Author’s response to reviews

Title: Annual decline in forced expiratory volume and airway inflammatory cells and mediators in a general population-based sample

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We appreciate the efforts of the Editor and Reviewers to evaluate and comment on our manuscript, which we believe has improved the manuscript.

Editor Comments (EC):

EC 1: “Would be consistent about asthma COPD overlap. Though the authors acknowledge that BD reversibility is not a comprehensive definition of ACO, they are still defining BD reversibility as ACO in the methods (lines 13-14, page 8)”.

Author reply: “We thank the reviewer’s for comments. The sentence that the reviewer refers to is now removed. “

EC 2:”The methods section should describe the methods employed for the multivariable models described in the results section (last paragraph on page 15). Are all the covariates included together or were separate models employed for each cytokine? Were there other variables adjusted for in the models?”
Author reply: “We used regression analyses for the multivariable analyses and all covariates were included together. Multivariable models were not adjusted for the other variables. See page 11, line 3-4.”

EC 3: “Would also include that the impact of DTT on cytokines measures is not predictable (not much data about its effect) and could have impacted results.”

Author reply: “It is now added in the text. See page 21, line 18-19.”