Editor’s page

2014 Annual Summary and New Projects in Revista Española de Cardiología

Resumen anual y novedades en el año 2014 de REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA

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Each year, the “Editor’s page” describes the changes made to Revista Española de Cardiología (Rev Esp Cardiol) and their results. The year 2014 was marked by the death of the journal’s previous Editor-in-Chief, Magda Heras, at the beginning of August. The journal then remained without an Editor-in-Chief until Dr. Juan Sanchis was appointed to the position in December 2014. Two obituaries of Magda were published in Rev Esp Cardiol (one written by the editorial board and another by Dr. Ginés Sanz).1,2 The European Heart Journal also published an obituary authored by the journal’s editorial board.1 We would like to take this opportunity to once again pay homage to Magda, who left an indelible imprint in all of us.

BIBLIOMETRIC DATA

In 2014, the Institute for Scientific Information, through Journal Citation Reports, published the impact factor (IF) for Rev Esp Cardiol-3.342—the highest ever achieved by the journal (Figure 1). Thus, Rev Esp Cardiol is placed in the upper part of the second quartile of the group of journals devoted to the cardiovascular system (whose IFs range from 2.225 to 3.875). The IF for 2013 is the result of the quotient between the number of citations received in 2013 by articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol in 2011 and 2012 in the numerator, and the total number of citable articles published by Rev Esp Cardiol in 2011 and 2012 in the denominator. In turn, the citations received are divided into self-citations (citations in Rev Esp Cardiol) and external citations (citations in journals other than Rev Esp Cardiol). As shown in Figure 2, the number of self-citations slightly decreased in 2013, while external citations continued the progressive increase initiated in previous years. This is undoubtedly excellent news, since the increase in external citations is essential for the stability of the IF.

In future, the challenge for Rev Esp Cardiol will be to consolidate its IF. The main threat is the proliferation of “daughter journals” spawned by powerful “mother journals”. Table 1 shows the 5 main, essentially clinical cardiology journals—the group to which Rev Esp Cardiol belongs—with their corresponding “daughter journals”. Some of these “daughters” already have a high IF and it is foreseeable that, in the immediate future, other, recently-launched journals with no IF as yet, will soon achieve high IFs. The competition will be fierce and perhaps we will have to redefine the role of national journals such as Rev Esp Cardiol that must fight for a place within an editorial world dominated by international journals.

Figure 1. Annual changes in the impact factor for Revista Española de Cardiología.

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Figure 2. Annual changes in self-citations and external citations to Revista Española de Cardiología.

Table 1
The Main, Essentially Clinical Cardiology Journals and Their “Daughter” Journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother journal</th>
<th>Daughter journals</th>
<th>Impact factor 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JACC, Journal of the American College of Cardiology</td>
<td>JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions</td>
<td>7.440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging</td>
<td>JACC: Heart Failure</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation</td>
<td>Circulation Research</td>
<td>11.089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions</td>
<td>6.982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging</td>
<td>6.752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Heart Failure</td>
<td>5.945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology</td>
<td>5.417</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics</td>
<td>5.337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes</td>
<td>5.040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Heart Journal</td>
<td>European Journal of Heart Failure</td>
<td>6.577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiovascular Research</td>
<td>5.808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Heart Journal Supplements</td>
<td>5.640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EuroIntervention</td>
<td>3.758</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging</td>
<td>3.669</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>EP-Europace</td>
<td>3.050</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Journal of Preventive Cardiology</td>
<td>3.691</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing</td>
<td>1.828</td>
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<td></td>
<td>European Heart Journal: Acute Cardiovascular Care</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>Open Heart</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Cardiology</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Received Manuscripts

In all, 822 manuscripts were received in 2014, more than in 2013 (Figure 3). Of the total number of manuscripts submitted, 28% were from countries other than Spain. Notable among Iberoamerican countries were Argentina and Mexico and, outside Ibero-America, the countries most frequently submitting manuscripts were the United States, China, and Italy (Figure 4). Twenty-eight percent of the articles were submitted in English and almost one-third of these (32%) were from Spain (Figure 5).

Table 2 lists the number of articles published by type. In 2014, 60 original articles were published, 3 more than in 2013. The number of special articles and editorials held constant. The number of editorials by Spanish authors has continued the progressive increase initiated in 2013 and currently accounts for approximately two-thirds of the editorials published in the journal.

Review Times

The mean overall review time for original articles was 12.1 days. This figure places Rev Esp Cardiol among elite scientific journals in terms of manuscript management. The review time includes 3 periods: the arrival of the manuscript at Rev Esp Cardiol until its assignment to an editor (office processing period), manuscript receipt by the editor until its submission to peer review (editorial period), and peer-review plus the editors’ decision (review period). Figure 6 shows these periods in the last few years. In 2014, they were 1.9, 1.5,
and 8.1 days, respectively, and it would be almost impossible to shorten these times further. We would like to thank the reviewers for their enthusiasm, effort, and excellent work. As a mark of our appreciation, Tables 3 and 4 provide a list of our contributors and elite reviewers, the latter being persons who have stood out for the quality of their reviews, the type of article assessed, the number of reviews, and their rapid turnaround times. Congratulations to Luciano Consuegra who this year was awarded the first prize. The percentage of accepted original articles was 15%, lower than in 2013 (Figure 7), although at the time of writing, some articles are still being processed.

**PRIZES FOR BEST ARTICLES**

As in previous years, the journal awarded 2 prizes: a prize for the best article (a first and second prize selected with the help of the Scientific Sections) and another prize for the articles with the greatest medium- and long-term international impact (a first and second prize in each subcategory). The prize-winning articles are listed in Table 5, along with the articles awarded prizes by the Scientific Sections of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (*Sociedad Española de Cardiología* [SEC]).

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**Figure 6.** Mean intervals between article receipt and the first decision on original articles in *Revista Española de Cardiología*.

**Figure 7.** Annual change in the percentage of original articles accepted.
SUPPLEMENTS, SPECIAL ARTICLES, AND MONOGRAPHIC ISSUES


The supplement including all the presentations of the SEC congress, held in Santiago de Compostela, was published online.

As in previous years, the Scientific Sections published updates and new advances in 6 special articles corresponding to the subdisciplines of the SEC.5-10 As usual, the journal published the results of the 5 official registries of the Scientific Sections of the SEC: the implantable cardioverter-defibrillator registry, the cardiac catheterization and coronary intervention registry, the pacemaker registry, the transplantation registry, and the catheter ablation registry.11-15 The data provided by these registries, although mainly unaudited, constitute the best information available on the activity carried out in Spain in the corresponding areas. As in previous years, presentations of Late Breaking Clinical Trials, which are uploaded almost immediately to the website’s blog,16 were also published in the print journal but with the corresponding production times. The journal also published the summaries of these studies presented at the 2014 congresses of the American College of Cardiology and the European Society of Cardiology, and the 2013 congress of the American Heart Association.17-20 Special mention must also be made of the comments on European Society of Cardiology clinical practice guidelines, an initiative started in 2011 and which accompanies each of the translations to Spanish of the summaries of these studies presented at the 2014 congresses of the American College of Cardiology and the European Society of Cardiology, and the 2013 congress of the American Heart Association.17-20 The topics covered in 2014 were cardiac pacing and cardiac resynchronization therapy, stable ischemic heart disease, diabetes mellitus, and noncardiac surgery.21-24

The educational series published by Rev Esp Cardiol in 2014 was “Update: Acute Coronary Syndromes”. Readers can obtain credit hours for the “Update” by registering in the corresponding section of the website and by correctly answering at least 80% of the questions.25

The heading of monographic issues of the SEC was launched in 2013 and 2 issues were published in 2014: “Statin therapy as the basis of dyslipidemia treatment in patients at high cardiovascular risk in the European vs North American guidelines” and “The RECALCAR Study”.

EDITORIAL NETWORKS

The Network of Iberoamerican Cardiovascular Journal Editors held its annual meeting during the congress of the American College of Cardiology, which took place in Washington in March 2014. Dr. Walter Reyes Caorsi, from Revista Uruguay de Cardiología, was appointed coordinator for the 2014–2016 period. The prize for the best article published in one of the official journals of the Network of Iberoamerican Cardiovascular Journal Editors was awarded to the study by González-Cánovas entitled “Severe aortic valve stenosis with low-gradient and preserved ejection fraction: a misclassification issue?”, published in Rev Esp Cardiol.26 The network took the decision to change the name of this award to the “Magda Heras Prize”. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the network for this decision.

The National Societies Cardiovascular Journal Editors’ Network brings together editors of the journals of European cardiovascular societies. Among the activity taking place in the Editor’s Network, in 2014 we attended the meeting held during the congress of the European Society of Cardiology in Barcelona, at which Rev Esp Cardiol was highly active in a session in which we presented the results of an exhaustive analysis of the implementation of the European clinical
Table 5
List of Articles Awarded Prizes by the Spanish Society of Cardiology in 2014

1. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology for articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol

First prize

Second prize

2. Prizes awarded by the Spanish Society of Cardiology for articles published in Rev Esp Cardiol with the greatest international impact

Articles most cited in the long-term
First prize (ex-aequo)

Second prize

Articles most cited in the medium-term
First prize

Second prize

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

4. Prize awarded by the Pediatric and Congenital Cardiopathy Section for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol

5. Prize awarded by the Ischemic Heart Disease and Coronary Units Section for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol

6. Prize awarded by the Electrophysiology and Arrhythmias Section for the best article published in Rev Esp Cardiol

7. Prize awarded by the Cardiac Pacing Section

8. Prize awarded by the Vascular Risk and Cardiac Rehabilitation Section

9. GE Healthcare prize for the best article on electrocardiography published in Rev Esp Cardiol

10. Magda Heras prize for the best article published in Iberoamerican Cardiovascular Journals
First prize

Second prize
Nava S, et al. Simplified progressive approach for the ablation of scar related atrial macroreentrant tachycardias. Arch Cardiol Mex. 2013;83:244-8

Third prize

NEW INITIATIVES OF REV ESP CARDIOL 2014

ECG Contest
This new section, a feature of Rev Esp Cardiol since September 2014, was launched with several aims. Firstly, to involve readers of Rev Esp Cardiol more closely in the journal, enabling them to participate by discussing electrocardiograms that illustrate a teaching point. Secondly, this new activity aims to provide cardiologists with another tool for their training in electrocardiography, a much-loved and useful diagnostic technique. A brief clinical case is published each month, centered on electrocardiographic findings, and an online debate is started, in which all readers can post their comments. The cases are selected by members of the distinct sections of the SEC, who act as moderators and consultants for the doubts that may arise from practice guidelines in the distinct journals of the European cardiovascular societies.
the case. At the time of writing, we are happy to say that this activity has been very well received by the cardiology community.

“Focus on” Series

This year, the “Focus on” series was published in a single issue of Rev Esp Cardiol in September 2014. Four articles were published under the heading of “Promotion of Cardiovascular Health.”\(^\text{7-30}\) The first of these articles approached cardiovascular health promotion from a comprehensive point of view. The second dealt with cardiovascular disease prevention at the distinct stages of life. The third is an excellent summary of recommendations for a healthy diet, and the fourth and final article did the same with recommendations on physical activity. The series provides brief updates that are undoubtedly full of interesting aspects for readers of Rev Esp Cardiol.

Digital resources

Website

The year 2014 saw the consolidation of our website. Throughout the mandate of the current editorial board, and in agreement with the strategic plan established by Dr. Magda Heras, the various functionalities have been gradually implemented and have been well-received by our readers. Perhaps the most important initiative undertaken by the journal in the last few years has been ahead-of-print publication,\(^\text{48-49}\) as it allows accepted articles to be published online far sooner than their inclusion in an issue of the print journal. The blog receives a fair number of hits, with peaks during the presentation of the results of the main clinical trials at international congresses (American College of Cardiology, European Society of Cardiology, and American Heart Association). Other, well-received functionalities that exploit the graphic resources of the website are the images and the “Editor’s Videos”. In each issue, the editor selects an original article of particular scientific or practical interest. One of the editors then interviews one of the authors, who discusses the most important findings and the clinical implications of the article. We would like to thank the authors of these articles for their willingness and availability to record these videos. Another important feature has been the publication of the supplement of the Cardiovascular Diseases Congress exclusively online before the congress was held and with all the information available in the search engine, thus helping authors to search for information clearly and simply. The data from the congresses held in the last 5 years are currently available on the website’s homepage.

Twitter: @RevEspCardiol

Of all the digital resources enjoyed by Rev Esp Cardiol, if anything stands out in 2014 it must surely be the journal’s presence in Twitter, whose account (@RevEspCardiol) has attracted more than 1900 followers. The Twitter account is used to promote access to all currently available on the website’s homepage.

Website Traffic

Now is the time to gather the fruit of the considerable work of the entire editorial board in restructuring and modernizing the website. The number of hits to the web site has sharply increased since the launching of the new portal and, more importantly, is increasing each year, thus demonstrating the growing interest aroused by Rev Esp Cardiol among the international scientific community. Comparison of hits in 2014 with 2013 shows a marked increase both in the number of sessions and in the pages viewed (56.35% and 62.58%, respectively). The data are especially striking for visits to the website in English, with a 71% increase in the number of pages visited. Equally, the blog traffic has clearly increased since 2013: the number of sessions has increased by 28% and the number of pages viewed by 18%. Downloads of pdfs have also increased, although only slightly (2%).

REFERENCES


