



Media Release – June 7, 2011

WHO: PROFESSOR BARRY MARSHALL, Nobel Laureate and ASMR Medalist 2011

WHAT: ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner

WHERE: Doltone House, Pyrmont

WHEN: June 7, 2011

Barry Marshall

Professor, Physician, Scientist and Pioneer

in Adelaide today for the ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner.

In 2005 Barry J. Marshall and J. Robin Warren were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in recognition of their 1982 discovery that a bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*, causes one of the most common and important diseases of mankind, peptic ulcer disease.

While at Fremantle Hospital in 1984, Marshall proved that the new germ was harmful in a well-publicised self-administered experiment, in which he drank a culture of *H.pylori*. Persevering despite widespread skepticism, Marshall also came up with combinations of drugs that killed the *H.pylori* bacteria and eliminated ulcers permanently.

Professor Marshall has said, ***“Helicobacter made us realize that we can’t confidently rule out infectious causes for most diseases that are still unexplained”***.

The brilliant, entertaining and entrepreneurial Professor Marshall once said ***“If you’re curious about something and it’s fun to muck around with it, then there’s probably a career in there somewhere”***. On the way to the Nobel Prize, he and Robin Warren faced ridicule by those who espoused conventional wisdom that bacteria could not live in the acidic stomach. They persisted and we all reaped the reward. "Pay no attention to stereotypical views," is a Marshall mantra.

Marshall believes and has been known to quote social historian Daniel J Boorstin *“The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance—it is the illusion of knowledge.”*

Editor’s Note: Interview and photo opportunities
Marshall bio available at <http://www.asmr.org.au/MRW.html>

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