

provements and began the practice of writing the history of the different cases. He was admitted as a member to the College of St. Saviour in 1678, where he spent five years in reading the best authors upon physic. In 1684 he was appointed professor of anatomy in the College of Sapienza, and this office he held for thirteen years with great credit to himself.

Before Lancisi was thirty-four years old Pope Innocent XI. chose him for his physician and private chamberlain. Later he held the same position to two succeeding popes. The remainder of his life was spent in the practice of his profession and in writing books. During his life Lancisi had collected a splendid library of over twenty thousand volumes. Before his death he presented this library to the Hospital of the Holy Ghost for the use of the public, particularly the young surgeons and physicians who attended the patients in that hospital.

Lancisi was foremost in many branches of the science of medicine. He did much valuable preliminary work in founding a science of Hygiene, studying the exhalations from marshes. He also studied means of improving the unhealthy condition of the Roman Campagna. His name is also mentioned among the founders of Pathology. He investigated and gathered much information concerning the calcareous degeneration of the valves of the heart and concerning its dilatation and hypertrophy. He connected pulsation in the jugular veins with the dilatation of the right side of the heart resulting from incompetence of the tricuspid valves.

The distribution of the fibres in the corpus callosum was studied by Lancisi, and the longitudinal fibres bounding the median raphe have been named after him.

The principal of Lancisi's works were collected and published at Geneva in two volumes in 1718—entitled *John Marcæ Lancisii, Archiatri Pontificii; Opera Omnia in duos tomos distributa.*