

# FOREWORD

**P**lastic surgeons are natural innovators, adept at identifying problems and devising unique solutions to address them. Throughout the evolution of our specialty, young surgeons have always taken the lead in forging new directions and enhancing the art and science of what we do. Today, much of this creative energy is being devoted to one of the newest areas in plastic surgery: body contouring after massive weight loss. There is a tremendous demand for guidance and information on this topic, which is quickly becoming one of the fastest growing areas in our specialty. Traditional techniques are not applicable to these patients, who cannot be approached in a patchwork fashion. We can no longer just treat the abdomen by itself, but must consider it circumferentially; similarly, we can no longer focus on the inner thigh but need to broaden our vision to encompass the whole thigh. Thus these patients require a total body approach.

Al Aly is one of the innovators whose pioneering work in massive-weight-loss plastic surgery is setting a standard for treatment. He has been a leader in defining and developing techniques of particular value to this patient population. Al is a talented surgeon, a friend, and an excellent teacher. He is someone who always exceeds expectations and contributes 110% to every project. That care and commitment is ever present in this exciting new book, *Body Contouring After Massive Weight Loss*, which he has edited and authored along with a stellar group of contributors. It is only fitting that the late Ted Lockwood, whose work revolutionized body contouring, has a chapter in this important work. Together the experts in this book provide direction for this evolving field.

This comprehensive work is beautifully illustrated, thoughtfully written, and filled with the pragmatic information and clinical problem-solving that is needed when operating on these patients. The accompanying DVDs with operative video provide additional direction for the surgeon seeking a dynamic presentation of these operations. The book represents the quality that we have come to expect from QMP. It promises to become the definitive reference and a valuable resource for all surgeons operating on patients after massive weight loss. Dr. Aly is to be congratulated for this major contribution to our specialty and for helping to ensure the highest standards of patient care.

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