

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

For the past 27 years, through several incarnations, the Mountain States Genetics Foundation has been proud to sponsor its Annual Genetics Meeting and Education Conference each summer. These meetings, first in Steamboat Springs and more recently in Denver, Colorado, have offered a truly unique opportunity for medical practitioners, laboratory professionals, genetic counselors and consumers in the Mountain States to learn about genetics, and to share experience and resources in a congenial, supportive atmosphere.

However, due to changes in the economy and the declining ability of many stakeholders to continue to attend the annual meeting, we regretfully have decided to take the meeting in its previous format on hiatus while we explore other options for serving our constituents and conserving our resources. As friends, colleagues and stakeholders, the Board of Directors of the MSGF has been honored to help further the understanding of medical genetics and we fully intend to continue to pursue this goal. Please be assured that the MSGF Board remains firmly committed to our mission and the vision of our founder, Dr. Bob McCurdy, to be the primary independent voice advocating and supporting education, awareness and access to medical genetics information and services in our region.

In fact, in the coming months we hope to reach even further with the potential to offer accredited continuing education plus focused learning and networking programs both in physical and virtual formats. The expanding opportunities for distance learning, video conferencing and online accredited education courses are opening new channels for the Foundation to serve our stakeholders. In a few weeks, we will launch our new website. This will be the first of many steps to expand communications with you and we hope that you will find it a valuable resource for education and information about genetics research and services.

As always, your comments, ideas and feedback are very welcome as we set new goals and reshape our organization and offerings to meet the needs of our colleagues and friends in the 21st century. We look forward to hearing from you in the days and months to come.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan", written in a cursive style.

Susan Bryan
President
Mountain States Genetics Foundation