

Dr. Gianfranco De Stefano

Neurologist, MD, PhD, FEBN

Education

2025- PhD in “Innovative Technologies in Diseases of Skeleton, Skin and oro-cranio-facial district” (Neuroscientific curriculum) at Sapienza University, Rome, Italy.

My PhD Thesis, titled “Pathophysiological Mechanisms in Trigeminal Neuralgia - The Impact of Sex, Neurovascular Compression, and Nerve Fibre Function” was defended in 2025 with a Final Grade Excellent cum laude. My PhD Supervisor was Prof. Andrea Truini

2022- Fellow of the European Board of Neurology, European Board of Neurology

I passed the exam of the European Board of Neurology with the grade 92/100

2022- Specialty Training in Neurology at Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

I graduated in 2022 with a Final Grade 70/70 cum laude and a thesis titled “Disclosing Pain Mechanisms in Trigeminal Neuralgia: New Evidence from Neuroimaging, Neurophysiology and Psychophysiology” Supervisor: Prof. Andrea Truini

2017- Basic Life Support provider

Certified by the American Heart Association

2016- Master’s Degree in Medicine and Surgery at Sapienza University, Rome, Italy

I graduated in 2016 with a Final Grade 110/110 cum laude and a thesis titled “Alteration of descending pain control systems in Fibromyalgia. A functional Neuroimaging Study”. Supervisor: Prof. Giorgio Cruccu

Training Courses

2024 – Training for the Shipping of Category A, Infectious Substance Affecting Humans Category B, Biological Substance, provided by Mayo Clinic Laboratories (USA)

2024- Course “Adult Neuroradiology Review Course” provided by Radiopaedia.org

2023- EAN Guideline Workshop, provided by the European Academy of Neurology (AT)

2022- Adult Standard Sheehan Disability Scale Training, provided by Harm Research Institute (USA)

2022- Adult Standard Sheehan Suicidality Tracking Scale 1/9/19 Training, provided by Harm Research Institute (USA)

2022 – Course “Introduction to Good Clinical Practice” provided by the National Institute for Health Research (UK)”

2021- Course “Pituitary Region” provided by Radiopaedia.org

2021- Course “Neuroradiology Update” provided by Radiopaedia.org

2021- Course “Imaging of Neurodegenerative Conditions” provided by Radiopaedia.org

2021- Course “Electroencephalography and Evoked Potentials” provided by the Italian Society for Clinical Neurophysiology (IT)

2020 - 6th Course “Degenerative Diseases of the Central Nervous System” provided by Italian Neurological Society (IT)

2020 - 7th International Course on Drug Resistant Epilepsies provided by Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital IRCCS (IT), with the endorsement of International League against Epilepsy -Europe

2020 – Course “The Request of Neurological Competence in the Next Future” provided by Italian Neurological Society (IT)

2020 - 15th Course “Update in Neurology” provided by Italian Neurological Society (IT)

Scientific and Medical Societies Membership

Board of Physicians, Surgeons, and Dentists of Rome. Member

Italian Association for Orofacial Pain (AIDOF). Counsellor

Italian Neurological Society (SIN). Member of the Scientific Panel on Pain

Italian Society for Clinical Neurophysiology (SINC). Member of the Scientific Panel on Pain Neurophysiology

Italian Society for Study on Headaches (SISC). Member

European Academy of Neurology (EAN). Resident and Research Fellow Section Member. Member of the Scientific Panel of Pain. SIN representative for the EAN Panel on Pain.

European Pain Federation (EFIC). Member

American Academy of Neurology (AAN). Member

International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). Member

Clinical Experience

2024-ongoing. Neurologist at “San Camillo de Lellis Hospital” Rieti (IT)

2022-2025. Neurologist in charge of the Rehabilitation Clinic at “Associazione Laziale Motulesi”, Rome (IT)

2017-2021 Resident in Neurology working in the Neurology Inpatients Unit, the Stroke Unit and the Neurology Outpatients Unit at Policlinico Umberto I, Sapienza University, Rome (IT)

2014-2016 Medical student attending the Centre for Neuropathic Pain Centre at Policlinico Umberto I, Sapienza University, Rome (IT)

Research Experience

2022- ongoing. Sub-investigator in Clinical Trial NOE-TGN-201 A Phase II/III, multicentre, 8-week run-in phase followed by a 12- week, prospective, parallel-group, double-blind, randomized withdrawal, placebo-controlled study, with a 52 week open label extension, to evaluate the efficacy and safety of daily 1.5 to 3.5 mg basimglurant in patients with pain associated with trigeminal neuralgia with suboptimal response to their current anti-pain therapy [ClinicalTrials.gov ID NCT05217628](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT05217628)

2022 - 2025. PhD student in “Innovative Technologies in Diseases of Skeleton, Skin and oro-cranio-facial district” (Neuroscientific curriculum) at Sapienza University, Rome (IT).

2021-2022 Research Fellow at the Pain Relief Foundation, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool (UK)

2017-2021 Resident in Neurology working in the Neuropathic Pain Centre at Policlinico Umberto I, Sapienza University, Rome (IT)

2014-2016 Medical student attending the Centre for Neuropathic Pain Centre at Policlinico Umberto I, Sapienza University, Rome (IT)

Teaching Experience

2018- ongoing “Diseases of the Nervous System-B” Course for master’s degree in medicine and surgery, Sapienza University of Rome (IT)

2022- Tutor for medical students, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Sapienza University of Rome (IT) *Appointed by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Sapienza University of Rome*

Lectures as Invited Speaker

2023 Neuroimaging, Neurophysiological and Psychophysiological Analysis of Concomitant Continuous Pain in Trigeminal Neuralgia *9th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Budapest 2023 – European Academy of Neurology (EAN)*

2020 A case of rare small fibre neuropathy wrongly diagnosed as fibromyalgia *Refresher course “The request of Neurological Competence in next future” –Italian Neurological Society (SIN)*

Awards and Honours

2024 – Best poster presented at the 54th Congress of Italian Neurological Society, Rome *Awarded by Italian Neurological Society for the poster “Vascular Compression in Trigeminal Neuralgia discloses Trigeminal Root Somatotopic Organization”*

2023 – Best poster presented at the 53rd Congress of Italian Neurological Society, Naples *Awarded by Italian Neurological Society for the poster “Neuroimaging, Neurophysiological and Psychophysiological Analysis of Concomitant Continuous Pain in Trigeminal Neuralgia”*

2022 – Best poster presented at the 52nd Congress of Italian Neurological Society, Milan Awarded by Italian Neurological Society for the poster “Sensory phenotyping in Trigeminal Neuralgia with and without concomitant continuous pain: insights into pathogenetic mechanisms”

2021 – Angela Vincent Award for Best Young Neurologist Investigator of the XXV World Congress of Neurology 2021, Virtual Awarded by World Federation of Neurology

Bursaries and Grants as Principal Investigator

2024 – Research Starting Grant 2024 for the project “Looking for the neurovascular compression fingerprint in Trigeminal Neuralgia” Value: 3000€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2023 – Research Starting Grant 2023 for the project “Disclosing Trigeminal Root somatotopy through Neuroimaging, Neurophysiological and Clinical analysis in Classical Trigeminal Neuralgia” Value: 1200€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2022 – Research Starting Grant 2022 for the project “Seeking peripheral nerve damage in Persistent Idiopathic Facial Pain” Value: 1250€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2021 – “Giuseppe Ayala” Bursary 2021 for the project "A Neuroimaging Study of Trigeminal Root and Somatosensory System in patients with Classical Trigeminal Neuralgia" Value: 2800€ Sponsor: Sapienza Foundation

2021 – Research Starting Grant 2021 for the project “Assessing anatomical and functional damage of the Somatosensory system in Classical Trigeminal Neuralgia” Value: 2000€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2020 – Research Training Fellowship 2021 for a Research Fellowship at The Pain Relief Foundation, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool (UK) with the project " A combined Quantitative Sensory Testing and Neuroimaging Study in Trigeminal Neuralgia with and without concomitant continuous pain: insights into pathogenetic mechanisms” Value: 16000€ Sponsor: European Academy of Neurology

2017 – Ebinprof Bursary for Best Students Graduated in 2016 Third Place. Value: 3000€. Sponsor: Ebinprof

Grants as Co-Investigator

2023 – Medium size Research Projects 2023 for the project “Unravelling Orofacial Pain Mechanisms” Principal Investigator: Prof. A Truini Value: 10600€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2022 – Medium size Research Projects 2022 for the project “SARS-COV2 Vaccination in patients HIV-positive” Principal Investigator: Prof. M Lichtner Value: 12500€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2021- IASP Collaborative Research Grant for the project “Disclosing pain mechanisms in trigeminal neuralgia” Principal Investigator: Dr G Di Stefano Value: 15000\$ Sponsor: International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)

2021 – Small size Research Projects 2021 for the project “Pain mechanisms in trigeminal neuralgia” Principal Investigator: Dr G Di Stefano Value: 3500€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2020 – Medium size Research Projects 2020 for the project “Unravelling the role of small-fibre damage in patients with fibromyalgia” Principal Investigator: Prof. A Truini Value: 10500€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

2019 – Medium size Research Projects 2019 for the project “Impact of neurovascular compression in classical trigeminal neuralgia” Principal Investigator: Prof. G Cruccu Value: 11000€ Sponsor: Sapienza University of Rome

Publications

1. Galosi E, Falco P, Di Pietro G, Esposito N, **De Stefano G**, Evangelisti E, Leone C, Litewczuk D, Tramontana L, Di Stefano G, Truini A. Epidermal Transient Receptor Potential Vanilloid 1 innervation is increased in patients with painful diabetic polyneuropathy experiencing ongoing burning pain. *Pain*. 2025 Feb 19. doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000003541. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39968935.
2. **De Stefano G**, Mollica C, Leone C, Galosi E, Di Pietro G, Falco P, Esposito N, Litewczuk D, Evangelisti E, Caramia F, Truini A, Di Stefano G. Trigeminal reflex testing abnormalities as a predictive model for distinguishing classical and idiopathic trigeminal neuralgia. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2025 Jan 20;171:61-66. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2024.12.025. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39889483.
3. Galosi E, Pirone C, Ceccarelli F, Esposito N, Falco P, Leopizzi M, Di Maio V, Tramontana L, **De Stefano G**, Di Pietro G, Di Stefano G, Garufi C, Leone C, Natalucci F, Orefice V, Alessandri C, Spinelli FR, Truini A, Conti F. Clinical, histologic, and immunologic signatures of Small Fiber Neuropathy in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. *J Peripher Nerv Syst*. 2024 Jul 9. doi: 10.1111/jns.12644. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38981675
4. Falco P, Litewczuk D, Di Stefano G, Galosi E, Leone C, **De Stefano G**, Di Pietro G, Tramontana L, Ciardi MR, Pasculli P, Zingaropoli MA, Arendt-Nielsen L, Truini A. Small fibre neuropathy frequently underlies the painful long-COVID syndrome. *Pain*. 2024 May 7. doi: 10.1097/j.pain.0000000000003259. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38723183
5. **De Stefano G**, Truini A. An overview of diagnosis and assessment methods for neuropathic pain. *Presse Med*. 2024 Apr 16;53(2):104234. doi: 10.1016/j.lpm.2024.104234. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38636786.
6. Di Pietro G, Cioffi E, Falco P, Galosi E, **De Stefano G**, Di Stefano G, Leone C, Martines V, Perotti S, Casali C, Truini A. Nerve ultrasound in Friedreich's Ataxia: enlarged nerves as a biomarker of disease severity. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2024 Mar 159:75-80. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2024.01.004. Epub 2024 Feb 2. PMID: 38359552.
7. Di Pietro G, Falco P, D'Elia C, Cavalcanti L, **De Stefano G**, Di Stefano G, Fabiano E, Galosi E, Leone C, Vicenzini E, Truini A, Mancini P. Predicting value for incomplete recovery in Bell's palsy of facial nerve ultrasound versus nerve conduction study. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2023 Dec 4;158:35-42. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2023.11.020. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38150916.
8. O'Neill F, **De Stefano G**, Pridgeon M, Bhargava D, Marshall A, Marshall A, Frank B. Trigeminal neuropathy presenting secondary to SARS-CoV-2 infection. *Pain Rep*. 2023 Oct 17;8(6):e1103. doi: 10.1097/PR9.0000000000001103. PMID: 37860785; PMCID: PMC10584294.
9. **De Stefano G**, Di Pietro G, Truini A, Cruccu G, Di Stefano G. Considerations When Using Gabapentinoids to Treat Trigeminal Neuralgia: A Review. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2023 Sep 19;19:2007-2012. doi: 10.2147/NDT.S407543. PMID: 37745191; PMCID: PMC10517700.
10. Di Stefano G, Falco P, Galosi E, **De Stefano G**, Di Pietro G, Leone C, Litewczuk D, Tramontana L, Strano S, Truini A. Pain associated with COVID-19 vaccination is unrelated to skin biopsy

- abnormalities. *Pain Rep.* 2023 Aug 10;8(5):e1089. doi: 10.1097/PR9.0000000000001089. PMID: 38225959; PMCID: PMC10789449.
11. Falco P, Galosi E, Di Stefano G, Leone C, Di Pietro G, Tramontana L, **De Stefano G**, Litewczuk D, Esposito N, Truini A. Autonomic small-fiber pathology in patients with fibromyalgia. *J Pain.* 2023 Jul 29:S1526-5900(23)00486-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jpain.2023.07.020. PMID: 37524221.
 12. **De Stefano G**, Litewczuk D, Mollica C, Di Pietro G, Galosi E, Leone C, Falco P, Tullo MG, Caramia F, Truini A, Di Stefano G. Sex differences in trigeminal neuralgia: a focus on radiological and clinical characteristics. *Neurol Sci.* 2023 Jul 12. doi: 10.1007/s10072-023-06923-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37436558.
 13. **De Stefano G**, Pulitano P, Di Bonaventura C, Zuliani L, Morano A. Anti-LGI1 encephalitis: A family affair. *J Neuroimmunol.* 2023 May 15;378:578084. doi: 10.1016/j.jneuroim.2023.578084. Epub 2023 Apr 5. PMID: 37037125
 14. Galosi E, Falco P, Di Pietro G, Leone C, Esposito N, **De Stefano G**, Di Stefano G, Truini A. The diagnostic accuracy of the small fiber neuropathy symptoms inventory questionnaire (SFN-SIQ) for identifying pure small fiber neuropathy. *J Peripher Nerv Syst.* 2022 Dec;27(4):283-290. doi: 10.1111/jns.12513. Epub 2022 Oct 5. PMID: 36175394.
 15. **De Stefano G**, Leone C, Di Pietro G, Esposito N, Falco P, Galosi E, Litewczuk D, Mollica C, Truini A, Di Stefano G. Unravelling the role of unmyelinated nerve fibres in trigeminal neuralgia with concomitant continuous pain. *Clin Neurophysiol.* 2022 Oct;142:52-58. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2022.07.502. Epub 2022 Aug 5. PMID: 35970059.
 16. Di Stefano G, **De Stefano G**, Leone C, Di Leonardo A, Di Pietro G, Sgro E, Mollica C, Cruccu G, Truini A. Real-world effectiveness and tolerability of carbamazepine and oxcarbazepine in 354 patients with trigeminal neuralgia. *Eur J Pain.* 2021 May;25(5):1064-1071. doi: 10.1002/ejp.1727. Epub 2021 Feb 2. PMID: 33428801.
 17. Di Stefano G*, **De Stefano G***, Leone C, Cruccu G, Tardioli S, Cartocci G, Fiorelli M, Truini A, Caramia F. Concomitant continuous pain in patients with trigeminal neuralgia is associated with trigeminal nerve root atrophy. *Cephalalgia.* 2020 Nov;40(13):1502-1510. doi: 10.1177/0333102420949206. Epub 2020 Aug 13. PMID: 32791919. ***These Authors contributed equally to this work**
 18. Di Stefano G, **De Stefano G**, Di Leonardo A, Cruccu G, Truini A. Pharmacotherapeutic Options for Managing Pain in Multiple Sclerosis. *CNS Drugs.* 2020 Jul;34(7):749-761. doi: 10.1007/s40263-020-00731-7. PMID: 32385804.
 19. Bersani FS, Coviello M, Imperatori C, Francesconi M, Hough CM, Valeriani G, **De Stefano G**, Bolzan Mariotti Posocco F, Santacroce R, Minichino A, Corazza O. Adverse Psychiatric Effects Associated with Herbal Weight-Loss Products. *Biomed Res Int.* 2015;2015:120679. doi: 10.1155/2015/120679. Epub 2015 Sep 17. PMID: 26457296; PMCID: PMC4589574.

Textbooks

- Chapter 19 “A lightning in the face”. Truini A, **De Stefano G**. In: Attal N, Bouhassira D, editors. *Neuropathic Pain.* Oxford University Press. Feb 2023. DOI: 10.1093/med/9780197616345.003.0019
- Chapter 5 “General approach to diagnosis and assessment of the facial pain patient”. Zakrzewska J, Nurmikko T, Hodaie M, Davis KD, **De Stefano G**, Truini A. In: Zakrzewska J, Nurmikko T, editors. *Trigeminal Neuralgia and Other Cranial Neuralgias: A Practical Personalised Holistic Approach.* Oxford University Press. Dec 2021. DOI: 10.1093/med/9780198871606.003.0005