

## Member Profile

# Alan Winter, DDS, FACD: periodontist, lecturer, trailblazer, novelist

By Dr. Harriet K. McGraw, Academy News Editorial Consultant



Dr. Alan Winter

When talking to Dr. **Alan A. Winter**, New York, New York, it doesn't take long to discover he has great passion for his varied interests, be it periodontics and implantology, or researching and writing novels.

Dr. Winter obtained his DDS from New York University (NYU) in 1973 and completed a general practice residency the

following year at Bronx Hospital Center of Albert Einstein Medical School. After receiving his certificate in periodontics in 1976 from Columbia University, he was asked by his professors, Drs. Hirschfeld and Wasserman, to join their practice as an associate. At that time, he also began a 12-year teaching career at Columbia's Department of Periodontics, as an Associate Clinical Professor. He subsequently taught for 12 years in the Department of Periodontology & Implantology at NYU, as an Assistant Clinical Professor. In 2008, he received the Columbia Periodontal Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Later, Dr. Winter entered a partnership with another prominent New York City periodontist, Dr. **Alan S. Pollack**, who is now AO President-elect and with whom he practiced for 27 years. Together, they founded a dental CAT scan referral service, at a time when dental implants were in their infancy. They also organized the first international meeting on cone beam technology. Recognizing the technology's potential, Dr. Winter was instrumental in educating the profession on the use of CAT scans for treatment planning dental implants and for guided surgery. Regarded as an authority in the field, he continues to lecture both nationally and internationally.

In 1979, Dr. Winter founded the *Journal of Periodontal Case Reports*. His excellence in writing was recognized by the

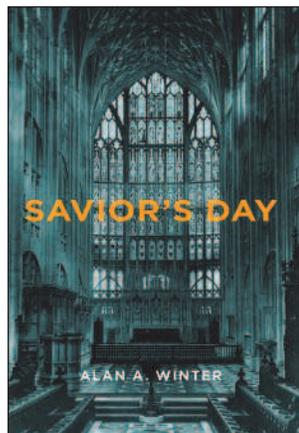
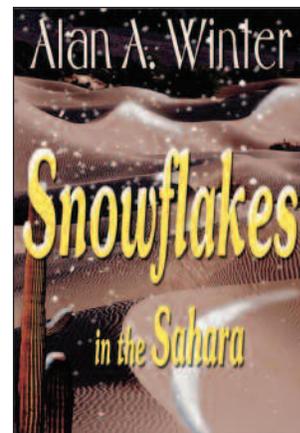
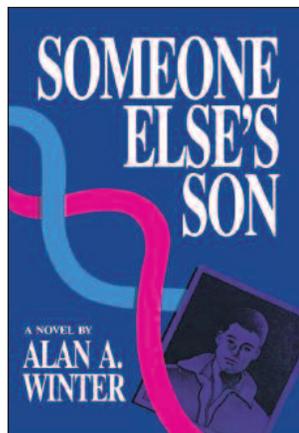
American Academy of Dental Editors, which awarded him the Golden Pen Award in 1980. To date, he has authored over 20 scientific papers.

Early in his career as a periodontist, Dr. Winter was inspired by a patient to put into writing some of his ideas for a story. As with his endeavors in dentistry, Dr. Winter put a great deal of effort into learning the craft of writing. A noted literary agent who rejected an early manuscript encouraged him to continue writing by telling him, "You think you're a dentist, Alan, but you're really a writer."

Thus began a career as a writer. His undergraduate degree from Rutgers was in history. An undiminished passion for the subject translated into three published works of historical fiction, with a fourth, *Island Bluffs*, about to be released. They have all received positive reviews for their historical accuracy and engaging writing style. The third novel, *Savior's Day*, was selected as a Best Book of 2013 by Kirkus Reviews.

"Being a periodontist has allowed me to describe certain character traits better: fear, anxiety and confidence," Dr. Winter says. His training as a forensic dentist at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Bethesda, MD, provided the necessary background for developing the character of a female forensic dentist in his second novel, *Snowflakes in the Sahara*. While still practicing full-time, he manages to devote 25-30 hours each week to penning his stories.

Dr. Winter has been involved in multiple aspects of organized dentistry. A longstanding member of the Academy of Osseointegration, he has been a regular attendee at Annual Meetings. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology and a Fellow in the American College of Dentistry. For the past five years, Dr. Winter has maintained a private periodontal and dental implant practice in New York City.



Dr. Alan Winter's four published novels (clockwise from top left): *Someone Else's Son* (his first), *Snowflakes in the Sahara* (features forensic dentist), *Island Bluffs* (the latest one), and *Savior's Day*.