

Health and Medical Researchers in Western Australia welcome the ASMR Medallist 2008

**SIR GUSTAV NOSSAL AC CBE**

**"Four Decades of Progress in Australian Medical Research?"**

Australia's Elder Statesman of Health and Medical Research on a national tour for ASMR Medical Research Week® is in Perth today!

Professor Nossal's world-renowned work helped build the foundations of modern immunology - an exacting field of science that he helped define for more than 30 years. As a public commentator about scientific and medical issues he has inspired continued popular and political interest in science and its application for the betterment of our lives and our country. **As a communicator of science he is unparalleled - inspiring future generations of scientists through lectures, radio and television. Professor Nossal's talk will address issues such as "Why perform medical research in Australia?"**

**Professor Nossal believes Australian iconic discoveries all rest on an extensive base of fundamental science and all involved dreams conceived early and pursued for decades with intense dedication**

Professor Nossal has said, "Indigenous health needs extra attention. Substance abuse, sexual abuse, homicide and other violence are higher, requiring sociological and health service research. Some infections are much higher, eg scabies and streptococcal infections leading to kidney and heart disease. Thankfully, for Group A streptococci (GAS), a vaccine is ready for clinical trials."

Third world diseases are under researched. "Large pharma companies do not find diseases of poverty attractive. Infections still abound in parasitic and diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections with vaccines offering the best hope". Australia discovered the greatest cause of diarrhoea, the rotavirus. Extra support is needed to take this vaccine to clinical trials. GMO staple crops could play a role in overcoming poor nutrition.

**Professor Nossal believes a rich and proud nation should contribute to the world effort.**

**Professor Nossal will be speaking at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner, June 6, 2008, Perth Convention Centre**

**Interview and photo opportunities**

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Further information from [www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au)