Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 8 June 2012

Reviewer: Raja Abboud

Reviewer's report:

The authors have revised the manuscript satisfactorily, and responded adequately to the my requests for revision, and also to the other reviewers reviewers requests fanswered my comments.

However I find a minor essential revision which the authors should correct. In the METHODS, section titled "Clinical validation of ELN-441", In the first sentence COPD and IPF are combined into one group thus : "COPD and IPF (n=39)". It is not valid to combine them, since they are 2 different diseases with differing results. This shoud be revised to "COPD (n=10) and IPF (n=29)"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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