

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.

Barry Marshall met Robin Warren, a pathologist interested in gastritis, during internal medicine fellowship training at Royal Perth Hospital in 1981. Together, the pair studied the presence of spiral bacteria in association with gastritis. The following year (1982), *Helicobacter pylori* was cultured for the first time and they developed their hypothesis related to the bacterial cause of peptic ulcer and gastric cancer.

In 1984, while at Fremantle Hospital, Marshall fulfilled Koch's postulates for *H.pylori* and gastritis in a well-publicised self-administration 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.

The hypothesis that *H.pylori* is a causative factor of stomach cancer was accepted in 1994 by the World Health Organisation.

This work has now been acknowledged as the most significant discovery in the history of gastroenterology and is compared to the development of the polio vaccine and the eradication of smallpox.

Affecting 50% of the global population, *H.pylori* is recognized as the most common chronic infection in the world. "Like a trail of crumbs, the DNA of our *Helicobacter pylori* can show where we were born and where our ancestors traveled from over the past 60,000 years" says Marshall.

In 2008 Professor Marshall was elected into the prestigious US National Academy of Science, an institution that was established in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln. This recognition further establishes Barry's international scientific credentials.

Barry was born in Kalgoorlie in 1951 and attended Marist Brothers College in Perth from 1960-68. He completed his undergraduate medical degree at The University of Western Australia in 1974.

Barry Marshall is married with four children and four grandchildren and lives in Subiaco, Western Australia.



Photo courtesy: Frances Andrijich Photographer

Professor Barry J. Marshall AC Nobel Laureate
A medical pioneer whose work transcends all boundaries.

Current Appointments:

- Elected Member of US National Academy of Sciences
- Senior Principal Research Fellow at the UWA School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences
- Consultant Gastroenterologist (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
- Clinical Professor of Medicine (University of Western Australia)
- co-Director of the Marshall Centre for Infectious Diseases Research & Training
- Founder and Director of ONDEK, a biotechnology company
- Founder and Director of TRI-MED a diagnostics company
- "Ambassador for Life Sciences for Western Australia" – a State appointment.
- Patron of the Monash Centre for Synchrotron Science
- Francis R & Helen M. Pentz Professor of Science at Penn State University, USA

Recent Awards:

- Warren Alpert Prize with Dr Warren 1995
- The John Scott Award, City Of Philadelphia 1995
- The Gairdner Award, Toronto Canada 1996
- The Albert Lasker Award 1995
- The Paul Ehrlich Prize with Dr Warren 1997
- The Dr A.H. Heineken Prize for Medicine 1998
- The Florey Medal, Australia 1998
- Member of the Royal Society, UK 1999
- Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science 1999
- Benjamin Franklin Medal for Life Science 1999
- Prince Mahidol Award for Public Health 2001
- The Keio Medical Science Prize 2002

In conjunction with Dr Robin Warren

- Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine 2005
- Western Australian Citizen of the Year 2006
- Western Australian of the Year 2007
- The Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2007.