

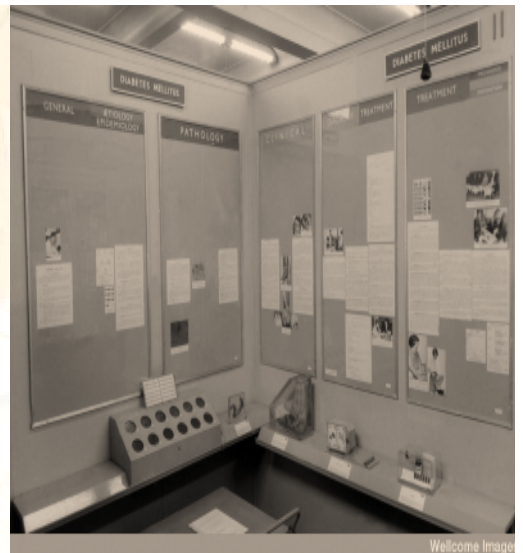
## Chronically Intriguing: Diabetes and its Communities in Twentieth Century Britain

**'It has been estimated that there are 200 million diabetics in the world but this refers to the number of known cases. Diabetes detection surveys have found that for every known diabetic...there is probably another unsuspected case... Unless a cure or some preventive method is found...the number of patients will continue to increase'.  
- MRC Policy Review Memo, 1976.**

**Diabetes, as this quote indicates, has been a consistent national and global health problem since the middle of the twentieth century. Moreover, it is one whose real prevalence is widely acknowledged to be unknown, a perfect example of the disease 'iceberg'. Uncovering this iceberg, researching its effects, and dealing with its impacts within fluctuating systems of health-care have been significant concerns to biomedical, state and patient communities since the 1930s.**

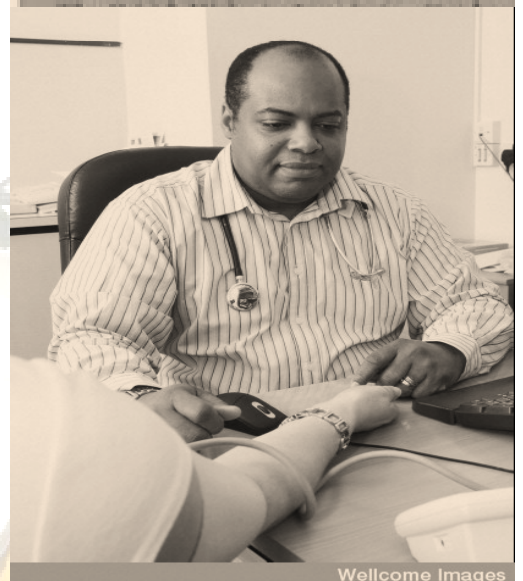
**By situating these interests historically, this study seeks to explore two significant changes in British biomedical history; (i) firstly, the alteration of traditional relationships between patient, care and research communities under a new, chronic condition, and (ii) secondly, what happens when the biopolitical limits of state interest are reached in an age of extensive medicalization, and in a condition requiring new levels of biosocial activity on the part of the patient.**

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British Diabetic Association

Living with  
Diabetes



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