**Suppl. Table I. Correlation of Lung function parameters with sputum biomarker.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lung function parameter** | **Sputum Biomarker** | **correlation (r-value)** | **p-value** |
| FEV1 (%) | sputum cell load (x104/mL) | -0.3477 | <0.05 |
| FEV1 (%) | sputum TNF-a protein | -0.5349 | <0.05 |
| FEV1/FVC ratio | sputum TNF-a protein | -0.4638 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum cell load (x104/mL) | -0.3169 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum neutrophils | -0.3275 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum IL1b protein | -0.3270 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum IL6 protein | -0.3138 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum CXCL-8 protein | -0.3457 | <0.05 |
| MEF25 (%) | sputum TNF-a protein | -0.6495 | <0.001 |
| RV (%) | sputum cell load (x104/mL) | 0.3521 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum neutrophils | 0.3805 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum IL1b protein | 0.3868 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum IL6 protein | 0.3456 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum CXCL-8 protein | 0.3171 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum TNF-a protein | 0.3422 | <0.05 |
| RV (%) | sputum IL1b mRNA expression | 0.4418 | <0.01 |
| RV (%) | sputum CXCL8 mRNA expression | 0.4554 | <0.01 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum cell load (x104/mL) | 0.3755 | <0.05 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum neutrophils | 0.3454 | <0.05 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum IL1b protein | 0.3975 | <0.01 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum TNFa protein | 0.5302 | <0.001 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum IL1b mRNA expression | 0.3167 | <0.05 |
| RV/TLC (%) | sputum CXCL8 mRNA expression | 0.3188 | <0.05 |

**Suppl. Table II.** Correlation of inflammatory cell load and neutrophil counts with sputum biomarker.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Sputum biomarker*** | ***correlation (r-value)*** | ***p-value*** |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | IL-1beta protein | 0.8083 | <0.0001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | IL-6 protein | 0.7360 | <0.0001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | CXCL-8 protein | 0.8233 | <0.0001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | TNF-a protein | 0.5470 | 0.0001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | *IL1beta* mRNA expression | 0.6776 | <0.001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | *IL6* mRNA expression | 0.3687 | <0.05 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | *CXCL8* mRNA expression | 0.7502 | <0.001 |
| Inflammatory cell load (x104 cells/mL) | *TNFalpha* mRNA expression | 0.3070 | <0.05 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | IL-1beta protein | 0.7278 | <0.0001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | IL-6 protein | 0.7922 | <0.0001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | CXCL-8 protein | 0.7067 | <0.0001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | TNF-alpha protein | 0.6152 | <0.0001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | *IL1beta* mRNA expression | 0.7927 | <0.001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | *IL6* mRNA expression | 0.4628 | <0.01 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | *CXCL8* mRNA expression | 0.8070 | <0.001 |
| Sputum Neutrophil counts (%) | *TNFalpha* mRNA expression | 0.4039 | <0.01 |