Fig. 1. **Electron microscopy of lung parenchyma**

Photomicrographs are representative of data derived from lung sections obtained from five rats in each group. ΔP_L: transpulmonary driving pressure; V_T: tidal volume, PEEP: positive end-expiratory pressure. Note cytoplasmic degeneration of type II pneumocyte (PII), with damaged alveolar capillary barrier and presence of interstitial edema (ED). Arrowhead: surfactant extrusion; A, alveolar space; E: erythrocyte; double arrow: ACB. Note presence of different degrees of interstitial edema and disarrangement of type II epithelial cells with degenerative features in lamellar bodies (asterisks) depending on the combination of V_T and PEEP. Greater damage to epithelial cells, as well as rupture of alveolar capillary membrane (circle), thus allowing increased edema, occurred in animals ventilated with V_T = 22 ml/kg and PEEP = 3 cmH_2O. Animals ventilated with V_T = 6 ml/kg and PEEP = 11 cmH_2O presented less epithelial damage and edema.