Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Determination of inflammatory biomarkers in patients with COPD: comparison of different assays

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 18 December 2011

**Reviewer:** Emiel Frans Maria Wouters

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors aim to evaluate the outcome of ELISA and nephelometry to assess CRP and SAA levels. The authors report lower CRP and SAA levels by ELISA. It remains unclear why the authors have not chosen a disease independent approach to answer their methodological hypothesis; Furthermore, it would be very interesting to become informed about the variability and reliability of both markers assessed by both methodologies.

This methodological study is integrated into a second study evaluating systemic inflammation assessed by CRP and SAA in COPD patients. The finding of increased CRP and SAA levels in COPD versus smoking controls offers limited new information. In order to evaluate this hypothesis, the study has limitations in terms of lack of age matched non-smoking controls, matching of smoking controls with the COPD population.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

Not applicable