Pulmonary alveolar proteinosis (PAP) is a rare lung disease, with an incidence of approximately 0.2 cases per million. Due to its low prevalence, many physicians including pulmonologists have not had exposure to patients with this disease. Therefore, as many physicians are unfamiliar with the disease, because the presenting signs and symptoms are insidious and nonspecific, and because many are unfamiliar with available diagnostic tests, the diagnosis is often delayed. In fact, the true incidence of the disease is likely higher than that cited above due to missed diagnoses. In recent years, there has been an emerging literature elucidating the pathogenesis of the disease, which has identified novel therapeutic targets. However, many are unfamiliar with these new findings. Effective treatments are available but many physicians do not know how to prescribe and administer these treatments. Trials to test promising therapies are underway but low enrollment is due to lack of physician awareness.

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Program Goal:
1. Understand the clinical signs and symptoms and new diagnostic criteria for PAP.
2. Understand pathogenesis of PAP and emerging literature on mechanism of disease.
3. Know the available treatments and be aware of current clinical trials and other resources.

Target Audience: Critical Care Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Pulmonology Medicine

Financial Disclosure Information:
Richard Matthay, MD, Course Director for this educational activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose. Deborah Lovejoy, coordinator for this educational activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose. Charles Dela Cruz, MD, moderator for this educational activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose. Rachel Zemans, MD, faculty for this educational activity, has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.

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