

# the heiligendamm round table



**eric a johnson  
jürgen frevert**

**how to tame the beast:  
preparing botulinum toxin  
for therapeutic uses**



## invitation

botulinum toxin has been known to mankind as the compound causing botulism, an often lethal food intoxication. subsequent research demonstrated that it has the highest toxic potential of all natural or man made substances. suggesting to use it for therapeutic purposes must have seem a mad idea. however, as many of those ideas, it turned out to work, thus establishing a novel therapeutic principle revolutionising therapy in numerous medical fields.

how could botulinum toxin be tamed? how could its safety be demonstrated? how could it be reliably manufactured?

professor johnson is one of the most respected experts on botulinum toxins. he produced the first botulinum toxin for therapeutic purposes.

dr frevert has spent decades of his scientific life on botulinum toxins and has set up the first manufacturing process for a complex protein free botulinum toxin drug.

who could better answer our questions?

dirk dressler, MD, PhD  
department of neurology  
rostock university



## **eric a johnson**

**born in 1956 in san francisco dr johnson graduated from university of california davis in 1978 in fermentation and food science and received his DSc in 1983 from the massachusetts institute of technology. after posts at harvard medical school and the national institutes of health he joined university of wisconsin madison where he is currently professor of bacteriology. his research is focussed on food microbiology, toxicology and biodefense. together with the late edward j schantz he provided the first botulinum toxin for therapeutic use to alan b scott.**

## **jürgen frevert**

**born 1950 in barntrup, westphalia, dr frevert graduated from giessen university in chemistry in 1976, where he also received his PhD in 1980. after a research stay at university of california berkeley he joined the batelle europe institute in frankfurt/m in 1983 to develop detection methods and vaccines for botulinum neurotoxins. from 1995 to 2006 he worked for biotecon, potsdam, where he set up the manufacturing process for the first complex protein free botulinum toxin drug. in 2007 he joined merz pharmaceuticals in frankfurt/m where this compound is now commercialised as xeomin®.**



## 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

april 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 16:00 s.t.

### venue

kempinski grand hotel heiligendamm  
18209 heiligendamm  
t: +49-38203-7400  
[www.kempinski-heiligendamm.de](http://www.kempinski-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 april 4<sup>th</sup> 2008 is advised

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