

## Editor's page

## Revista Española de Cardiología 2023

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In 2023, *Revista Española de Cardiología* (*Rev Esp Cardiol*)<sup>1,2</sup> completed its second year under the guidance of the current editorial team. This article provides a review of recent activity, primarily focused on consolidating and advancing the initiatives proposed during the first year.

### IMPACT FACTOR

As reported in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) data for 2022 (published in 2023), the impact factor for *Rev Esp Cardiol* was 5.9, maintaining the journal's standing in the first quartile of cardiovascular publications. This statistic was anticipated with some uncertainty due to recent changes in impact factor calculations, stemming from the debate surrounding early access content and the measures to mitigate the effect of COVID-related articles. These issues are believed to have contributed to the observed increase in impact factors among most journals in the preceding 2 years. The current edition of JCR reveals a widespread decrease in impact factor among journals. Notably, among all categories in the JCR data for 2021, 72% of journals in the first quartile experienced a decline in impact factor in 2022. Furthermore, among journals in the first quartile of JCR in 2021, 42% saw their impact factor decrease by more than 10% in 2022. In keeping with this shift, the impact factor for *Rev Esp Cardiol* also decreased by around 1 point, but in the context of this general decline, the journal has maintained its position among cardiovascular publications. The historical low of 13% for self-citation, highlighting the journal's robustness is worthy of note. Judging by the citations received, original articles on heart failure and epidemiology attracted the most interest, suggesting that research activity in these 2 subspecialties is particularly intense in Spain. The article receiving the largest number of citations in this edition was "Impact of COVID-19 on ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction care. The Spanish experience" by Rodríguez-Leor et al.<sup>3</sup> This study won an award from the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC) as the article published in *Rev Esp Cardiol* with the strongest international impact.

### EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

The total number of submissions received, including original articles, scientific letters, and images in cardiology, is shown in [figure 1](#). There was a modest recovery in the number submissions received in 2023 compared with the historical low in 2022. However, submissions are still lower than the historical peak reached in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The notable decreasing trend in scientific letter submission, already evident in 2022, has persisted. It is plausible that the editorial team's current policy of rejecting scientific letters containing a single clinical case may have had a certain dissuasive effect. We believe that the scientific letter format is useful for producing short hypothesis-generating articles and presenting brief case series. We therefore encourage authors to submit letters conforming to this perspective.

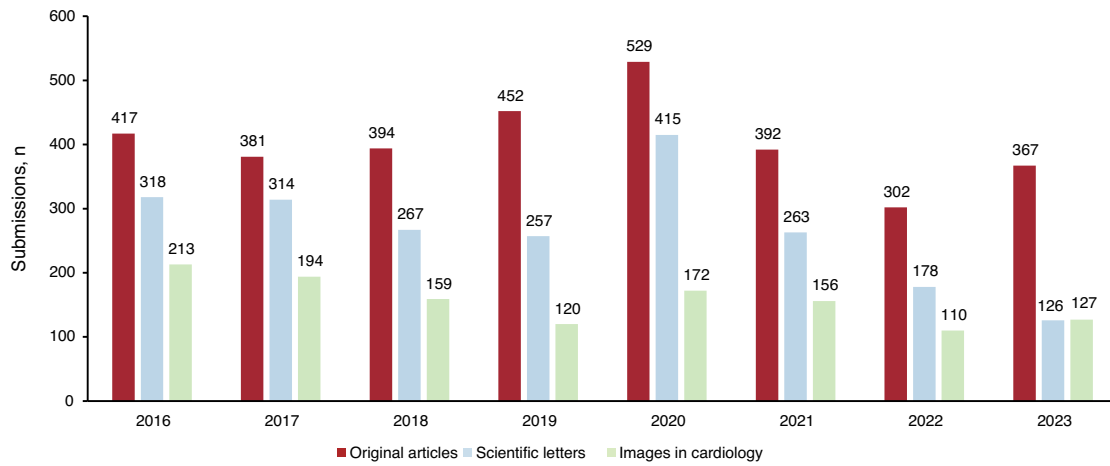
The distribution of original articles submitted to the journal by categories is shown in [figure 2](#). There was a predominance of articles on epidemiology (n = 85), followed by heart failure (n = 57), ischemic heart disease (n = 43), and interventional cardiology (n = 42). More than half the original articles submitted (55%) came from Spain ([figure 3](#)), and 62% of the total were in English ([figure 4](#)). This indicates that a considerable number of Spanish articles were submitted in English. The acceptance rate for original articles was 17%, very similar to the previous year ([figure 5](#)). Additionally, in 2023, *Rev Esp Cardiol* continued publishing review articles by well-known experts,<sup>4–8</sup> special documents,<sup>9,10</sup> and national registries of clinical activity related to interventional cardiology, ablation procedures, pacemaker implantation, implantable cardioverter-defibrillator interventions, and heart transplants.<sup>11–15</sup>

Articles submitted in English were made available in that language in the preliminary test format 20 days after acceptance on the journal's website and 18 days later in Medline. We view this prompt response as an achievement of *Rev Esp Cardiol* and wish to acknowledge the efforts of the editorial office and our publisher, Elsevier, in making this possible. Publication in Medline of articles submitted in Spanish took somewhat longer, as the version indexed in Medline is in English rather than Spanish, translation into English is required before these articles can appear in this repository. However, starting in January 2023, we began releasing a preliminary version in the second language on both our website and ScienceDirect with the aim of hastening dissemination of these articles.

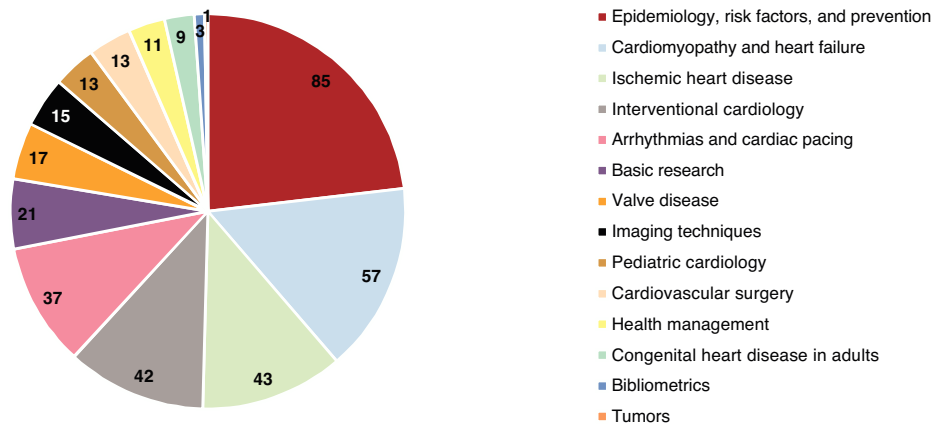
\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [recpublications@secardiologia.es](mailto:recpublications@secardiologia.es) (J. Sanchis).

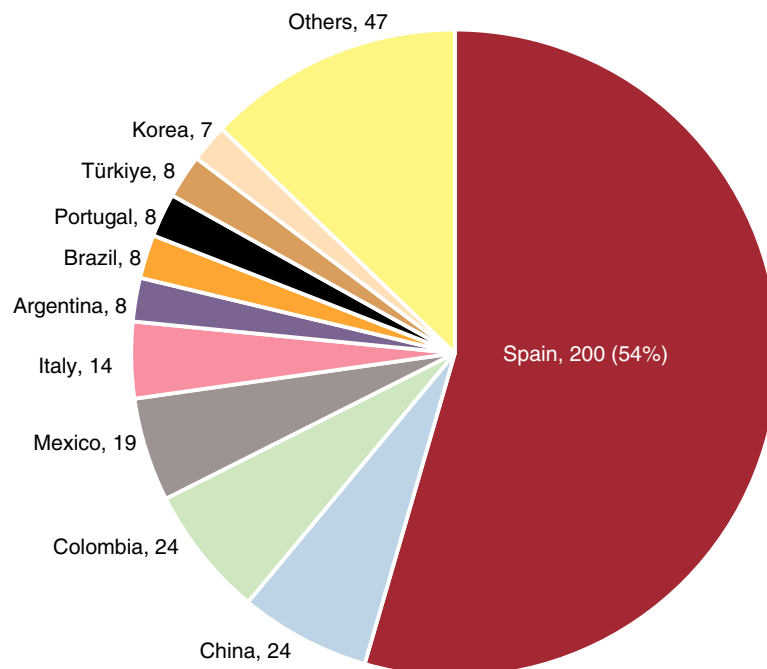
✉ [RevEspCardiol](#) #REC



**Figure 1.** Number of original articles, scientific letters, and images in cardiology submitted to *Rev Esp Cardiol* for assessment, 2016–2023.



**Figure 2.** Original articles (n) submitted to *Rev Esp Cardiol* in 2023, by topic-based categories.



**Figure 3.** Origin of the original articles submitted to *Rev Esp Cardiol* in 2023.

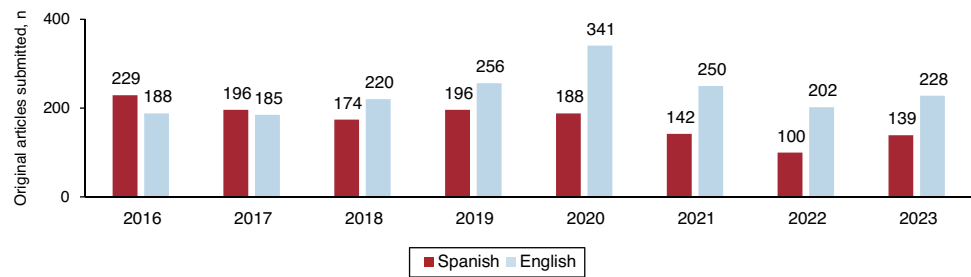


Figure 4. Language in which original articles were submitted for evaluation in *Rev Esp Cardiol*, 2016–2023.

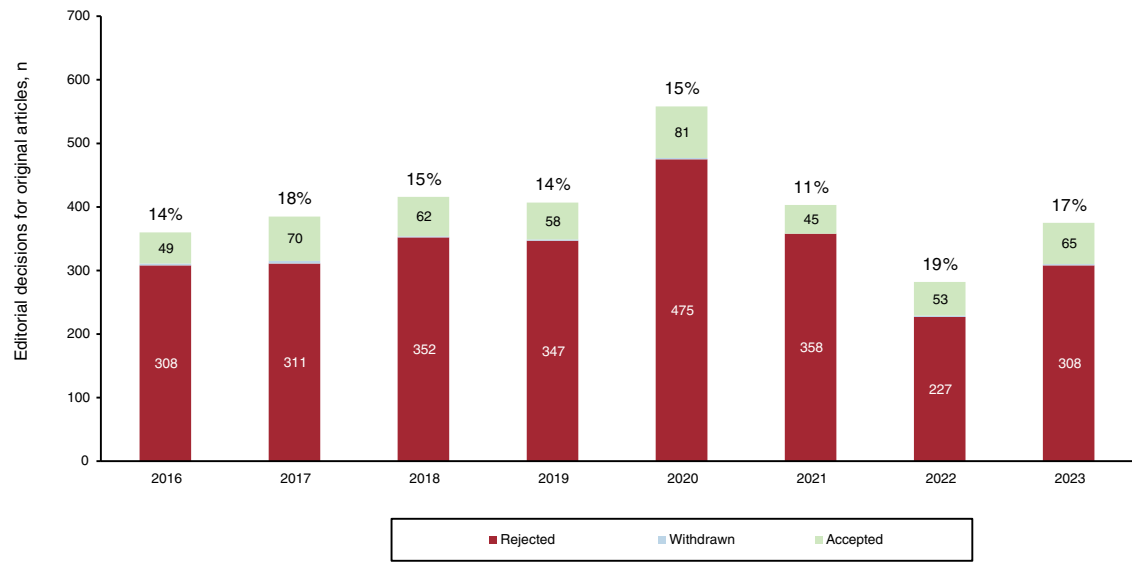


Figure 5. Editorial decisions regarding original articles submitted to *Rev Esp Cardiol*, 2016–2023. The percentage of acceptance over the total of decisions for original articles is shown above each bar.

Table 1  
Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Juan Acosta
María Ajejas
Finn Akerström
Arístides Alarcón
Alejandro Alcaine
Manuel Alcázar
Guillermo Aldama
Josep M. Alegret
Fernando Alfonso
Luis Almenar
Manuel Almendro
Joaquín Alonso
Rafael Alonso-González
Gonzalo L. Alonso-Salinas
Alberto Alperi
Miguel Álvarez
Jesús Álvarez-García
Carlos Álvarez-Ortega
Ignacio J. Amat
Dominick Angiolillo
Manuel P. Anguita
Eduardo Arana
Javier Aranceta

Table 1 (Continued)  
Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Miguel Á. Arias
Albert Ariza
Eduardo Armada
Ángel Aroca
Vicente Arrarte
Antonio Arrebola
Dabit Arzamendi
Pablo Ávila
Juan J. Badimón
Enrique J. Balbacid
José Banegas
Alfredo Bardají
José Barrabes
Ana Barradas
Manuel Barreiro
Roberto Barriales
Teresa Bastante
Javier Bautista
Antoni Bayés-Genís
José A. Baz
Víctor Bazán
Víctor M. Becerra
Javier Bermejo

**Table 1** (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Francisco J. Bermúdez
Marcelino Bermúdez
J. Luis Bernal
Giuseppe Biondi
Sara Blasco
Zorba Blázquez
Vicente Bodí
Clara Bonanad
Araceli Boraita
Serge Boveda
Sem Briongos
Josep Brugada
Héctor Bueno
David Calvo
Enrique Calvo
Francisco E. Calvo
Naiara Calvo
Óscar Campuzano
Raquel Campuzano
Pedro Caravaca
Juan Caro
Amelia Carro
Antonio Cartón
José M. Castellano
Sergio Castrejón
Antonio J. Castro
Víctor Castro
Pedro Cepas
Francisco J. Chorro
Marta Cobo
Miguel Á. Cobos
Antonio Coca
Pau Codina
Luciano Consuegra
Ramón Corbalán
Alberto Cordero
Juan Cosín-Sales
Eliecer Coto
David Couto
Guillermo Cuervo
Emilio Cuesta
Regina Dalmau
Tomás Datino
José A. de Agustín
Fernando de Frutos
Javier de Juan Bagudá
Rafael E. de la Espriella
Jesús M. de la Hera
José M. de la Torre-Hernández
Irene R. Dégano
M. Jesús del Cerro
Raquel del Valle
Mónica Delgado
Francisco Díaz
José F. Díaz
Leonel Díaz-González

**Table 1** (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Jesús Díaz-Gutiérrez
Beatriz Díaz-Molina
Elena Díaz-Peláez
Javier Díez
Carles Díez-López
Pablo Díez-Villanueva
David Dobarro
Adelina Doltra
Juan A. Domingo
Fernando Domínguez
Jorge N. Domínguez-Macías
Laura Domínguez-Pérez
Alberto Domínguez-Rodríguez
Ignacio Dorado
Laura Dos
Alejandro Durante
Sonia Eiras
Rocío Eiros
Jaime Elízaga
Cristina Enjuanes
Daniel Enríquez
Carlos Escobar
Laura Escolà-Vergé
Pilar Escribano
Alberto Esteban
Rodrigo Estévez
Vicente Estrada
Marta Farrero
Ángel L. Fernández
Juan Fernández-Armenta
Agustín Fernández-Cisnal
José A. Fernández-Díaz
Covadonga Fernández-Golfín
Nuria Fernández-Hidalgo
Rodrigo Fernández-Jiménez
Ignacio Fernández-Lozano
Alejandro Fernández-Montero
Carlos Fernández-Palomeque
Diego Fernández-Rodríguez
Marcos Ferrández
Ignacio Ferreira-González
José L. Ferreira
Carlos Ferrera
Adolfo Fontenla
Eduardo Franco
Carlos Galán
María Gallego-Delgado
Juan García de Lara
Carlos García Santos-Gallego
Ana García-Álvarez
Ignacio García-Bolao
Alberto García-Lledó
Inés García-Lunar
Xavier García-Moll
Rocío García-Orta
Antonio García-Quintana

**Table 1** (Continued)

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

José A. García-Robles
Jessica García-Suárez
Juan R. Gimeno
Pablo Gómez del Arco
Manuel Gómez-Bueno
Juan J. Gómez-Doblas
Dulcenombre Gómez-Garre
Joan A. Gómez-Hospital
M. Carmen Gómez-Rubín
Esther González
David González-Calle
José González-Costello
Juan J. González-Ferrer
José R. González-Juanatey
Arantxa González-Miqueo
Violeta González-Salvado
José M. González-Santos
Esteban González-Torrecilla
Francisco González-Vílchez
José L. Górriz
Eduard Guasch
José M. Guerra
Enrique Gutiérrez-Ibañes
Iván Hernández-Betancor
Felipe Hernández-Hernández
Francisco J. Hernández-Pérez
Javier Higuera
Ignacio Iglesias-Garriz
Raban Jeger
Carmen Jiménez
David Jiménez
Marta Jiménez-Blanco
Javier Jiménez-Candil
Manuel F. Jiménez-Navarro
Pilar Jiménez-Quevedo
Santiago Jiménez-Valero
Pablo Jorge
Alfonso Jurado-Román
Adnan Kastrati
Won-Keun Kim
Enrique Lara
José M. Larrañaga
María Lázaro
Pablo Loma-Osorio
Juan C. López-Azor
Esteban López-de-Sá
José López-Haldón
Manuel López-Meseguer
Diego López-Otero
Ramón López-Palop
Rebeca Lorca
Íñigo Lozano
Álvaro Macías
Begoña Manso
Francisco Marín
Manuel Marina

**Table 1** (Continued)

Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Gerard Martí
María Martín
Beatriz Martín-Fernández
Pilar Martín-Fernández
Pedro Martínez
Isaac Martínez-Bendayán
Eduardo Martínez-Gómez
Sergio Martínez-Hervás
Amparo Martínez-Monzonis
José L. Martínez-Sande
Manuel Martínez-Sellés
Pilar Mazón
Andrea Mazzanti
Ana Méndez
Irene Méndez
Dolores Mesa-Rubio
Sonia Mirabet
Ángel L. Miracle
Cristina Mitroi
Javier Modrego
Pedro Moliner
Emilio Monguió
Manuel Monreal
Elena Montañés
Juan M. Monteagudo
Vanessa Moñivas
Cesar Morís
Guillermo Muñiz
Antonio J. Muñoz-García
José Nativi
Luis Nombela
Francisco J. Noriega
Julio Núñez
Iván J. Núñez-Gil
Estefanía Núñez-Sánchez
Soledad Ojeda
Carolina Ortiz
Joaquín Osca
Armando Oterino
Julián Palomino
Manuel Pan
Isaac Pascual
Rafael Peinado
Laura Peña
Pablo Peñafiel
Daniel Pereda
Diego Pérez
Leopoldo Pérez de Isla
Armando Pérez de Prado
Esther Pérez-David
Antonia Pijuan
Jesús Piqueras
Gonzalo Pizarro
María N. Pizzi
Julia Playán
Marta Pombo

**Table 1** (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Andreu Porta
Eduardo Pozo
Susanna Prat
Raquel Prieto
Juan Puig
Valentina O. Puntmann
Juan Quiles
Jorge G. Quintanilla
Raúl Ramallal
Antonio Ramos
Diego Rangel
Sergio Raposeiras-Roubín
Susana Ravassa
Carlos Real
Elena Refoyo
Ander Regueiro
María A. Restrepo
César Ríos
Juan J. Ríos
Tomás Ripoll
Mercedes Rivas
José Rivera
Luis Rodríguez-Padial
José F. Rodríguez-Palomares
María J. Rodríguez-Puras
Nieves Romero-Rodríguez
José Rozado
María J. Ruiz-Cano
Juan M. Ruiz-Nodar
Ricardo Salgado
Rafael Salguero
Luisa Salido
Pablo Salinas
Adriana Saltijeral
José A. San Román
Inmaculada Sánchez
Ángel Sánchez-Recalde
Miriam Sandín
Elena Sandoval
Marcelo Sanmartín
Enrique Santas
Javier Sanz
María Sanz de la Garza
Georgia Sarquella
Sebastian I. Sarvari
Javier Segovia
Aida Serra
Jacobo Silva
Alessandro Sionis
Marta Sitges
Laura Sommerfeld
Maite Subirana
Antonio Tello
Gabriela Tirado
M. Teresa Tomé
Jorge Toquero

**Table 1** (Continued)Professionals who collaborated as reviewers for *Revista Española de Cardiología* in 2023

Rocío Toro
Yale Tung Chen
Leire Unzué
Irene Valverde
Ravi Vazirani
Rafael Vidal
Gemma Vilahur
Eduardo Villacorta
David Vivas
Juan I. Zabala
Eduardo Zatarain
Esther Zorio

**Table 2**

Elite reviewers, 2023

Fernando Alfonso
Alberto Cordero
Juan Cosín-Sales
Francisco González-Vílchez
Enrique Gutiérrez-Ibañes
Francisco Marín
Armando Pérez de Prado
Ander Regueiro
Juan M. Ruiz-Nodar
Ricardo Salgado

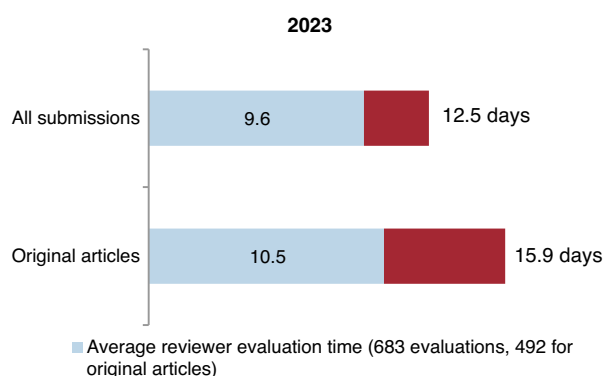
## REVIEW PROCESS

Reviewers' dedication and expertise are fundamental values at *Rev Esp Cardiol*. Once again, we express our gratitude to our reviewers for their commitment to the journal. [Table 1](#) and [table 2](#) contain a comprehensive list of all *Rev Esp Cardiol* reviewers and elite reviewers. Elite reviewer recognition is determined through an automated calculation that includes the number of evaluations and their quality and speed. The reviewers' average turnaround time for evaluating an original article was 10.5 days ([figure 6](#)). This excellent and consistent performance has been maintained year after year. We believe that attempts to speed up this process could jeopardize the quality of the reviews.

## Engagement with young cardiologists and internal medicine residents

In the scientific letter format, we published the top 2 clinical cases presented in the SEC's Clinical Cases League.<sup>16,17</sup> As was done the year before, these articles were accompanied by an editorial comment highlighting their most instructive elements.<sup>18,19</sup>

Two awards for articles published in *Rev Esp Cardiol* were presented at the 2023 SEC Congress. The first award is for the best article whose first author is a cardiology resident in a Spanish hospital,<sup>20</sup> and the second award is for the best original study whose first author is a cardiology specialist aged 40 years or younger.<sup>21</sup> Both these awards aim to encourage research among emerging Spanish cardiologists. We are concerned about the



**Figure 6.** Turnaround time to the first decision (days). Reviewer evaluation times: overall and exclusively for original articles.

somewhat limited involvement of young professionals in research activities. The cause is multifactorial and an analysis goes beyond the scope of this article, but we believe it is appropriate to mention the problem. Improving this situation should be a shared objective of all Spanish cardiologists and related subspecialties. At *Rev Esp Cardiol*, we believe that the stimulating task of peer reviewing could be an appealing way to engage this group in scientific publication.

## Supplements

A single supplement, *New Approaches In Residual Cardiovascular Risk*,<sup>22</sup> was published in 2023. As announced in 2022, publication of REC Supplements has been temporarily discontinued since then. In addition, a special issue was published containing all communications presented at the 2023 SEC Congress held in Malaga.<sup>23</sup>

## Ethical considerations

In keeping with international guidelines, articles in *Rev Esp Cardiol* now have a specific section entitled “Ethical considerations” that includes information on ethics committees, consent procedures, and adherence to the SAGAR guidelines, as well as a statement on the use of artificial intelligence tools.

## Social media

The journal continues to maintain a dynamic presence on social networks. As of January 1, 2024, there were 21 654 followers (1500 new followers in 2023) in the REC Publications account<sup>24</sup> in X (formerly Twitter), and 10 891 followers on Facebook.<sup>25</sup> Interviews with our featured authors are published regularly on the *Rev Esp Cardiol* blog<sup>26</sup> and the SEC website, and through the SEC News and other Society newsletters. We wish to express our gratitude to the ICT consultant for REC Publications, Juan Quiles, for his outstanding contribution to our social media endeavours.

## Website

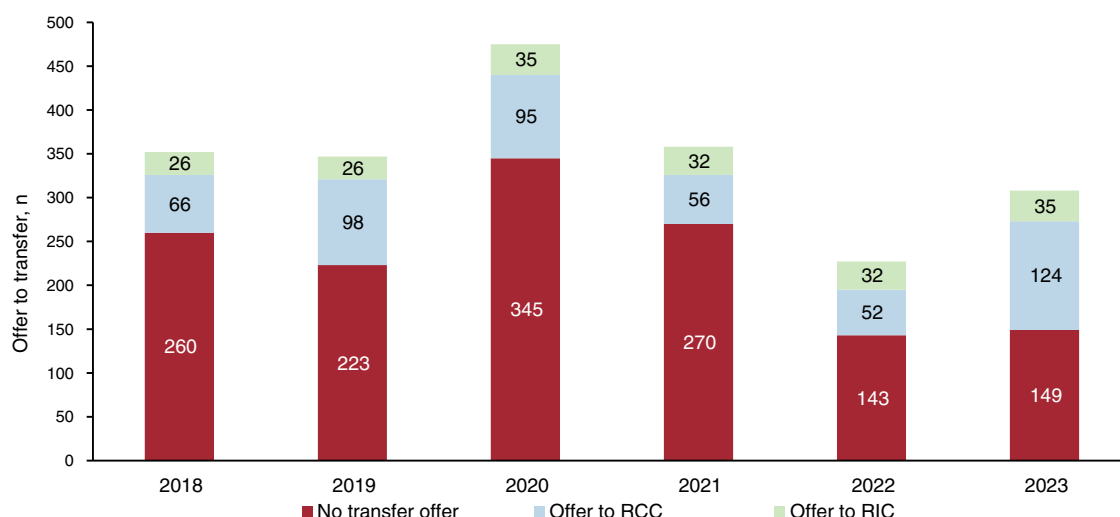
We believe that the *Rev Esp Cardiol*<sup>27</sup> website would benefit from an update to make its content more user-friendly and appealing. This may be one of the most exciting goals established for 2024, and we are pleased to announce that we have already taken the first steps in this direction.

## REC PUBLICATIONS

In 2023, there was a notable increase in the number of articles that could not be accepted for publication in *Rev Esp Cardiol*. However, many of these articles were offered the option to transfer to one of the other 2 publications within the SEC scientific journal family, REC Publications, with particular emphasis on original articles (figure 7). The number of authors accepting this proposal has grown substantially.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the editorial teams of both these journals for their accomplishments in 2023. *REC: Interventional Cardiology*<sup>28</sup> has achieved its first impact factor (1.4), while *REC: CardioClinics*<sup>29</sup> has experienced a significant increase in the number of submissions.

The article entitled “Predictors of sudden death in dilated cardiomyopathy: Beyond the presence of late gadolinium enhancement”,<sup>30</sup> authored by Rodríguez-Sánchez et al., received the second-place prize in the 2023 Magda Heras Awards for the Best Published Studies in Iberoamerican Cardiovascular journals. From this edition onward, *Rev Esp Cardiol* has transferred management of the Award to the InterAmerican Society of Cardiology and has voluntarily withdrawn its participation.



**Figure 7.** Offers to transfer original articles from *Rev Esp Cardiol* to REC Publications. RCC, *REC: CardioClinics*; RIC, *REC: Interventional Cardiology*.



## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

The current international situation for cardiology journals is highly competitive. The increasing number of publications, some of them within well-established journal families, is a compelling incentive for authors to submit their articles. In addition, the emergence of the open access model in numerous journals is significantly changing the scientific publishing landscape. In this regard, there is a growing trend among funding agencies and public institutions to prioritize the publication of research results in open access format.

Within this complex scenario, it is important to highlight 2 key aspects. First, the unwavering commitment of *Rev Esp Cardiol* to Spanish cardiologists. Their articles have positioned the journal at the forefront of cardiovascular publications. Second, the consistent support for *Rev Esp Cardiol* from the successive executive committees of the SEC, which has been essential for the viability of our journal.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First, we would like to express our gratitude for the professional work of the editorial office at REC Publications (Eva M. Cardenal, María González-Nogal, Belén Juan, Helena Gómez-Lobo, and Javier Esquinas), directed by Iria del Río.

Furthermore, we wish to highlight, once again, the efforts of the translation and correction teams. Their rigorous work and attention to detail are instrumental in preserving the bilingual nature of our journal. We continue to rely on a skilled team of professionals with years of experience linked to the journal, coordinated by Gail Craigie, copyeditor of the English version. Their work is essential for sustaining the international prestige of our publication, spotlighting the prominence of Spanish cardiology. Finally, we extend our thanks to all departments of *Casa del Corazón* for their work, which contributes to the success of the REC Publications family.

## FUNDING

None.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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