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WHAT'S
ON+

WHERE TO GO IN ROME

ART AND CULTURE ENTERTAINMENT GALLERIES

MUSEUMS NEWS

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Il mandarino meraviglioso (detail) by Alberto Bardi.

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For details see page 31.

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EVENTS



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◀ ROME AND
PHILADELPHIA MAKE
MEDICAL HISTORY



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▶ TO DO CALENDAR



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▲ ROME'S REFUGEES WORK
THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS



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◀ ROCK, POP, JAZZ



ROME AND PHILADELPHIA MAKE MEDICAL HISTORY

FORMER ROME MAYOR IGNAZIO MARINO WAS
INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING THE WORLD'S FIRST
DUAL INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL DEGREE

Marco Venturini

Professor Ignazio Marino, Senior Vice President Thomas Jefferson University, Professor Mark Tykocinski, Provost, Thomas Jefferson University, and Professor Stephen Klasko, President and CEO, Thomas Jefferson University, signing the agreement in November 2018.



Rome's Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) and the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia have created a pioneering international medical degree programme, hailed as the first of its kind in the world. The agreement gives medical students at UCSC the chance to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Thomas Jefferson University and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and UCSC, all within six years.

Current medical education requirements differ vastly between the US and Europe. Medical students in the US must earn a four-year undergraduate degree and then a four-year medical degree in order to practice medicine in America. However medical students in Italy have no undergraduate degree requirement and can earn a degree within six years, followed by three months of internships and state exams.

Rome's Policlinico Gemelli Hospital, located on the UCSC campus, also signed the agreement, which gives UCSC students the

Medicine

opportunity to travel to Thomas Jefferson University to meet the US undergraduate requirements needed to pursue a medical degree.

Wanted in Rome put a series of questions to two of the principal architects of the deal.

Professor Ignazio Marino. Professor of Surgery, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University. Senior Vice President for Strategic Affairs, Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health.

WiR: What is at the core of the agreement?

Professor Marino: In May 2017 Thomas Jefferson University and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) signed a general collaboration agreement but on 11 November 2018 a much more concrete agreement was sealed to launch the so-called joint Jefferson/UCSC “3+3” programme. According to the agreement, students who are enrolled in the international English language Medicine & Surgery track at Università Cattolica in Rome may be selected to complete a six-year programme that allows them to earn a triple degree: a Bachelor of Science degree from Jefferson, a Medical degree from Jefferson Sidney Kimmel Medical College, and a Medical degree from UCSC. This will be accomplished taking half of the classes in Rome and half in Philadelphia, experiencing both cultural and academic environments. At the end of the programme, graduates will be allowed to practice medicine both in Europe and in the United States, which is

what makes the programme so unique and special – a project attempted by many in the past, but never accomplished until Jefferson and UCSC partnered. We now look forward to welcoming the first students at Jefferson in 2019.

What scenarios will the programme create?

The agreement will train tomorrow’s physicians, professionals who will face new challenges in a global world. Our programme’s graduates will be free to practice medicine in the 28 European states, as well as in the US or to train further in two continents, applying for residences without having to take further tests or worrying about having their degree acknowledged abroad. Our students will be exposed to very different academic, clinical and research scenarios and will be able to take the best out of each system. I wish I had been given this unique chance back in my day. Instead, after graduating in Italy (precisely at UCSC in Rome), I had to study hard and take several tests before being considered and accepted at a US institute to complete my specialty training. Our agreement allows students to save time, become fluent in another language and above all earn an incredible advantage over regular graduates, especially when seeking training and work opportunities overseas. The agreement has received public praise by the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research which has expressed its deep appreciation of double degree programmes.

What was your role in drawing up the agreement?

I am a Cattolica University alumnus. I graduated there in 1979 and am very proud of my background. After my residency, in the early 1980s, I moved first to England, later to the US, to train in organ transplantation. It wasn’t easy. I remember studying very hard to be accepted. Today, I am Professor of Surgery at Jefferson Sidney Kimmel Medical College and Senior Vice President for Strategic Affairs at Jefferson. In my capacity I immediately thought that such a programme could offer an incredible chance to medical students. This

Professor Stephen Klasko and Professor Ignazio Marino at the signing ceremony.



was obviously possible thanks to the vision and flexible thinking of Jefferson and UCSC leaderships.

Dr Steven K. Klasko, president of Thomas Jefferson University and CEO of Jefferson Health

WiR: How do you foresee the future of the medical sector in the next decades?

Dr Klasko: I believe that healthcare will once and for all join the consumer and digital revolution that has transformed all other industries. Specifically, I believe that by 2022, 25 per cent of hospitals with \$1 billion of net revenue will be providing real time genomic based decision support. By 2024, 20 per cent of the population with chronic conditions will be relying on virtual health assistants for wellness and health management. By 2025, 35 per cent of all care in Europe and the US will be delivered virtually. By 2027, for the first time, the majority of interactions will be virtual or remote and the majority of those involved AI or machine cognition applications. I also believe that physicians will be global, that a physician practicing in Italy or China will be able to practice in the United States and vice versa and that, just as we do with pilots we will know they are competent through simulation and technical/teamwork assessment technology.

What is the goal of the deal with UCSC?

In many ways, our partnership started as a match.com of shared values. Our mission is “we improve lives.” Our vision

is to reimagine healthcare, education and discovery to create unparalleled value. And our three prime values are: put people first, do the right thing, be bold and think differently. That mission, vision and values synched up very nicely with that of Cattolica University. At the end of the day, though, the relationship gets down to people, and working with Professor Walter Ricciardi and the leadership of Cattolica University and Gemelli Hospital along with my senior vice president, Professor Ignazio Marino created a real opportunity to start the process of creating a global physician and a global healthcare system with two great forward thinking universities.

Will the deal also involve financial and scientific exchange?

Along with the educational programme and the dual degree programme, we look to expand this partnership across four pillars—education, research, innovation and clinical activity. We look forward to joint research projects across the European Union and the United States attracting foundation dollars from global foundations, such as the Gates Foundation, from European funding sources such as Horizon 2020, and from US philanthropy and foundations. We also plan on breaking down borders clinically, including a global kidney exchange that will open the doors across the EU and USA (and potentially other countries) to expand eligible donors for kidney transplantation. Finally, innovation, information technology and augmented intelligence know no boundaries, and we are excited about leveraging the innovation and transformative ideas at both institutions across the globe.

The entire Jefferson and UCSC delegation.

