

Eye-to-Eye with David Schlessinger, M.D., P.C.

By: Rebecca O'Brien



ON THIS BEAUTIFUL APRIL DAY I DRIVE DOWN FROEHLICH FARM Boulevard in Woodbury, the trees are budding, color is popping up everywhere and the air is getting warmer. Spring has definitely sprung. I arrive at #75, the office of DAVID SCHLESSINGER, M.D. As I enter the office I am impressed by the perfect balance of clean lines and a modern look. The office seems to perfectly compliment what I already know Dr. Schlessinger to be, a premier surgeon with the ability to put the scalpel aside and introduce non-surgical options as needed to ensure he's always delivering the treatment plan that is best for his patient. As the receptionist calls me back I am eager to sit-down with the doctor I know by name and reputation, but have never had the pleasure of meeting.

AFTER AN OFFICE TOUR OF STATE-OF-THE-ART TESTING AND TREATMENT rooms and a tranquil MEDI SPA smelling of lavender and lemon grass, I pass the operating room – the door is closed but I can see it's bustling as blue and green scrubs dance around the room – and take a seat in Dr. Schlessinger's office. Among the standard degrees, diplomas and certificates, I take notice of the many

community awards and accolades and a large selection of family photos. Having done many an interview, it's always nice to get a glimpse of the human side of someone. With that comes a quick tap on the door followed by the entrance of a tall man, dark hair, blue scrubs with a soft spoken, "Hello" and from the photos in his office I know our meeting has begun, "Hello Dr. Schlessinger, a pleasure to meet you".

A RENOWNED SURGEON IN THE FIELD OF OCULOPLASTIC SURGERY, Dr. David Schlessinger specializes in cosmetic surgery of the face with emphasis on aesthetic eyelid surgery and facial rejuvenation. "As a surgeon I know non-invasive procedures simply cannot achieve what a qualified surgeon can, but I also know that when used appropriately they can be very effective", says Dr. Schlessinger. The world of non-invasive procedures is ever changing and is getting better and better. "In reality my practice has become two separate entities", Dr. Schlessinger tells us. "I have my surgical practice dedicated to eyelid and facial surgery and an entire other aspect dedicated to injectables (Botox®, Restylane®, Radiesse®,

JuvaDerm™, Silikon®) and lasers (Intense Pulsed Light, Titan®, Fraxel®)." Although the patients at SCHLESSINGER EYE & FACE may come in specifically for a surgical or non-surgical procedure, over time it appears that they ultimately combine both. Robin, the Medical Aesthetician at THE MEDI SPA at SCHLESSINGER EYE & FACE finds that many of the surgical patients get Microdermabrasion or PhotoFacials post-operatively in order to look their best. She goes on to say, "Dr. Schlessinger often recommends such treatments in conjunction with surgery to achieve an even better result. We're having amazing results with Fraxel Laser Treatments, which combines the effectiveness of ablative lasers with the gentleness of non-ablative lasers to effectively treat acne scarring, melasma (mask of pregnancy), age/brown spots and wrinkles around the eyes. Being able to receive these treatments with no down time and get right back to life is key for our patients."

FACIAL REJUVENATION IS NOT ALWAYS AS CUT & DRY AS SURGICAL vs. non-surgical, so there really is the need for both. Dr. Schlessinger tells us, "Very often the commitment to eyelid surgery comes relatively easy to a patient, but there still seems to be a lot of apprehension when it comes to a Facelift. For those patients I am able to perform the Blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) and then tighten the lax skin around the jawline or under the chin with the Titan Laser Procedure. One of the greatest things about Titan is that after treatment, the collagen actually keeps on growing, so overtime your results are increasingly dramatic and long-lasting. Results are phenomenal and the patients are thrilled." The Titan also offers a fabulous option for those patients who are not surgical candidates, but can still benefit from skin tightening. "We see this a lot these days", says Dr. Schlessinger, "Patients are addressing rejuvenation at a younger age. Surgery often is premature at this stage, but injectables and lasers are really closing the gap and allowing us to effectively treat the early signs of aging. In some cases we can even push back the need for surgery by years." In practice for 14-years Dr. Schlessinger says the demand for non-surgical rejuvenation options are ever increasing and he's been extremely pleased with the current advancements as well. His practice utilizes only the finest, state of the art lasers and cosmetic advancements, which enables him to provide his patients with the most effective cosmetic treatments available.

AS OUR INTERVIEW CONCLUDES DR. SCHLESSINGER WALKS ME OUT, as we approach the door he excuses himself to say – goodbye to the patient he operated on less than an hour ago. After telling the patient she did "great" he gives her husband a comforting touch on the shoulder and lets him know if they have any questions not to hesitate to call. As the nurse escorts the patient and her husband out of the office, Dr. Schlessinger turns back to me. I thank him for his time and ask him if he has any final words. "WELL, I HAVE A TENNIS MATCH WITH MY WIFE AT 4PM AND I'M REALLY HOPING TO WIN", he says with a laugh. And then he walks over turns off the television that was on in his waiting room and



says, "Truth be told, I'm a surgeon first, it's just in my blood. But knowing that I can utilize non-surgical options to better enhance the result of my surgical patients or to effectively treat a patient who is unwilling to 'go under the knife' or who may not be a surgical candidate is a wonderful thing. Functional, cosmetic, surgical, non-surgical – none of that really matters. Whatever their individual reason of needing or wanting surgery is really irrelevant. The bottom line is I have the ability to change something for the better for my patient – to make a positive difference. It doesn't get much more rewarding than that."

A renowned surgeon in the field of Oculoplastic Surgery, Dr. David Schlessinger specializes in cosmetic surgery of the face with an emphasis on aesthetic eyelid surgery and facial rejuvenation (surgical/non-surgical). Call today for a complimentary consultation at Dr. Schlessinger's state-of-the-art Aesthetic Center and MediSpa in Woodbury or at his Hauptpage location. 516-496-2122. Or visit us on the web at schlessingereyeandface.com.