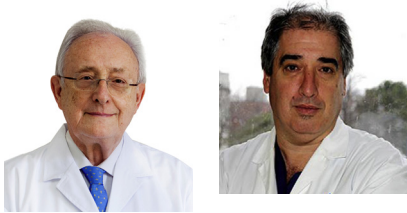


GUEST EDITORS' PAGE



A Project to Improve Global Cardiovascular Care

JACC Spanish



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When making medical decisions, whether for diagnostic or for therapeutic purposes, having the best and most up-to-date information is of the utmost importance. Because heart diseases often involve emergencies that require urgent diagnosis and treatment, the cardiologist represents the paradigm of the health care provider who requires updated training and information. In the past, to obtain this information, it was necessary to consult the most recent editions of the best available books and/or to receive, usually monthly by mail, issues of the best journals in each specialty. Another way to keep informed was to attend most important meetings and congresses to learn about recent advances in the specialty. This could be costly and time-consuming, and was not easily available to everybody.

Things have evolved rapidly, and nowadays information is spread through a myriad of multimedia methods. Thus, we can have immediate updates on all of the major advances in new diagnostic methods and available treatments for cardiovascular diseases. Journals (like *JACC*) that have a great impact in the health care community are now released weekly and can be electronically consulted by the reader within hours of publication. Furthermore, the highlights of

many congresses are published online the very same day, even when publication is still pending. Access to information, therefore, may now be immediate for those with electronic access and, of course, with the resources to pay for it (1-3).

However, besides the economic restriction, there is another potential barrier to accessing information. Most of it is in English, which could represent a limitation for many health care providers around the world. The number of people seeking information, but not familiar with the English language, may be larger than we initially suspected. It would be desirable for readers to be able to access information on the most important advances in cardiovascular diseases in their own languages. This may help to ensure that changes in practice are communicated effectively and without delay. An initial effort to achieve this goal should consider the most frequently used languages worldwide (other than English): Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese.

Elsevier Publications, *JACC*, and its Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Valentin Fuster, decided to launch online versions of selected papers from the *Journal* in the 3 languages mentioned previously. This initiative may help the large community of health care providers around the world access the most relevant advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. *JACC* remains one of the top cardiovascular journals, and this initiative will help to consolidate its position worldwide. As Prof. Fuster says, "It is important to have a very high impact factor journal, but the real objective is to impact our readers and motivate them to learn" (4).

In *JACC in Spanish*, each original paper is translated and published together with a commentary by a

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key opinion leader from a Spanish-speaking country. The aims are to cover research, patient care, and education (5). We are certain that the online version in Spanish will help to achieve these aims. This project is part of the educational goals that the *Journal* has set for its readers. It requires effort to adapt original work to different cultures and languages.

JACC in Spanish was launched in 2018 and has received considerable attention. The online version appears every 2 months, and each issue includes 6 papers (original research or reviews) published recently in the English edition, each accompanied by an editorial. The role of the editorialist is not only to perform a critical review of the paper, but also to emphasize some specific aspects of the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease that may be particularly important for each geographical zone.

The presence of *JACC* in Spanish in social media is rapidly increasing. Comments, debates, and discussion via Twitter are now part of the daily life of *JACC* in Spanish. Our Social Media Director, Dr. Jesús Álvarez García, is active on Twitter, highlighting new papers and maintaining a regular presence on this platform. We are about to launch our first Twitter Live and have invited noted colleagues, like Drs. Borja Ibañez, Aloha Meave, and Maria Ines Sosa Liprandi, to help answer questions from the live audience. This experience will represent a new framework for

information dissemination, and we are enthusiastic about the possibility of reaching a larger audience. We are also thankful to Elsevier for providing all *JACC* in Spanish papers for free.

We are pleased by the results of *JACC* in Spanish in its first year of life and have received very good feedback from readers. We now face the new challenges of increasing our visibility and planning future alternatives so that we can reach everywhere in the world, no matter how small, where *JACC* in Spanish could contribute to improving patient care.

We would like to thank Elsevier, the *JACC* Editorial Director, Mrs. Justine Turco, and Prof. Fuster for their continuous support and encouragement. We are also grateful to our colleagues, who have contributed editorial comments, and to Esther Gregoris for secretarial support.

We are sure that this initiative will be consolidated in future years and that *JACC* in Spanish will become a necessary tool for Spanish-speaking health care providers interested in learning cardiology from the best possible source and in their own language.

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