

Editor's comments:

The study limitations should be extensively addressed.

The conclusions should be toned down.

The importance of angiogenesis should be briefly discussed: Angiogenesis in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: a translational appraisal. Transl Med UniSa. 2012;3:49-56.

Authors' feedback:

The study limitations have been included (see lines 330-342)

The conclusions were toned down accordingly (see lines 323- 325)

Importance of angiogenesis has been described in the introduction as part of the pathophysiology of PM_{2.5} exposure (see lines 46 – 54).