Author's response to reviews

Title: Elevated levels of anti inflammatory Interleukin 10 and pro inflammatory interleukin 17 in malignant pleural effusions.

Authors:

Michael Klimatsidas Dr (kimas2005@yahoo.com)
Kyriakos Anastasiadis Prof (anastasiadisk@hotmail.com)
Christoforos Foroulis Prof (cforoulis@otenet.gr)
Paschalis Tossios Prof (ptossios@hotmail.com)
Aleksandros Bisiklis Dr (alexbisiklis@gmail.com)
Christos Papakonstantinou Prof (cardiothorax.auth@gmail.com)
Kyriakos Rammos Prof (cardiothorax.auth@gmail.com)

Version: 2 Date: 7 July 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sirs,

Thank you very much for your valuable comments and recommendations from your reviewers. Our answers and actions are as follows:

**Reviewer Dr Dimitrios Paliouras**
- Tables and figures are uploaded one time only (done)
- Prof Anastasiadis institution is University of AHEPA (added)
- Some of the date of table - 1 are added in the text as well (done)
- Not using italics (done)

**Reviewer Dr Timotheos Kelpis**
- We also agree that larger numbers of patients are needed to establish safer results, that is the reason why we are not using dogmatic language in our conclusions. Actually we intent of organizing a bigger study. In that stage we would like to point that IL-10 is well known to have high levels in malignant pleural effusions (chen et al, 1996*, 24 samples studied). Also, we have chosen to double and triple analyze our samples so as to have maximum accuracy in our results taking into consideration the limited funding.
- In regards to IL-17 samples we agree that measuring the levels of them in time intervals should be the next step. Before that though we had to investigate if it is measurable and after that to see the variances if any, taking again into consideration the limited funding. In addition, we have to emphasize that chest drain insertion was the one and only surgical intervention and nothing else e.g By pass circulation, treatment with a medication, operation, radiation, chemotherapy e.t.c. Again we are mentioning this seminal paper of Chen et al, 1996* where almost identical methodology was implemented. Now, as the next step, it would be extremely helpful to design a study measuring the levels in regards with time.

**Reviewer Dr Georgios Karapanagiotidis**
- We think that the issues posed by this reviewer (number of patients, time snapshots levels of interleukins) were answered above.

In Overall, we think that almost all of the remarks were addressed adequately.

We are looking forward to Editors remarks.

Yours Sincerely,