Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of FTIR Spectroscopy as a diagnostic tool for lung cancer using sputum

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Dear Dr Chap,

Thank you for your correspondence and provisional acceptance of our manuscript pending change suggested by Reviewer 2. The requested major change is detailed below along with details of three minor changes suggested by the same reviewer.

Reviewer 2:

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Major change:

The paragraph referred to has been amended accordingly to include other reasons suggested by the reviewer for absorbance change between samples. We have removed a sentence to give less emphasis to the original single argument for absorbance change. Furthermore, the reference suggested by the reviewer has also been included to account for potential absorbance change due to molecular compaction. This reference is numbered 30 and subsequent references have been renumbered accordingly.

Minor change 1 - 'non-small cell carcinoma' moved from Discussion (p.19) to Methods (p.7) as requested.

Minor change 2 - 'compromised' changed to 'comprised' on p.8

Minor change 3 - '6' replaced with 'six' in Discussion on p.16

Best wishes,
Paul Lewis