

PreCorso 2011

Firenze, 22 luglio 2011

*Helicobacter pylori*, un batterio causa di  
molte malattie, dall'ulcera peptica al  
cancro gastrico

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# *Helicobacter pylori*

- Quando è stato scoperto?
- Chi l'ha visto per primo?
- Da quanto tempo “conosce” l'uomo?
- Perché avvistato e non scoperto?
- Coincidenze delle grandi scoperte?
- Come vive nello stomaco?
- Quante persone sono infettate? illustri pazienti?
- Tutti gli infettati sono malati?
- E l'ospite (uomo) infettato che fa?
- Le Relazioni Pericolose .....





## The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2005

"for their discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease"



photo C. Northcott

b. 1951

**Barry J. Marshall**  
**Australia**

*Helicobacter pylori*  
Research  
Laboratory, QEII  
Medical Centre;  
University of  
Western Australia  
Australia

**J. Robin Warren**  
**Australia**

Perth,  
Australia

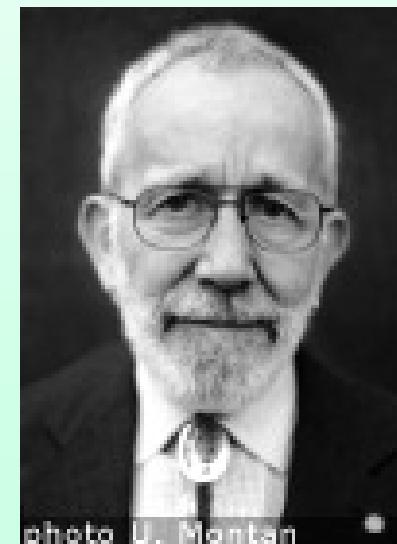


photo U. Montan

b. 1937

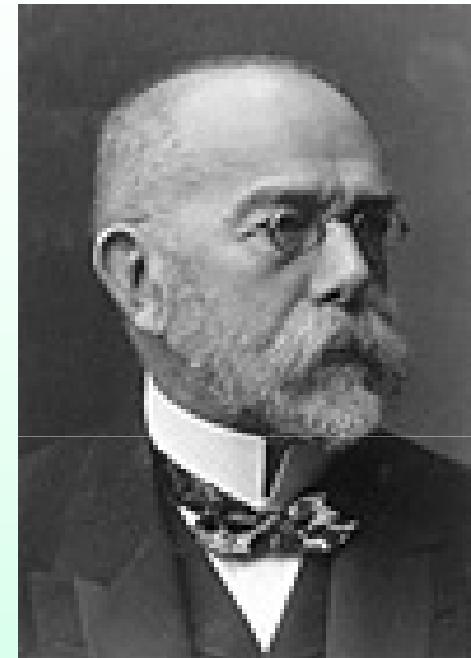
E 100 anni prima  
Premio Nobel  
a chi?

## The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1905



"for his investigations and discoveries in relation to tuberculosis"

### **Robert Koch**



Germany  
Institute for Infectious  
Diseases  
Berlin, Germany

b. 1843  
d. 1910

# *Helicobacter pylori*

## quando è stato scoperto?

**Cultured for the first time on Easter Thursday 1982**

- Patient 37, 70y.o. male
- DU, GU, artificial valve, anticoagulants
- **MRSA epidemic at Royal Perth**
  - Overworked microbiology technologists
  - No time to check the culture on Saturday
  - Not examined until Tuesday Not examined until Tuesday
  - Gram negative rods seen in pure culture
- **We had been using the right methods for**
  - Cultures were being discarded after 48 hours

From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Barry Marshall

# ... e 100 anni prima?

## Die Ätiologie der Tuberkulose.<sup>1)</sup>

(Nach einem in der Physiologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin am 24. März 1882 gehaltenen Vortrage.)

Von

Dr. R. Koch,

Regierungsrat im Kaiserl. Gesundheitsamt.

Die von Villemin gemachte Entdeckung, daß die Tuberkulose auf Tiere übertragbar ist, hat bekanntlich vielfache Bestätigung, aber auch anscheinend wohlbegündeten Widerspruch gefunden, so daß es bis vor wenigen Jahren unentschieden bleiben mußte, ob die Tuberkulose eine Infektionskrankheit sei oder nicht. Seitdem haben aber die zuerst von Cohnheim und Salomon森, später von Baumgarten ausgeführten Impfungen in die vordere Augenkammer, ferner die Inhalationsversuche von Tappiner und anderen die Übertragbarkeit der Tuberkulose gegen jeden Zweifel sichergestellt und es muß ihr in Zukunft ein Platz unter den Infektionskrankheiten angewiesen werden.

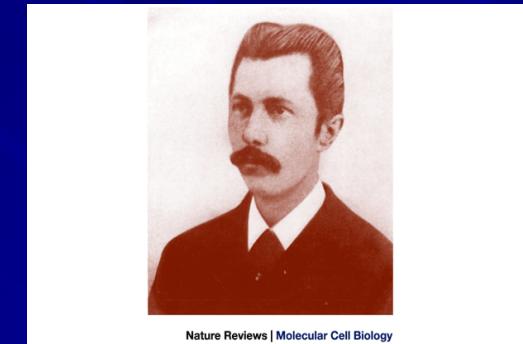
Wenn die Zahl der Opfer welche eine Krankheit fordert, als Maßstab für ihre Bedeutung zu gelten hat, dann müssen alle Krankheiten, namentlich aber die gefürchtetsten Infektionskrankheiten, Pest, Cholera usw. weit hinter der Tuberkulose zurückstehen.

The first report on the etiology of tuberculosis was presented on March 24, 1882 in Berlin.

# *Helicobacter*

## *chi l'ha visto per primo? quando?*

- Giulio Bizzozzero
- 1893, *Arch f mikr Anat* 42: 82-152.  
"Ueber die schenschlauchformigen drusen des magendarmkanals und die bezienhungen ihres epithels zu dem oberflachenepitel der schleimhaut."
- 1892, *Atti della Reale Accademia delle Scienze di Torino* 28: 233-251.  
"Sulle ghiandole tubulari del tubo gastroenterico e sui rapporti del loro epitelio coll'epitelio di rivestimento della mucosa."



Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology



# *Helicobacter*

## *altri avvistamenti*

- La presenza di batteri spiraliformi nello stomaco fu descritta a più riprese nel secolo scorso, tra gli altri da Freedberg nel 1940 a Steer e Colin-Jones nel 1975.
- Ito descrisse e fotografò batteri spiraliformi in biopsie derivate dal suo stomaco, nel suo famoso Textbook of Physiology del 1966.
- Tra gli anni 20 e 50 del '900 altri scienziati, quali Luck e Fitzgerald, comprovarono la presenza di attività enzimatica di tipo ureasica nello stomaco di gatti e cani.
- Nel 1959 Lieber dimostrò che l'attività ureasica gastrica poteva essere soppressa con una terapia antibiotica a base di tetracicline. Nel 1968 Delluva osservò che animali mantenuti in condizioni asettiche non presentavano attività ureasica nello stomaco.
- Ma...la presenza di batteri nello stomaco e l'attività ureasica non furono poste in relazione all'insorgenza di patologie gastroduodenali

# *H. pylori*

## *perché avvistato e non scoperto?*

- Acid environment kills organisms
- The normal stomach is sterile
- Bacteria seen are contaminant passing through, dead or secondary to gastric lesions such as peptic ulcer. Just a secondary infection, due to gastritis
- “If it is true, why were they not recognised before...”

(From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Robin Warren)

... perché?

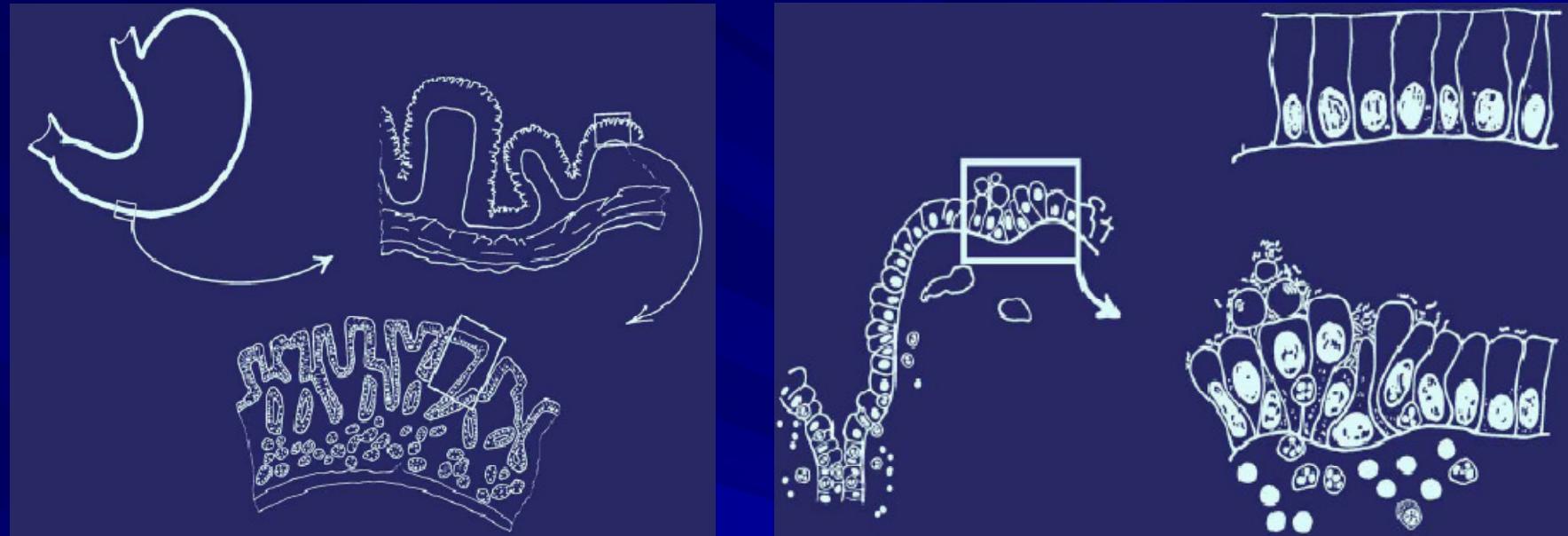
■ “L'uomo, per sua natura, ha più paura della verità che della morte...”

*Soren Kierkegaard*

■ “...Il più grande ostacolo alla conoscenza non è l'ignoranza bensì l'illusione della conoscenza”

*Daniel Boorstein*

# Warren First Report



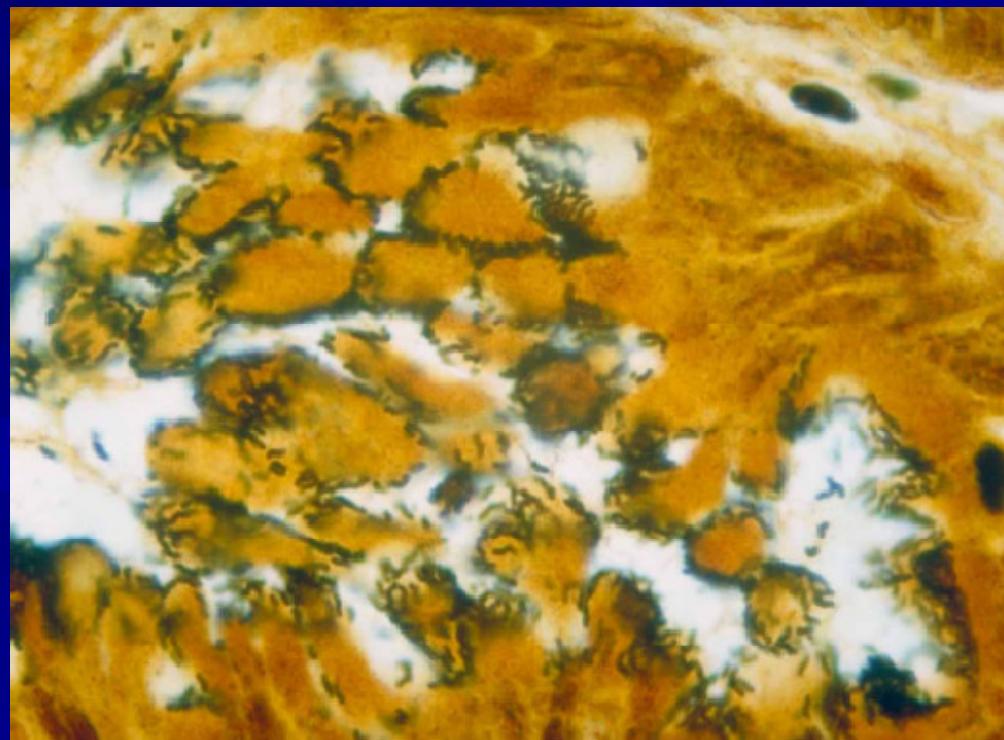
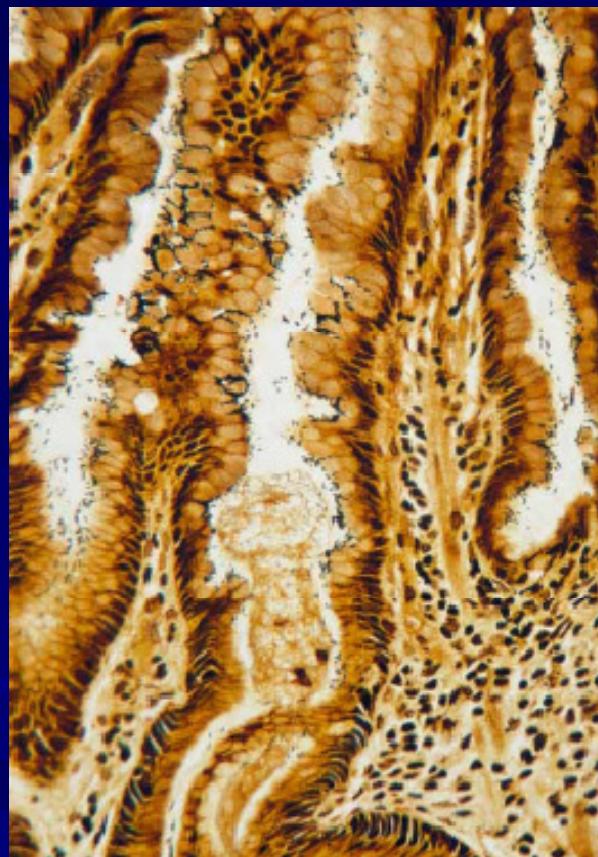
(From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Robin Warren)

Conclusion:

There is chronic gastritis with a small erosion. The quality of the surface mucus appears slightly more dense than normal in many areas, and it contains numerous bacteria in close contact with the surface epithelium. These bacteria have the morphology of *Campylobacter*. They appear to be actively growing and not a contaminant. I am not sure of the significance of these unusual findings, but further investigation of the patient's eating habits, gastro-intestinal function and microbiology may be worthwhile.

J. R. Warren 1979

*H. pylori*  
black bacilli line the pits, easily seen (silver stain)



(From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Robin Warren)

## **Lancet Letters 1983**

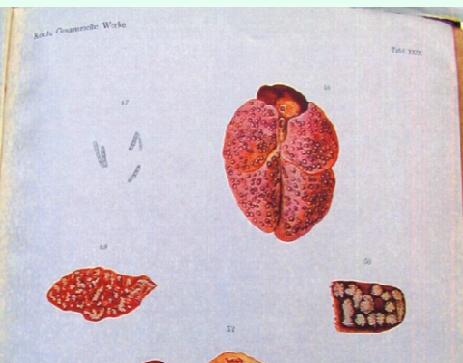
A new species

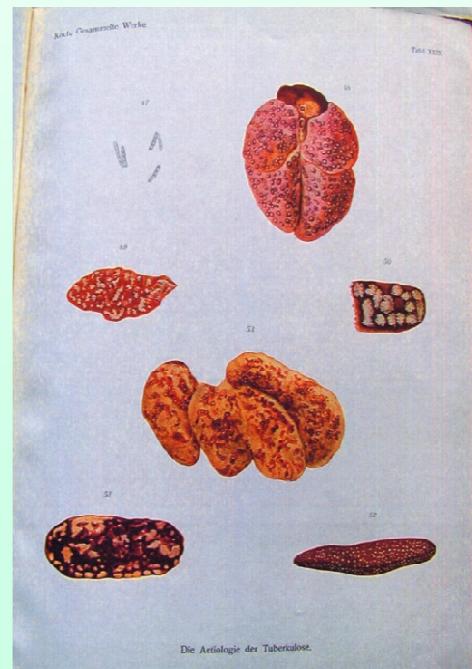
Bacteria linked to gastritis

- “since the new bacteria are associated with gastritis as described by Warren, then they may play a role in other poorly understood gastric diseases i.e. peptic ulcer and gastric cancer.”

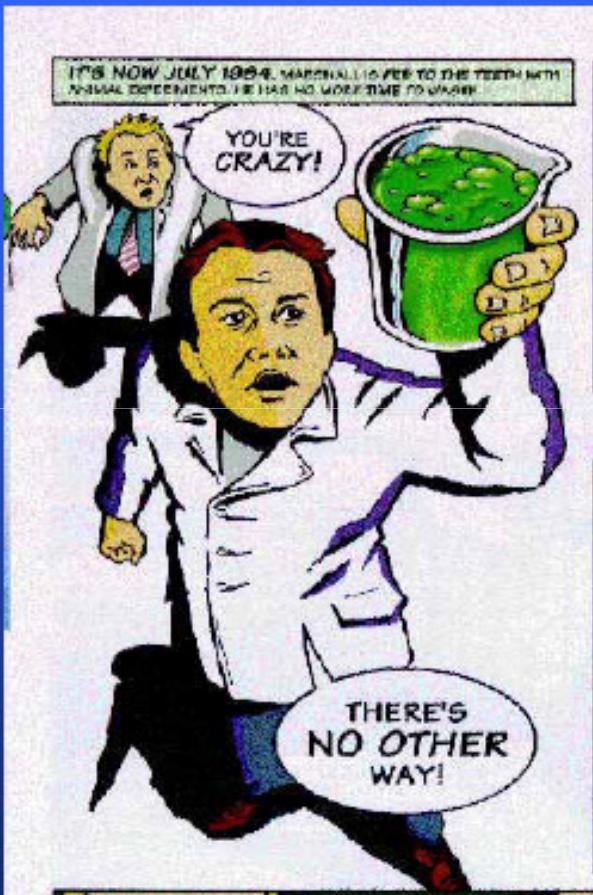
From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Barry Marshall

# Koch's Postulates ...

1. The same organism must be present in every case of the disease.
  2. The organism must be isolated from the diseased host and grown in pure culture.
  3. The isolate must cause the disease, when inoculated into healthy, susceptible animal.



# Koch's Postulates and *H. pylori*.....

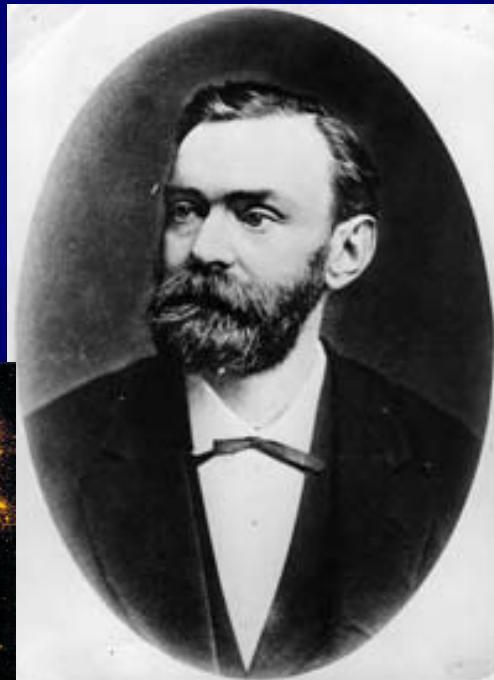
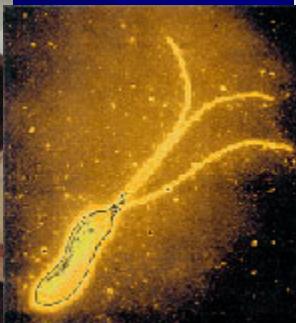


An attempt to Fulfill Koch's  
Postulates for  
*Campylobacter pyloridis*

Med J Aust 1984

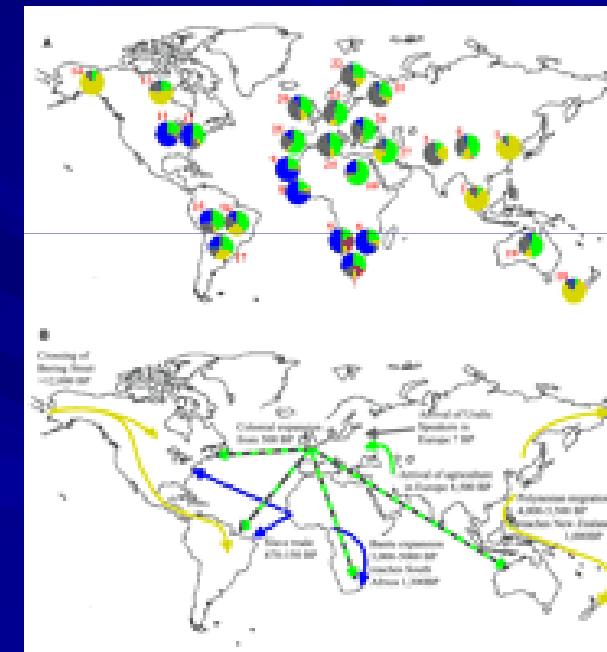
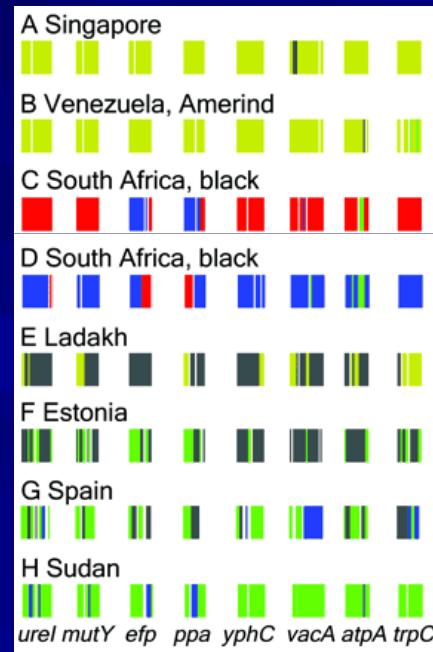
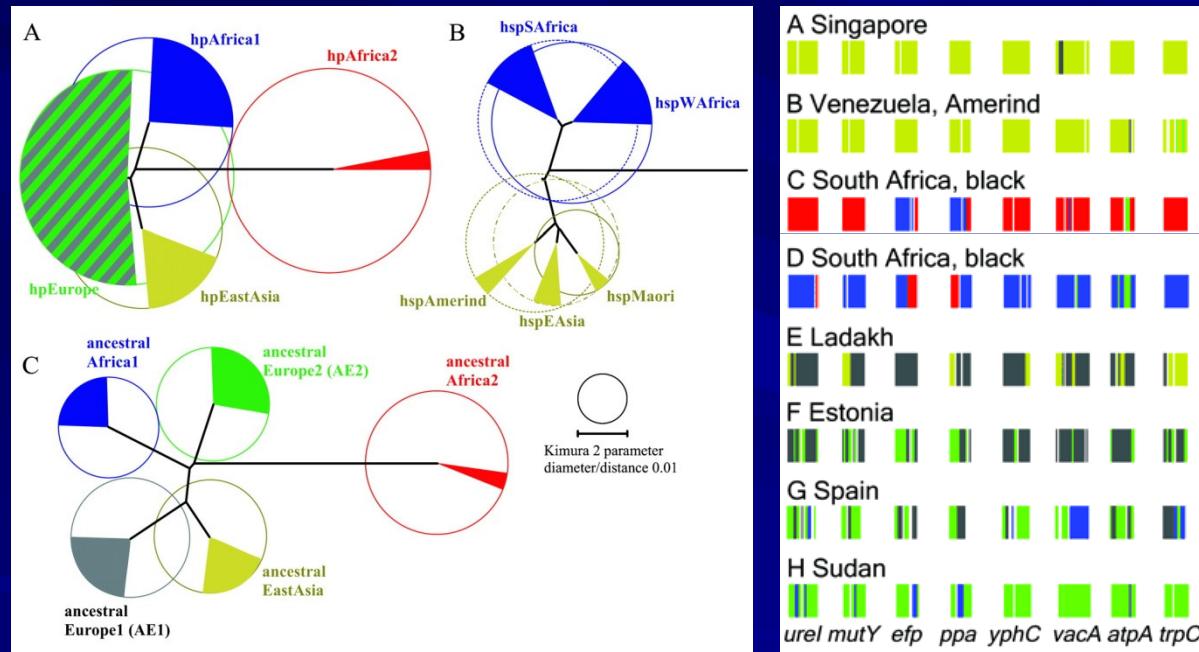
From the 2005 Nobel Lecture by Barry Marshall

# *H. pylori* e pazienti nei secoli



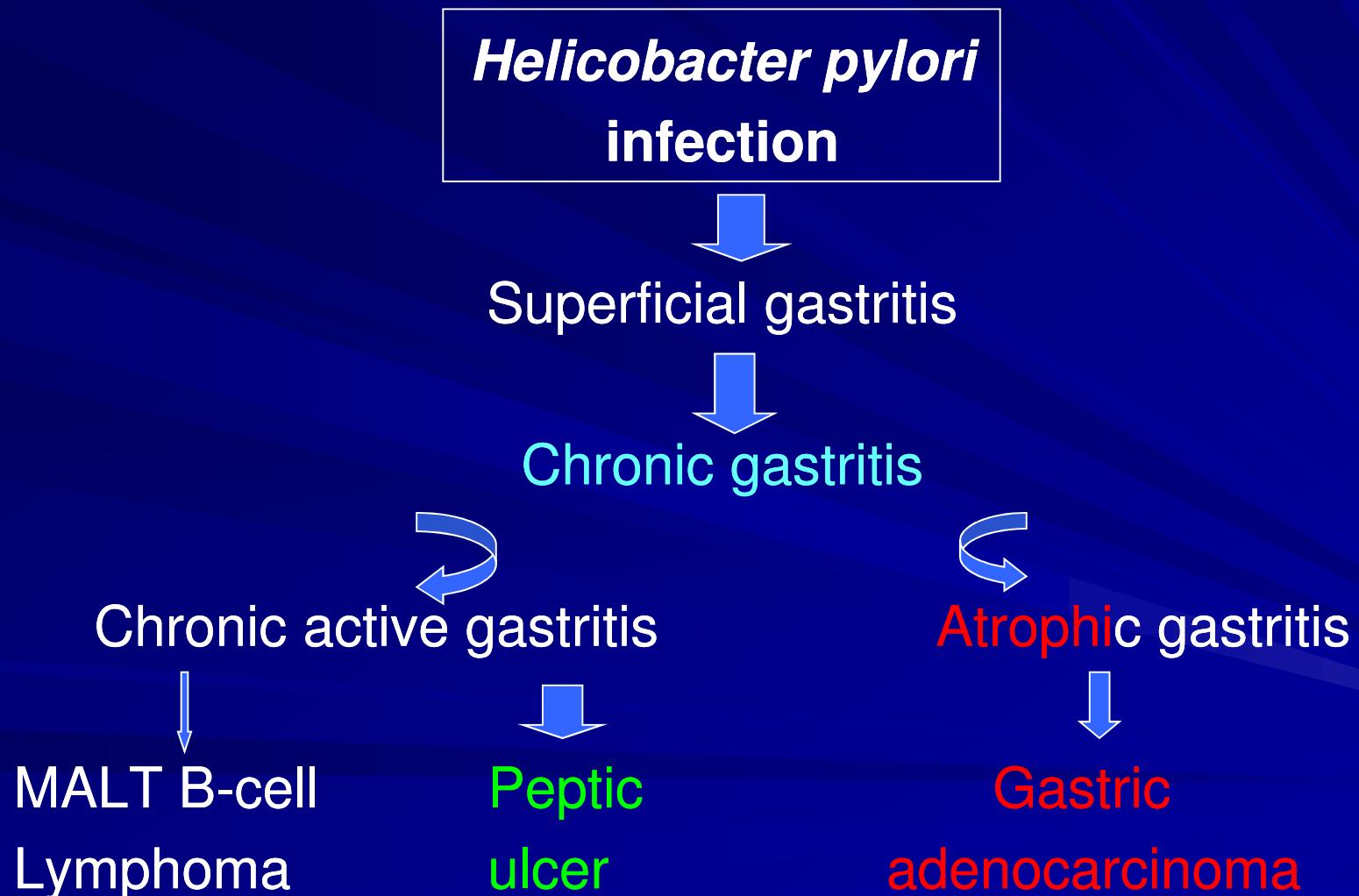
- Napoleone, a 52 anni, morì di “ulcera antrale maligna” (cancro gastrico). Così suo padre, suo nonno, almeno un fratello, una sorella.
- Alfred Nobel soffriva di ulcera peptica!
- James Joyce morto di ulcera duodenale perforata.

# Traces of **human** migrations in *H. pylori* populations *da quanto tempo “conosce” l'uomo?*



Falush et al, *Science* 2003

# *H. pylori* and related clinical outcomes



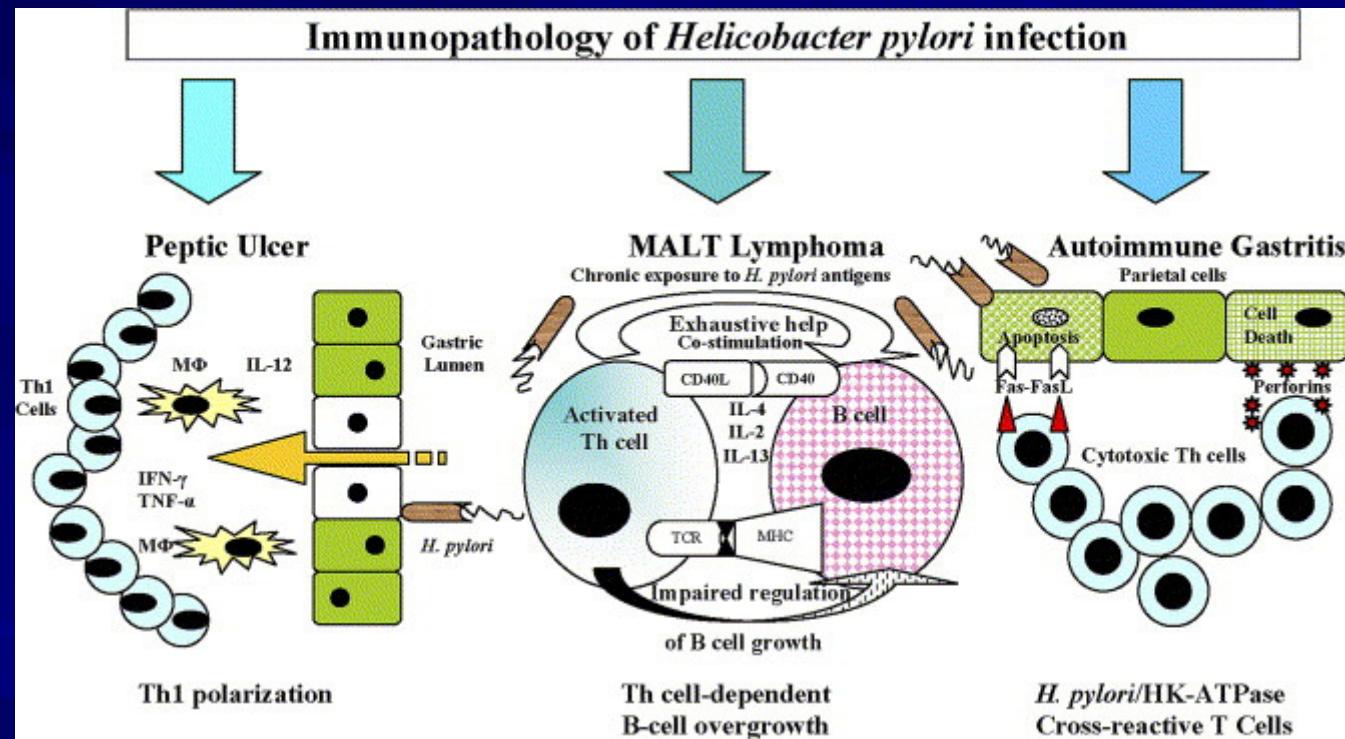
# *H. pylori*, host response, and related clinical outcomes

- Bacterial factors (different strains, pathogenicity island)
- Host factors (genetics, cytokine / chemokine network, gastrin, somatostatin, pepsinogen, regulation of acid secretion)
- Inflammation (site, type, etc)

“..Qui pourrait ne pas frémir en songeant aux malheureux  
qui ont causé une seule liaison dangereuse ...”

P. Choderlos De Laclos

## Les liaisons dangereuses



D'Elios *et al.*, *J Immunol* 1997; *Gastroenterology* 99, 2001; *PNAS* 2003; *J Exp Med* 2003  
*Trends Mol Med* 2004; *J Clin Invest* 2006; *Helicobacter* 2009;  
*Cancer Immunol Immunother* 2009, *Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther* 2010