Author's response to reviews

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

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Version: 5 Date: 3 April 2014

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Paolo Paredi,

Thank you for your E-mail dated 2 Apr 2014. We have revised our manuscript to BMC Pulmonary Medicine. Point-by-point responses are following.

1) The novel finding presented in this manuscript is the correlation between RAGE plasma levels and lung function decline. Despite the protective effect of RAGE, the authors found a positive correlation between its concentrations and FEV1/FVC. This indicates that subjects with higher concentrations of RAGE present a faster decline of lung function. This is in contrast with the findings presented in reference 26 and with the concept of a protective effect of RAGE.

RESPONSE
The delta FEV1/FVC is "FEV1/FVC at follow up minus FEV1/FVC at baseline". Accordingly, higher delta FEV1/FVC indicates non-decliner, which is associated with higher sRAGE levels. We have revised Result section to help readers to understand this point.

2) Figure 2 shows percent changes of the lung function. I would prefer to see the same correlations using absolute values.

RESPONSE
We have added Supplementary Figure1 to show relationship between plasma sRAGE and longitudinal change of FEV1 (L).

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to resubmit our work to the BMC pulmonary medicine. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
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