

ATS 2013 Session CONTROVERSIES IN SLEEP APNEA PATHOPHYSIOLOGY: AN EXPERT DEBATE

This session organized by Andrew Wellman, Danny Eckert and Amy Jordan and chaired by Danny Eckert, Indu Ayappa, and Susheel Patil brought together 8 leaders in the field to debate 4 key controversial topics in sleep apnea pathophysiology. The four PRO/CON topics covered were: 1) Arousals predispose to subsequent respiratory events (Younes and Jordan), 2) The upper airway can be modelled as a Starling resistor (Schwartz and Butler), 3) In OSA, the upper airway closes on expiration (Badr and Wellman), and 4) low PCO₂ is essential for ventilatory control instability (Dempsey and Francis).

Each of the debates led to a lively exchange of ideas and concepts. In certain cases some degree of consensus was achieved and important insight into the arguments for and against each topic was obtained. However, a show of hands from the full room of attendees at the end of each debate and the audience questions that followed revealed that these controversial topics will continue to warrant further investigation in the years to come. The organizers would like to thank each of the speakers for their contributions towards this successful session.