Reviewer's report

**Title:** Determinants of high-sensitivity cardiac troponin T during acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a prospective cohort study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 November 2011

**Reviewer:** Jadwiga Wedzicha

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting paper on an important aspect of cardiovascular co-morbidity at COPD exacerbations. It involves further analysis of cardiac troponins at exacerbations and factors predicting their levels. There is nice cross-sectional data and also some longitudinal data presented. The results are very plausible as it is to be expected that the troponin levels at exacerbation would reflect cardiac co-morbidity.

I have a few minor comments.

The authors have divided up the cross-sectional and longitudinal data and they must also separate out patients with repeat events that has been partially done. It is important that analysis of biomarker prediction is performed on one event only as otherwise there will be bias.

The references need a bit of work and the authors have left out Donaldson et al in Chest 2010 that describes the relation of MI and COPD exacerbations. There is also some literature around fibrinogen as a risk factor at exacerbations that needs to be included.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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