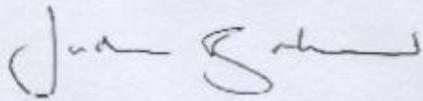
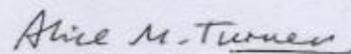


Yours sincerely,



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16th July 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4219-edited.doc).

Title: Early COPD: beyond spirometry

Author: Judith Brebner, Alice Turner

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Respirology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2429

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

Reviewer 1

- In line 12 on page 3, the phrase of "there is" is doubled.
 - *This has now been deleted*
- This reviewer cannot figure out what the phrase of "regardless of this by this time" in 2nd line from the bottom of page 6 mean.
 - *This has now been rephrased*

Reviewer 2

- It is not clear the implications of salbutamol in the title. It is necessary to mentioned why authors attempt to focus on salbutamol specifically. As a title, Early COPD:beyond spirometry appears to be sufficient for this review.
 - *The title has been changed according to the suggestion of the reviewer*
- Page 3 line13: "there is" is repeated.
 - *This has now been deleted*
- Page 11 line 8: There is no period at the end of the sentence.

- *This has now been added*

Reviewer 3

- In the Introduction section, line 11, delete the "there is" repeated twice.
 - *This has been deleted*
- In the section, "Current guidelines and potential pitfalls", consider adding a reference at the end of sentence No.3 (when describing the diagnosis of COPD).
 - *References have now been added*
- Page 6, Line9, consider revising the sentence. It seems odd to say "will at one stage have had". 4.
 - *This has been rephrased*
- Page 11, very last line, instead of saying "with and FEV1", change to "with an FEV1".
 - *This has been changed*

Reviewer 4

- COPD is a heterogeneous disease. A significant proportion of patients with chronic airflow obstruction (CAO) do not report respiratory symptoms. How to find those patients in early stage in our clinical practice? Some experts object to recommending PFT for screening COPD from population study because of cost. For early diagnosis of COPD, how about the cost-effectiveness of other methods other than spirometry?
 - *We agree this is an important point. As discussed in the article there is no consensus opinion on the best approach but peak flow and questionnaires have been utilized in some studies*
- Two figures should be changed and legends should be added.
 - *We have not changed the figures as we are not clear what sort of revision the reviewer feels is necessary*
 - *We have now added legends (which we have taken from the main body of the text)*
- The title cannot reflect the whole point of the review
 - *It is difficult to reflect the whole point of the review in the title given the word limit. However, we hope that the abstract and core tip will provide readers with an overview of the content of this article.*

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Respiriology*.