

1/REPORTER 1: Today on Meet the Reporters, we have as our guest, Dr. Frederick Grant Banting who, along with John Macleod, shared the 1923 Nobel Prize for the discovery of insulin. Welcome, Dr. Banting.

2/BANTING: I wish to start this press conference with a statement:
I, Frederick Grant Banting, desire to share my portion of the Nobel Prize with Mr. Charles Best. I never would have been able to do anything without him.

3/REPORTER 2: That is very generous. Do you mean to share the financial award as well as the honor?

2/BANTING: Yes, Mr. Best was with me from the first, from the beginning of the work in May of 1921. I've asked him to be here today to participate in this press conference.

4/REPORTER 3: Then I'll address my first question to Mr. Best. How did you happen to be with Dr. Banting for the beginning of the diabetes research?

5/BEST: It was pure luck, a flip of a coin. Two of us had been assistants at the University of Toronto. The position with Banting was for the summer term. One side of the coin meant a summer holiday, the other side, a position with Dr. Banting. I was the fortunate one.

1/REPORTER 1: I would like some basic information. What is diabetes? What are the symptoms of the disease?

2/BANTING: When a person has diabetes, the body cannot transform the food into energy.

5/BEST: Diabetes is from a Greek work which means pipe. When a patient has diabetes, the food seems to pass through the body without being processed, as if through a length of pipe.

2/BANTING: The symptoms include frequent urination, extreme thirst, and extreme hunger.

5/BEST: Even though patients eat large amounts, they feel tired and begin to have rapid weight loss.

3/REPORTER 2: I know, that before your discovery, being diagnosed as diabetic was like receiving a death sentence.

4/REPORTER 3: Dr. Banting, what sparked your interest in diabetes?

2/BANTING: When I was working as a demonstrator at London's Western University, I had to prepare a lecture on carbohydrate metabolism. That same week, I received a medical magazine with an article about diabetes.

1/REPORTER 1: I see! You put the two together and came up with an idea which conquered a killer disease.

5/BEST: It wasn't quite that easy.

2/BANTING: After the idea, I had to find a laboratory, experimental animals, equipment, money to support the research, and a competent co-worker.