Women in Cardiology Research in Spain Look Forward to Equality. Reflections From under the Glass Ceiling

To the Editor,

We were extremely interested in the letter by González-Alcaide et al1 regarding the role that women have played in Spanish cardiology research in recent years.

This study’s efforts make up in part for the scarcity of reliable statistical data broken down by sex, which is a fundamental matter if we are to obtain an adequate view of both the actual situation and the changes that are occurring, and analyse the results.

According to González-Alcaide et al, 26.98% of authors for the study period are women; examined by volume, women made up only 4.08% of the authors with 9 publications or more. The authors attribute this poor representative showing to negative attitudes on a psychological level.1 However, the reasons behind this situation have been subjected to in-depth study in the European Union’s ETAN report.2 Therefore, line graphs like the one shown1 reflect the impact of sex on the results of scientific programmes of study. The separation of the data for the two cohorts, with a rising line for males and a falling line for females, is the result of the most significant interruptions to the professional career which occur around and after age thirty; women tend to be more susceptible than men and postpone their period of maximum scientific productivity and its related possibilities for professional promotion.2

On the other hand, our attention is drawn to the 5% increase in the number of authors and contributors, which is extremely important considering that only 16% of our cardiologists are women, and have higher participation percentages
Letters to the Editor

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