



Claire Cohalan, Nuclear Medicine Imaging Physicist, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal

Claire did her M.Sc. in medical physics at McGill University, completing it with a research project in fMRI. She then worked at the Radiation Safety Institute of Canada, teaching radiation safety and working on projects in nuclear power plants, hospitals and construction sites.

After a year-long trip around the world, she took a maternity leave replacement position as an imaging physicist at the MUHC. This opened the door for her to obtain a position as an imaging physicist specialising in nuclear medicine at the CHUM. In her first years at the CHUM, most of her time was dedicated to non-imaging physics work, as three hospitals were preparing to move into the new CHUM. She reviewed plans, did medical equipment acquisitions, outlined workflows and worked on the connectivity of the new hospital.

Now that the CHUM is fully functional, she is finally settling into her true position, ensuring quality control and optimisation of 2 PET/CTs and 7 SPECT/CTs. She is fortunate to be a part of a vibrant and active nuclear medicine department that participates in multiple research projects and implements new treatment and diagnostic protocols on a regular basis. Claire helps quantify the response of the different machines to new radioactive materials, performing measurements and calculations to then be able to perform accurate dosimetry to guide fractionated treatments with radioactive sources.