

## 100 YEARS OF INSULIN: The Aberdeen pioneers

23 January 2022 marks the centenary of the first successful treatment of a diabetic patient with insulin. Whilst this treatment took place in Toronto, Canada, here in Aberdeen we're celebrating the remarkable role of two Aberdonians in this major scientific breakthrough and its life-saving uses.

John Macleod (1876-1935), a highly respected research physiologist, led the team in Toronto which successfully developed usable insulin, for which he was jointly awarded a Nobel Prize. Robin Lawrence (1892-1968), an early recipient of the miracle drug, went on to co-found what is now Diabetes UK – he campaigned for better life opportunities, help with treatment costs and recognition that people with diabetes can live full and productive lives.

This trail highlights city locations that relate to the lives and achievements of these remarkable Aberdonians. You can find out more in our online exhibition at [www.aagm.co.uk](http://www.aagm.co.uk)

### 1 John Knox Free Church, Gerrard Street

John Macleod was born in Dunkeld. His father Robert Macleod's appointment as minister here brought his family to Aberdeen. It is now a Baptist Church.

*John Knox Free Church, about 1899.*



### 2 Belmuir House, 86 Rosemount Place

The Macleod family lived here from 1883 to 1895, while John Macleod was a pupil at the Grammar School.

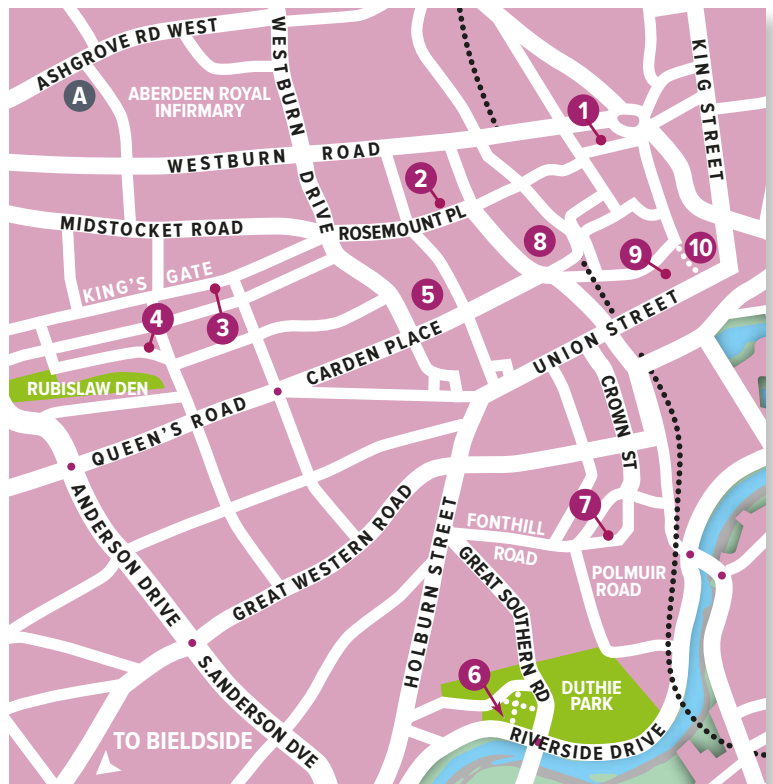
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### 3 15 Kings Gate (formerly Dunkeith)

The Macleod family moved here in 1895 while John Macleod was a medical student at Marischal College.

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### 4 8 Rubislaw Den North

The Lawrence family moved here in 1899.

*The young Robin Lawrence, courtesy of the Lawrence Family Archives.*



**5 Aberdeen Grammar School**

Both John Macleod and Robin Lawrence were pupils here – Macleod from 1884 to 1893 and Lawrence from 1900 to 1909.



*Aberdeen Grammar School, early 1900s.*

**6 Allenvale Cemetery**

John MacLeod’s headstone is in the 2nd row of stones facing the river on the upper terrace. It is almost half way upstream from the (currently unused) Riverside Drive gate and the south-west corner of the graveyard.



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**7 10 Ferryhill Place**

Robin Lawrence was born here. His career as a surgeon was cut short by Type 1 diabetes. After receiving life-saving insulin, he dedicated his career to improving the understanding of diabetes.



**8 Former Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Woolmanhill**

This hospital was the in-patient facility for Aberdeen until the opening of the Foresterhill complex in 1936. The adult diabetes service held out-patient clinics on this site for 50 years from 1963 to 2013.



*Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Simpson Building, 1880s.*

**9 Provost Skene’s House**

John Macleod and Robin Lawrence’s stories are celebrated in new displays at Provost Skene’s House, re-opening Autumn 2021.



*Nobel medal awarded to JJR MacLeod, 1923 (University of Aberdeen Museums & Special Collections).*

**10 Marischal College**

John Macleod studied medicine here between 1893 and 1898; Lawrence between 1910 and 1916. Macleod returned as Regius Professor of Physiology in 1928.



*Marischal College, 1906.*

**Optional stops:**

**A John Macleod Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, David Anderson Building, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill**

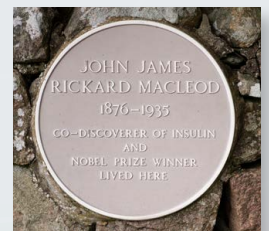


In 2013, Prof Michael Bliss from the University of Toronto named this facility in honour of John Macleod, whose place in history he was instrumental in restoring.

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**B 32 Cairn Road, Bieldside (formerly Craigievar)**

John Macleod’s home from 1930 to his death in 1935, there is a commemorative plaque on his achievements by the entrance.



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