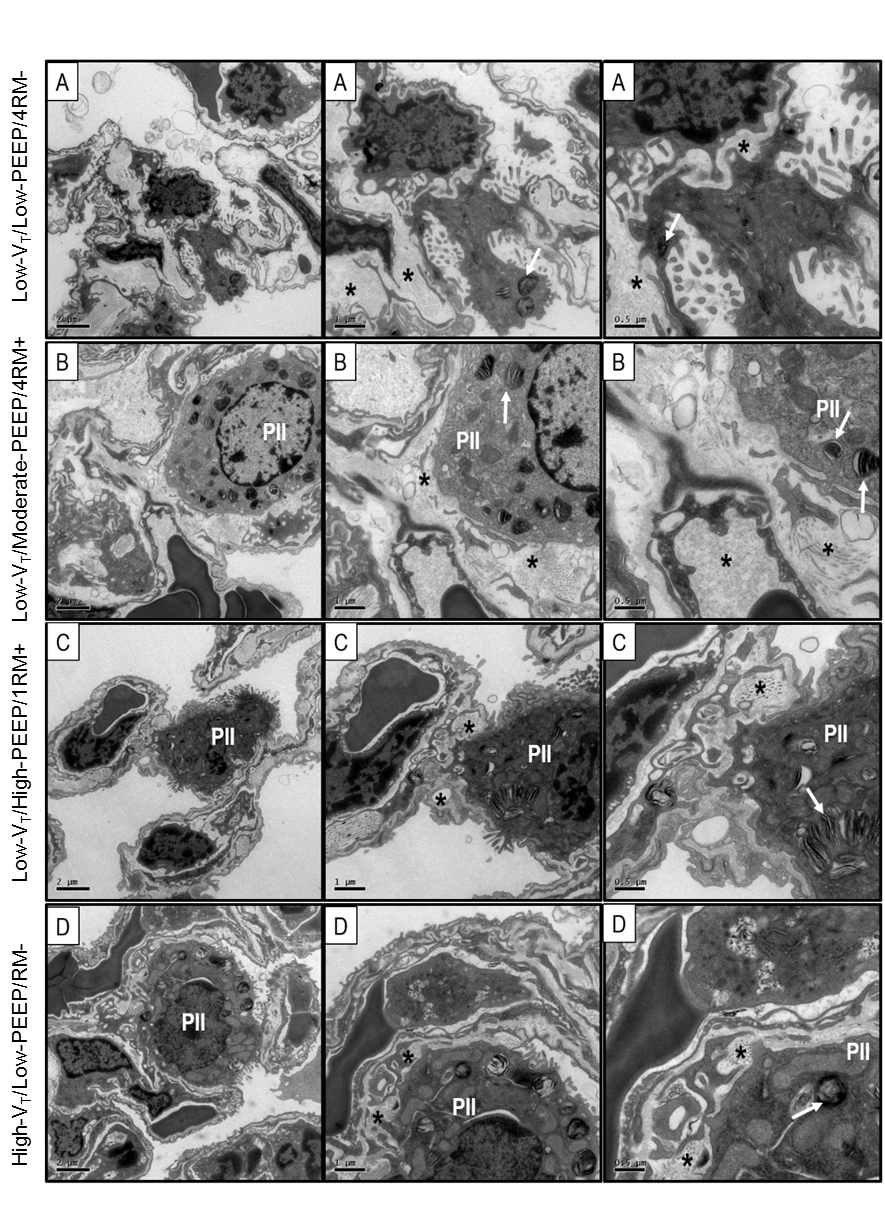
**Supplemental Digital Content 8**

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**Supplemental Figure 4:** **Electron microscopy of lung parenchyma.** Photomicrographs are representative of data obtained from lung sections of five animals per group. Low-VT/Low-PEEP/RM-: VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 1 cmH2O and no RMs; Low-VT/Moderate-PEEP/4RM+: VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 3 cmH2O and RMs before laparotomy and every 1 hour thereafter; Low-VT/High-PEEP/1RM+: VT = 7 mL/kg with PEEP = 6 cmH2O and RMs before laparotomy; High-VT/Low-PEEP/RM-: VT = 14 mL/kg with PEEP = 1 cmH2O and no RMs. Type II epithelial cell (PII) damage with bizarre lamellar bodies (arrows) was observed mainly in group High-VT/Low-PEEP/RM-. No endothelial cell damage was observed. Moreover, Low-VT/Moderate-PEEP/RM+ group presented less alveolar-capillary damage. No significant changes were observed in extracellular matrix (asterisk) animals.