

Meet Siemens Healthineers

Siemens Healthineers: Our brand name embodies the pioneering spirit and engineering expertise that is unique in the healthcare industry. The people working for Siemens Healthineers are totally committed to the company they work for, and are passionate about their technology. In this section we introduce you to colleagues from all over the world – people who put their hearts into what they do.



Erlangen, Germany

Michaela Schmidt

trained as a radiographer at the University Hospital in Erlangen, Germany. She then went on to work for several years as an MRI research assistant at the University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland. In 1999 she returned to Erlangen to join the cardiovascular MRI group at Siemens Healthineers where she has since been an enthusiastic team member. Michaela works as an application developer for cardiovascular imaging; her main focus lies in the design and development of examination workflows for cardiac MRI scans – Dot Engines, collaborating with clinical partners, and developing and evaluating new imaging technologies. Over the last few years her principle focus has been on applying compressed sensing techniques to cardiovascular MRI.

How did you first come in contact with MRI?

During my training in Erlangen I visited the MR factory where, thanks to Sabine Vitt, we were given a really interesting volunteer demo. It was there and then that I decided that I would like to work in the field of MRI development. As a result, and following a 6-month stint in the X-ray and CT departments of the University Hospital Zürich, I soon switched to the MR section. A few years later I was promoted to the position of MR research assistant, with my main focus on contrast-enhanced MR angiography, postprocessing, and open MRI and interventions.

What is most fascinating about MRI?

MRI never gets boring! Not only can you visualize the whole body in such perfect detail, you can even display most of its functionality, from brain activity to the beating heart. As an application specialist visualizing the heart with MR is especially challenging and interesting. I particularly like working in small interdisciplinary teams with people from different backgrounds to improve the workflow or to create fascinating new ways of seeing inside the heart and great vessels.

What do you think are the most important developments in MRI and in Healthcare?

I find it hard to pick one – it would be biased, I'm afraid. I think for MR the most important developments are those which make scanning faster, more robust and easier to operate. From a healthcare point of view, I believe there should be even more focus on motivating the public to invest in disease prevention. A healthy life style has a significant impact on life expectancy, the quality of life and overall healthcare costs.

Outside of work ...

I love to be outside – in forests, up on top of mountains, in the sea. I enjoy taking walks with my dog, calming my mind with qigong, or maintaining my cardiovascular fitness with running, biking, scuba-diving or skiing. I also like travelling, learning from different cultures and discovering new things.