

# 100 YEARS OF INSULIN: The Aberdeen pioneers

23 January 2022 marked the centenary of the first successful treatment of a diabetic patient with insulin. Whilst this historic event took place in Toronto, Canada, here in Aberdeen we are proud to recognise the remarkable role of two Aberdonians in this major scientific breakthrough and its life-saving uses.

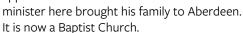
John Macleod (1876-1935), a highly respected research physiologist, led the team in Toronto which successfully developed usable insulin, for which he was jointly awarded a Nobel Prize. Robin Lawrence (1892-1968), an early recipient of the miracle drug, went on to co-found what is now Diabetes UK - he 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 local insulin pioneers. Discover more in our online exhibition at www.aagm.co.uk (search word "insulin").



#### John Knox Free Church, Gerrard Street

John Macleod was born near Dunkeld. His father Robert Macleod's appointment as



John Knox Free Church, about 1899.



The Macleod family moved here in late 1883 and John attended the nearby Aberdeen Grammar School.

**86 Rosemount Place** 

© K McHardy



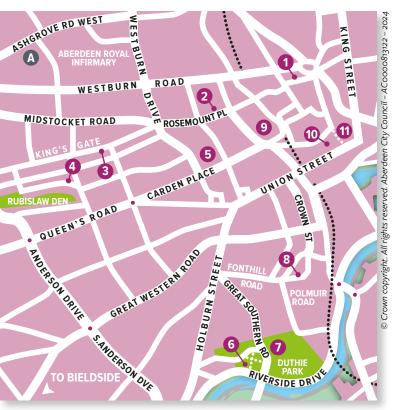




## 8 Rubislaw Den North

The Lawrence family moved here from Ferryhill (see no 8) in 1899.

© K McHardy





### 15 Kings Gate (formerly Dunkeith)

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

© A Gaskell











#### 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, about 1900



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.



#### Macleod's Corner

The world's only monument honouring JJR Macleod was unveiled in Duthie Park in October 2023 to mark the centenary of his Nobel Prize award. The memorial features a life-sized bronze figure of Macleod seated on a bronze bench and is Scotland's first 'Storytelling Statue'.



## 10 Ferryhill Place

Robin Lawrence was born here. He was diagnosed with diabetes in his 20s and was close to death when lifesaving insulin first became available. He dedicated the next 45 years to improving



diabetes care for patients in the UK and beyond.

### 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 clin



service held out-patient clinics on this site for 50 years from 1963 to 2013.

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Simpson Building, 1880s.

# Provost Skene's House

John Macleod's and Robin Lawrence's stories are showcased at this local history museum, where Macleod's 1923 Nobel Prize medal is on display.



## 11 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.

## B Craigievar, 32 Cairn Road, Bieldside

This was the home of John Macleod and his wife Mary from 1930 until his death in 1935. A commemorative plaque is displayed on a stone wall outside the property.



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