

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.

Haitham Mohamed, Ph.D.

I'm Haitham Mohamed and I work as a business development manager in the MR strategy department in Erlangen, Germany. After joining Siemens Healthineers in 2007, I worked in various roles as a CT and MR product specialist, and later as a product manager. In 2014, I became the MR Business Line manager in Egypt. While continuing in this role, I also became an MR collaboration manager in 2015, and then scientific partnership head for the Middle East and South East Africa. While working at Siemens Healthineers, I also earned my Master's (2004) and Ph.D. (2010) in magnetic resonance imaging from the Faculty of Engineering at Cairo University in Egypt.



Erlangen, Germany



How did you first come into contact with MRI?

It was almost 20 years ago, during my bachelor studies in Cairo. My supervisor gave us an interesting lecture about MR physics and the potential benefits over other imaging modalities. The fascinating mixture of physics and mathematics sparked my interest the field, and just three days later we were working out how to simulate and reconstruct our first experimental MR images. That was awesome.

What are the greatest challenges in your job?

The pace of development in healthcare is so fast right now. You have to lift your head above your day-to-day work and consider the larger environment in which you're operating. It's about asking questions and challenging assumptions about the way things work in your environment and in the industry as a whole. One major challenge is how to leverage the current developments in technology to increase accessibility, improve care delivery, and achieve better outcomes for patients. It is important that we find ways to overcome the lack of trained staff and offer routes to training and development for healthcare workers in general and for radiologists, technologists, and biomedical engineers in particular. The patient experience should also be a key consideration when envisaging future developments.

The Aswan Heart Centre in Egypt is a specialist institution that treats children from all over Africa. We collaborate with AHC on heart diseases. Integrating and incorporating research work into daily routine is a key success factor for the center. Research is not a luxury part of the job, but

rather a necessity to accomplish the center's mission. Providing the required applications was therefore just one pillar for us. The other was about transferring our expertise to AHC, and vice versa so that we have a thorough understanding of the local clinical challenges. This continuous feedback loop is the cornerstone of our successful collaboration.

In a nutshell, the biggest challenge of my job is about finding ways to enable access to innovations that can meet basic needs in a highly efficient and affordable way.

What about MRI fascinates you and keeps you moving?

I would say the main motivation is a commitment to supporting and helping people and communities, improving their quality of life, and giving them hope for a better future. One of the greatest examples of this is our collaboration on heart diseases with Aswan Heart Centre. Its vision for providing neglected communities with the highest level of care is the same as any other center of excellence anywhere in the world: It works with commitment and dedication, serving patients free of charge regardless of who they are and where they come from. I'm proud that, as a leading healthcare company, we are involved with this kind of institute and its communities – that we are an integral part and enabler of its mission. I'm not on the front line with patients, but I still feel happy about every patient's smile on their journey to recovery. Ultimately, I'm driven by the impact that MRI has on people's lives.

What do you think are the most important developments in healthcare?

Increased accessibility to medical imaging such as MRI is an important factor for bringing the benefits to a wider population. Diagnostic information gained by MRI will definitely improve a patient's treatment journey, especially if it is deployed at an early stage. But MRI is still a highly specialized and expensive modality that is not widely used. Developments in the affordability of MR itself, shorter scan times, and automated patient-specific technologies powered by AI and machine learning will all help to make MRI available to more patients. In addition, there is growing interest in having a second opinion immediately before and during the scan either from the technologist or the

radiologist. So facilitating this kind of communication in a way that preserves patient privacy and assures confidence in the outcome will be a game-changer, especially in rural areas.

What would you do if you could spend a month doing whatever you wanted?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, walking, telling my children stories, and playing chess. I love to travel and discover new places, meet new people, and learn about new cultures. Getting away from my normal day-to-day routine gives me the opportunity for personal reflection and allows me to refresh my mind and to practice meditation.

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