

Fifteen years of growth, progress, and international reach: RECS reaches a defining milestone

Quince años de crecimiento, progreso y alcance internacional: RECS alcanza un hito decisivo

As we celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the Revista Española de Comunicación en Salud (RECS), I find myself filled with gratitude, pride, and emotion. Anniversaries do not automatically make a journal better or more important, but they offer a unique opportunity to pause, look back at the road travelled, and appreciate what we have built together. Today, RECS stands strong because of a community that has believed in its mission from the very beginning.

RECS was founded in 2010 by the Asociación Española de Comunicación en Salud, which aimed to create a scientific space dedicated to the growing field of health communication in Spanish. What began as a collective initiative driven by academic passion is now supported by the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, a partnership that reinforces our commitment to scientific rigor, editorial excellence, and international visibility.

When we launched RECS in 2010, this field was growing rapidly around the world, but there was no journal in our language that could serve as a home for researchers, clinicians, and professionals interested in the essential role of communication in health. We started with enthusiasm, a great deal of determination, and very limited resources, only the conviction that our community needed and deserved this space.

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Fifteen years later, that initial dream has become a mature and internationally recognized journal. One of the most meaningful achievements in our history has arrived in 2025: RECS has been indexed in Scopus, one of the most prestigious scientific databases worldwide. This achievement comes after already being indexed in Web of Science, marking a turning point in our scientific visibility and international reach. For a journal born from academic passion and voluntary effort, reaching this milestone is truly extraordinary.

Equally important, RECS has been awarded the FECYT quality seal for four consecutive years, a recognition that confirms our commitment to editorial excellence, scientific rigor, and high-quality publishing standards. Maintaining this distinction year after year demonstrates the trust that the scientific community places in us and highlights the daily dedication of our editors, reviewers, and authors.

Each of these achievements reflects countless hours of work: revising manuscripts, improving editorial processes, expanding our international collaborations, and adapting to a constantly evolving scientific environment. But above all, they reflect the power of a community that believes in the value of communication for better health.

In these fifteen years, the importance of health communication has become more visible and more urgent than ever before. The COVID-19 pandemic marked a profound turning point, reminding the world that accurate, timely, and empathetic communication can save lives while poor communication can cost them. Millions of people depended on clear messages to understand how to protect themselves and their communities. During those months, we saw the consequences of uncertainty, lack of transparency, and inconsistent messaging. We also witnessed how vulnerable groups were disproportionately affected when information did not reach them in an accessible or culturally sensitive way. The pandemic taught us that health communication is not an accessory to public health, it is one of its fundamental pillars.

At the same time, we entered an era defined by the rise of infodemia, an overwhelming wave of information, misinformation, and disinformation that spread as quickly as the virus itself. False health claims, conspiracy theories, and misleading content circulated globally, creating confusion, fear, and in many cases, tragic outcomes. Studies

now estimate that thousands of avoidable deaths were linked to disinformation during the pandemic, illustrating the devastating impact of poor communication on population health. Beyond COVID-19, disinformation continues to influence decisions around vaccines, treatments, nutrition, and chronic disease management. This reality reinforces the critical need for journals like RECS, which provide a scientific foundation for understanding, researching, and improving communication in health. As we move forward, strengthening evidence-based health communication will remain essential to protect lives, support public trust, and build healthier societies.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to RECS during these fifteen years: authors who shared their research, reviewers who generously offered their expertise, editors who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and readers who found value in our pages. You are the reason this journal exists and is kept alive.

As we look toward the future, we do so with optimism and renewed responsibility. Entering Scopus is not an endpoint, it is the beginning of a new stage. It challenges us to grow further, to strengthen the international presence of RECS, and to continue supporting research that improves communication in health systems and within societies.

Fifteen years ago, we could only imagine where RECS might go. Today, we celebrate not only how far we have come, but also the community that made it possible. Thank you for walking this path with us. May the next fifteen years bring even more progress, innovation, and shared achievements.

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