

Professor Marco Patti is originally from Catania, Italy, where he graduated from the University of Catania and did his residency in general surgery. From Italy he moved to the US, where he has stayed ever since. He continued his surgical training in the University of California in San Francisco and received his American Board of Surgery certification in 1994. During the next two decades he continued to work in San Francisco and in 2008 he moved to Chicago. Currently he is working in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Professor Marco Patti has been a pioneer in esophageal surgery and esophageal disorders. He has published almost 300 original papers, over 100 book chapters, six edited books and has given hundreds of national and international invited lectures. He is very active in various international surgical forums from scientific journals to surgical societies and has been the president of both the International Society of Digestive Surgery and the International Society of Surgery.

The topic of his honorary Faltin lecture is: "*From the Odyssey to Present Times: Role of Mentoring in the Academic World*".