J. Vestbo has received honoraria for consulting and presenting from AstraZeneca, Bioxydyn, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Chiesi pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Pfizer, Sounds Biotech, Syntaxin and Takeda. He has also held a research grant from GlaxoSmithKline. His wife, I. Vestbo, has previously worked in the pharmaceutical industry. J. Vestbo received DKK 267,000 in the mid-1980s from the Scandinavian Tobacco Charity Foundation as an unrestricted research grant for epidemiologic research.

J.A. Anderson is employed by and holds shares in GlaxoSmithKline.

P.M.A. Calverley has served on advisory boards for GlaxoSmithKline, Boehringer Ingelheim, Nycomed and the Department of Health Respiratory Programme Board. He has been a consultant for Novartis. P.M.A. Calverley has received honoraria for advising on the conduct and analysis of clinical trial data from AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, Nycomed and Novartis. He has also spoken at meetings supported by these companies. Support for travel to meetings has been provided by AstraZeneca.

B. Celli has received grants to the Pulmonary Division where he works. The funds were destined to complete research studies and were received from GlaxoSmithKline, Boehringer Ingelheim, Forrest Medical, AstraZeneca and Aeris. He has also received advisory board payments from GSK, Boehringer Ingelheim, Almirall, AstraZeneca, Aeris and Deep Breeze.

C. Crim is an employee of GlaxoSmithKline, the sponsor of the clinical trial described in the manuscript, and hold shares of stock in the company.

B. Haumann is an employee of GlaxoSmithKline and is a shareholder of GlaxoSmithKline.

F.J. Martinez has participated in advisory boards in COPD and or IPF development for Actelion, Almirall, American Institutes for Research, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BoomComm, Cardiomems, Center for Health Care Education, Elan, Forest, GlaxoSmithKline, HCRC, IntraMed, Ikaria, Janssens, JK Associates, MedImmune, Merck, Merion, Novartis, Nycomed/Takeda, Pearl, Pfizer, Schering, Sudler and Hennessey and UBC. He has been a member of Steering Committee for COPD or IPF studies sponsored by Actelion, Centocor, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Forest, MPex, and Nycomed/Takeda. He has participated in FDA Mock panels for Boehringer Ingelheim and Forest. The University of Michigan received funds from Boehringer Ingelheim for a COPD study. F.J. Martinez has served on Speaker's Bureaus or in CME activities sponsored by ACCP, American Lung Association, Almirall, AstraZeneca, William Beaumont Hospital, Boehringer Ingelheim, Center for Healthcare Education, CME Incite, ePocrates, Forest, France Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, Lovelace, MedEd, NACE, Nycomed/Takeda, Potomac, Prescott, Sanofi Aventis, St. Luke's Hospital, University of Virginia and UpToDate. He has received royalties from Associates in Medical Marketing, Informa and Castle Connolly.

J. Yates is an employee of and owns stock in GlaxoSmithKline

D.E. Newby has received funds for research from the Technology Strategy Board: Stratified Medicines Programme: Inflammatory biomarkers for more effective drugs for £1,515,879 and for ERICA (Evaluation of the role of inflammation in non-pulmonary disease manifestations in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)). He also has a joint grant from GSK and is a co-applicant.