

CURRICULUM VITAE
Francesco Fortunato M.D, Ph.D.
OMISSIS

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Neurology Final grade: 110/110 cum laude	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2023
Special Training in Neurology Final grade: 70/70 cum laude	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2020
Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Final grade: 110/110 cum laude	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2015
High School Diploma (Classic Studies) Final grade: 100/100 cum laude	Liceo Classico Francesco Fiorentino, Lamezia Terme, Italy	2008

ACADEMIC & CLINICAL POSITIONS / RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track equivalent) – Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences – Conducting clinical and translational research in epilepsy	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2025–Present
Consultant Neurologist, – Responsible for patient care, supervision of trainees, and clinical decision-making	AOU Renato Dulbecco, Catanzaro, Italy	2022–Present
Post-doctoral Researcher (RTDA) – Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences – Conducting clinical and translational research in epilepsy	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2022–2025
Honorary Research fellowship with Sanjay M Sisodiya – Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy – Conducting clinical and translational research in epilepsy	University College of London (UCL), Queen Square Institute of Neurology, London, UK	2023–2024
Ph.D. student in “Biomarkers of Chronic and Complex Diseases” – Conducting clinical and translational research in epilepsy	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2019–2023

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Adult neurologist with expertise in clinical epilepsy, with a particular focus on rare monogenic and difficult-to-treat epilepsies. Areas of expertise include genetics of epilepsy including variant classification and genotype-phenotype correlations as well as the impact of climate change on people with epilepsy. Currently involved in several research projects, including climate change and epilepsy, genomics in Dravet syndrome, precision medicine in epilepsy, EEG signatures and cognition in adults with Dravet syndrome, and Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Neurology & Genetic course for PhD students, PhD in Digital Technologies Applied to Medicine Teaching load: 1 ECTS (Italian CFU) – Course title: Tips and Tricks in the Clinical Approach to Interpreting Genetic Variants, with a Focus on Epilepsy	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2025
Lecturer, Neurology course for medical students MD Medicine and Surgery program Teaching load: 0.5 ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024–Present
Lecturer, Neurology and Pharmacology Course for Psychology Students – Cognitive Psychology: Science and Methods Teaching load: 1 ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024–Present
Lecturer, Neurology course for nursing students – Bachelor Degree in Nursing Teaching load: 0.5 ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy Catanzaro site	2024–Present
Lecturer, Neurology course for nursing students – Bachelor Degree in Nursing Teaching load: 0.5 ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy Lamezia Terme site	2024–Present
Lecturer, Clinical Rehabilitation of Neurological Disabilities for BSc students in Physiotherapy – Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy Teaching load: 0.5 ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024–Present
Lecturer, Neurology for MSc students in Rehabilitation Sciences – MSc in Rehabilitation Sciences Teaching load: 1ECTS per year (Italian CFU)	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024

GRANTS

Projects of National Interest (PRIN): Investigation of Novel Neuroimaging Biomarkers of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) Risk Role: participant – PI: Antonio Ferretti – Unit Leader: Antonio Gambardella; Total funding: €239759	Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR)	2023
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AWARDS AND HONORS

Junior Author Travel grant for the 45° National Conference of the Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) – Padova, Italy	Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE)	2022
Junior Author Travel grant for the 52° Conference of the Italian Society of Neurology (SIN) – Milan, Italy	Italian Society of Neurology (SIN)	2022
Author Travel grant for the International Epilepsy Congress 2021	International League against Epilepsy (ILAE)	2021
Author Travel grant for the XXV World Congress of Neurology (WCN21)	World Federation of Neurology	2021
Best clinical case presentation in epilepsy – Clinical Talent Contest – Case title: “Status epilepticus amauroticus in a patient with familial occipital focal epilepsy with photosensitivity”	BrainCity Epilepsy Agorà – Italy	2021
Junior Author Travel grant for the 42° National Conference of the Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) – Rome, Italy	Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE)	2019
Junior Author Travel grant for the XLIX Conference of the Italian Society of Neurology (SIN) – Rome, Italy	Italian Society of Neurology (SIN)	2018
Junior Author Travel grant for the 41° National Conference of the Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) – Rome, Italy	Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE)	2018
Junior Author Travel grant for the XLVIII Conference of the Italian Society of Neurology (SIN) – Naples, Italy	Italian Society of Neurology (SIN)	2017

SUPERVISORY & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Mentor, Medical Doctors, Neurology Specialty Trainees, Clinical mentoring in EEG interpretation and epilepsy clinics	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2022–Present
Co-Supervisor, Residency Thesis – Special Training in Neurology	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2023–2025
Thesis Supervisor, Undergraduate Students (n=2) – Bachelor’s Degree in Neurophysiology Techniques	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024–2025
Thesis Supervisor, Undergraduate Students (n=2) – Bachelor Degree in Nursing	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2024–2025

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board Member	BMC Neurology, International peer-reviewed journal (Springer Nature)	2024–Present
Review Editor, Epilepsy Section	Frontiers in Neurology, International peer-reviewed journal (Frontiers Media)	2023–Present

Member, Committee for Internationalization– Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences	University Magna Graecia, Catanzaro, Italy	2023–Present
Peer Reviewer for the following International peer-reviewed journals:		

1. Current Neuropharmacology
2. Epilepsy & Behaviour
3. Epileptic Disorders
4. Epilepsy Research
5. Journal of Pediatric Epilepsy
6. Neurology: Genetics

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIA & COLLABORATIONS		2025–Present
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Coordinator of the Italian centre of Institute of Neurology, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, participating in the International Consortium for Research on Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood (IAHCRC)

Member, Enhancing Neuroimaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis (ENIGMA)– Epilepsy Working Group – contributing neuroimaging and genetics data

Member, EPI25 Consortium – international multicenter epilepsy genetics collaboration

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Chair, Task force Training and Career development	Italian Chapter of Young Epilepsy Section (YES)	2024–Present
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Councillor, Calabria-Sicily Regional Chapter	Italian League against Epilepsy (LICE)	2024–Present
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Member of Climate Change Commission on Epilepsy	Italian League against Epilepsy (LICE)	2024–Present
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Member	Italian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology	2024–Present
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Member	Young Epilepsy Section (YES)– Italian Chapter	2020–Present
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Member	Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) [Italian Chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)]	2017–Present
Member	Italian Society of Neurology (SIN)	2017–Present

(COMPUTER) LANGUAGES

English–Fluent / Proficient Italian–Native

- Programming & Analysis: R (Mac environment), MATLAB;
- EEG systems: Natus, Cadwell

- Office & Productivity: Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures/Guest lectures – (short list, last 2 years):

“The latest research breakthroughs about the effects of extreme weather events on epilepsy” – Lisbon, Portugal	36th International Epilepsy Congress – International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)	2025
“Sleep in alternating hemiplegia of childhood: international multicentre survey and sleep-EEG study” – Polish	International Symposium Rare Disease Day	2025
“Alternating hemiplegia of childhood – the clinical landscape” – Polish	International Symposium Rare Disease Day	2024
“Autoimmune Encephalitis” – Catanzaro, Italy	Regional Chapter of the Italian Society of Neurology (SIN)	2024
“Heterozygous/homozygous gene mutations and associated clinical phenotypes” – Rome, Italy	EpiEpinet Ionic channels and their implication in epilepsy and other neurological diseases: from basic research to clinical implications	2024

Symposium / Session Chair / Moderator – (short list, last 2 years):

“Epilepsy Genetics– Part II”, Session Chair/Moderator – 41 st Policentric Epilepsy Conference, Rome, Italy	Italian League Against Epilepsy (LICE) [Italian Chapter of the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)]	2024
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Poster presentations – (short list, last 2 years):

“Characterisation of sleep in Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood: an international survey” – Barcelona, Spain	12th Symposium on ATP1A3 in Disease	2024
“Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsy in a family with SCN4A-related myotonia” – 15th European Epilepsy Congress, Rome, Italy	International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)	2024

PUBLICATIONS

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications (short list, last 2 years):

1. **Fortunato F**, Vivekananda U, Behl KE, Vavassori R, Cordani R, Stagnaro M, De Grandis E, Sisodiya SM, Balestrini S. Characterization of Sleep in Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood: An International Survey. *Neurol Genet.* 2025 Dec 26;12(1):e200337. doi: 10.1212/NXG.0000000000200337. PMID: 41473933; PMCID: PMC12746614.
2. **Fortunato F**, D'Amico F, Votano A, Sammarra I; Environmental Climate Observatory Group – CNR-ISAC Lamezia Terme; Trimboli M, Gulcebi MI, Mills JD, Balestrini S, Sisodiya SM, Gambardella A. Climate change and hyponatremia-related hospital admissions in people with focal epilepsy exposed to carbamazepine or its derivatives. *Epilepsia.* 2025 Aug 2. doi: 10.1111/epi.18584. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40751909.
3. **Fortunato F**, De Fiore R, Sammarra I, Bonacci MC, Caligiuri ME, Sturniolo M, Martino I, Gambardella A. Focal epilepsy with sensory seizures associated with arginine:glycine amidinotransferase deficiency: A clinical and advanced magnetic resonance imaging study. *Epilepsia.* 2025 May 5;66(7):e136–41. doi: 10.1111/epi.18442. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40323733; PMCID: PMC12291002.

4. Giugno A, **Fortunato F (corresponding author)**, Sammarra I, Sturniolo M, Fratto E, Martino I, Nisticò R, Gambardella A. Tremor as an intrinsic feature of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. *Epilepsia*. 2025 Mar;66(3):e47-e53. doi: 10.1111/epi.18268. Epub 2025 Jan 16. PMID: 39817325; PMCID: PMC11908659.
5. Sisodiya SM, Gulcebi M[§], **Fortunato F[§]**, Mills JD[§], Haynes E[§], Bramon E, Chadwick P, Ciccarelli O, David AS, De Meyer K, Fox NC, Davan Wetton J, Koltzenburg M, Kullmann DM, Kurian MA, Manji H, Maslin MA, Matharu M, Montgomery H, Romanello M, Werring DJ, Zhang L, Friston KJ, Hanna MG. Climate change and disorders of the nervous system. *Lancet Neurol*. 2024 Jun;23(6):636-648. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(24)00087-5. PMID: 38760101. ([§]= equally contributing in writing manuscript)
6. Bertoli G*, **Fortunato F* (co-first authorship)**, Cava C, Manna I, Gallivanone F, Labate A, Panio A, Porro D, Gambardella A. Serum MicroRNAs as Predictors of Diagnosis and Drug-resistance in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: A Preliminary Study. *Curr Neuropharmacol*. 2024;22(14):2422-2432. doi: 10.2174/1570159X22666240516145823. PMID: 39403059; PMCID: PMC11451323.
7. Talarico M*, **Fortunato F* (co-first authorship)**, Labalme A, Januel L, Chatron N, Sanlaville D, Sammarra I, Gagliardi M, Procopio R, Valentino P, Annesi G, Lesca G, Gambardella A. Idiopathic generalized epilepsy in a family with SCN4A-related myotonia. *Epilepsia Open*. 2024 Jun;9(3):951-959. doi: 10.1002/epi4.12920. Epub 2024 Mar 27. PMID: 38544349; PMCID: PMC11145607.
8. Cerulli Irelli E, Cocchi E, Gesche J, Peña-Ceballos J, Caraballo RH, Lattanzi S, Strigaro G, Morano A, Moloney PB, Ferlazzo E, Pascarella A, Mazzeo A, D'Aniello A, Pizzanelli C, Milano C, Giuliano L, Viola V, Mostacci B, **Fortunato F**, Pulitano P, Burani M, Meletti S, Pignatta P, Perulli M, Battaglia D, Rosati E, Delanty N, Di Gennaro G, Gambardella A, Labate A, Operto FF, Giallonardo AT, Beier CP, Di Bonaventura C; Women with Epilepsy Treatment Options and Research (WETOR) study group. Second-Line Medications for Women Aged 10 to 50 Years With Idiopathic Generalized Epilepsy. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2025 Mar 3;8(3):e250354. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.0354. PMID: 40063025; PMCID: PMC11894492.

Number of publications: 76; Number of citations: 1090; h-index: 19 (source: Scopus)

Full list of publications can be found at: <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57196018305>

REFERENCES

Prof. Sanjay M Sisodiya, Professor of Neurology, UCL Queen
Square Institute of Neurology, London WC1N 3BG, UK. Email:
s.sisodiya@ucl.ac.uk. Relationship: Postdoctoral Mentor 2023–Present

Prof. Simona Balestrini, Associate Professor of Child Neurology
and Psychiatry 2023–Present
Neuroscience and Medical Genetics Department, Meyer
Children's Hospital IRCSS- University of Florence
Viale Pieraccini 24, 50139 Firenze, Italy
Email: simona.balestrini@meyer.it; Relationship: Postdoctoral
Mentor

Prof. Antonio Gambardella, Professor of Neurology, Institute of
Neurology, Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, 2016–Present
University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro, Viale Europa, 88100,
Catanzaro, Italy. Email: a.gambardella@unicz.it; Relationship:
Mentor (from Special Training in Neurology to Postdoc)

I certify that the information provided in the present Curriculum Vitae (CV) is accurate.

Catanzaro, Italy, January 2026

Francesco Fortunato MD, PhD

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*Firma autografa omessa ai
sensi dell'art. 3 d.lgs. 39/1993.*