
Christianne Leidecker

Christianne Leidecker graduated in Physics from the Friedrich-Alexander University (FAU), Erlangen, Germany in 2000. She then went on to obtain a Ph.D. at the Institute for Medical Physics at the FAU on the topic of automatic exposure control in Computed Tomography. In 2006, she joined Siemens as a Collaboration Manager in the US CT collaboration group based out of Philadelphia. 2010, she returned to Germany to head Global Collaborations for CT. Since July 2016 she has held the position of Head of the Cardiac Functional Team and Central Zone Director in the US MR Collaboration Team in Chicago. In this position, she works closely with our research partners in the US as well as the R&D team in headquarters.



How did you first come in contact with MRI?

Having started my career in medical imaging with CT, MR was, for the longest time, “the other” imaging modality. Every now and then, in discussions with clinicians and physicists, the discussions would turn to MR and this is how it slowly but surely crept its way into my life. To me, it was always fascinating how much we could learn from each other across the different modalities. So when the opportunity opened up to head the US CMR team out of Chicago, I grabbed it!

What is most fascinating about your job?

I have been working “in collaborations” since I left academia and joined Siemens. What fascinates me most about it is the unique opportunity to provide a bridge between clinical researchers and our development teams at Siemens. Working with our luminary partners and our excellent engineers enables us to translate cutting-edge research into products and clinical routine benefiting a large patient population. Innovation has always been a particular strength of Siemens, and collaborating closely with the scientific community has always been a pillar of our innovation strategy. I feel very privileged to be able to contribute.

What would you do, if you could do for one month whatever you wanted?

Well, first and foremost, I would negotiate for 6 weeks 😊 and then use this opportunity to do my Scuba Dive Master with my diving friends in Roatan, Honduras. Since my first dive in 2010 I have been fascinated by the peace and quiet and wonders of the underwater world and blowing bubbles became my favorite past time.

If I had one month to spend on my job, I would spend a week each with four different research partners at their institution and/or hospital.

What is most motivating about your job?

While a little hesitant in the beginning because of my CT background, I found it tremendously enriching to translate this to MR and I very much enjoy discussions with all those who are guiding me on this way. Cardiac MR is a fascinating field with tremendous opportunities and I look forward to participating in this development.