REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA: on the Way
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REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA, the official publication of the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SSC), is an international journal devoted to cardiovascular disease which is clearly on the right course. The apparent potential dichotomy that had arisen when defense of “our” journal as a natural meeting ground for scientific expression by members of the SSC encountered aspirations to turn the journal into a prestigious “international” scientific publication is now behind us, and everyone now concurs that our journal is in fact an international journal. This maturing process has been a gradual one that has taken place mainly over the last decade, but we must continue our commitment to this goal in order to maintain the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA on its current course.

REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA has shown admirable progress during its 57-year history, moving steadily upward in the ranks so that it now occupies a place among the most prestigious biomedical journals in its specialty. This praiseworthy and demanding process, which required continuous technical improvements to meet rigorous quality standards, has been marked along the way by significant highlights, most notably our inclusion in Index Medicus, EMBASE/Excerpta Medica, and Current Contents. However, the event that different groups of researchers working in cardiovascular specialties appreciated most was probably the appearance of our impact factor in Journal Citation Reports. This unquestionably makes publication in the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA more “scientifically profitable.” This popular bibliometric index simply reflects the degree to which items accepted by a given journal are cited by authors who publish their studies in journals of the prestigious, select Science Citation Index club to which the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA now belongs. In other words, published scientific contributions are used in turn by other researchers as a reliable source of support for further progress in their own areas of interest. Thus the impact factor represents a widely accepted way to evaluate a journal’s scientific prestige. All researchers now acknowledge that publishing in the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA is not only an efficient means of disseminating the results of their research among colleagues in Spain and other Spanish-speaking countries (for several years now the journal has topped the list of journals on cardiovascular disease published in Spanish), but also has substantial scientific impact internationally. This privilege previously graced only those manuscripts accepted in one of the more classic English-language journals in this specialty.

We still do not know clearly what niche the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA occupies with respect to other international scientific publications in cardiovascular disease. Only future changes and shifts in the ranking of different bibliometric markers in the coming years will show where we are and what goals we can and should aspire to. Two things are clear, however: first, that this is a dynamic process that reflects, albeit after some delay, previously implemented editorial strategies, and second, that further efforts—by all of us—are needed to consolidate the scientific merits of the REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE CARDIOLOGÍA. A practical way to implement these efforts is to actively cite articles published recently in the journal in new research studies. This practice not only reflects maturity in recognizing the merits of similar or related publications often produced in our setting, and with which it seems appropriate to compare ourselves. In addition, it also clearly feeds back into and enhances the flow of scientific information emanating from the journal, making it increasingly attractive to readers and researchers.

The real challenge of working with such an attractive journal is to be able to choose the best from an array of very good offerings, and this is not always easy. In fact, our responsibility as editors will increa-
with the SSC for our policy of editorial independence for the journal, an indispensable condition to ensure that the journal is managed well both editorially and scientifically.

With the new year comes an opportunity to change. Moving forward is the best direction for change to take, in our efforts both to consolidate our position and to achieve further goals. Although it may sound clichéd to say that the road is made in the walking, our achievements thus far have shown us the importance of walking that road together.

REFERENCES