

Alden Harken 2017 Bio

He is a graduated from Case Western Reserve Medical School where he completed surgical and pediatric cardiovascular surgical residencies at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and Boston Children's Medical Center. After three years as an investigator at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, he joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. During his eight years there he published more than 100 scientific papers, was awarded two NIH grants and was quickly advanced to the rank of Professor of Surgery. In 1983, he accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center. After two enormously successful decades in Denver, he accepted his current position as Professor and Chair of the University of California San Francisco-East Bay Department of Surgery.

His interest in and contributions to the field of cardiac electrophysiology began early in his illustrious career when as an Assistant Professor of Surgery he, along with Drs Mark Josephson and Leonard Horowitz, performed the seminal work in mapping and surgical ablation for ventricular tachyarrhythmias. The fruits of this groundbreaking labor formed the cornerstone of our current understanding of the pathophysiology of ventricular tachycardia and have provided the basis for today's methods of ablative treatment of ischemic ventricular tachycardia. He was one of the early investigators in the implantation of implantable tachyarrhythmia devices and

became one of the foremost experts in the surgical treatment of supraventricular tachyarrhythmias.

He has authored over 500 scientific publications, been awarded 10 NIH grants and has served as the Director of the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, a Regent of the American College of Surgeons and President of the Society of University Surgeons and the Association of Academic Surgery.