

long before this bacterium was recognised as a class 1 carcinogen associated with most gastric cancers and the mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma. The discoveries of Marshall and Warren radically changed clinical gastroenterology (now almost unrecognisable from Thompson's day) and revolutionised physiological understanding of gastric secretion, as well as the interactions between the inflammatory response, cell proliferation and cancer in the upper gastrointestinal tract.

Many see the Nobel Prize as an award for original discoveries that enhance understanding, but these essays show how much medicine can deliver for human good and with almost immediate application. Few purely biological discoveries can claim the Baconian advantages of utility and progress; but what characterises *Nobel Prizes That Changed Medicine* is the extraordinary percipience of those who draw from a vast eclectic range of

observations in the foreground of practice and crystallise their scientific ideas uncontaminated by dogma.

Gilbert Thompson has edited a volume that hits the mark: if he is to complete his task and transform our appreciation of the Pythonesque 'what have the Nobel Prizes ever have done for us?' question, then additional volumes should be considered. If he were immune to that combination of romanticism and intellectual snobbery that only has time for Nobel Prizes, Thompson should also convince his publisher of the innumerable pinnacles of attainment contributed to medicine by brilliant researchers not so recognised – for we would all be enriched.

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Erratum

Not your typical pneumonia

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Authors were erroneously omitted from the author list of this article. The full author list should read:

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