Reviewer’s report

Title: Prospective Multicenter Randomized Patient Recruitment and Sample Collection to Enable Future Measurements of Sputum Biomarkers of Inflammation in an Observational Study of Cystic Fibrosis

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2018

Reviewer: EMER REEVES

Reviewer’s report:

This study by TG Liou and Colleagues demonstrated that randomly-selected, sputum-producing patients within the MWCFC represent have similar characteristics, lung function and frequencies of pulmonary exacerbations, microbial infections and use of CF-specific treatments to sputum producing patients in the CFFPR. The methodology employed was designed to minimize observer bias in recruitment of patients with CF.

My main concern on this study is the limited information provided on sputum collection and processing. As sputum samples are intended for biomarker identification and inaccuracies for HMGB-1 measurements are reported, it is vital that further information on how samples were processed is included.

The authors should compare their techniques of sputum sampling and processing for different barkers with the most recent published advances in this field.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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