Author’s response to reviews

Title: Lung function changes from childhood to adolescence: a seven-year follow-up study

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Dear Editor of *BMC Pulmonary Medicine*:

Please find enclosed the manuscript “Lung function changes from childhood to adolescence: a seven-year follow-up study” by P. Piccioni *et al.* In my view, the relevance of the results summarized in the manuscript is three-fold. Firstly, lung disorders are common in children and the prevalence of childhood pulmonary diseases, especially the bronchial asthma, is increasing worldwide. Secondly, the Global Lung Function Initiative (GLI) equations are valid in evaluating lung function during development, at least in terms of lung volume measurements. Thirdly, the FEF25-75 may be a useful tool for clinical and epidemiological studies of childhood asthma.

Some information about the results presented:

- the manuscript is an original work, has not been previously published, and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere;
- the voluntary participation of all the human subjects did not occur until after informed consent was obtained;
- all authors have disclosed any potential, perceived, or real competing interest regarding the submitted article and the nature of those interests;
- all the authors have read the manuscript, agree that the work is ready for submission to *BMC Pulmonary Medicine*, and accept responsibility for the manuscript's contents.
- This study was financially supported by a grant from the local University of Turin to Roberto Bono and by a grant from Regione Piemonte to Pavilio Piccioni.

Below you point out 5 qualified referees:

- Prof. Giovanni Viegi; Unit of Pulmonary Environmental Epidemiology, Institute of Clinical Physiology, Italian National Research Council (IFC-CNR). viegig@ifc.cnr.it
- Prof. Roberto De Marco, Department of Medicine and Public Health, University of Verona, Italy. roberto.demarco@univr.it
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- Prof. Carlo Albera. Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria San Luigi Gonzaga Regione Gonzole, 10. 10043 ORBASSANO – (TO). carlo.albera@unito.it
Ethics Committee.
This study was approved by the Ethics Committee "St. Luigi Gonzaga Hospital" which was established according to the Legislative Decree n. 211 (24/6/2013). This Legislative Decree has attributed to the Ethics Committee “St. Luigi Gonzaga” the activities previously carried out by the Ethics Committee “ASL TO2” now dissolved.
The reference to the approval of the Ethics Committee is reported in the manuscript in the section: "Study Population".

Hoping that the manuscript may fulfil the scientific standards of *BMC Pulmonary Medicine*, my best regards.

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