

Meet Fatma



Next month, La Rabida Children's Hospital will begin construction on an ambitious redesign of the 10-year-old Fatma doesn't let a lack of mobility slow her down. Whether it's talking about Pokemon or reading Harry Potter, watching movies, or creating artwork, she's always smiling and ready to try something new.

Fatma was admitted to the S.S. La Rabida inpatient unit earlier this year for treatment of a rare type of muscular dystrophy. Muscular dystrophy causes progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass due to abnormal genes interfering with the formation of healthy muscle tissue. This causes Fatma to experience weakness in her limbs, diaphragm, and heart. Here at La Rabida, she receives care for her tracheostomy tube and ventilator, which help with her breathing. She also undergoes physiotherapy several times a week to help support the muscles in her chest. Despite these changes, she continues to stay positive. "She's been such a good sport with all her new medical equipment," says Erin Murphy, a Child Life specialist at La Rabida. "She already talks over her trach and isn't afraid to tell you like it is."

Fatma doesn't let the challenge of communication or mobility interfere with her education either. "I like everything about school except homework," shared Fatma. "Art and social studies are my favorite." She uses a laptop to attend classes virtually every day.

"The weakness in her muscles extends out to her mouth and her ability to type, the laptop has been a great communication device," explained La Rabida's Dr. Parag Shah. "It keeps her entertained and allows her to do stuff because it doesn't take a lot of movement to move the mouse around so she's able to express herself. Between the books, the movies, the laptop, the drawings, school – we're able to continue that here at La Rabida which is really nice, I think that's done wonders for her."

Both Fatma and her mother are grateful for the support they've received from the entire team at La Rabida. "People are nice and try to be helpful," shared Sana, Fatma's mother. "I'd like to thank everybody."

Introducing our new Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Sarah Hoehn

La Rabida Children's Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sarah Hoehn as the organization's new Chief Medical Officer. As a member of the executive leadership team, Dr. Hoehn will ensure patients receive safe, high-quality medical care, focused on caring for the whole child throughout the entire continuum of care. Dr. Hoehn is a familiar face to many at La Rabida, working with patients and families as a member of the medical staff since 2019.



"We are thrilled to have Sarah take on this leadership role to support our mission of providing compassionate, comprehensive care to children with complex medical conditions." Said La Rabida Children's Hospital President & CEO, Brenda Wolf. "Sarah's expertise and experience in palliative and integrative medicine bring valuable insights that will benefit our patient population. Her passion for helping patients and families navigate difficult circumstances while also finding the joy in everyday activities is a natural fit at La Rabida."

Dr. Hoehn is board certified in pediatric critical care medicine, pediatrics, as well as pediatric hospice and palliative medicine. In addition to her MD, she has a Master's Degree in Bioethics. She comes to La Rabida from the University of Chicago - Comer Children's Hospital, where she has served as the Director of the Pediatric Supportive Care Team program. Dr. Hoehn is also co-director of the MacLean Ethics Consultation Service.

"I know firsthand, the importance of bringing compassion, empathy and understanding to families dealing with complex and chronic illnesses," said Dr. Hoehn. "I'm excited to step into this role and be part of an organization that focuses on understanding the unique needs of patients and caregivers, while also creating the space and clinical environment that supports complete care for the entire family."

Dr. Hoehn will begin her new role at La Rabida in early April, and plans to continue her clinical service for patients and families in both palliative care and respiratory care. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Hoehn to the La Rabida family.

Show Your Support for Doctor's Day



This Doctors Day we want to share words of support and encouragement to the physicians at La Rabida. Leave a short message for our doctors and we'll share it with them on Doctors Day, March 30, 2022!

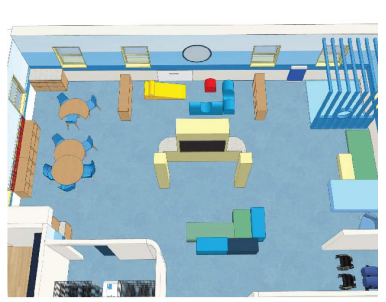
La Rabida in the News



La Rabida Chief Information Officer Sheelah Cabrera named a Top Executive of Color by Crain's Chicago Business

Crain's Chicago Business - As chief information officer, Sheelah Cabrera has led recent campus wide IT infrastructure upgrades, including wireless enhancements and upgrades to two electronic medical record systems.

Her team implemented security upgrades for protection from ransomware, phishing and spoof attacks... Click here to read the full story.



La Rabida Children's Hospital redesigning inpatient unit

Hyde Park Herald - La Rabida Children's Hospital plans to combine its two inpatient units into one connected space, with a new entryway and a playroom for both patients and families...Click here to read the full story.



Diabetes & COVID-19: Scientists explore potential connection

Associated Press - Doctors worry that COVID-19 or sluggish pandemic lifestyles might be among things that push them over the edge. A diabetes center at Chicago's La Rabida Children's Hospital has seen a pandemic surge in prediabetes. Center co-director Rosemary Briars suspects long, sedentary hours of online learning played a role. Click here to read the full story.

This Month on Social Happy St. Patrick's Day



It was a festive St. Patrick's Day at La Rabida this year! Our patients were feeling a bit lucky too, Eddie and Francesco showed their green pride, as they were the cutest clovers in the La Rabida patch!

Magical Movie Night



It was a magical night at La Rabida. Hinsdale High School junior Daniel Kamon decided to start his own fundraiser for La Rabida Children's Hospital by hosting a Harry Potter night at the Movies, raising nearly \$2,000 for La Rabida! "I really wanted to do something to raise money and awareness, my grandpa and members of my family have been very involved at the hospital, and my mom and aunt were patients here when they were younger."

Game Time



Volunteering Untapped Chicago and Lordz For Kidz teamed up to donate a fully loaded Xbox One gaming system to La Rabida. The Xbox has dozens of games installed and a built-in screen mounted on a customized travel cart, so it is fully mobile and can travel right to a patient's bedside. 14-year-old Chris was the first La Rabida patient to try it out!

Save the Date



33RD ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

August 1, 2022

Harborside International

For more information, please contact Lona Slaughter at 773.256.5955 or lslaughter@larabida.org.

Help Us Help Our Patients

At La Rabida Children's Hospital, our mission is simple: we're dedicated to improving the quality of life for each of our patients who live with complex conditions, disabilities, and chronic illnesses. We treat patients regardless of their family's financial circumstances. We are able to do this because of the support of individuals like you. Help support our mission today by visiting <https://larabida.org/donate>

DONATE TODAY