Bibliometrics has gained great importance in medical research in recent years, due to the need to know the behavior and validity of the published evidence. Through this method, the distribution of scientific publication, primary data sources and future needs can be represented to improve the quality of medical evidence and meet global health objectives. Designing and conducting studies of the highest quality in low- and middle-income countries, such as those in Latin America, is one of the described objectives of global academic medicine, of which much is currently unknown [1].

We conducted a bibliometric analysis using the available information of the TOP five journals belonging to the subject area and category: cardiology and cardiovascular medicine; according to Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR), in order to assess the participation of Latin authors in articles published in cardiology journals with the highest impact in the world (according to 2020 metrics), in the last year (2021). Therefore, the journals analyzed were: Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC; SJR: 10.315), Circulation (SJR: 7.795), JACC: Heart Failure (SJR: 6.123), JAMA Cardiology (SJR: 6.108) and JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging (SJR: 5.79). We extracted and analyzed metrics, number of articles published, participating authors, Latin authors, publications according to the different typologies, and characterized the top five authors with the highest participation. The publications were distributed according to their typology as follows: original articles, reviews (narrative, systematic and meta-analysis) and other typologies (any other type of manuscript, e.g. letters to the editor). The participation of collaborative groups was not taken into account.

A total of 2369 publications were identified, 30.4% were original articles (n = 721), 8.6% were reviews (n = 205) and 60.9% were articles of other types (n = 1443). In total, 19 444 authors participated, 0.85% were Latin authors (n = 166) and only 8.4% were principal authors (n = 14/166). Respect the total number of publications of each type, Latin authors participated more frequently in original articles (n = 133; 18.4%) and less frequently in articles of other types (n = 17; 1.2%). Of the total number of publications, Latino participation was only 7%.

JACC was the journal with the highest participation of Latin authors in the total number of articles published (9.76%) and in the total number of authors (1.23%), followed by Circulation in both categories (7.3% and 0.79%, respectively). Circulation was the journal with the highest number of articles with Latino as main authors (n = 8/51; 15.6%), as well as of Latin authors over the total number of articles of other types (2.79%). In contrast, JACC led in the participation of Latino over the total number of original articles (29.18%) and reviews (14.85%). During the period under evaluation, out of the total number of articles published, JACC: Heart Failure was the journal that published the highest proportion of original articles (35.2%), JACC the highest proportion of reviews (12.6%), and JAMA Cardiology the highest proportion of articles corresponding to other types (64.8%). The Latin authors with the highest participation in the journals studied are described in Table 1.

Considering the data of the Latin authors with the highest participation in the study period, Brazil and Argentina are the countries with the most representative authors in cardiology. These authors have researcher profiles with outstanding metrics and a representative number of publications (especially Patricio López-Jaramillo, with 856 articles in Google Scholar, 322 articles in Scopus and an h-index of 90 and 65, respectively).

Articles published in TOP journals of a discipline in the world consist of studies or significant contributions to the global evidence. In this order of ideas, this type of analysis reflects the production of the highest level of evidence in cardiology from Latin America, with an impact on the global academic community in cardiovascular medicine. These results show that the JACC is the TOP journal in cardiology most attractive and with the greatest coverage for Latin authors, with special participation in original and review articles. However, overall, the publication of Latin authors during 2021 was very low (7%). Approximately 1 out of every 10 articles published in TOP cardiology journals includes a Latin author, and this group represent <1% of the total number of participating authors.

This is a call to continue with the efforts in the design and execution of high-quality studies in low- and middle-income countries, which allow the production of solid and applicable evidence to the context of global cardiology, to respond in a timely manner to the objectives of sustainable development and to control the burden of cardiovascular diseases.

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LMAA: Study concept and design, interpretation.
IDLM: Data collection and analysis, writing the paper.
LMMH: Study design, review and analysis.
YAPJ: Study concept, data analysis, writing the paper.
LRMS: Study concept, review the manuscript.
ARNR: Design, interpretation and reviewing the final manuscript.

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**Registration of research studies**

1. Name of the registry:
2. Unique Identifying number or registration ID:
3. Hyperlink to your specific registration (must be publicly accessible and will be checked):

**Guarantor**

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**Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**Reference**

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