Announcements:

Thanks were given to Drs. Christina Pabelick and Y.S. Prakash for supporting our trainee awards. These awards will be named in honor of Jeffrey A, Whitsett, M.D. in honor of his numerous contributions to understanding neonatal lung disease and basic mechanisms of lung development.

The process for selection of the awardees was described. Qualified abstracts needed to be from a trainee (student, resident, fellow) or early stage investigator as defined by ATS. Briefly the top 20 scoring abstracts listed under the “BPD and other congenital lung diseases” along with highly scored abstracts from other categories that contained the keywords “neonatal” or “developing lung” were selected and voted on by members of the NDLIG steering committee.

The Whitsett Awardees for 2018 were announced:

Dr. N.S. Higano, Cincinnati Children’s Medical Center. “Neonatal Pulmonary MRI of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia Predicts Short-Term Clinical Outcomes.”

Dr. S. Rao, Stanford, “Endothelial Specific Deletion of IKKb in the Early Alveolar Lung Impairs Alveolarization and VEGF-Mediated Angiogenesis”

Dr. L Wheeler, Mayo Clinic. “Targeting Soluble Guanylate Cyclase for Hyperoxia-Induced Neonatal Airway Dysfunction”

Dr. A Goodwin, University of Nottingham. “Mice Deficient in Mesenchymal Gαq/11 Signalling Have Airspace Enlargement and Increased Alveolar Wall Thickness Consistent with Defective Alveolarisation”.

Dr. Henry Rozycki will step down as chair of the NDLIG steering committee following his two-year term. Current co-chair, Dr. Lawrence Nogee, will take over the role of chair, and Dr. Trent Tipple will be the new co-chair.

An announcement was made that efforts are being made to provide continuing support for awards through contributions to ATS Foundation, designated to Pediatric Assembly. $5,500 has already been pledged from members of the NDLIG steering committee.

Next year’s featured Speaker was announced and will be Steve Abman, Colorado Children’s Hospital and University of Colorado.

Dr. Anna-Karina Perl delivered her featured lecture on “Alveolarization and the Role of Epithelial-Mesenchymal Crosstalk”, followed by a brief question and answer session.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:55.