

Chamber luncheon highlights lung cancer technology, CPR training

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

LONDON — The London-Laurel County Chamber of Commerce held its monthly luncheon Thursday, featuring presentations on advances in local lung cancer care and lifesaving techniques through the American Red Cross.

The luncheon was sponsored by CommonSpirit Health, with President John Yanes of CommonSpirit-Saint Joseph Hospital-London discussing the health system’s history and its 100 years of service to the community.

Abdul Siddiqui, MD — a

pulmonologist with CommonSpirit Health — highlighted the hospital’s robotic-assisted bronchoscopy technology, which helps physicians located and biopsy small lung nodules with greater precision.

Dr. Siddiqui discussed Kentucky’s high lung cancer mortality rate and the importance of early detection, noting that many cases are diagnosed after the cancer has spread. He said the technology allows patients to receive specialized care locally rather than traveling to larger cities.

“We don’t want our patients to go to Lexington. We don’t want patients to go to Louisville, Cincinnati or Vanderbilt for better care. We want to bring the best care to them,” Dr. Siddiqui said.

He also emphasized that identifying benign nodules can help patients avoid unnecessary surgery.

“It is equally important not only to diagnose cancer, but to confidently say you don’t have cancer,” he said.

Siddiqui reported that the hospital had completed its first 100 cases using the technology, identifying at least 56 lung cancers, many of which were detected at an early stage.



Abdul Siddiqui, MD, is a pulmonologist with CommonSpirit Health. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD



John Yanes, president of CommonSpirit- Saint Joseph Hospital-London, spoke about the hospital and its services. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

“It’s not about the numbers. Each case we did, we were trying to give an answer to the patient,” Siddiqui said. “There’s a story behind his face. There’s a family behind him. It’s the community you’re taking care of.”

The luncheon also featured American Red Cross, which provided attendees with hands-on instruction in hands-only CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Participants learned how to recognize cardiac emergencies, call 911 and perform chest compressions while waiting for emergency medical personnel.

Red Cross representatives encouraged attendees to act quickly during cardiac emergencies, emphasizing that bystander CPR can help improve survival chances.

The chamber also intro-

duced Avizion Glass as a new member before concluding with chamber updates and announcements about upcoming business events and community activities.



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