

I.J. Armstrong has received consultancy and lecturing fees and been funded to attend conferences from Actelion, Bayer, Encysive, GSK, Pfizer and United Therapeutics.

C. Billings has received support for equipment from Phillips Respironics, lecturing fees from Allen & Hanbury and Pfizer and been funded to attend conferences from Encysive, GSK, Lilly and Pfizer.

R. Condliffe has received honoraria for lecturing from Actelion and GSK, has sat on advisory boards for Actelion and Bayer and has received conference funding from Actelion, GSK, Pfizer and United Therapeutics. RC is an investigator within the National Institute for Health Research Sheffield Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit.

C. Davies has received conference funding from Pfizer

C.A. Elliot has sat on advisory boards for, received consultancy and lecturing fees from and been funded to attend conferences from Actelion, Bayer, Encysive, GSK, Pfizer and United Therapeutics. CAE is an investigator within the National Institute for Health Research Sheffield Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit.

N. Hamilton has received consultancy and lecturing fees and been funded to attend conferences from Actelion, Encysive, GSK and Pfizer.

C. Hill has received conference funding from Pfizer and fees for lecturing from GE.

J. Hurdman is part funded as a clinical research fellow by an unrestricted educational grant from Actelion and has received funding to attend conferences from Actelion, GSK and Pfizer.

D.G. Kiely has sat on advisory boards for, received consultancy and lecturing fees from and been funded to attend conferences from Actelion, Bayer, Encysive, GSK, Pfizer and United Therapeutics. DGK is an investigator within the National Institute for Health Research Sheffield Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit.

R. Lawson I have not declared any conflict of interest as I know of no specific products being developed or marketed that this study might directly influence. I have however accepted fees to support research from GSK, participated in multi-centre studies sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer, accepted fees to organise educational activities on behalf of GSK, attended advisory boards on behalf of GSK, Novartis and Boehringer Ingelheim, and spoken at meetings organised or supported by these three companies and by Nycomed. As these companies are active in drug treatment of COPD this study will be of general interest to them and could possibly help shape their commercial activities in future.

S. Rajaram is part funded as a clinical research fellow by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer

I. Sabroe has received honoraria for lecturing from Astra-Zeneca, GSK and Triniti-Chiesi and been funded to attend conferences by Actelion, Astra-Zeneca and GSK. He receives financial support from GSK for an educational meeting he runs. Work in his lab is funded by a GSK/BBSRC CASE studentship.

J.M. Wild has received unrestricted educational grants from GE and GSK and conference funding, been paid to speak at ERS and advised GE Healthcare, Merck and Schering Plough on lung MRI methods