

# Leonard Thompson first person treated with insulin

**Q. Who was the first person to successfully receive insulin once Dr. Frederick Banting finished experimenting on dogs?**

**A.** Banting and his assistant, Charles Best, first successfully tried their new formula, insulin, on a 14-year-old boy named Leonard Thompson.

The experiment took place in Toronto in January, 1922, but prior to that the two had experienced several failures. It was expected that Thompson would die from diabetes, but the insulin worked in this case. Thompson ended up taking insulin for the rest of his life.

Banting and Best began their experiments on dogs the previous year and were able to produce insulin from an extract taken from beef pancreas.

Once their successes were made public, several diabetics came to Toronto to receive help. In 1923, Banting and Dr. J.J.R. Macleod, who oversaw the experiments, won the Nobel Prize.

Banting shared his winnings with Best, while Macleod shared his with Dr. James Collip, a biochemist who developed a technique to purify insulin.

**Q. Is there any record of the first non-Native Indian child born in what is now Canada?**

**A.** According to writings by Farley Mowat on the Vikings, the first such child born here would probably have been a boy named

Snorri.

The child was born sometime around the year 1003 or 1004. The parents were Thorfinn Karlsnefi, a Viking seaman and trader, and his wife Gudrid, who accompanied him on an expedition to

what is now Labrador and Newfoundland when she was six months pregnant.

The colonists spent a long cold winter in this area, and it was then that the child was born.

According to Mowat, the

child was probably named for Snorri Thorbrandsson, who was Thorfinn's closest friend. Eventually Thorfinn and Gudrid went to Greenland where they spent time with Erik the Red and then returned to Iceland.

?

Trivia

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