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### *Malpighia*

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*Malpighia* commemorates an Italian physician, philosopher, anatomist and microscopist, Marcello Malpighi (1628-1694). He was a professor of medicine at Bologna University briefly from 1656, professor of theoretical medicine at Pisa from 1658-1662, and a professor at Messina from 1662-1666 after which he returned as professor to Bologna from 1666-1691. Then in 1691, with failing health, he became chief physician to Pope Innocent XII. Malpighi carried out a considerable amount of research and discovered much about the structure of animals and plants, especially aided by his pioneering use of the microscope (he was the first to use it in anatomical studies). It has been noted that he would open animals (not human) alive and this practice enabled him to make observations that might not have been possible then by other methods. Throughout his life his views often conflicted with centuries-held prevailing ideas and attracted much controversy amongst his peers, and some authorities note that in 1684 his villa was burnt, and his equipment and papers were destroyed. Today still the names of a number of anatomical structures embrace his name. In 1668 he became the first Italian to become a Fellow of The Royal Society in London. His published works include *De Pulmonibus*, *De viscerum structura exercitatio*, and *Anatomia Plantarum*.