

THE AMERICAN STUDY METHOD FOR ITALIAN
MEDICAL STUDENTS.

Mazzotti Anatomy Conference

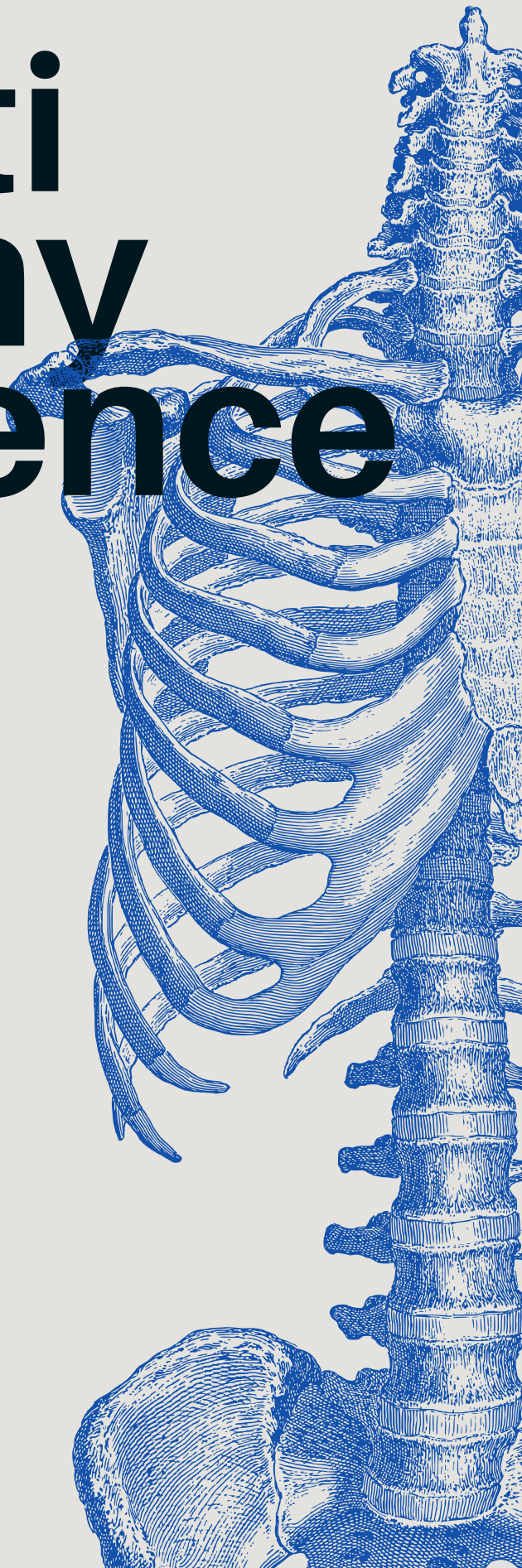
The Charter Place (TCP), Buffalo, New York

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✦ **Chartered**Professors, LLC



Where Anatomy Meets Opportunity

Chartered Professors, LLC is a community of university educators who believe that learning should be practical, empowering, and truly transformative. Through our center in the U.S., online programs, and international initiatives, we help students strengthen their skills, build confidence, and reach their goals with clarity and competence. Our work focuses on creating real opportunities, especially for those in STEM fields, by offering support, mentorship, and hands-on educational experiences.

MAC grew directly out of this mission. Over the years, we noticed that Italian medical students had very limited access to sectorial anatomy and cadaveric dissection. These experiences are essential for understanding the human body, yet surprisingly rare in Italy. Recognizing this gap, we created the **Mazzotti Conference**: an immersive anatomy program in the United States designed specifically for Italian students who want direct contact with dissection labs, international faculty, and a modern approach to anatomical learning. Students from other countries now also participate.

The conference is named after **Professor Giovanni Mazzotti**, one of the most influential figures in Italian anatomy education. As a professor and administrator at the University of Bologna, he shaped entire generations of students, led major academic institutions, and promoted key international anatomical collaborations with universities in New York, Buffalo, San Antonio, and Cardiff. When MAC was still just an idea, he was among the very first to support it. He believed deeply in giving medical students global opportunities and understood how powerful an experience like this would be.

Although he is no longer with us, the Mazzotti Conference continues in his honor. Each edition reflects his values, scientific rigor, international openness, and learning through real experience, while offering students a chance to expand their horizons and join a global academic community.

Since 2010, we've been bringing Italian students and U.S. professors together to share the experience of learning anatomy in a unique, innovative way.



Dr. Giovanni Mazzotti
Dr. Giovanni Mazzotti

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1. Our Mission & Why This Experience Matters

Anatomy is usually learned from textbooks, drawings, and digital models, but true understanding happens only when theory meets reality. Our mission is to bridge that gap. The Mazzotti Conference was created to connect what students study on the page with what they can finally see, touch, and recognize in a real human body.

To achieve this, we developed two programs that complement one another: MAC, focused primarily on anatomy dissection, and MAC-SA, which adds a more clinical, hands-on perspective. Throughout this brochure, students will discover the differences between the two tracks; for now, what matters most is that both offer direct, guided hands-on experience in the dissection lab.

This is where anatomy comes alive.

Students learn to observe how structures truly look, how tissues feel, where organs sit, how vessels relate to nerves and muscles, and how size, color, and texture differ from textbook illustrations. They practice distinguishing an artery from a nerve, a nerve from a vein, and identifying each structure not from diagrams, but from its real, tangible form.

This kind of learning leaves a lasting impact. Once you've seen and explored anatomy on a human body, it becomes part of your visual and sensory memory. The knowledge sticks, intuitively, naturally, and permanently.

That is why MAC is unique.

It transforms anatomy from something abstract into something real, unforgettable, and deeply meaningful for every student who joins us.



2. Who Can Apply

Over the years, many universities across Italy have **partnered** with Chartered Professors, offering their students scholarships and funded opportunities to join the Mazzotti Conference. These collaborations allow selected students to participate through their institution: in this case, the entire selection and application process is competitive and managed directly by the university, which then provides Chartered Professors with the final list of participants.

However, we strongly believe that access to high-quality anatomical education should not depend on formal institutional agreements alone. For this reason, we opened the program to **independent applicants** as well, so students from any Italian university can join MAC or MAC-SA, even without a formal partnership in place. Since we have informal relationships with many schools, students applying independently simply need to complete the online application form available on our website.

Through this form, we evaluate three essential elements: **anatomy professors** are contacted by us to assure the candidate is a good fit for the program, the **student's motivation**, their **ability to understand English**. Based on this review, acceptance letters are sent to those who are eligible to participate. Due to the high demand, positions are formally held by a financial deposit, when space is unavailable the candidate will be contacted for all availability and waiting lists are created.

We do not directly evaluate grades, academic performance, or anatomy exam results. This experience is valuable at **any point in the academic journey**: before taking anatomy exams (to prepare), after passing them (to consolidate), or even for students who struggled and need a stronger, more concrete foundation. What truly matters is the willingness to learn, the curiosity to step into the anatomy lab, and the motivation to challenge yourself in an international environment.

Well, and of course, being able to follow the experience in English. Everyone who feels ready to learn anatomy in a new, transformative way is welcome to apply.

5. Our Programs:

MAC vs. MAC-SA

The Mazzotti Conference offers two programs that complement each other bringing anatomy to life in different ways. Both provide direct contact with real human bodies, but each one is built with a specific educational purpose. Understanding the difference helps students choose the experience that fits their goals, learning style, and level of preparation. Some students attend both for a fuller experience.



WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Both MAC and MAC-SA allow students to experience real anatomy, but they do so with different rhythms and goals.

Choose MAC if you want:

- daily, hands-on dissection
- full immersion in each body region
- strong spatial, tactile, and visual learning
- the opportunity to dissect, explore, and handle structures directly

Choose MAC-SA if you want:

- a fast, complete overview of all body regions
- anatomy explained in direct connection to real clinical cases
- guided observation rather than full dissection
- a more medical, diagnostic, and decision-making perspective

Whichever program you choose, you will leave with a clearer, more confident understanding of the human body, an experience that stays with you throughout your entire medical care

MAC

5.

THE FULL ANATOMY IMMERSION (2 WEEKS)

MAC is our most complete and hands-on anatomy experience. Over the course of two intensive weeks, students focus on one body region per session, moving step-by-step from basic orientation to deep anatomical exploration.

Every morning begins with guided anatomical review, where students learn how to approach the day's region, identify landmarks, and understand key structures. This is followed by pro-section videos, demonstrations of dissection techniques, and student team presentations that encourage active participation and teamwork.

The core of MAC happens in the lab: students perform direct cadaveric dissection, carefully isolating organs, vessels, nerves, and muscles under the supervision of experienced faculty and tutors. They learn to distinguish textures, colors, densities, and spatial relationships, elements that no textbook or 3D model can truly convey.

Sessions also include some suture practice, allowing students to build manual skills essential for future clinical training.

MAC is recommended for those who want to deeply explore anatomy through real, hands-on practice. It is suitable for students at any stage of their medical education after they complete their anatomy coursework and provides an unforgettable foundation in human anatomy.



MAC-SA

5.

ANATOMY WITH A CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE (1 WEEK)

MAC-SA is designed for students who want to **connect anatomy with real medical reasoning**.

In one structured, high-impact week, participants complete seven modules, each dedicated to a major body region. Instead of dissecting entire areas themselves, students engage in guided cadaver observation, where tutors highlight essential structures, demonstrate anatomical variations, and explain how these features appear in clinical practice.

Each module includes:

- anatomical review,
- clinical insights from tutors,
- guided case discussions,
- and suture practice

The focus is on understanding how anatomy influences diagnosis, treatment, physical examination, and surgical decision-making. Students learn to “think clinically”, linking what they see in the lab with the real patients they will encounter in the future.

MAC-SA is ideal for those who want a more structured, clinician-oriented path: perfect for students preparing for future clinical rotations, OSCEs, or surgical careers. It is suitable for all levels, with differentiated explanations and activities based on each student’s background.



4. The Academic Program

The academic program of the Mazzotti Conference covers all major anatomical regions, guiding students through a **complete topographic journey** of the human body. In the two-week MAC course, participants begin with the back and progress through the neck, upper limb, thorax and mediastinum, abdomen, pelvis, lower limb, and finally the head, brain, and orbital cavity. Each region is explored step by step, learning to recognize muscles, vessels, nerves, organs, and their real three-dimensional relationships through direct cadaveric dissection.

The MAC-SA program follows the same anatomical structure but adds a strong clinical dimension: students observe tutor-guided dissections, discuss common clinical presentations related to each region, and solve group case-based questions that rely purely on anatomical reasoning. No prior pathology or physiology is required, although helpful, these subjects are not necessary to fully benefit from the course.

Both programs offer a complete and accessible way to understand anatomy in a concrete, realistic, and unforgettable way.

1500+ Students



40 different universities

5. Our Tutors and Faculty Team

Our **Italian tutor team** is made up of **highly motivated medical students**, both Italian and English-speaking, selected each year through a careful application process that begins in November.

Beyond strong anatomical preparation, candidates are chosen for their communication skills, their ability to collaborate with their universities, and their interest in pursuing academic or anatomical work in the future.

Tutors play a central role: before departure, they guide participants through all logistical steps, including required documentation, travel forms, and flight arrangements; during the program, they work with Chartered Professors to support students in the dissection lab, encourage teamwork, and help create a safe, respectful, and engaging learning environment.

Alongside the Italian tutors, a **group of American tutors**, selected directly by our faculty, assist with the program. These college/medical/profesional students facilitate international exchange and work closely with the Italian team to ensure that the MAC experience is collaborative, welcoming, and truly global.



Professor Russel Gullekson Has worked in some capacity with MACs since its inception in 2010. He is the Laboratory Director for Chartered Professors and MAC conferences. His anatomical knowledge is phenomenal, as are his teaching skills. He brings his many years of teaching medical, dental and other health professional students as well as his pathological experiences performing autopsies at the Buffalo General Medical Center.



Professor Sandra Ocampos

Has worked with the MACs for several years and has been teaching anatomy to future health care and allied health providers for about 20 years. She looks forward to sharing her passion for anatomy and pathology with you, and helping you reach a potential you have yet to realize you are capable of!

6. The Charter Place

The entire Mazzotti Conference takes place inside The Charter Place, our headquarters at **351 Tacoma Avenue, Buffalo, New York**, a space that has become the heart and home of MAC. We designed this center specifically for these programs. It is not just any place: The Charter Place is a former religious center that was renovated and redesigned to host anatomy, community, learning, and daily life all under one roof.

Inside, everything is built to support the MAC experience.

At the center of the building is a huge main hall, now transformed into our **Lecture Hall**, where morning lessons, presentations, and group sessions take place. Nearby you'll find a large dining hall, which functions as an event space and restaurant during the rest of the year, and, of course, the **anatomy lab**, where the core of the learning happens.

Students live inside The Charter Place in a true **co-living environment**, divided into male and female dorm rooms spread across multiple floors. Rooms contain sleeping for many students ranging from about 10-14 beds, but the space is organized so well that everyone has their own dedicated area for personal belongings. Our cleaning staff works daily to keep everything spotless and comfortable. We do require that you are responsible to maintain your areas, help us keep things in order, and to respect the needs of your roommates by keeping your beds made and items stowed.

The building includes **separate bathrooms/showers for male and female students**, each equipped with multiple closed, private shower units. We provide fresh towels every day, plus shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap, and hairdryers. There are also extra toilets and sinks scattered throughout the building to ensure easy access at all times.

At the heart of daily life is the common room, the **Grand Room**, a big open space where students gather during downtime. There's a small stage, often used by our musicians for impromptu jam sessions, where evenings naturally turn into moments of singing, playing, and laughing together. The common area also hosts our **snack corner**, always stocked with coffee, drinks, cookies, chips, and quick snacks available 24/7. Meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, are served **buffet-style** in this room as well. Everything is freshly cooked by our staff, and we accommodate all dietary needs, including allergies religious requirements, and personal preferences if possible. Please be very clear on the registration forms of dietary issues, it is much easier to plan for you before you arrive.

Outside, The Charter Place opens into a spacious yard filled with string lights and outdoor tables, where students spend warm summer evenings chatting, relaxing, and enjoying a well-deserved break after a full day of anatomy.

The Charter Place isn't just where MAC happens, it's where the community forms, where friendships are built, and where the experience becomes unforgettable.

7. Beyond the Lab: Extra

Activities & Events

MAC and MAC-SA are not only academic programs, they are full immersive experiences. Alongside the anatomy sessions, each edition includes a series of extra activities, designed to help students bond, creating life-long relationships with future colleagues. explore Buffalo, and enjoy moments of fun and discovery outside the lab. Most of these activities are not optional, meaning the entire group participates together, creating a strong sense of community and shared adventure. In the evenings, however, students may also have limited free time, during which they can relax, rest, or organize small outings on their own.

It's important to know that MAC is an incredibly intense program: full days, early mornings, very late evenings, and a tight schedule with little downtime. It's exciting, unforgettable, and deeply rewarding but also tiring. Students should arrive ready to give their best, learn a lot, sleep little, and live fully.

Most extra activities fees and transportation to the events are included in the program fee, so there are no hidden costs. The only optional expense is the Niagara Falls boat ride/or other tours packages you want (\$20-80), which is not included, and any personal purchases or meals purchased individually off site or through delivery services that students choose.

Among the activities offered every year, one of the highlights is the trip to Niagara Falls, a must-see experience and an iconic memory for all participants. We will deliver you to the USA side, you can spend the day, and we will pick you up. If your paperwork is appropriate, it is a short walk to the Canadian Niagara Falls that you can do, but it is not necessary.

Beyond that, the program adapts to the season and to what Buffalo has to offer at the moment. MAC is a dynamic experience, and the schedule is revealed day by day. Typical activities include: concerts and local music events, baseball games, bowling nights, possible guided tours of the University at Buffalo, museum visits,

trips to the beach, shopping, and, occasionally, special evenings hosted by prominent members of the local community.

One of the relationships we are most proud of is with the Centro Culturale Italiano Di Buffalo. Here, students learn about the history of Italian immigration to Buffalo, a city with an exceptionally strong and proud Italian heritage. We are welcomed with warmth, and spend time celebrating community, culture, and connection. While no trips to other cities outside Buffalo are included, the program almost always features a relaxing outing to the lake. Every edition of MAC is unique.

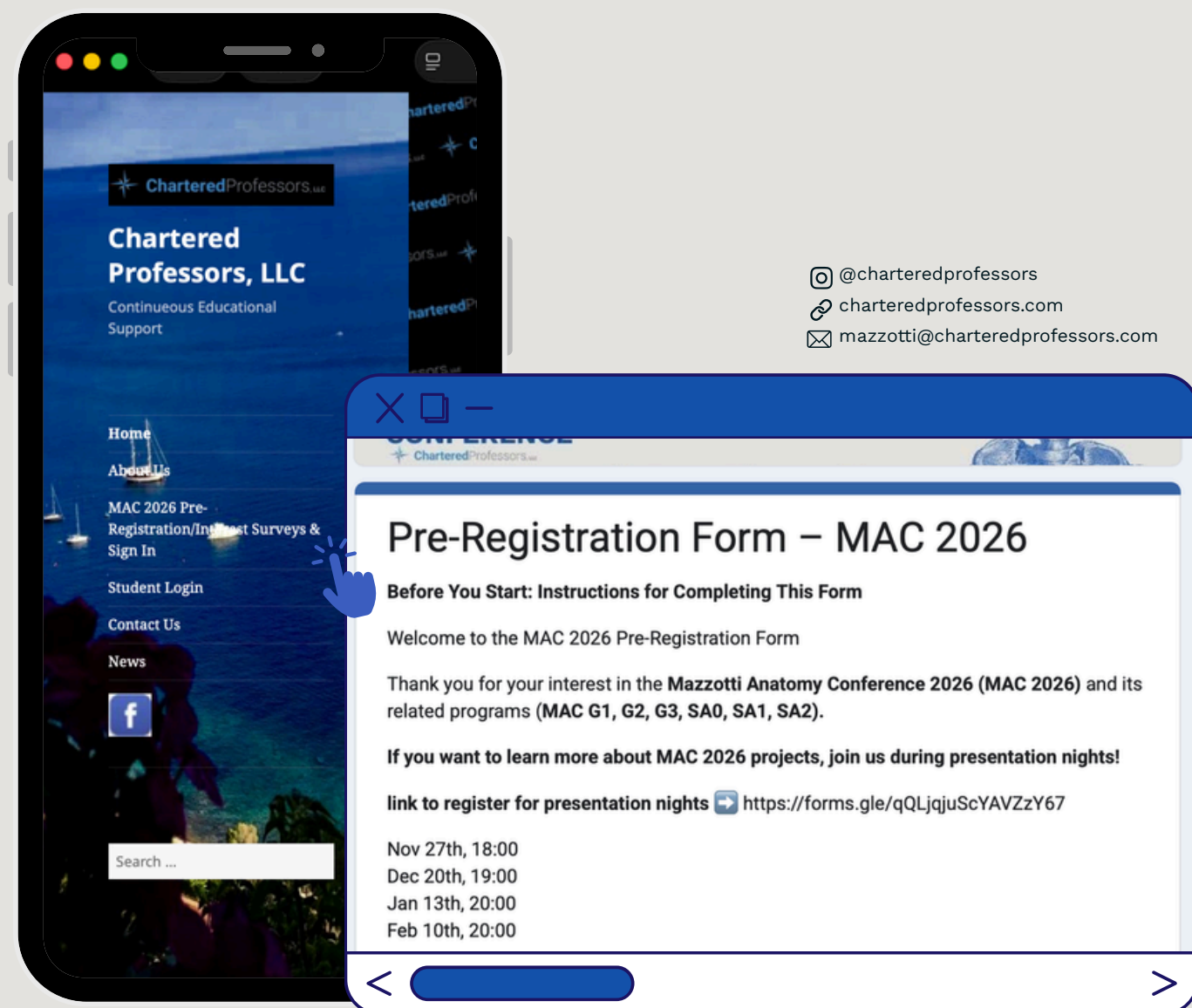
8. Application Process

Joining the Mazzotti Conference is simple. The first step is to visit our website www.charteredprofessors.com and open the Preregistration Survey from the drop-down menu. Completing this form counts as your official pre-registration and allows us to evaluate your motivation, background, and overall suitability for the program. After reviewing all applications, selected students will receive an Acceptance Letter, confirming their spot in the upcoming edition.

Once admitted, participants gain access to our Moodle platform, where they will find all required documents, instructions for payments, pre-departure forms, and detailed guidelines for purchasing flight tickets. At the same time, accepted students are added to a dedicated WhatsApp group and connected with their assigned tutor, who will guide them step by step through the entire preparation process.

The preregistration form is therefore the essential starting point for anyone wishing to join MAC or MAC-SA. Below, you'll find an example of what the form looks like, so you know exactly what to expect.

We also encourage students to attend our online **presentation nights** where we explain how MAC works, answer questions, and allow future participants to meet our tutors directly. All dates and access links for these sessions are available on our website www.charteredprofessors.com.



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