



# The Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism

(Incorporated within the Nuffield Department of Medicine of the University of Oxford)

Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology & Metabolism  
Churchill Hospital  
Headington  
Oxford  
OX3 7LJ

Tel: (01865) 857194  
Facsimile: (01865) 857542  
E-mail: [susan.roberts@ocdem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:susan.roberts@ocdem.ox.ac.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> May 2009

## AWARD-WINNING 'DIABETES STORIES' WEBSITE HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE!

We're contacting every website that has previously linked to the Diabetes Stories website, (<http://www.diabetes-stories.com>), to let you know that there are now 100 stories on the site. The original collection of 50 interviews with people diagnosed with diabetes since the 1920s has been augmented by 50 interviews with family members and healthcare professionals. The website has already become the chief resource for anyone interested in experiences of diabetes since the discovery of insulin. Now there's a rare opportunity to discover how family members regard diabetes and to compare personal and professional experiences.

Together these 100 interviews provide a unique record of life with diabetes from one interviewee's diagnosis in 1927 right through to the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As far as we know, this is the only oral history website in the world that enables users to hear all the original unedited recordings, mostly lasting between one and two hours each. One website visitor described the experience of listening to the full stories as 'addictive', but other visitors make use of the website's search facilities to locate particular subjects that interest them. In addition to the full unedited recordings, the website offers short audio samples from each interview, written summaries, full transcripts, a glossary, an inter-active database, and facilities to search for words, phrases and subjects. There are contemporary photos of the interviewees as well as historical photos.

The website is based at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism (OCDEM) and was funded by the Wellcome Trust. It has won Oxford University's 'IT in Teaching and Learning Award' and been chosen by the Wellcome Trust as a 'Research Highlight'. It's a primary resource for people with diabetes, their family members, healthcare professionals, historians, lecturers, journalists, everyone concerned about the human aspects of healthcare systems and all those interested in the ways that people remember and make sense of their lives.

- For those who wish to continue using the original website, its structure has been retained in the *People with Diabetes* section. (We used the heading *People with Diabetes* rather than *Patients*, as the interviewees didn't primarily define themselves as patients and in a few cases rarely consulted a healthcare professional.)
- The other sections are entitled *Healthcare Professionals* and *Family Members*. (We used the heading *Family Members* rather than *Carers*, as some family members did not wish to be regarded as carers.)
- In some cases, family members talked about people with diabetes also featured on the website - providing an unusual opportunity to compare different accounts of the same events.
- There's a new website page entitled *Images* which incorporates photos of all the historical equipment and documents lent or donated by interviewees from both projects.

Please feel free to link to the updated site.

Kind regards,

Professor D R Matthews  
Consultant Physician  
Professor of Diabetic Medicine

Dr Nathan R Hill  
Head of Beta-cell Modelling

Helen Lloyd  
Oral History Consultant