

# the heiligendamm round table



**andrew blitzer**

**introducing botulinum toxin  
as a therapeutic agent:  
the united states perspective**



## invitation

botulinum toxin has been infamous as a food poison and a biological weapon. its toxicity was and still is notorious. suggesting to use this substance as a therapeutic agent was a weird idea. however, this weird idea turned out to be most successful generating an industry with annual revenues in excess of 2 billion US dollars.

how could this idea become reality? what were the obstacles? how could they be overcome? who was involved? how did this idea spread?

andrew blitzer, well known as an otorhinolaryngologist pioneered the use of botulinum toxin in spasmodic dysphonia. but more so, he was there when botulinum toxin developed into a drug in the united states of america.

who could better answer our questions?

dirk dressler, MD, PhD  
head of movement disorders section  
department of neurology  
hannover medical school  
hannover  
germany



## **andrew blitzer**

**born in 1946 in pittsburgh, pa dr blitzer graduated from adelphi university in garden city, ny in 1967 to move to new york city where he received his DDS from columbia university school of dental and oral surgery in 1970 and his MD from mount sinai school of medicine in 1973.**

**after postgraduate training at the beth israel hospital and the mount sinai medical center in 1984 he was appointed professor of clinical otolaryngology and professor of clinical dentistry at columbia university in new york city - positions he is still holding.**

**he published extensively on many aspects of otorhinolaryngology and he is one of the world experts of spasmodic dysphonia and its treatment with botulinum toxin therapy.**



## heiligendamm

**in 1793 friedrich-franz I, duke of mecklenburg schwerin, took his first bath in the sea at 'heiligen damm' and this marked the birth of the first german seaside resort. between 1793 and 1870, the architects von seydwitz, severin and demmler created a unique ensemble of bathing and lodging houses. nearby, the first racecourse on the european continent was opened in 1823.**

**since its foundation, heiligendamm was the most elegant seaside resort in germany. european aristocracy, including the tsar's family, used to spend their summer vacations here. heiligendamm remained an exclusive spa into the 1930's. after extensive renovations heiligendamm was re-opened as a luxury hotel and spa in 2003. in 2007 it was host to the international G8 summit.**



## meeting details

### date

july 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, 16:00 s.t.

### venue

grand hotel heiligendamm

d-18209 heiligendamm

t: +49-38203-7400

[www.grandhotel-heiligendamm.de](http://www.grandhotel-heiligendamm.de)

### organisation

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a light buffet will be served after the meeting

the number of participants is limited  
confirmation of attendance until june 28<sup>th</sup> is advised

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