Reviewer's report

Title: Airway, but not serum or urinary, levels of YKL-40 reflect inflammation in early cystic fibrosis lung disease.

Version: 2 Date: 25 November 2013

Reviewer: Catherine Greene

Reviewer's report:

This is a carefully carried out body of work, the manuscript is well written and the conclusions are supported by the data. It will be of strong interest in the field of CF.

Minor essential revisions:
1. In the discussion please comment on the possible reasons for the correlation between BAL levels of YKL-40 and Phe508del heterozygosity.
2. Page 3, paragraph 2, line 3 '...and inflammation, in the lung.'
3. Page 3, paragraph 3, line 2 'A number of sputum(?) biomarkers....'
4. Page 4, line 1. INF is often more often commonly referred to as IFN.
5. Page 4, paragraph 2, line 5 '..YKL-40 as a potential...' 
6. Page 5, paragraph 3, line 2. Close bracket after (2, 8).
7. Page 9, paragraph 1, last sentence. '..and therefore are not...' 
8. Page 10, paragraph 2, line 10. '...infection seems unlikely.'
9. Figure 3. In the figure legend please explain the outliers in the (i) 'YKL-40 in BAL Infected with P. aeruginosa' and (ii) 'YKL-40 in serum Infected' samples.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests