

Lee Ann Kitamura- Patient Care Award nomination letters:

Lee Ann Kitamura MRT (R). (MR). Has the best bedside manner of any MRT I have worked with. Her demeanor is always pleasant and she goes above and beyond to make her patients and their families feel comfortable and supported during stressful and long MRI scans. A memorable example of this kindness was when Lee Ann went out of her way, to find a way for a stressed out parent who left their wallet at home, to cover their parking at the hospital. Lee Ann is always very patient in answering questions for families and is a strong advocate for her patients.

Lee Ann works in a unique role with hybrid cases involving IR and MRI. Don't let her gentle and softspoken nature fool you – she handles complex procedures with a multi-disciplinary team of up to 20 people like an expert music conductor.

Please join me in congratulating and recognizing our super technologist @Lee Ann Kitamura on her recent (Monday, Jun 13th) gold medal 🏆 win for her poster on "**Hybrid MRI suite in Pediatric Interventional Radiology Department: Applications, Challenges and the Role of a Hybrid MRI/IR Technologist**". She won the **Best Clinical Poster** at this year's AVIR (Association of Vascular and Interventional Radiographers) conference in Boston. This was an achievement recognized by technologists and radiologists from around the world.

Thank you so much for representing Sickkids' DI in such a great event and highlighting our contributions in this specialized field.

Poster and photo attached below.

Introduction

Need for Hybrid MRI suite

- Patient requires multi-modality imaging
- Allows for intra-procedural multi-modality imaging
- MRI useful diagnostic tool with need to minimize radiation dose
- Eliminates need for multiple general anesthetics
- Reduces transportation of anesthetized patients through the hospital





Challenges:

- Scheduling procedures involves multiple rooms and team members from various disciplines
- Ensuring safety of patients and staff in a constantly changing environment
- Complex booking process to include multiple rooms and team members from various departments

MR Bone Biopsy


Procedure started in Room 3

- Patient transferred to MRI room after MRI safety check
- MRI room setup with MRI safety equipment only
- A Hybrid NeuroLab MRI procedure changes the flow from images to Radiology
- Prep during first hour imaging and post biopsy sequences performed

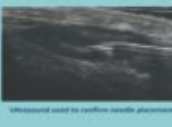



Hybrid Suite Layout

- Room 3**
 - Hybrid IR room
 - Utilized by IR
- Room 4**
 - Hybrid MRI room
 - Utilized by OR/IR
- Room 5**
 - Hybrid OR/IR room
 - Utilized by Neurosurgery and IR



MR Lymphangiogram¹

- Procedure started in RT Room 3
- Ultrasound and Fluoroscopy used to confirm needle placement, needle removed for transfer to MRI
- MRI safety check performed
- Pre gadolinium T2 and T1 images
- Dynamic gadolinium contrast injection, images acquired every minute for 30 minutes, then every 3 minutes

MRI Safety

Staff Training by MRI safety officer (surgeons, OR nurses, aides)


- Online course and live lecture
- Online database of staff screening forms
- Clinic completed, access granted by June 3

Equipment:

- MRI safe monitoring for patient
- Tools used in MRI room are limited to 3T safe only



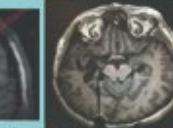
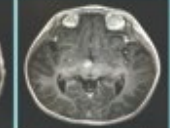
Patient transfer between OR environment and MRI room

- Intra-Operative and Post-Operative Check list



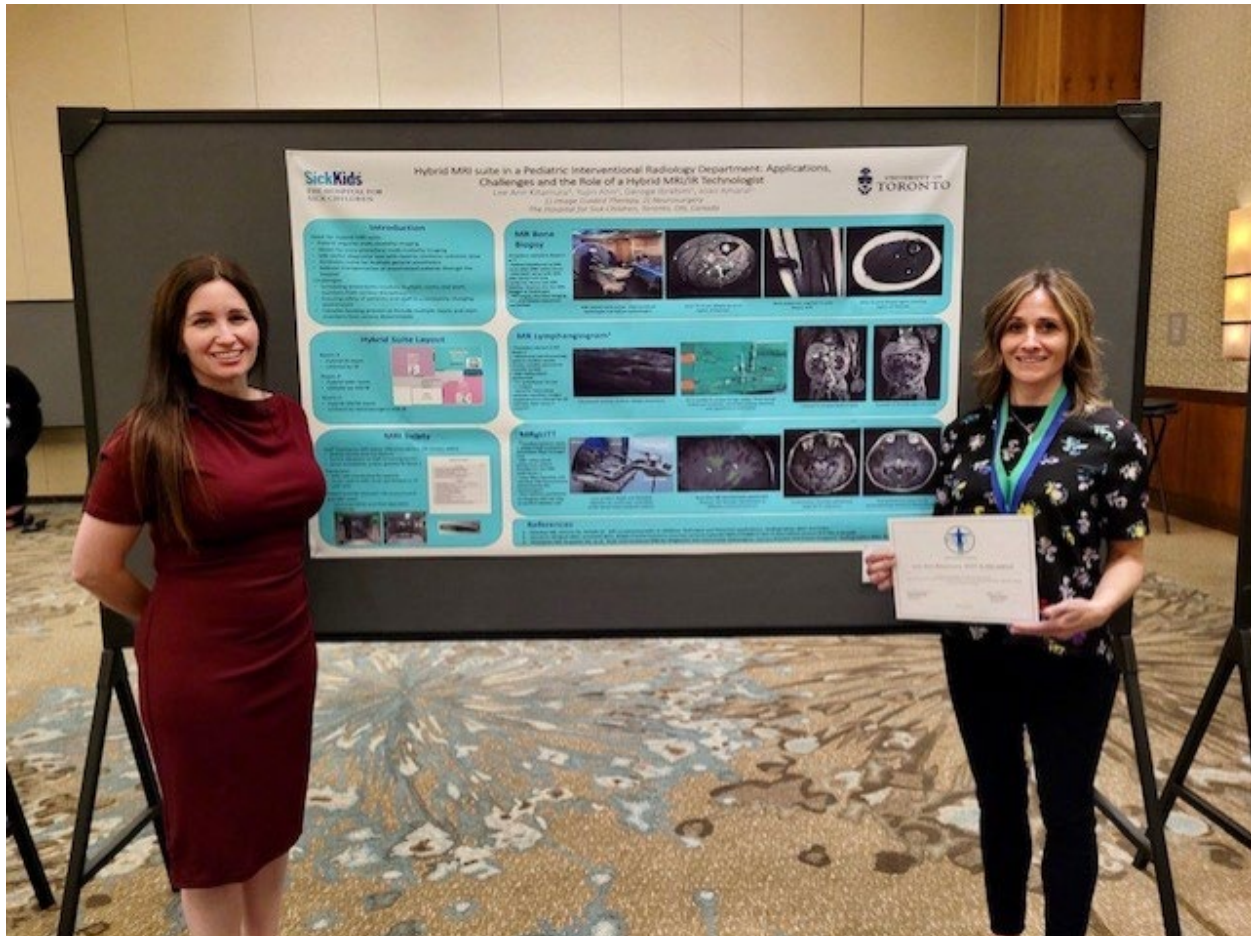
MRgLITT

- Procedure starts in-room 5 where a hole is placed to allow laser fiber to target area
- MRI safety check performed post-contrast transferred into MRI suite Room 4
- Laser fiber inserted, and real-time MR thermometry performed by the neurosurgeon
- Post ablation gadolinium T1 imaging with fast stop to confirm ablation size

References

1. Chouhan GB, Amaral JB, Temple M. MR Lymphangiography in Children: Technique and Potential Applications. *Radiographics* 2017 Oct;37(10)
2. Schneider Medical 2021, accessed 2021, <https://www.medtronic.com/usa/content/dam/medical/2022/11/2021-11-20-0-Resonance-System-IP3-300-3-16.pdf>
3. Thompson SM, Krzyzotof GR, et al. Body Interventional MRI for Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology: Current Practice and Future Prospects. *Radiographics* 2011 Oct;31(8)



I am a Registered Nurse in IGT and It has been my absolute pleasure working with Lee Ann. Lee Ann is so great at communicating with our anxious pediatric patients - she always gives a sense of calm and is always so attentive to the special needs of our patients and their families. I personally learned so much from Lee Ann in terms of developmentally appropriate communication with children. She is an exemplary team member and, in my opinion, definitely deserves a Patient Care award.

Lee Ann provides the most incredible family centered patient care. She ensures the patients and their families are well educated and informed before agreeing to any procedure. Her gentle demeanor is able to comfort the most anxious patient and or families. She is not afraid to speak up for the patient when the family has a concern. She provides patient with dignity and respect, and honours patient and family perspectives and choices. She encourages patients and families to participate in the care and decision making process. Patient and families are always incredibly satisfied with the care they received from Lee Ann.

Lee-ann has been a good collaborator in patient care. Cheerful and pleasant to work with. Always standing by to help us by getting a different device or catheter that is required for patient care. She has worked hard in collaboration with others to develop a 3D printed device to ensure patient safety and care in the MRI suite.

Lee Ann's role is unique in IGT. She is the only MRI/Interventional technologist that we have. Her skill set lends itself to the uniqueness of some of our most complex combined procedures. She is comfortable doing an array of interventional procedures and can seamlessly transfer patients from Interventional environments to MRI suite to be scanned. She is a resource to Neurosurgery as she has helped navigate some of the most complex cases that required Anaesthesia, Intraoperative Navigation, CT, Angiography, MRI, Laser surgery. Her quiet and confident disposition makes her ideally suited for this high-pressure role. She is very knowledgeable and as such, is a resource and a teacher to others. She has presented at conferences on her role and that of the hybrid procedures that she has been involved in.

It is my pleasure to provide a reference letter supporting the nomination of Lee Ann Kitamura for the OAMRS Patient Care of the Year Award. I have had the pleasure of knowing Lee Ann for several years and I have seen her provide knowledgeable and compassion care to her patient. In addition, to her excellent patient care, Lee Ann has extensive knowledge in MRI and Interventional Radiology. Lee Ann is open to sharing this expertise at the local, national, and international level. This past year, Lee Ann received a Gold Medal for her poster presentation on “ Hybrid MRI Suite in Pediatric Interventional Radiology Department: Applications, Challenges and the Role of a Hybrid MRI/IR Technologist “ at the Association of Vascular and Interventional Radiographer conference in 2022. Lee Ann was very deserving of this award and her colleagues were extremely proud of her. We are lucky to have Lee Ann as our hybrid technologist, she is a worthy candidate for the Patient Care of the Year Award!