Reviewer’s report

Title: A Cross-sectional Study of Alterations of Serum Factors Associated with Lung Ventilation Function Impairment in Coal Workers

Version: 1 Date: 17 May 2011

Reviewer: Antonio Mutti

Reviewer’s report:

The Authors assessed spirometric indexes and biomarkers of inflammation in serum of coal miners, and looked at any relationship among variables.

Major

Title: The term serum factors is too vague

Introduction
- It is hard to see hyperinflation on chest X ray, rather I would say TC
- A stronger rationale on the use choice of blood biomarkers is needed

Methods
- How did you check for smoking habit?
- What criteria have you used for the definition of CWP?
- What spirometric normal values have you used?
- Why lung volume and CO diffusion was not measured?

Results
- I would describe spirometric values in terms of % of predicted values
- Data on blood biomarkers have not been reported

Minor

Conclusion
- I would not write decline, rather alterations

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.