

Interview with Dr. Richard Ort

Q: Why did you become a doctor?

A: My family has a long tradition in medicine. My father was a doctor, as was my grandfather and great-grandfather. It felt like a natural fit when it came time to choose a career. I was interested in the science but also felt like the human dimension of medicine would be a good fit for me.

Q: Why did you choose dermatology?

A: The skin is the largest and most visible organ of the body. I'm a visual person. In my younger years I enjoyed studying art and photography. The skin is a window to what's going on in the rest of the body. The complexity of the skin and its ability to heal is fascinating. I enjoy the wide variety of procedures that make up the daily work of a dermatologist.

Q: What do you find most rewarding about your work?

A: It is gratifying to be able to help patients who suffer from skin disease such as skin cancer or severe acne. It's also rewarding to address cosmetic concerns such as acne scars or skin aging. I enjoy the long-term relationships that I develop with my patients. Oftentimes, I get to care for entire families over many years and I get to see children grow up.

Q: What do you love about aesthetic medicine?

A: It's natural to want to look your best at any age. It's an exciting time in cosmetic dermatology. There are so many advances being made in this field. From Botox® to fillers, from lasers to chemical peels, these non-invasive treatments can help turn back the hands of time. It's nice to be able to make people feel more confident about themselves.

Q: Do you perform any pro bono work?

A: I have volunteered on a regular basis as a dermatologist at the Denver Veterans (VA) Medical Center since 2001. I have helped care for hundreds of veterans with a wide range of skin ailments. It is truly a privilege to help take care of those people who have put their lives on the line for our country. I also perform free skin cancer screenings in the community.

Q: What do you enjoy on the outside?

A: I'm an avid hiker and have climbed almost 20 fourteeners. I enjoy many outdoor activities, including fly fishing, camping, snow shoeing, and participating with the Boy Scouts. You might also find me playing acoustic and electric guitar with my bandmates. As the son of Czech immigrants, I also enjoy visiting the Czech Republic.