

A scientist just like me



Dorota Ferguson
Clinical scientist

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Hi there! I am Dorota Ferguson – A clinical scientist



Where do I work?

I work in the nuclear medicine department in Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland. I moved to Belfast from Poland about 14 years ago.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

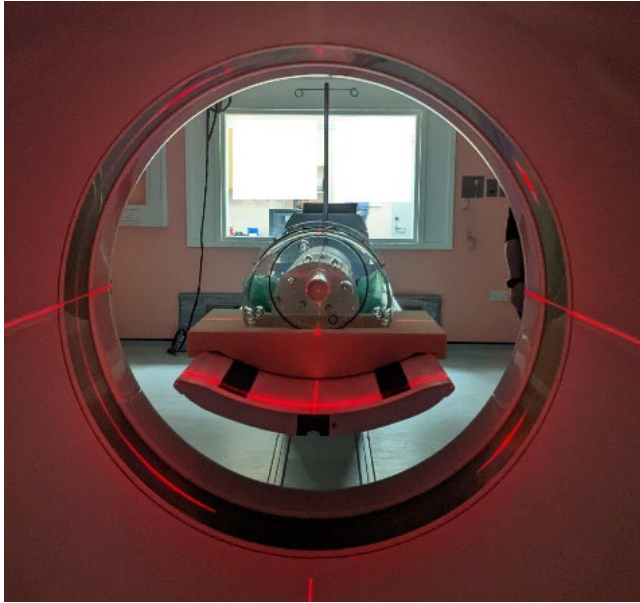
I have always wanted to work in a hospital. I dreamed about being a doctor. But because I like experimenting, I chose to study physics and discovered an amazing world of medical physics.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

The greatest joy for me is the time spent with my family. I also love running, boxing and reading (a strange mix, I know)!

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What do I do as a clinical scientist?



I help to create pictures of the human body using radioactive substances. I test the machines used for it, set them up for the patients' use and then I analyse the pictures. I keep an eye on the radioactive substances used in the department to make sure they are stored securely and do not fall into the wrong hands.

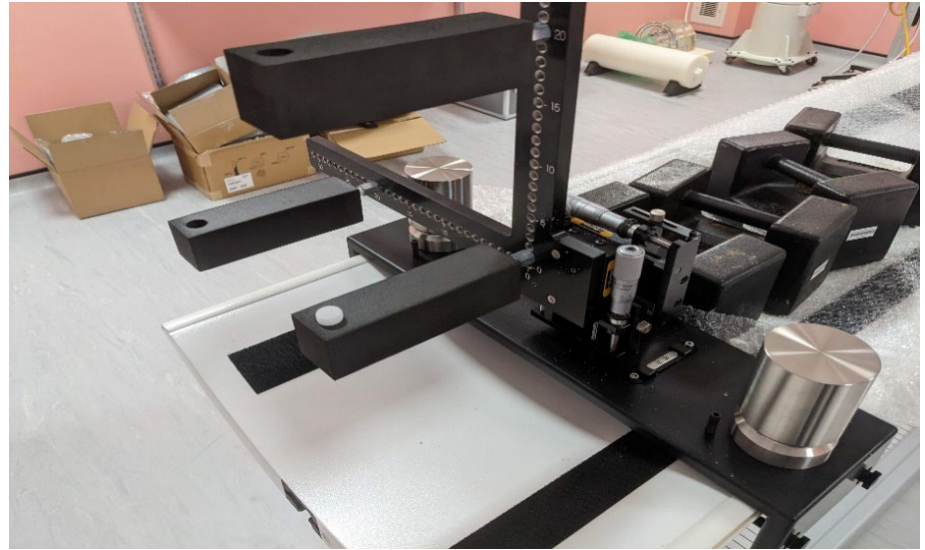
How does what I do make the world a better place?

I am a part of a team of doctors, nurses, scientists, and other experts. We use our knowledge, experience, and skills to help patients. We want to help prevent and diagnose diseases and illness and choose the best treatment options, if needed.

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What I like about my job

The best reward for my work is the smile of happy patients and their families. I can also connect with specialists around the world and together we can make hospitals a better place.



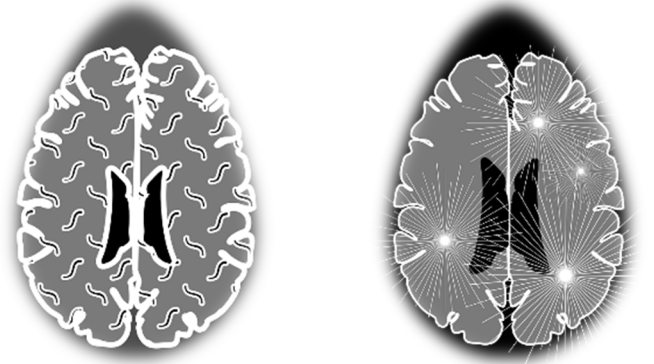
Challenges I have faced

When I was a teenager, medical physics was a developing subject and only for boys. A girl studying physics was an anomaly. But I am now pleased to shout out that physics is for everybody, and medical physics is waiting for you!

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If you want to be a clinical scientist, you need:

- ✦ **to be curious and ask questions** to investigate and experiment
- ✦ **to communicate** and present to a wide range of people
- ✦ **to be sensitive** to patient feelings and their vulnerable situation
- ✦ **to be interested in new technologies** and their use in medical physics



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a clinical scientist like Dorota Ferguson?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a clinical scientist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for clinical science

[Science at Work](#) – See 'Meet two doctors'.

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- How to grow a new skin
- Blood tests could detect cancers
- Slug slime could be the answer for medical adhesives

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

