

The Heiligendamm Round Table

The Development of the Dystonia Concept

The Hannover Lecture

Stanley Fahn

**Organisation
Dirk Dressler, MD, PhD**



Dystonia accompanied mankind for centuries. It had been described in numerous different syndromes including blepharospasm, torticollis, writer's cramps and musician's cramps. These syndromes were so different from each other that nobody recognised their similarities. It was only Stanley Fahn who - together with congenial C David Marsden - saw the common theme. The dystonia concept they formulated was readily accepted. It was driven by the advent of botulinum toxin therapy. It became the last missing element to consolidate movement disorders as an independent neurological discipline.

How did the dystonia concept emerge? Who else contributed? What had to come together to develop the idea?

Stanley Fahn was right in the centre of it all. Who could better answer our questions as?

This time, the Heiligendamm Round Table Lecture was recorded at the Second International Congress on Treatment of Dystonia in Hannover where it was the keynote lecture.

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Stanley Fahn

Born 1933 in Sacramento, CA Stanley Fahn graduated as Medical Doctor from the University of California San Francisco in 1958. After his internship in Philadelphia, PA he was resident at the Neurological Institute of New York, NY from 1959 to 1962. From 1962 to 1967 he held several research and clinical positions in Bethesda, MD, Philadelphia and New York before he was appointed Professor of Neurology at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York in 1973. After another research stay at the College de France in Paris, he was appointed H. Houston Merritt Professor of Neurology at Columbia University in 1978. In 1981 he founded the Dystonia Clinical Research Centre, in 1994 the Center for Parkinson's Disease and Other Movement Disorders at Columbia University.

In 1985 - together with C David Marsden - he co-founded The Movement Disorders Society and the Movement Disorders Journal, in 1986 the Parkinson's Study Group. In 2006 he inaugurated the World Parkinson Congress. From 2001 to 2003 he served as the President of the American Academy of Neurology. He continues to serve as the Scientific Director of the Parkinson's Disease Foundation. He received numerous highly prestigious national and international awards.

He trained more than 130 movement disorders fellows.