Author’s response to reviews

Title: Serum (1-3)-β-D-Glucan and Galactomannan Levels in Patients with Cystic Fibrosis: a Retrospective Cohort Study

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Point to point reply:

Reviewer #1

Comment by the reviewer: “please change Pseudallescheria boydii for Scedosporium species on line 69 and for Scedosporium sp. on line 220, and Scedosporium prolificans for Lomentospor- ra prolificans on line 220”

Response: We changed the manuscript accordingly.

Comment by the reviewer: “Please indicate if cultures were performed on agar slants or on agar plates.”

Response: Cultures were performed on agar plates. We added this information to the manu-script (page 4, line 96-97).

Comment by the reviewer: “The use of a selective culture medium greatly facilitates the detection of Scedosporium species form respiratory secretions in CF. This should be cited in the limitations of the study since Scedosporium species also have beta-D-glucan in the cell wall.”

Response: We added this limitation of our study to the manuscript (page 14, line 338-341).
Comment by the reviewer: “please delete "associated with A. fumigatus" in the last sentence of the abstract”

Response: We deleted the phrase.

Comment by the reviewer: “Fillaux et al. (2012) also demonstrated a correlation between persistent carriage of Aspergillus fumigatus and a decreased lung function.”

Response: We included the reference (page 3, line 70).

Reviewer #2

Comment by the reviewer: “In page 7, lines 159-160, authors mention group of patients as "significantly older" while describing the results. Similarly in page 8, line 197 and page 9, line 216. It will be useful to add a number or range together with 'significantly older' remark in the results section.”

Response: We added the additional information (page 7, line 160; page 8, line 196; page 9, line 217).

Comment by the reviewer: “In results section Page 8, Line 196-198, authors write "….patients with persistent A. fumigatus detection were significantly older, had a higher BMI and were more often colonized with P. aeruginosa...". On the other hand in discussion section, Page 10, Line 241-242 "….patients were in a more advanced stage of disease, i.e. they were older, had a lower BMI, were more often colonized or infected with P. aeruginosa...". Please correct the statement for BMI accordingly.”

Response: We corrected the statement on page 10, line 242.

Comment by the reviewer: “Figure one Title Page 14, Line 356, Aspergillus fumigatus should be in italics”

Response: We changed the manuscript accordingly (page 14, line 361).