



CONFERENCES

Physics poster award



Pim Borman

Department of radiotherapy
University Medical Center (UMC) Utrecht
Utrecht, The Netherlands

What does this award mean to you?

To me this award means recognition that MR-guided radiotherapy is the way forward. I believe that we are only just starting to make full use of the versatile capabilities MRI has to offer.

What is your next challenge?

My next challenge as a clinical computer scientist in radiotherapy is to make possible truly real-time adaptive workflows on the magnetic resonance linear accelerator (MR-Linac). The work we presented in our poster is an example of what is possible with MRI during radiation treatments. The next step is to couple this to real-time treatment adaptation strategies such as gating and/or multi-leaf collimator (MLC) tracking, and to real-time treatment planning strategies. With advancements such as these, I believe that, in the end, margins due to geometric uncertainties should become obsolete.

What started your interest in science?

To me, being a scientist means having an interest in and curiosity about my surroundings, which are traits that all people start out with as infants. The challenge is not to lose that childlike feeling of curiosity. The fact that innovations in MR-guided radiotherapy require expertise from a wide range of disciplines creates a stimulating environment with a very diverse group of people. That keeps the scientist in me alive.

Did your parents encourage you in your career, or would they rather you had done something else?

My parents always encouraged me in my education and career, even though they work in a completely different field. This makes it sometimes challenging to explain to them what I am working on, but also gave me the insight that if you cannot explain a complex subject in simple terms, it probably means you do not understand it fully yourself.

When do you think you will retire, and what would you like to do then?

As of now, my retirement age is officially set at 69.5 years, 38 years from now. I imagine my wife and I will have a nice family house on Bali where our friends and offspring will often visit us, but who knows?