Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Effect of GSTM2-5 polymorphisms in relation to tobacco smoke exposures on lung function growth: a birth cohort study.

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Effect of GSTM2-5 polymorphisms in relation to tobacco smoke exposures on lung function growth: a birth cohort study.

Point-by-point response to the reviewers’ critique

We thank the reviewers and the editor for their insightful suggestions and revisions. We have incorporated their suggestions and thus improved our manuscript, which is now suitable for publication in the BMC Pulmonary Medicine. In the following pages, we have addressed each critique point by point:

Comments from the Reviewer:

Reviewer #1

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. Please reference the database used in the statement “All GSTM2-5 SNPs of interest were checked against a database containing SNPs that may artificially alter GSTM2-5 CpG site methylation.”

Response:

We agree for this need to refer to the database used to check the SNPs and methylation sites and changed the following descriptions in the Methods section, Laboratory analysis subsection:

“All GSTM2-5 SNPs of interest were checked against a database containing SNPs that may artificially alter GSTM2-5 CpG site methylation produced from dbSNP build v130 [22].”

22. Supporting manifest file for HumanMethylation450 beadchip


Also, reviewers requested additional information in the email as follows:

**Please include in the method section of the revised manuscript the name of the ethic committee that approved your study.

Response:

Apologies for the lack of clarification on the local research ethics committee. The second sentence of the Methods section, Study population section has been modified to read as follows:
“The local research ethics committee (National Research Ethics Service, NRES Committee South Central – Southampton B) approved the study and informed written parental consent was obtained for all participants at recruitment and subsequently at each follow-up.”