

[FREE] The Discovery of Insulin

# The Discovery of Insulin

*Michael Bliss*

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**Michael Bliss : The Discovery of Insulin** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Discovery of Insulin:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding, Comprehensive. Insightful. Entertaining. By Diabetic DivaWow. As a t1 diabetic diagnosed at 7 and now going for a phd in public health, this was illuminating on many levels. As a diabetic, I "knew" how diabetics suffered a miserable death prior to insulin, but I was touched deeply by the hard work of so many great-minded researchers, doctors, and scientists. And learning the names of those who never received proper acknowledgement/recognition for their important contributions. As a researcher, it was amusing (as a diabetic disappointing) to hear how many contributors were shut out from recognition because of jealousies, grudges plain ol' politics. The author did an outstanding job of bringing all of the "characters" to life - you feel like a fly on the wall witnessing the shenanigans, frustrations, ideas and euphoria experienced by them. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants the behind the scenes look into (gossip! behind) the great undertaking that enabled insulin to reach and save the lives of so many diabetics. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Non-Fiction at Its Best By J. Amaro This is the ideal book for all those diabetics who are afraid to start insulin, hate their disease or feel that life has unfairly dealt them a bad hand. They should find inspiration in the life of the young Elizabeth Evans Hughes, a child diabetic who survived the years before insulin by adhering to a brutal near-starvation diet for four years, the only effective treatment at the time, and then faithfully took the newly discovered insulin and lived to be 74. Elizabeth got diabetes at 11, before insulin's discovery, and would likely have died within one year were it not for her determination and iron will. The story of the equally determined Dr. Banting, insulin's chief discoverer, is just as

compelling as are the battles of personality and will that developed among those connected with the discovery and development of insulin. Those who live with diabetes or diabetics should find the human stories in this book as inspiring as I did. Michael Bliss the author has managed to place history in the form of a novel. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great read for Type 1 Diabetics! By Mike GAs a long-term Type 1 Diabetic, I thought I knew a lot about the discovery of Insulin. Man, was I wrong? I found this to be a well-written and well-researched history. This book opened my eyes to the contributions of others besides Banting and Best and gave me a greater appreciation of these two primary researchers.

In a brilliant, definitive history of one of the most significant and controversial medical events of modern times, award-winning historian Michael Bliss brings to light a bizarre clash of scientific personalities. When F. G. Banting and J. J. R. Macleod won the 1923 Nobel Prize for discovering and isolating insulin, Banting immediately announced that he was dividing his share of the prize with his young associate, C. H. Best. Macleod divided his share with a fourth member of the team, J. B. Collip. For the next sixty years medical opinion was intensely divided over the allotment of credit for the discovery of insulin. In resolving this controversy, Bliss also offers a wealth of new detail on such subjects as the treatment of diabetes before insulin and the life-and-death struggle to manufacture insulin.

'The definitive history ... well written, highly readable.' (London of Books)"Scrupulously researched and compellingly readable ... I wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone with an interest in diabetes, medical history, or medical scandal and gossip." (British Medical Journal)"The Discovery of Insulin deserves a place on the bookshelf alongside such eye-openers as James Watson's *The Double Helix*." (Washington Post) About the Author Michael Bliss is University Professor Emeritus in the Department of History and the History of Medicine Program at the University of Toronto.