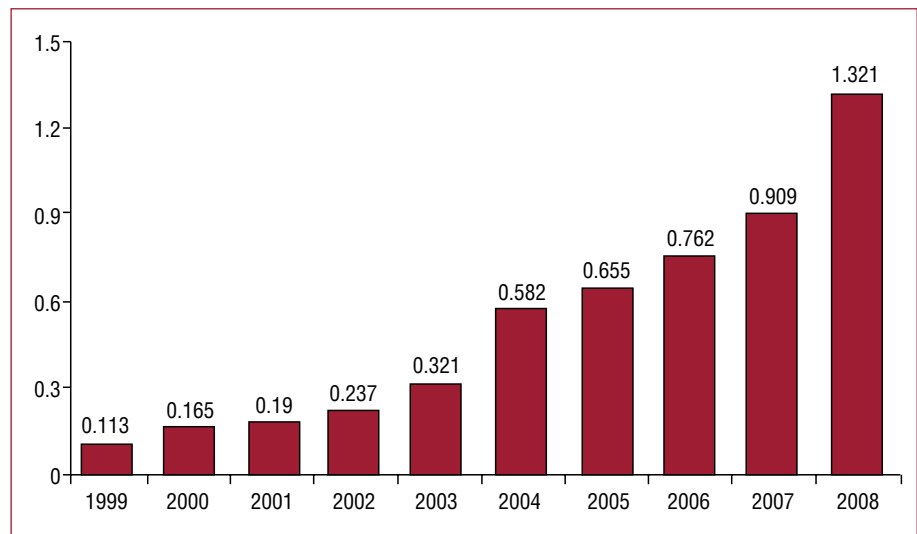


Figure 2. Time trend in a theoretical “external” impact factor that counts as valid only those citations received from other journals.



Articles Received

In 2009, 725 articles have been submitted for publication (13% growth) (Figure 3). We find a similar increase if we analyze original articles in isolation (291 in total; 16% up on 2008). The constant increase in submissions over recent years confirms our attraction to all researchers in the cardiovascular field. The number of manuscripts submitted from abroad has also grown substantially, reaching a total of 222. These now represent 31% of all manuscripts received. Most noteworthy is the contribution of countries such as Argentina, with 30 submitted manuscripts, and Italy and the US, both surpassing the 12 manuscripts submitted from two Latin American countries that have always been significantly represented, Mexico and Colombia. What is most surprising is the exponential growth in English-language manuscripts: 148 (20% of the total); a 51% increase over 2008, and 160% over 2007 (Figure 4).⁸⁻¹¹

Review of Manuscripts, Recommendations, and Publication Times

The increased number of manuscripts received has meant additional overload for our reviewers, who have diligently carried out their task. In addition to the much appreciated work of our current Editorial Committee, in fact, mean response times for a first review have not improved over last year (median, 15 days in both years), although they continue to be much better than in all preceding years. However, we are often far off the 15-day target we indicate to reviewers in their “Letter of Invitation.” Moreover, the number of reviews requested from collaborators who are not current Editorial Committee members continues to grow yearly,⁸⁻¹¹ reaching 55% of the total in 2009. Table 1 lists the non-Editorial Committee collaborators who have disinterestedly reviewed contributions this year. It is only right to acknowledge here that their work has been fundamental to the correct functioning of the journal and we would like to take this opportunity to express

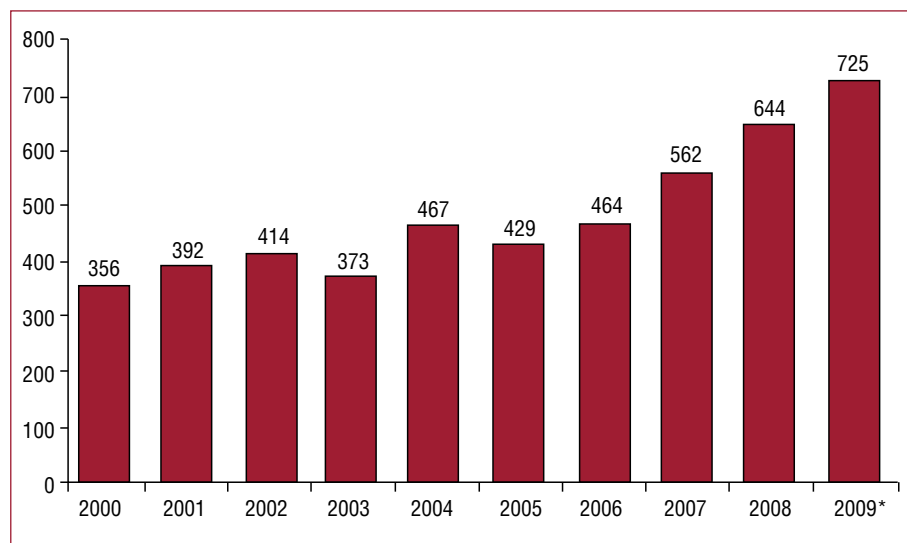


Figure 3. Time trend in the number of articles received. *Data for 2009 include an estimate for Oct-Dec.

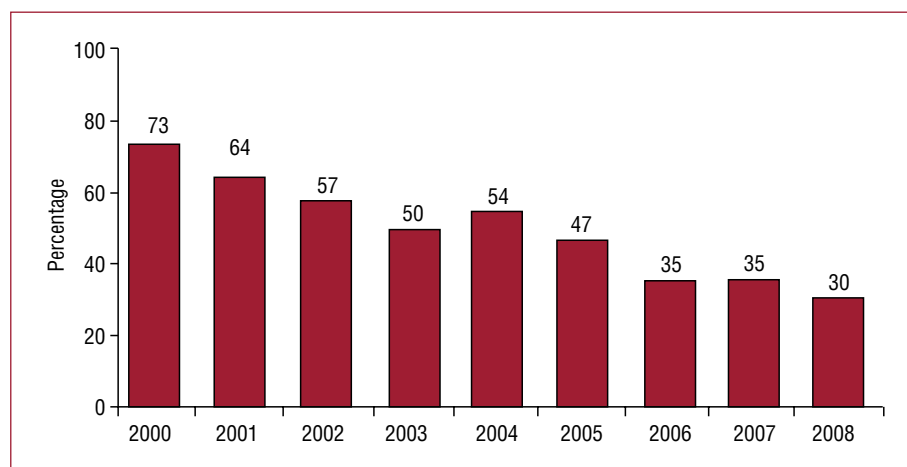


Figure 4. Exponential growth in the number of manuscripts submitted directly in English

to them our most sincere gratitude. This, together with the marked increase in English-language manuscripts (which must be reviewed in English), confirms the current overload of the peer-review process and reinforces our proposed modification of Editorial Committee composition, first presented last year.¹¹ Table 2 presents the “Elite Reviewers” of 2009, chosen for the excellence of their work.¹³

This year’s total publication times (time of acceptance + time of acceptance-publication) have been similar to last year’s (mean, 298 days). Despite this effort, mean response times for a first review have not improved over last year (median, 15 days), although both years have been much better than in all preceding years. This is an area for continuous improvement if we are to reliably achieve the 15-day target we indicate to reviewers in their “Letter of Invitation.” The slight delay in acceptance times has not been balanced out by the improved publication times. Notwithstanding, in general, our times continue to be highly competitive and nearly match the total

publication times of prestigious journals such as the *European Heart Journal* and *Circulation* (275 and 272 days, respectively, in estimates obtained from data on articles published in January-June 2009).

The increase in manuscripts received, together with our reviewers’ ever more thorough critical comments have again contributed to the progressive reduction of our final acceptance rate. This year recommendations for acceptance on first review and for acceptance with minimal changes have fallen again (3% and 22%, respectively) and recommendations for substantial changes or direct rejection have risen (34% and 41%, respectively). Only 30% of the original manuscripts submitted for review in 2008 were finally accepted (Figure 5).

Prizes and Dissemination

All SEC Scientific Sections awarded at least one prize for the best articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* (Table 3 and Figure 6).

TABLE 1. List of Collaborators of *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2009

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Manuel Abeytua Jiménez | José Francisco Forteza | Manel Nebot |
| Harry Acquatella | Pastora Gallego García de Vinuesa | Anna Novials |
| Aristides de Alarcón | Juan Carlos Gallego-Page | Enrique Novo García |
| Rafael Aleixandre-Benavent | Ignacio García Bolao | Julio Núñez |
| Luis Almenar Bonet | Ramón García Calabozo | Gloria Oliva |
| Carlos Almería Valera | Francisco García Gallego | Antonio Ordóñez Fernández |
| Ángel María Alonso Gómez | Rocío García Orta | Domingo A. Pascual-Figal |
| Norberto Alonso Orcajo | Pablo García Pavía | Nicasio Pérez Castellano |
| Jordi Alonso-Caballero | José Antonio García Robles | Armando Pérez de Prado |
| Felipe Atienza Fernández | Alicia García-Arroyo | Matías Pérez Paredes |
| Pablo Avanzas | Luis García-Guereta Silva | Esther Pérez-David |
| Raquel Bailón | José María Goicolea Ruigómez | Francisco Pérez-Gómez |
| Joaquín Barba Cosials | Jose Juan Gomez de Diego | Jesús C. Peteiro Vázquez |
| Eneko Barbería | Manuel Gómez-Bueno | Luis Pintor |
| Roberto Barriales-Villa | Juan J Gómez-Doblas | Xavier Pintó-Sala |
| Antonio Barros | Joan A Gómez-Hospital | Raquel Prieto |
| Vicente Bertomeu Martínez | M. Teresa González Alujas | Luis Puente |
| Rafael Bonfante Cabarcas | Beatriz González López-Valcárcel | Ana Revilla |
| Araceli Boraita | Carlos González-Juanatey | Manuel Rey Pérez |
| María Bordons | Ángel Grande Ruiz | Josep Rodés Cabau |
| Ramón Brugada Terradellas | Felipe Hernández | Javier Rodríguez |
| Raúl J. Burgos Lázaro | José M. Hernández García | Miguel A. Rodríguez García |
| Francisco E Calvo Iglesias | Javier Hortal | Francisco Javier Rojo |
| Eduardo Castells Cuch | Pedro Iglesias | José Luis Rojo Álvarez |
| Víctor Castro Urda | J. Ignacio Iglesias Garriz | Inmaculada Roldán Rabadán |
| Miguel Ángel Caverio Gibanel | Pilar Jiménez Quevedo | Sonia Ruiz |
| Mario Cazzaniga Bullón | Miguel Josa García-Tornel | Daniel San Román Sánchez |
| Javier Chaves | Carlos Lahoz | Violeta Sánchez |
| Fernando Civeira | Pablo Lázaro y de Mercado | Pedro Luis Sánchez Fernández |
| Mercedes Cladellas | Patricio López-Jaramillo | Damián Sánchez Quintana |
| Josep Comín Colet | Iñigo Lozano | Ángel Sánchez-Recalde |
| Cristina Cortina | Josep Lupón | Fernando Sarnago Cebada |
| José María Cortina Romero | Alicia M. Maceira González | José Ricardo Serra Grima |
| Eliecer Coto | Stella M. Macín | Javier Serrano-Hernando |
| Gregorio Cuerpo | Patricia Mahía | Jacobo Silva Guisasola |
| Jose Maria De la Torre Hernandez | Norberto Malpica | Lorenzo Silva-Melchor |
| M. Jesús Del Cerro Marín | Nicolás Manito Lorite | Jorge Solis |
| Eva Delpón | Josep M. Manresa Domínguez | Alberto Tejedor Jorge |
| Oscar Díaz Castro | Pedro Marcos-Alberca | Luis Tercedor Sánchez |
| Laura Dos Subirá | Francisco Marín | Ignacio Terol Esteban |
| Roberto Elosua-Llanos | Ángel Martínez Martínez | Jorge Toquero Ramos |
| Ginés Escolar | Manuel Martínez-Sellés | José Fernando Valencia |
| M. Pilar Escribano Subias | Luis Masana-Marín | Celia M. Vaticón Herreros |
| Jordi Estornell | Teresa Mombiela | Adolfo Villa |
| Manuel L. Fernández Guerrero | Gonzalo de la Morena Valenzuela | Rodolfo Viotti |
| Ignacio Fernández Lozano | Javier Moreno | Raquel Yotti Álvarez |
| Juan Fernández-Yáñez García-Monge | José Luis Moya Mur | Juan Ignacio Zabala Argüelles |
| Salvador Fojón Polanco | Nekane Murga Eizagahevarría | J. Antonio Zabala Goiburu |
| Francesc Formiga | Luis Felipe Navarro del Amo | Javier Zueco Gil |

This year, despite the economic crisis, we managed to maintain the total value of the prizes awarded to the authors of the best scientific studies (80 900 Euros). We would like to express our gratitude to the Scientific Sections and the SEC Executive Committee for their support in this initiative, which is intended as an additional stimulus to promote quality cardiovascular research that is expected to culminate in the publication of a scientific article.⁸⁻¹¹

Every year, we highlight the fact that our electronic editions constitute the best tool to disseminate articles and that the growth in visits to our website and PDF downloads is exponential.⁸⁻¹¹ Moreover, the recent inclusion of our contents in ScienceDirect opens up our contents to many more potential readers. The greatly improved SEC website offers an additional tool to facilitate the visibility and dissemination of articles. Finally,

TABLE 2. Elite Reviewers

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Juan Quiles Granado |
| Jacobo Silva Guisasola |
| Raúl Moreno |
| Ramón López-Palop |
| José María de la Torre Hernández |
| María Isabel Coma Canella |
| Juan Sanchis |
| Juan F. Delgado Jiménez |
| Pablo Avanzas |
| Luis Rodríguez Padial |

PubMed's recognition of our online English-language edition has improved. Until now, PubMed (PubMed "in process") initially classified our journal as "English-Spanish" but, months later in

its definitive classification, our titles were presented in parentheses and their final language classification was "Spanish". This year, for the first time, we have managed to ensure PubMed maintained "Spanish-English" as the definitive classification. We believe this will facilitate the dissemination of contents as, from now on, our articles will not be eliminated by international researchers who include the "English language" filter in their bibliometric searches.

EDITORIAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Impact Factor

The excellent bibliometric indicators achieved by *Revista Española de Cardiología* during these years are, without doubt, a cause for satisfaction

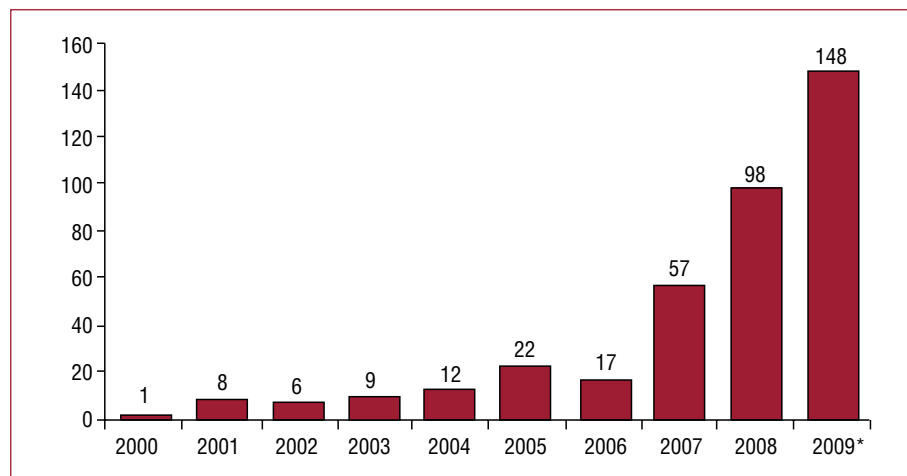


Figure 5. Percentage of original articles accepted. *Data for 2009 include an estimate for Oct-Dec.

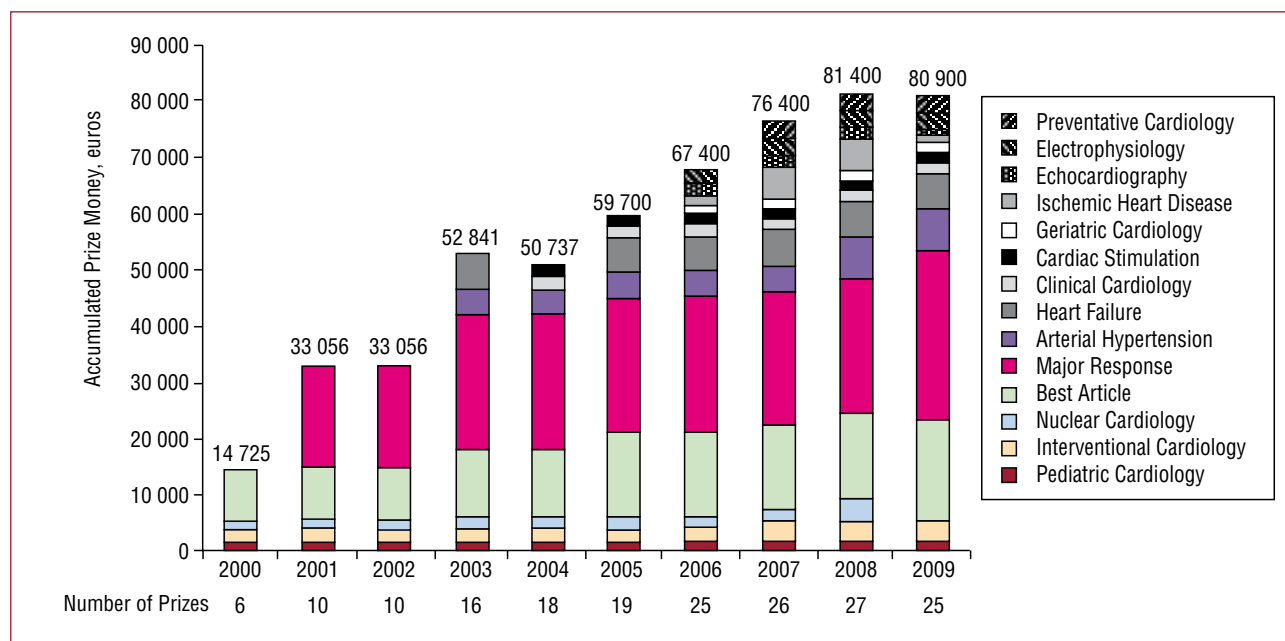


Fig. 6. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) and SEC Scientific Sections for the best articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología*.

TABLE 3. List of Prize-Winning Articles Published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2009**1. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) for articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología*****1st Prize**

Ricardo L. Levin et al. Calcium Sensitizer Levosimendan Gives Superior Results to Dobutamine in Postoperative Low Cardiac Output Syndrome. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:471-9.

Runners-up (awarded to 2 articles)

Ignacio Ferreira-González et al, on behalf of the MASCARA study researchers. Study MASCARA (Manejo del Síndrome Coronario Agudo. Registre actualizado). General Findings. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:803-16.

Antonio Romero-Puche et al. Gadolinium-Enhanced Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance and Exercise Capacity in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:853-60.

2. Prizes awarded by the SEC to the articles published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* with greatest international impact**Long-term impact****1st Prize**

Jaume Marrugat et al. Coronary Risk Estimation in Spain Using a Calibrated Framingham Function. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2003;56:253-61.

2nd Prize

Fernando Arós et al. Management of Myocardial Infarction in Spain in the Year 2000. The PRIAMHO II Study. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2003;56:1165-73.

Joint 3rd Prize (awarded to 2 articles)

Juan Sanchis et al. Emergency Room Risk Stratification of Patients With Chest Pain Without ST Segment Elevation. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2003;56:955-62.

Alberto García Castelo et al. Use of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Resources in Patients Hospitalized to Heart Failure: Influence of Admission Ward Type (INCARGAL Study). *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2003;56:49-56.

Medium-term impact**1st Prize**

Alfonso Medina et al. A New Classification of Coronary Bifurcation Lesions. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:183.

Runners-up (awarded to 2 articles)

Magda Heras et al. Reduction in Acute Myocardial Infarction Mortality Over a Five-Year Period. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:200-8.

Lilian Grigorian Shamagian et al. Renal Failure Is an Independent Predictor of Mortality in Hospitalized Heart Failure Patients and Is Associated With a Worse Cardiovascular Risk Profile. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2006;59:99-108.

3. Prize awarded by the Clinical and Outpatient Cardiology Section (awarded to 2 articles)

Carlos Falces et al. One-Stop Outpatient Cardiology Clinics: 10 Years' Experience. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:530-3.

Carlos Escobar et al. Prognostic Value of Electrocardiographic Findings in Hemodynamically Stable Patients With Acute Symptomatic Pulmonary Embolism. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:244-50.

4. Prize awarded by the Geriatric Cardiology Section

Blanca Novella et al. Ten-Year Incidence of Fatal and Non-Fatal Myocardial Infarction in the Elderly Population of Madrid. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:1140-9.

5. Prize awarded by the Pediatric and Congenital Cardiopathy Section

Begoña Manso et al. Pregnancy and Congenital Heart Disease. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:236-43.

6. Prize awarded by the Preventative Cardiology and Rehabilitation Section

M. Pilar Portero et al. Comparison of Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Young Spanish Men Between the 1980s and After the Year 2000. Data From the AGEMZA Study. Data of the estudio AGEMZA. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:1260-6.

7. Prize awarded by the Ischemic Heart Disease and Coronary Units Section

Mònica Guxens et al. Association Between Paraoxonase-1 and Paraoxonase-2 Polymorphisms and the Risk of Acute Myocardial Infarction. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:269-75.

8. Prize awarded by the Electrophysiology and Arrhythmia Section

Martín Ruiz Ortiz et al. Predicting Embolic Events in Patients With Nonvalvular Atrial Fibrillation: Evaluation of the CHADS2Score in a Mediterranean Population. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:29-35.

9. Prize awarded by the Cardiac Stimulation Section

Javier García-Seara et al. Influence of the Preimplantation QRS Axis on Responses to Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:1245-52.

10. Prizes awarded by the Arterial Hypertension Section**1st Prize**

Antonio J. Domínguez-Franco et al. Long-Term Prognosis in Diabetic Patients in Whom Revascularization Is Deferred Following Fractional Flow Reserve Assessment. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:352-9.

2nd Prize

Pedro Morillas et al. Prevalence of Primary Aldosteronism in Hypertensive Patients and Its Effect on the Heart. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:418-21.

11. Orion Pharma Prize for the best article on Acute Decompensated Heart Failure

Domingo A. Pascual-Figal et al. Troponin-T Monitoring in Outpatients With Nonischemic Heart Failure. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:678-86.

TABLE 3. List of Prize-Winning Articles Published in *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2009 (continuación)

12. GE Healthcare Medical Diagnostics Prize awarded for the best article on Echocardiography

Victoria Delgado et al. Assessment of Left Ventricular Dyssynchrony by Real-Time Three-Dimensional Echocardiography. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:825-34.

13. Izasa Prizes awarded for articles on Interventional Cardiology

1st Prize

Javier Suárez de Lezo et al. Ultrasound Findings During Percutaneous Treatment of Bifurcated Coronary Lesions. *Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2008;61:930-5.

2nd Prize

Antonio J. Domínguez-Franco et al. Comparison of Medium-Term Outcomes Obtained With Drug-Eluting Stents and Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts in an Unselected Population of Diabetic Patients With Multivessel Coronary Disease. Propensity Score Analysis. *Análisis mediante propensity score. Rev Esp Cardiol.* 2009;62:491-500.

and pride.⁸⁻¹¹ Our current impact factor positions us as one of the most attractive international cardiovascular journals. It is important to recall that we cannot expect all the editorial quality and scientific knowledge encapsulated in a biomedical journal to be reflected by a single figure (a simple ratio between citations received and articles published). The limitations of this well-known bibliometric index, which basically informs us of the average number of recent citations that articles in a specific journal receive in publications included in the SCI, have already been analyzed in detail by the present editorial team.¹² At that time, we insisted that the journal's editorial policy should not focus on considering this parameter as a goal or objective in itself.^{7,12} In fact, our aim has always been to work to achieve the highest possible standards of editorial and scientific quality which, in our case, have indirectly maintained a good correlation with the growth of our impact factor.¹² Moreover, we have gradually managed to overcome old scientific complexes and can now cite the research studies published in the journal with full confidence in their excellent scientific quality.¹² However, the citations received by a journal clearly indicate its scientific influence and the confidence and credibility its contents arouse among researchers.¹² Therefore, the editors are very pleased to be able to offer such an attractive impact factor to all researchers and authors who publish their articles in our pages.

Dissemination

One fundamental issue for research groups is that their results should obtain the maximum possible scientific dissemination. During recent years, *Revista Española de Cardiología* has continued to print a paper-format edition, distributing 4050

copies in Spain and sending 1150 complimentary copies to selected libraries and universities overseas. However, the advent of online editing has meant a veritable revolution in the editorial world. By facilitating immediate bibliographic searches, online journals have deservedly captured the limelight as fundamental vehicles for the dissemination of science. In this context, our basic concern has always been to promote the widest possible dissemination of contents through our online editions.⁸⁻¹¹ Our Spanish- and English-language editions are freely available in fulltext format (HTML and PDF) from and through the most important search engines and international bibliographic repositories, including PubMed. Finally, thanks to the excellent collaboration with Doyma-Elsevier, since 2006 our contents have been available on ScienceDirect, the best full-text scientific database. Now, free access to the content of all our supplements is available from the journal website and ScienceDirect too. Without doubt, will favor their dissemination. In fact, the inclusion of our supplements in ScienceDirect represents an important step as these are the first Spanish-language articles to be included in this important database.

Without a shadow of doubt, English is the *lingua franca* of science.^{5,7} However, we believe that continuing to publish in Spanish is very important⁷ because it permits us to both preserve our identity and that is accessible to all professionals interested in cardiovascular diseases in Spain and in Latin America. Obviously, our articles' real scientific impact continues to be undervalued in international database estimates of scientific publications as these are heavily biased in favor of English-language publications.¹² As a result, these estimates omit the numerous citations we receive in Spanish-language, Latin American medical journals, where our scientific influence is well established.

Over the years, we have taken determined measures to improve our English-language full-text editing. Initially,⁷ we established an editing system to guarantee the uniformity and quality of the professional style and translation of our English-language edition. More recently, (2008) we achieved improved efficiency in this process to ensure this edition is available in the same month as the printed Spanish-language edition. Finally, the permanent recognition of our English-language edition by PubMed this year will increase our visibility and the international dissemination of our articles to the most competitive researchers.

We believe we have managed to obtain the best of both worlds and, in fact, now belong to both. This decision has permitted us to demonstrate—as proof of the concept—that our bilingual editing model offers genuine opportunities in the competitive, globalized world of biomedical journals.

Type of Articles Published

We continue to consider our journal eminently clinical and open to all professionals interested in cardiovascular diseases independently of their specialty. Despite the growth in manuscripts received, we have decided to hold to the number of original articles (6 documents) published in each issue. With the inestimable aid of our Editorial Committee and external collaborators, our responsibility has been to try to select the best articles. We have particularly favored the publication of original research. However, as mentioned above, our current rejection rate for original articles is 70%. We should, therefore, interpret the significance of a rejected article in the context of this new scenario. We simply cannot publish all the good articles submitted. We are forced to be selective and in doing so we may make mistakes. We may have failed to adequately recognize and encourage the scientific merits of good articles we have received and we wish to take this opportunity to apologize for this. The authors of articles we have rejected should remember that SEC affiliate society journals offer opportunities for publication. Indeed, we now highlight alternative journals on our website to try to improve their visibility.

The most interesting original articles have been set in perspective by the corresponding editorial comments (3 per issue) indicating their scientific contributions. The prestige and recognition our publication has achieved has made it increasingly easier to obtain editorial commentaries written by international opinion leaders of the highest possible repute in the topic being dealt with; this adds to our a new formula for success in

the international dissemination of our original articles. When we assumed the direction of the journal in 2003,⁷ we could not even contemplate being able to obtain articles such as these within the 4 week period that these most highly dynamic editorial products require. The data on editorials published in the last 3 years illustrate this positive trend. In 2007, the journal published 8 editorials by non-Spanish authors; in 2009, 33 of our 36 editorials came from non-Spanish authors of the highest international prestige. All of which explains the substantial increase in translation from Spanish into English in *Revista Española de Cardiología* in the last 2 years. The sole purpose of this is to offer our readers the best possible journal: original articles of maximum quality, commented on by the foremost international authorities in each field.

In the last 2 years, we have published a maximum of 3 brief reports per issue. These articles deal with complete series of patients that constitute relevant clinical information. Any original contribution describing fewer than 3 patients is now presented in the “Letters to the Editor” format. Finally, our correspondence section has also been greatly extended (a mean of 8 Letters to the Editor in 2009 vs 1.5 in 2004).

The editors are aware that one of the fundamental objectives of a scientific journal is to respond to readers, concerns and, in our case, we have tried to be especially attentive to satisfying their need to update knowledge and training.⁷⁻¹¹ Thus, documents in the “Update” section and review articles have been commissioned from groups who are leaders in their respective disciplines but we have insisted that information should be didactic in its presentation, and accessible to the clinical cardiologist. The percentage of non-Spanish opinion leaders who have collaborated in these articles has also increased. The “Current Topics in Cardiology” special issue summarizes the most important advances in cardiovascular medicine.^{14,15} In this indexed issue, the Scientific Sections have access to a highly valuable tool to express their concerns, evaluate the latest scientific advances, analyze their activity registries, and highlight prize-winning articles.^{14,15} Finally, the publication of supplements enables us to conduct wide-ranging updates on specific topics.¹⁶ Our supplements are carefully edited to ensure they provide quality continuing medical training.¹⁶ We should stress the ever-increasing number of supplements generated at the initiative of the SEC Scientific Sections themselves. This constitutes a further guarantee of their interest and of the growing recognition they deserve. Finally, as

far as possible, we have tried to coordinate the publication of continuing education articles with other initiatives within the *Revista Española de Cardiología* Publications Group, which includes all SEC publications.⁸⁻¹¹

We are highly satisfied to see how much our readers appreciate and value the journal. Our challenge in the selection of articles has been to satisfy both the reader with a specific interest in review articles and updates and the cutting-edge researcher who fundamentally values the quality of the review process and of the original articles finally published.⁸⁻¹¹

Peer-Review Process

The peer-review process, with all its possible limitations, is unanimously recognized as the best means of achieving excellence in the scientific process. Despite current controversy over the best way to conduct these reviews, we have maintained the “double blind” system of reciprocal anonymity between authors and reviewers, as we believe it is the most appropriate for our journal. Although they may be highly critical, the tone of reviews should always be considerate and positive. Criticisms and comments provide an inestimable aid when final decisions are made and contribute to improving the quality of the articles finally published. We have already indicated that external Editorial Committee collaborators are assuming increasing responsibility in our peer-review process. To stimulate the review process and give more prestige to this important but, paradoxically, so little recognized academic work, we have taken 3 steps.¹¹ Firstly, we have offered “continuing education credits” to all our reviewers, within a specific qualification system, awarded directly by the SEC Continuing Education Accreditation Committee. We awarded the first credits in 2007 and distributed the corresponding certificates. Secondly, the SCOPUS database, accessible from the electronic manuscript management system, now permits reviewers to access the literature easily and thus improve their assessments. Thirdly, just like other journals,¹³ we have created the figure of the “Elite Reviewer” (Table 2) and awarded the corresponding accreditation, to thank them for the excellence of their peer-reviews. Reviews have been assessed by an integrated score of 3 parameters: *a*) review quality; *b*) number; and *c*) the time required to finalize them. Each year, Elite Reviewers who are not yet members of the Editorial Committee are invited to join. Finally, experts in methodology and biostatistics assess all original articles received. Thus, we perform an important role in training the newest authors and guarantee the methodological quality of the articles accepted.

Manuscript Management and Editing

In February 2007, we launched an electronic manuscript management system (available from: www.revespcardiol.org). Ours is the first Spanish-language publication to incorporate this technology.¹⁷ Articles can now be submitted for consideration only through this electronic communication facility. Incorporating this powerful editorial tool (Editorial Manager-Elsevier Editorial System) represents a further initiative to offer maximum quality.¹⁷ It entails completely abandoning the management of articles in paper format and has meant one of the greatest transformations in the internal work flow of the journal Secretariat in the Heart House (Casa del Corazón) offices in recent years. Consequently, all HTML content of the author and reviewer interface has been translated and incorporated into a new bilingual English-Spanish version.¹⁷ Authors create PDF files of their manuscripts and upload these onto the system. Following the internationalization of our readers (achieved during the last decade), our objective has been to attain a greater internationalization of our authors, who can now access the journal much more easily through this technology. The system facilitates reviewers' assessment of manuscripts from anywhere in the world, offers internal access to the most powerful search engines, and permits improved turnaround. Most of the prestigious biomedical journals now use this technology. Formal uniformity and the ease of submitting articles has opened the floodgates to contributors and, as we hoped, both authors and reviewers have warmly welcomed this electronic support.¹⁷ Since September, we have been using a software update (Editorial Manager-Elsevier Editorial System 6.1) which, again, we will adapt to meet our needs so as to benefit from its newest tools and achieve greater versatility. This version incorporates updates: editors can now designate backup reviewers, assign a predetermined order to the files submitted by authors, and classify manuscripts in new categories.

We have made many internal technical changes which are as important as they are lacking in visibility. Other formal changes are more apparent. Over the years, we have included color in text and figures (in Supplement issues, too), at no extra cost to authors. In 2008, we improved production, editing and publication times. First, we now publish the print edition in the first 3 days of each month, eliminating earlier delays. Moreover, we have systematized the early online preliminary publication of articles and successfully brought forward our Spanish-

language digital edition. Finally, for the first time, we have managed to provide access to the English translation of our contents from our webpage and PubMed in the very month when the issue is published.

Editorial Initiatives on an International Scale

During recent years we have participated in several international initiatives aimed at enhancing the prestige and recognition of our journal. At recent Editorial Committee meetings, we have greatly enjoyed presentations made by two guest speakers: the editors of the *European Heart Journal* (Dr Thomas F. Lüscher, 2008)¹¹ and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* (JACC) (Dr Anthony DeMaria, 2009). In December, we coordinated the simultaneous publication in *Revista Española de Cardiología* and JACC of an editorial¹⁸ on research and scientific production that analyzes the results of an interesting report prepared in Spain.¹⁹

During these years, we have paid special attention to maintaining our initial commitment to follow International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE, better known as the "Vancouver group") recommendations.^{7,20} The problems that concern the international scientific community include issues of conflicts of interest, authorship requirements, redundant publications, the presentation of randomized trials (CONSORT: Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials) and the prior registration of clinical trials.²¹⁻²³ In this context, we have worked to faithfully adapt our publication norms and have designed the corresponding editorial policies.²¹⁻²³ Moreover, during these years *Revista Española de Cardiología* has participated actively in all HEART (Heart Editors Action Round Table) group meetings. Attendance at these cardiovascular journal editors' meetings has enabled us to learn of the constantly occurring changes in the editorial world and improve our editorial policy planning. Within HEART, we have collaborated to develop a new ethical framework for cardiovascular scientific publications that has been the subject of a joint publication.²⁴

In the European Society of Cardiology, we have collaborated on 2 highly interesting editorial initiatives.²⁵⁻²⁶ Firstly, we have been pioneers in Europe in coordinating early translation and publication of the European Guidelines of Clinical Practice.²⁵ After their official endorsement and in agreement with the Vicepresident of the SEC, we invited a Spanish expert to prepare footnotes needed to facilitate adapting these recommendations for Spain. Thus, using only

our electronic edition, we have contributed to promoting the dissemination ("globalization") of these important, extensive documents.²⁵ Secondly, we attended the official constitution of the Club of European Editors (Editors' Club or Editors' Network). This workgroup brings together all national cardiovascular journal editors and, more recently, we have had the privilege of coordinating its work. We have updated the databases, established the corresponding links, and promoted the scientific recognition of national journals by the European Society of Cardiology. We have also prepared a consensus document on editorial policy issues in biomedical publications.²⁶ This has been widely distributed in Europe (39 national and 11 affiliate society journals) and has been translated into all the corresponding languages. In this same initiative, the present issue of the journal publishes a second consensus document prepared by the group, which summarizes the role of national journals in continuing medical education.²⁷

Finally, the journal has recently organized (March 2009, Orlando) the first official joint meeting of the cardiovascular journals of all Ibero-American national societies. This pioneering initiative has been a clear success. As a result, we have updated all editorial data in a joint database and established preferential website hyperlinks. The meeting's conclusions have recently been drawn together in a document—published simultaneously in Spain, Portugal, and all the Latin-American nations²⁸—that will stimulate collaboration between our countries.

The editors are fully convinced that these editorial initiatives to promote international collaboration will help to further extend the international recognition our publication currently enjoys.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

It seems it was only yesterday when we embarked on our term of office as editors of *Revista Española de Cardiología*. In our initial presentation, we recognized the merit of our predecessors in the editorial team and the enormous success they had had in steering the journal in the right direction by giving priority to editorial and scientific excellence.⁷ We were excited by the challenge we faced and have made every effort to hold a steady course while, at the same time, contributing to this thrilling project with our own initiatives. Six years ago, we quoted the poet Antonio Machado when he wrote that "you make the path by walking" and underlined the fundamental importance of walking that path together.⁷ Our experience after these years further reinforces, if that were possible, this perception. We hope to have satisfied some of the expectations

projected onto the editorial team and trust we have placed the journal in the best possible position for it to continue to move forward. In our early days, we also insisted that the success of this project could only be considered a collective success and that only a joint effort could enable us to achieve the goals we set ourselves.⁷ Institutional support from the SEC (executive committees, full Board of Director sessions, and all Casa del Corazón staff) has been total and decisive. Our proposals and initiatives have been supported without constraints and our editorial independence has been fully respected. Collaboration with Doyma-Elsevier in this project has been essential to enable us to achieve the goals we have always shared.

A publication's prestige depends on its credibility, its bibliometric indices; it depends on rigorously meeting all international standards of quality, publishing original material of the greatest possible interest, and on achieving the best possible impact and dissemination for its scientific contents. *Revista Española de Cardiología*, the official publication of the SEC, is a journal on the international stage dedicated to cardiovascular diseases. Without the slightest doubt, the journal is on the right path and has managed to consolidate itself as one of the most prestigious biomedical journals in its specialty.¹¹ The journal's new editorial team, led by Dr Magda Heras as Editor-in-Chief, has ahead of it a fantastic project and many new challenges to face. We wish them the best. We have no doubt that, with everyone's help, they will further improve the editorial and scientific quality and the international prestige of our publication. Congratulations! Good luck!

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