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**Shelly Harkins, MD, named Chief Medical Officer at
St. Elizabeth's Hospital**

BELLEVILLE, IL – St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer, Maryann Reese, announces the appointment of Shelly Harkins, MD, to serve as the Chief Medical Officer at St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Dr. Harkins has been serving as the Medical Director for the HSHS Medical Group, Southern Illinois Division, since 2010. She received her medical doctorate at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine in 1999, and completed her Family Medicine Residency training at ECU's Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She was the recipient of the Resident Teacher of the Year Award, the Excellence in Geriatrics Award, the Excellence in Rural Medicine Award, and the Outstanding OB Care Award.

"We are extremely excited about the addition of Dr. Harkins to our leadership team," notes Maryann Reese, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. "She is respected by physicians, staff and the administration team, and will be a valuable asset to the hospital's future strategic goals."

Dr. Harkins served as Active Duty Air Force Faculty in the Saint Louis University/Scott Air Force Base Family Medicine Residency. She immediately became paramount in the Women's Health curriculum and built a successful Colposcopy and LEEP clinic. She developed an Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) curriculum and, upon completion of the Primary Care Faculty Development Fellowship in 2004 at Michigan State University, presented her curriculum at the OMERAD National Conference. Her EBM curriculum has since become a standard and is being instituted in twelve other residency programs across the country.

As Major Shelly Harkins, she received The Achievement Medal for her global humanitarian mission work and The Meritorious Service Medal for her tremendous contribution to military medicine. She completed her Active Duty commitment in January 2006 and then founded and is currently serving as chief physician of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's Hospitalist program.

Dr. Harkins currently resides in O'Fallon with her husband, Eddy, and their three children.

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About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.