Author's response to reviews

Title: Soluble receptor for advanced glycation end-products and progression of airway disease

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Chief Editor

*BMC Pulmonary Medicine*

Dear Sir

I, along with my coauthors, would like to ask you to consider the attached manuscript entitled “Soluble receptor for advanced glycation end products and progression of airway disease” for publication in the *BMC Pulmonary Medicine* as an original article.

Under normal physiological conditions the lung exhibits high basal level expression of the receptor for advanced glycation end products (RAGE), localized primarily in alveolar type I cells, suggesting a potentially important role for the receptor in maintaining lung homeostasis. In this study, we measured baseline plasma concentrations of soluble RAGE (sRAGE), and tested its predictive value for the progression of airway disease over a 4-year period in a cohort including smokers, non-smokers, and COPD patients. Based on the results, for the first time, we could demonstrate an association between lower baseline levels of sRAGE and progression of airflow limitation over time, especially in COPD patients, suggesting a protective role of RAGE in the lung.

Our findings are novel and we believe that the readers of the *BMC Pulmonary Medicine* will find them interesting and stimulating for further research.

This manuscript has not been published or presented elsewhere, and is not under consideration by another journal. All study participants provided informed consent, and the study design was approved by the appropriate ethics review boards. All the authors have read the manuscript and approved the submission to your esteemed journal. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Hiroshi Iwamoto