Reviewer's report

Title: Measurement of MMP-9 and -12 degraded elastin (ELM) provides unique information on lung tissue degradation

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Reviewer: Farrah Kheramand

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper and the findings are of significant interest. There is a minor concern regarding the fact that the authors have not carefully examined prior work published in this field. In particular a recent paper entitled "Study of human lung elastin degradation by different elastases using high-performance liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry" by Begona Barroso, Nicolas Abello, Rainer Bischo has extensively examined elastin fragments and Lee et al (NM 2007) has found autoimmune response to the elastin fragments. The authors should use the existing literature to contrast with their current findings in this report.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.