

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.

Dagmar Hering

Dagmar Hering holds a degree in electrical engineering from the Nuremberg Institute of Technology in Germany. She joined Siemens Healthineers in 1995. After initially working in software development for a lithotripsy system, she moved to MR in 2004, and has been part of that family ever since. Dagmar spent her first MR years working in Quality Management for MAGNETOM Espree and postprocessing with Leonardo before moving to Product Definition and taking on responsibility for the 3T premium segment and pediatric imaging. While working, she also earned an MBA in healthcare management from the University of Bayreuth. Dagmar became MR System Test Lead in 2011, and Head of Solution Verification and Validation covering system testing in 2018.



Erlangen, Germany



How did you first come into contact with MRI?

I started my career at Siemens Healthineers in the X-ray systems department, as part of the lithotripter project. We received regular training in radiation protection. Then my grandmother was diagnosed with cancer, and that was my first contact with MRI from a patient's perspective. The exam was very exhausting for my gran. It took over an hour and was very noisy. Also, the bore was very long and narrow. I was fascinated by the results, though: images with soft tissue characterization and no radiation exposure. This opened my eyes to a new world of clinical imaging, and I decided to move into MR development.

What do you find most fascinating about MRI?

The spirit of MRI. It drives developers, researchers, and users around the world to continuously work on improvements and explore new possibilities. For me, the technological leap from MAGNETOM Impact, which was used to examine my gran, to MAGNETOM Espree and the first 70 cm bore was amazing. The development project posed many challenges, but everyone on the team was committed to solving them so that we could launch the first short and open MRI system. Of course, the progress is still ongoing; every day, we learn from each other, generate new ideas, and seek to better understand the needs of operators and patients.

What role do you play in MRI development?

My team and I are responsible for system validation. This is the last step of the product development process.

It provides the design validation reports for regulatory submissions to the FDA and for CE marking, for instance. System validation involves using the MRI system and/or the new features both as defined in the product specifications and as the customer will use them. The validation process consists of three phases: preparation, execution, and reporting. The preparation phase starts approximately six months before the execution phase, with the development of the validation plan. The planning stage establishes the required MRI systems, test content, and number of testers. The testers are selected according to the project content and their skills. In general, the tester team consists of internal techs, customer techs, and application specialists from Siemens Healthineers. The application specialists support multiple customers in their countries, which might be as far away as Canada or Japan. Arranging for these testers to be at our MR headquarters in Erlangen in the necessary timeframe is very time consuming. On the other hand, it is very beneficial for our evaluation process because of their global experience. The test execution phase happens at the MR headquarters of Siemens Healthineers in Erlangen, where we have over 30 MRI systems available for development, testing, and training. The testers perform predefined test cases as well as "freestyle" tests. The freestyle tests allow the tester to perform different customer workflows. In the final phase, the test manager collects and evaluates all the results and feedback. A summary report of the validation phase is then provided to the project manager and the relevant department.

What do you find most motivating about your job?

That I'm learning all the time. I love being in contact with the testers who represent MAGNETOM users, and listening to what they have to say about the new MRI system or features, their own clinical experience and challenges, and their wishes. Everybody in our company has the power to move MRI forward. We cannot make every wish come true, but when I look back at where we came from and where we are today, it makes me proud. I'm certain that MRI has an exciting future in store.

If you could do anything you wanted for a month, what would it be?

The system validation phase is a busy time, so I'd like to be able to visit to our MAGNETOM users more often. It's so important and helpful that we understand our customers' business needs, and that our customers understand our business. Both worlds are always changing, and it's important that we stay in touch.

When I'm not working, I love being outside and traveling. My husband and I are in love with Australia. We have friends there, in Bargo. We also love heading into the outback, along the Gibb River Road, and eating grilled barramundi around the campfire. It's great to switch off by hiking the trail to Mitchell Falls and going stock-horse riding on the plateau.