June 26, 2015

Richard Irwin, MD

*CHEST* Global Headquarters

2595 Patriot Blvd  
Glenview, IL 60026

Re: The Effect of Indwelling Arterial Catheters in Hemodynamically Stable Patients With Respiratory Failure: A Propensity Score Analysis (CHEST-15-0516.R1)

Dear Dr. Irwin,

We would like to thank the reviewers for their comments regarding our manuscript, “The Effect of Indwelling Arterial Catheters in Hemodynamically Stable Patients With Respiratory Failure: A Propensity Score Analysis,” submitted to *CHEST*. Below, please find our point-by-point response to reviewer comments.

Thank you again for your consideration. We would be delighted to be given the opportunity to publish our paper in your prestigious journal.

Sincerely,

Douglas Hsu, MD

**REVIEWER 1**

1.  We thank the reviewer for pointing out the grammatical choice in wording. We have changed “small” to “rare” in the main text.

**REVIEWER 2**

1. We thank the reviewer for pointing out the language suggests a casual relationship, which is not our intention. We have updated the title to, “The Association Between Indwelling Arterial Catheters and Mortality in Hemodynamically Stable Patients With Respiratory Failure: A Propensity Score Analysis.” We have also updated the wording in the Abstract (Background) to, “The purpose of this study is to assess whether IAC use is associated with mortality in mechanically ventilated patients who do not require vasopressor support.**”**

2. The reviewer makes an excellent point about providing additional information about baseline characteristics in the matched and unmatched cohorts. We have added an additional table (eTable 4) to the appendix that provides descriptive and univariate comparisons between the matched and unmatched cohorts.

**Comments from Editorial Office:**

1. We have added project approval numbers for both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Institutional Review Boards to the main text.