I am excited to announce the formation of the Mountain West Society of Plastic Surgeons (MWSPS). Our first annual meeting will be held at Devil’s Thumb Ranch from March 3rd to March 6th in Tabernash, Colorado. The mission of this regional society is to promote research and support education in the field of plastic surgery and foster the development of plastic surgery in the western region of the United States. The MWSPS will include plastic surgeons and plastic surgery programs in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. The establishment of an annual meeting will provide a vehicle for scientific interchange and for networking of surgeons, residents, nurses, researchers and guests who are involved in plastic surgery. This society will also serve to recognize achievements in research and education and promote collaboration between plastic surgeons across the region.

The four institutions with plastic surgery training programs in the region (Mayo Scottsdale, University of Colorado, University of Nevada and University of Utah) have all committed to support this new society and to participate in the annual meeting. The University of Colorado will provide the CME credit for the meeting. Devil’s Thumb Ranch is near Winter Park, Colorado and the meeting will be structured to allow time for education and skiing. We will have a morning and a late afternoon scientific session that will encompass aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery with expert speakers from both fields.

I have been fortunate enough to participate in meetings for the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Northwestern Society of Plastic Surgeons. In each instance I have found the experiences quite rewarding from both an educational and social perspective. These regional meetings offer the unique opportunity to present and speak about issues related to plastic surgery and to build friendships with other plastic surgeons from the region. I hope that you will be able to join us for the inaugural meeting of the Western Society of Plastic Surgeons.

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