

**MEDIA ALERT- EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30am, WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2011**

***The Revolutionary Professor Barry Marshall***  
**ASMR Medallist 2011**  
**Nobel Laureate**

Perhaps the most celebrated and recognised “human guinea pig” of modern time, Prof Barry Marshall and his colleague Dr Robin Warren studied something people once didn’t think could exist – bacteria in the stomach. They had absolutely no idea that their research would discover the cause of stomach ulcers and some stomach cancers – the beauty of curiosity-driven research is not knowing where lines of enquiry might lead. Their research, described “*as important as the polio vaccine*” led them to discovering the most common chronic infection in the world (affecting ~50% of all humans), and for this they received the ultimate recognition, a Nobel Prize in 2005!

Against much resistance and disbelief, Prof Marshall was defiant and fought to convince skeptics that his hypothesis was true. His infamous self-experiment of drinking a laboratory culture of the ulcer-causing bug *Helicobacter pylori*, was one way he proved he was correct. However Prof Marshall not only discovered the cause of stomach ulcers, he invented effective diagnostic tests to determine whether patients have the bacteria, and even discovered ways to cure the disease – antibiotics! Amongst many interests, his novel research with *H. pylori* continues, as he strives to harness them as oral vaccines.

Speaking at the National Press Club today, Professor Marshall, Clinical Professor at The University of Western Australia, will share his passion on various topics, including: how he believes alternative medicines should have to go through the same rigorous scrutiny for safety and efficacy that conventional pharmaceuticals do, how he doesn’t think religious views should impede scientific research in Australia, and why he sees genomics as an incredibly exciting field, now and into the future, and why it will completely transform health and medicine.

**News Editors/Chiefs of Staff, please note:**

**WHAT:** National Press Club NAB Address

**WHEN:** 11.30am, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**WHERE:** 16 National Court, Barton, Canberra.

**WHO:** ASMR Medallist 2011 Prof Barry Marshall, AC, FRS, FAA, Nobel Laureate

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Media resource material available from: <http://www.asmr.org.au/Barry%20Marshall%20bo.pdf>