

the heiligendamm round table

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botulinum toxin has been known for decades as a food poison and a biological weapon. its toxicity is notorious. suddenly, it was suggested to use it as a therapeutic tool. a brilliant idea, indeed. so brilliant an idea that eventually a whole new industry emerged with annual sales in excess of 4 billion US dollars. however, the beast had to be tamed first.



how could botulinum toxin be tamed? how could it be produced? how could it be purified? how could it be standardised? how could its potency be measured? how could its safety be demonstrated? how could it be manufactured on an industrial basis?

Andy Pickett, one of the very few experts on the basic pharmacology of botulinum toxin, was right in the centre where the first european botulinum toxin drug was developed.

who could better answer our questions?

Dirk Dressler, MD, PhD

Head of Movement Disorders Section

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IAB - Interdisciplinary Working Group

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peter riederer - drug treatment of parkinson's disease: how it all started

andy pickett

preparing botulinum toxin for
therapeutic uses: the united
kingdom perspective

organisation: dirk dressler, MD, PhD

andy pickett

born 1954 andy pickett grew up in surrey, england. in 1975 he received his BSc and in 1978 his PhD in microbiology from london university. after working as a research fellow in microbiology at queen elizabeth college, london, he entered the pharmaceutical world in 1979 for what turned out to be a long lasting and extremely fruitful relationship.

staying with dista products, then moving to biogen - in the very first days of biotechnology - he joined the porton international group in 1985 and was based at the public health laboratory service centre for applied microbiology and research, the famous phls-camr, in porton down, wiltshire, england.

here he became involved in botulinum toxin research just at the time when botulinum toxin's potential as a therapeutic agent was explored.

he stayed with the therapeutic botulinum toxin operations whilst they were first re-organised under the names of porton products and speywood pharmaceuticals and finally acquired by ipsen in the year 2000. throughout this period he was responsible for many aspects of research, development, ® manufacturing, quality and registration of dysport , the company's botulinum toxin product.

in 2010 he started toxin science to translate botulinum toxin research to clinicians. in 2011 he joined q-med of uppsala, sweden, a division of galderma and the maker of azzalure®, the company's aesthetic botulinum toxin drug based upon dysport®.

dr pickett is adjunct professor at the botulinum toxin research center of the university of massachusetts at dartmouth, USA. he published extensively on basic botulinum toxin research.

