Michelle Steinkrug

After studying theater and media studies at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Michelle went on to study industrial engineering at the same institution. Michelle joined Siemens Healthineers in 2018 as an education consultant, which involves working closely with the application product managers, the marketing team, and the R&D team. Based on the blended learning strategy, Michelle develops customer learning material that is published on the e-learning platform PEPconnect. She uses different learning methods to serve different learner needs. She has helped to develop learning material for several modalities, such as CT, XP, and *syngo*.via. Michelle also began producing MR learning material in 2020, and has recently developed the XA30 cardiac training program.

Erlangen, Germany

How did you first come into contact with MRI?
My very first contact with MRI was when I was nine years old. The doctor showed me the images after my scan. This was the first time I had seen these kinds of images. I was so impressed by the idea that someone could see inside the human body.

Professionally, I had my first contact with MRI when I joined the Customer Services Education Team as a student. My job was to support my colleagues by creating customer education training material for our e-learning platform PEPconnect.

What do you find most fascinating about cardiovascular MRI?
With MRI in particular, there is plenty of potential to improve on established methods, develop new ones, and break with existing imaging limitations. We've seen this very recently with the development of GOHeart, which expands the patient population eligible for cardiac MRI. It makes it possible to examine patients who cannot hold their breath. GOHeart allows you to perform an automated and guided comprehensive cardiac examination, as it is one extension of the Cardiac Dot Engine.

Exam strategies can be selected based on the patient's physiological condition, and all protocols are adapted automatically. In summary, cardiac MRI is a fascinating field within MRI and has tremendous opportunities. I am really looking forward to participating in this development.

What does training and application support work involve?
With the current global health crisis, educational institutions have undergone radical changes in the past few months. Teachers and learners have had to adapt their learning methods using the associated technology within a very short time.

And this is where the blended learning strategy comes in, that was already well established long before the crisis, but now it is getting more and more important: a hybrid of in-person lessons and e-learning. Blended learning

is a viable model for the future of education because the in-person and online components can be combined in any proportion. The model offers a lot of flexibility and promising opportunities and with the current situation its focus is turning more and more on the online part.

The learning material needs to be available online, allowing learners to access it at any time to refresh their memory, to check that they understand the course ontent, or to seek out additional, in-depth resources about a topic of interest. With our e-learning platform PEPconnect, you can access a large number of engaging in vivo and in vitro learning activities – including e-learnings, webinars, job aids, videos, virtual instructor-led events, and more.

If you haven't discovered it yet, take a look at PEPconnect here: **https://pep.siemens-info.com/en-us**

You will find a lot of material there, such as the basics for getting started with scanning, or ways to learn about MR View&GO and its functionalities in more detail. You can learn more about MRI application techniques such as SMS, Compressed Sensing, and – of course – the Cardiac Dot Engine: **https://pep.siemens-info.com/en-us/dot-cockpit-and-dot-engines**

This online training is a step-by-step guide to the Dot Engine concept and workflow. By creating your own account on PEPconnect, you can set up individual learning plans, track your progress, and view the learning objects you are interested in – any time and any place that suits you. I hope you enjoy your learning journey!

What would you do if you could spend a month doing whatever you wanted?
I love to travel and to be outside, to learn from different cultures and discover countries and cities on foot. That's why I usually avoid using public transport. I love to walk during my trips, because then I discover places I didn't know about.

Being outside to put things in perspective, and the time away from the normal day-to-day routine gives me the opportunity for personal reflection.