



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION  
OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES



## **SURGICAL APPROACHES TO CRANIO-VERTEBRAL JOINT** (*Cadaver lab on complex spinal surgery*)

### **Art. 1 – ISTITUTION**

The Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, on the initiative of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, "a. Gemelli" establishes, for the academic year 2024/25, the second level University Master in Surgical Approaches to the Cranio-cervical Junction (Cadaver Lab on complex spinal surgery).

The second level University Master lasts one academic year for a total of 60 credits, equal to 1500 hours.

The Master is sponsored by the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) Craniovertebral Junction and Spine Society (CVJ Spine) Chiari Association AMA Child, and the Italian Society of Neurosurgery (Società Italiana di Neurochirurgia - SINCh).

### **Art. 2 – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The birth of this master is the result of the collaboration between the University of Messina, the University of Catania, the University of Palermo, the University of Naples, the Sapienza of Rome, the University of Brescia and the Catholic University of the Heart of Rome (UCSC) within which a new synergy has been realized between the Department of Surgical Sciences for Head and Neck Pathologies (in this case the Institute of Neurosurgery and Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) and the UOC of Macroscopic Pathological Anatomy and the Institute of Public Health.

The aim of the course is to provide the anatomical and physiological basis for a correct diagnostic and surgical approach to the Cranio-Vertebral Junction (CVJ). A particular and intensive multidisciplinary surgical treatment will analyze the different anterior approaches

(transnasal transoral transmaxillary and transmandibular endoscopic and / or microsurgical) lateral (far lateral / extreme lateral, presigmoid), posterior (sub occipital) and will focus on the correct determination of the volumetric potential of the aforementioned approaches together with their correct indication. All the anterior, lateral and posterior instrumented arthrodesis techniques will be carefully analyzed and indicated both on a methodological level and on the definition of the prosthetic, functional and surgical aspects.

The course will have a practical imprint focused on the Hands-On exercise through the use of the corpse, necessary for the advancement of the surgical technique (on the basis of a scientific research project approved by the Ethics Committee of the Catholic University of S. Cuore - Policlinico A. Gemelli N° P 663 / CE / 2010 approved on 28/07/2010 and subsequent amendment N° P 437 / CE 2012 approved on 02/05/2012).

### Art. 3 – ATTENDANTS

The Master is aimed at:

- Graduates in Medicine and Surgery (Class LM-41);
- Specialists and Residents in Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology, Orthopedics and Traumatology.

The number of admissions to the University Master in Surgical Approaches to the Craniocervical Hinge is fixed from a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 20 units.

The participation of a maximum number of two auditors is allowed, for which the registration fee is reduced by 50% and to whom a certificate of participation will be issued.

### Art. 4 – DIDACTIC ORDER in presence or virtually as webinar

The didactic organization is articulated as follows:

Presentation Lesson December the 15 th 2023 Introduction to the Master Prof Massimiliano Visocchi

Lesson	Teacher	Sector	Hours	Credits
Embryology and related malformations of the CVJ January 16, 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Giuseppe Della Pepa Corrado Lucantoni Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Surgical anatomy of the CVJ January 23, 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Luca Ricciardi Francesco Signorelli Antonio D'Addona	MED 27	2h	0,08
CVJ neuroradiology January 30, 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Alessandro Costantini, Giuseppe Maria Di Lella, Antonello Leone	MED 37	2h	0,08
CVJ surgery: an overview February 6, 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Andreas Demetriades Michael Bruneau	MED 27	2h	0,08

	Francesco Tomasello Alessandro Olivi Vincenzo Esposito Pasquale Ciappetta Franco Servadei			
History of Endoscopy and endoscopic approaches to the skull base February 13 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Sebastien Froelich Massimo Caldarelli Gianpiero Tamburrini Luca Massimi Piero Oppido	MED 27	3h	0,12
Transnasal endoscopic approach to the CVJ February 20, 2025 h13 – 14 CET	Gaetano Paludetti Mario Rigante Marco Fontanella Davide Locatelli	MED 31	2h	0,12
Percutaneous transoral approaches February 27 2025 h 13-14	Francesco Doglietto Gualtiero Innocenzi Giancarlo Guizzardi	MED 27	1h	
Endoscopic Transoral approach in pediatrics March 6, 2025 h12 – 13 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Concezio Di Rocco Federico Di Rocco Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Endoscopic Transoral approach in adults March 13 2025 h 13-14 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Microsurgical Transoral approach in pediatrics March 20 2025 h 12-13 CET	Concezio Di Rocco Federico Di Rocco Peul W	MED 27	2h	0,08
Microsurgical Transoral approach in adults March 27 2025 h 12-13 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Di Lorenzo Nicola Fornari Maurizio Servadei Franco	MED 27	2h	0,08
Trans-facial approaches April 3 2025 h 12-13 CET	Antonio Daddona Mario Rigante, Gaetano Paludetti	MED 31	2h	0,08
Non-instrumented posterior approaches: M of Chiari and other malformations of the CNS of the CVJ April 10 2025 h 12-13 CET	Laura Grazia Valentini Mighel Arraez Massimo Caldarelli Antonino Germanò Gerardo Iacopino Luca Massimi Aldo Spallone Paolo Bolognese	MED 27	2h	0,08
Posterolateral anterolateral approaches and	Lukas Rasulic	MED	2h	0,08

presigmoid retro-sigmoid approaches April 17, 2025 h12 – 13 CET	Luis Borba Domenico D'Avella Alberto Delitala Antonio Santoro Vincenzo Esposito Carmelo Sturiale Nicola Montano Pasquale De Bonis	27		
Anterior and posterior CVJ instrumentation and fusion techniques April 24, 2025 h12 – 13 CET	Jesus La Fuente Jhon Duff Roberto Delfini Marcel Ivanov Massimiliano Visocchi Erik Sganzerla Duccio Boscherini Antonino Raco Filippo Maria Polli	MED 27	3h	0,12
CVJ instrumentations and mergers: pitfalls and failures May 8, 2025 h12 – 13 CET	Atul Goel Mehemt Zileli Oscar Alves Giuseppe Barbagallo Luigi Lattanzi Massimiliano Neroni	MED 27	2h	0,08
CVJ lesion radiosurgery May 15, 2025 h12 – 13 CET  Analgological, anesthetic and resuscitation implications related to patients with CVJ pathologies May 22, 2025 h 12 – 13 CET	Cesare Giorgi Giorgio Conti  Vittorio Mignani F Tosi Maurizio Evangelista	MED 27  MED 41	1h 1h	0,08
Medico-legal implications in the organization of the Cadaver Lab May 29, 2025 h 12 – 13 CET	Wilko Peul Vincenzo LorenzoPascali Giuseppe Vetrugno Fabio De Giorgio Francesco Signorelli	MED 43	2h	0,08
Preservation of the specimens June 5, 2025 h 12 – 13 CET	Francesco Signorelli	MED 08	2h	0,08
Preparatory techniques of the specimens June 12 , 2025 h 12 – 13 CET	Francesco Signorelli Antonio Oliva Vincenzo Arena	MED 08	3h	0,12
Specimen's perfusion techniques June 19 2025 h 12 – 13 CET	Francesco Signorelli Egidio Stigliano Domenico Laino Davide Rinelli	MED 08	3h	0,12
	<b>Total credits = 1,8</b>			

<b>Workshop/Stages/Internships at:</b>	
Neurosurgical Department	(150 h – 6 credits)
Neurosurgical outpatient clinic	(50 h – 2 credits)
Operating Room	(200 h – 8 credits)
Neuroradiology	(50 h – 2 credits)
Cadaver Lab (set by Domenico Laino)	(300 h – 12 credits)
Dissection Room (set by Davide Rinelli)	(150 h – 6 credits)
Plastic models and virtual rendering simulations	(100 h – 4 credits)
<b>Giugno – Novembre 2023 to be agreed not mandatory</b>	<b>Total credits = 40</b>
<b>Final trial</b>	<b>Total credits = 18.2</b>
<b>Final exam</b>	<b>Total credits = 1.8</b>
<b>GLOBAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS = 60</b>	

**Teaching's board:**

Vincenzo Arena - U.O.C. di Anatomia Patologica Macroscopica, U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Oscar Alves Porto University Portugal

Miguel Arraez Malaga Spain

Giuseppe Barbagallo Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università degli Studi di Catania

Paolo Bolognese *The Chiari Institute New York USA*

Luis Borba University of Parana' Brazil

Duccio Boscherini – Ospedale Cantonale Universitario Ginevra CH

Michael Bruneau Erasme Hospital, Brussels Belgium

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Pasquale Ciappetta Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università degli Studi di Bari

Massimo Caldarelli - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. – ROMA

Luca Ricciardi - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. – ROMA

Alessandro Maria Costantini - Istituto di Radiologia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Giorgio Conti – Istituto di Anestesia a Rianimazione U.C.S.C.

Pasquale De Bonis – Istituto di Neurochirurgia -Università di Ferrara.

Cesare Giorgi – Radiochirurgia Ospedale S. Maria Terni

Antoniuo D'Addona – Istituto di Odontoiatria UCSC

Domenico D'Avella – Neurochirurgia Università di Padova

Sebastien Froelich Lariboisiere Hospital Paris

Fabio De Giorgio - Istituto di Medicina Legale U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Giuseppe Della Pepa – Istituto di Neurochirurgia UCSC

Maurizio Fornari Humanitas Milano

Laura Di Giambattista - U.O.C. di Anatomia Patologica Macroscopica, U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Nicola Di Lorenzo – Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università di Firenze

Giuseppe Maria Di Lella - Istituto di Radiologia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Concezio Di Rocco - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Federico Di Rocco – Neurochirurgia Lione France  
Roberto Delfini - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, Università degli Studi La Sapienza – ROMA  
Alberto Delitala - Neurochirurgia Ospedale S Carlo di Nancy Roma  
Andreas Demitriades University of Edinburgh UK  
Atul Goel King Edward Memorial Hospital Mumbai India  
Jhon Duff Lausanne Swiss  
Maurizio Evangelista Istituto di Anestesia a Rianimazione U.C.S.C.  
Vincenzo Esposito . Neurochirurgia Università La Sapienza Neuromed Pozzilli, Isernia  
Marco Fontanella - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, Università di Brescia  
Antonino Germanò - Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università di Messina  
Giancarlo Guizzardi Ospedale Careggi Firenze  
Gerardo Iacopino - Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università di Palermo  
Gualtiero Innocenzi Istituto di Neurochirurgia NEUROMED Pozzilli Isernia  
Marcel Ivanov Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield UK  
Luigi Lattanzi - Dipartimento di Neurochirurgia Ospedale Civile di Taranto  
Jesus Lafuente \_ Ospedal Barcelona Spain  
Domenico Laino – Istituto di Sanità Pubblica Medicina - Legale  
Antonello Leone Dipartimento di radiologia U.C.S.C. - Roma  
Davide Locatelli – Istituto di Neurochirurgia Ospedale Civile di Legnano  
Corrado Lucantoni - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA  
Luca Massimi - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA  
Vittorio Mignani – Istituto di Anestesiologia e Rianimazione UCSC ROMA  
Nicola Montano – Istituto di Neurochirurgia UCSC - ROMA  
Massimiliano Neroni - Dipartimento di Neurochirurgia Ospedale S Giovanni – ROMA  
Piero Oppido - Dipartimento di Neurochirurgia, IFO Regina Elena (IRCCS nazionale) – ROMA  
Antonio Oliva – Istituto di Medicina Legale UCSC  
Alessandro Olivi – Direttore Istituto di Neurochirurgia UCSC - ROMA  
Gaetano Paludetti - Istituto di Otorinolaringoiatria, U.C.S.C. - ROMA  
Vincenzo Lorenzo Pascali - Istituto di Sanità Pubblica U.C.S.C. - ROMA  
Wilco Peul Leiden - *University Medical Center & Medical Center Haaglanden*  
Filippo Maria Polli – Istituto di Neurochirurgia UCSC ROMA  
Antonino Raco – Università Sapienza ROMA  
Lukas Rasulic Neurosurgery University of Belgrad Serbia  
Luca Ricciardi - Istituto di Neurochirurgia UCSC - ROMA  
Davide Rinelli– Istituto di Sanità Pubblica Medicina - Legale  
Mario Rigante - Istituto di Otorinolaringoiatria, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Antonio Santoro – Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università La Sapienza Roma  
Franco Servadei – Humanitas Milano  
Erik Sganzerla – Istituto di Neurochirurgia - Bicocca – MONZA / MILANO  
Francesco Signorelli - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Aldo Spallone – NCL Istituto di Neuroscienze ROMA  
Egidio Stigliano - U.O.C. di Anatomia Patologica Macroscopica, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Carmelo Sturiale - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Gianpiero Tamburrini - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA

Francesco Tomasello - Istituto di Neurochirurgia Università di Messina  
F Tosi Istituto di Anestesiologia e Rianimazione UCSC ROMA  
Laura Grazia Valentini MILANO  
Giuseppe Vetrugno - Direzione Sanitaria, U.C.S.C. – ROMA  
Massimiliano Visocchi - Istituto di Neurochirurgia, U.C.S.C. - ROMA  
Mehemt Zileli Ege University, Izmir, Turkey

#### **Art. 5 – DIRECTOR**

The Director of the Master is **Prof Massimiliano VISOCCHI**

#### **Art. 6 – DIRECTIVE BOARD**

In addition to the Director, the Directive Board is arranged as follows:

##### INTERNAL MEMBERS

Prof. Alessandro OLIVI  
Prof Jacopo GALLI  
Prof Mario RIGANTE  
Prof Carmelo STURIALE  
Prof Luca MASSIMI  
Prof Giuseppe DELLA PEPA  
Prof Francesco SIGNORELLI

##### EXTERNAL MEMBERS

- Prof Maurizio FORNARI
- Prof Franco SERVADEI
- Prof Franco TOMASELLO
- Prof. Vincenzo ESPOSITO
- Prof. Pasqualino CIAPPETTA
- Prof .Giuseppe BARBAGALLO
- Prof. Gerardo IACOPINO
- Prof. Antonino GERMANO'
- Prof. Marco FONTANELLA

**The Didactic Coordinator and Scientific Coordinator is Prof. Massimiliano VISOCCHI,**  
cell 360807781, e-mail address: mvisocchi@hotmail.com massimiliano.visocchi@rm.unicatt.it

**Cadaver Lab: Direttore Massimiliano Visocchi, Francesco Signorelli**

**Surgical Team:** Massimiliano Visocchi, Mario Rigante, Francesco Signorelli, Luca Ricciardi ,  
Carmelo Sturiale, Giuseppe Della Pepa, Domenico Laino, Davide Rinelli.

**Scientific secretariat:** Francesco Signorelli, Giuseppe Della Pepa, Carmelo Sturiale

**Art. 7 – MASTER ORGANIZATION**

**Deadline for submitting applications: October the 31th 2024.**

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[Silvia.ZvabLibertucci@unicatt.it](mailto:Silvia.ZvabLibertucci@unicatt.it)

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Largo Francesco Vito, 1 - 00168 ROMA

**ORARIO**

dal Lunedì al Venerdì  
il Martedì ed il Giovedì - dalle 14.00 alle 16.00.

**DI**

- dalle 9.00

**SPORTELLO**

alle 13.00

The calendar is divided into theoretical lessons and practical internships divided as follows:

**Theory: 1.8 University Credits (45 hours)**

**Practice: 40 University Credits (1000 hours)**

**Study and research: 18.2 University credits (455 hours)**

Lessons will take place in the classroom to be defined starting in January 2023 and ending in June 2023.

The practical activity (optional) will end in November 2023.

Only those who have had a frequency of no less than 80% in the theoretical-practical activity are admitted to the final exam.

The registration fee is € **2,500.00**.

**Art. 8 – FINAL TITLE**

Those who have completed the planned training course and passed the relative assessment tests will be awarded the title of II level University Master in Surgical Approaches to the Craniocervical Junction.

Prof. Massimiliano Visocchi

