



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF NEUROSURGICAL SOCIETIES



SURGICAL APPROACHES TO CRANIO-VERTEBRAL JUNCTION (*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 Craniocervical 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 15, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Giuseppe Della Pepa Corrado Lucantoni Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Surgical anatomy of the CVJ January 22, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Luca Ricciardi Francesco Signorelli Antonio D'Addona	MED 27	2h	0,08
CVJ neuroradiology January 29, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Alessandro Costantini, Giuseppe Maria Di Lella,	MED 37	2h	0,08
CVJ surgery: an overview February 5, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Andreas Demetriades Michael Bruneau Francesco Tomasello	MED 27	2h	0,08

	Vincenzo Esposito Franco Servadei			
History of Endoscopy and endoscopic approaches to the skull base February 12 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Sebastien Froelich Gianpiero Tamburrini Luca Massimi Piero Oppido	MED 27	3h	0,12
Transnasal endoscopic approach to the CVJ February 19, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Gaetano Paludetti Mario Rigante Marco Fontanella Davide Locatelli	MED 31	2h	0,12
Percutaneous transoral approaches February 26 2026 h 13-14	Francesco Doglietto Gualtiero Innocenzi Giancarlo Guizzardi	MED 27	1h	
Endoscopic Transoral approach in pediatrics March 5, 2026 h12 – 13 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Concezio Di Rocco Federico Di Rocco Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Endoscopic Transoral approach in adults March 12 2025 h 13-14 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Francesco Signorelli	MED 27	2h	0,08
Microsurgical Transoral approach in pediatrics March 20 2026 h 13-14 CET	Concezio Di Rocco Federico Di Rocco Peul W	MED 27	2h	0,08
Microsurgical Transoral approach in adults March 26 2026 h 13-14 CET	Massimiliano Visocchi Di Lorenzo Nicola Fornari Maurizio Servadei Franco	MED 27	2h	0,08
Trans-facial approaches April 2 2026 h 13-14 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 9 2026 h 13-14 CET	Laura Grazia Valentini Mighel Arraez Torlstein Meling Antonino Germanò Gerardo Iacopino Luca Massimi Paolo Bolognese	MED 27	2h	0,08
Posterolateral & Anterolateral approaches and presigmoid retro-sigmoid approaches April 16, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Lukas Rasulic Luis Borba Roy Thomas Daniel Domenico D'Avella Alberto Delitala Antonio Santoro	MED 27	2h	0,08

	Vincenzo Esposito Carmelo Sturiale Nicola Montano Pasquale De Bonis			
Anterior and posterior CVJ instrumentation and fusion techniques April 23, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Jesus La Fuente Jhon Duff Roberto Delfini Marcel Ivanov Massimiliano Visocchi Andra Barbanera Erik Sganzerla Duccio Boscherini Antonino Raco	MED 27	3h	0,12
CVJ instrumentations and mergers: pitfalls and failures May 7, 2026 h13 – 14 CET	Atul Goel Mehemt Zileli Oscar Alves Giuseppe Barbagallo Luigi Lattanzi Massimiliano Neroni	MED 27	2h	0,08
CVJ lesion radiosurgery May 14, 2026 h13 – 14 CET Neurophysiological, antalgological, anesthetic and resuscitation implications related to patients with CVJ pathologies May 21, 2026 h 13 – 14 CET	Cesare Giorgi Giorgio Conti Francesco Sala F Tosi Maurizio Evangelista	MED 27 MED 41	1h 1h	0,08
Medico-legal implications in the organization of the Cadaver Lab May 28, 2026 h 13 – 14 CET	Wilko Peul Vincenzo Pascali Antonio Oliva Giuseppe Vetrugno Fabio De Giorgio Francesco Signorelli	MED 43	2h	0,08
Preservation of the specimens June 4, 2026 h 13 – 14 CET	Francesco Signorelli	MED 08	2h	0,08
Preparatory techniques of the specimens June 11 , 2026 h 13 – 14 CET	Francesco Signorelli Antonio Oliva Vincenzo Arena	MED 08	3h	0,12
Specimen's perfusion techniques June 18 2026 h 13 – 14 CET	Francesco Signorelli Egidio Stigliano Domenico Laino Davide Rinelli	MED 08	3h	0,12
Total credits = 1,8				

Workshop/Stages/Internships at:	
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)
Giugno – Novembre 2023 to be agreed not mandatory	Total credits = 40
Final trial	Total credits = 18.2
Final exam	Total credits = 1.8
GLOBAL AMOUNT OF CREDITS = 60	

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

Andrea Barbanera Neurochirurgia Alessandria

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

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 e Rianimazione U.C.S.C.

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

Cesare Giorgi – Radiochirurgia Ospedale S. Maria Terni

Antonuo 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

Roy Thomas Daniel - Lausanne

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 e 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

Torlstein Meling Neurosurgery Denmark

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*

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

Francesco Sala - Verona

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

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

Mehmet 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 .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 2025.

Silvia.ZvabLibertucci@unicatt.it

Servizi	formazione	Post	laurea	-	Ufficio	Master	Universitari	e	Scuole	di	specializzazione
Tel			06				3015				4275
Fax			06				3015				5846

spesportello@unicatt.it

sdass@unicatt.it

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

alle

SPORTELLO

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 2026 and ending in June 2026.

The practical activity (optional) will end in November 2026.

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

