



**Supplementary Fig. 3.** Correlations between the total number of exacerbations and corticosteroid dosage. (A) Inhaled corticosteroids (Spearman's  $\rho=0.197$ ,  $P=0.019$ ) and (B) systemic corticosteroids (Spearman's  $\rho=0.034$ ,  $P=0.684$ ).