Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Diagnostic and prognostic utility of mid-expiratory flow rate in older community-dwelling persons with respiratory symptoms, but without chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 19 June 2015

**Reviewer:** Anand Iyer

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is an excellent and important study better characterizing the maximal expiratory flow at 50% of the forced vital capacity (MEF50) which is an easily obtainable spirometry test and offers interesting associations with undiagnosed heart failure and risk for acute bronchitis in older adults with dyspnea and without central airway obstruction. The authors provide a well-written report in a population that is not well-characterized currently (older adults). Furthermore, this is important, as causes of dyspnea can be quite difficult to discern in this patient population.

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions: It is not necessary to provide long descriptions of statistical methods after each table. For instance, in Table 1, please consider not including a full description of mMRC scale in the description following the table.

Discretionary Revisions: None

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.