



## A Medical Physicist Outside the Clinic

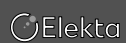
- Making the jump from clinical medical physics to industry

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### This is a departure from my oral presentations of the past...

- My role just before joining industry
- Transition to industry and why
- My experiences so far
  - Clinical Medical Physics vs Industry Physics Roles
    - Similarities and Differences
- Summary



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## At the time of transition in early 2020...

- 17 years of clinical experience
  - Started working in 2003 in UK
  - Sunnybrook hospital in 2013
    - Lead CNS physicist – lead GK, spine SBRT programs
- Assistant Professor at University of Toronto
- Adjunct Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University
- Medical physics representative for CCTG on NCTN – heavily involved in clinical trials through Sunnybrook hospital and CCTG
- Member of CPQR



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## Outside the clinic...

- Executive Board member as Treasurer of COMP
- Chaired COMP ASM 2017 in Ottawa
- STEM, career presentations – schools, universities
- Completed inaugural Rotman (University of Toronto) Global Executive MBA – Healthcare and Life Sciences in June 2020
- Active hockey, baseball mom!
- Runner, skier/snowboarder, new to SUP...



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## I loved working in the clinic...

- Working with different professional groups
  - medical physicists, radiation oncologists, radiation therapists, engineers, neurosurgeons, nurses, imaging technicians, administration staff etc.
- Working with patients (GK, spine SBRT) – on units, simulation, frame placements
- Presenting work – travelling to conferences
- Training and teaching – internal staff, external visitors, medical physics and radiation oncology residents
- Wonderful relationships



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## So why transition into industry?

- Navigating through medical care through a patient's eye
  - Many tests through different departments and hospitals, plasma exchanges, surgeries, radiation therapy, rehabilitation care
- Searching to learn more about healthcare – increased desire to do more on population basis
  - “learning” new things became important – led to completing an MBA
- Recruitment call came when I was very open to change



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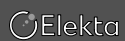
## Transition into industry



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### Started in May 2020

- Joined at start of pandemic in QA Solutions as Principal Medical Physicist
- Adjusting to “not knowing what to do” – not knowing what I was doing was difficult in beginning
  - Setting and meeting my own expectations
  - Learning trajectory not as simple as “getting used to equipment and SW”
- Pandemic did not make it easy
  - Not possible to ask a question to person sitting next to you
  - Couldn't meet anyone in person
- Within a few months...
  - become familiar with role
  - meet people within company – learn about structure and organization
  - involved in multiple projects



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## Clinical vs Industry – not exhaustive

Similarities	Differences
Working within Teams	Team Jobs and Roles
Management (structure)	Managers are not medical physicists
Communication (reports, presentations)	Presentation checks (more alignment?)
Meetings	Evaluations
Travel (e.g. conferences, courses)	Way you work (can be more independent)
Deadlines	Need to be at work (location)
HR	Pay structure
Leveraging experiences	Career advancement

**What do we bring to industry  
with our previous clinical experiences?**

## The obvious...

- Clinical knowledge
  - Workflows
  - Protocols
    - QA and commissioning, simulation, planning, teaching, modelling etc.
- Working with other clinical professionals (e.g. radiation oncologists, RTs, engineers, etc.)
- Teaching, training
- Research and development



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## The not so obvious...

- Soft skills
  - Communication
  - Presentation
  - Organization
    - Time, scheduling, organizing work on units, and groups of people
  - Negotiation
    - Always had to negotiate for "time" on units, training, creating protocols
  - Networking
    - Relationship building with lots of different groups and individuals, in higher and lower levels of structure
  - Many more skills...

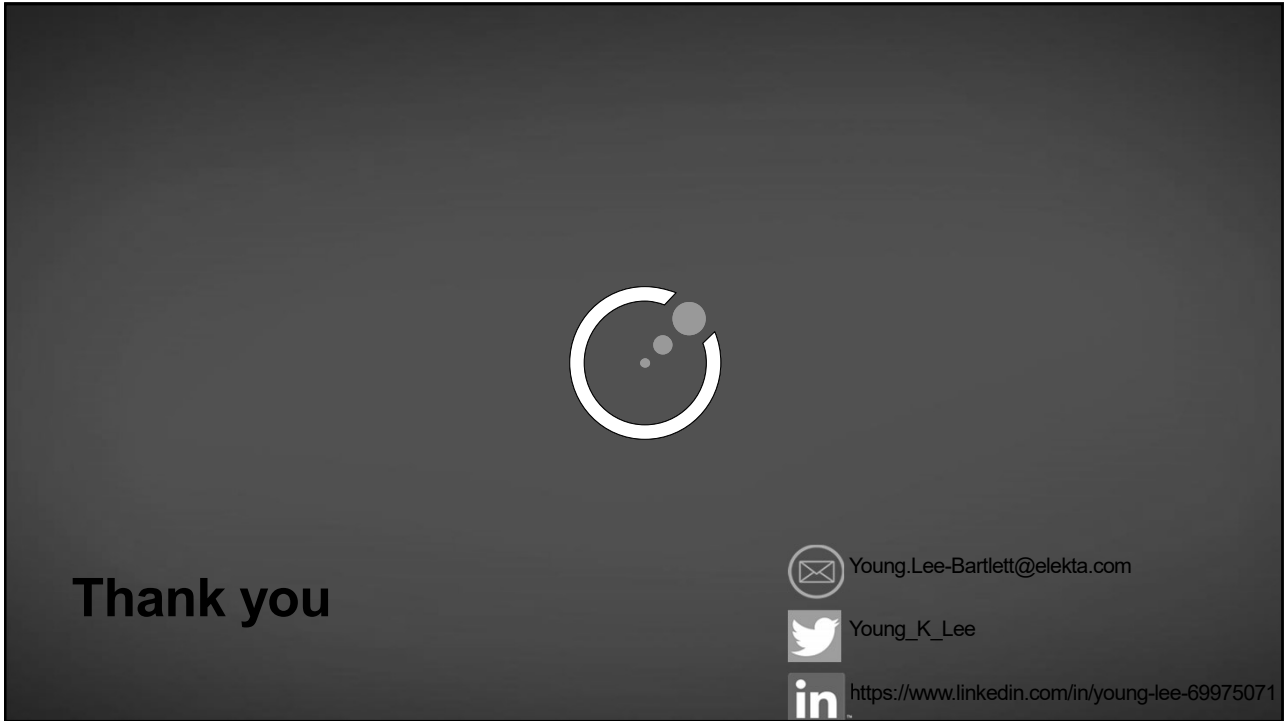
## My experiences summarized

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### I am definitely more open to change


- Our skills are so much more than our “medical physics” training!
  - Many medical physicists believe that going through training, working in hospitals then eventually running a department would be the journey one can strive to when entering this field but there are many more career paths that could be fulfilling and interesting!
  - There are many ways we can utilize our learnings, experiences, expertise and network to be agile in our career path whilst making contributions to our constantly evolving field.
- Be career curious!
  - I am still a very curious person and this has taken me into industry (was definitely not planned!) after an enjoyable career in the “traditional” medical physics path.
  - I have been very lucky to have many peer-to-peer mentors and I continue provide mentorship to my mentees.


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**Thank you**

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