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PRAIRIE CARDIOLOGIST ELECTED GOVERNOR OF THE ILLINOIS DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

SPRINGFIELD -- Marc Shelton, MD, has been elected governor of the Illinois division of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). Dr. Shelton will act as the ACC Governor for Illinois for a three-year term. He currently serves as the president of Prairie Cardiovascular and is a physician at the Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital .

Dr. Richard J. Kovacs, the Chair of the ACC Board of Governors said, "This honor signifies the high regard in which Dr. Shelton is held among his colleagues. His willingness to serve the cardiology community in this capacity speaks volumes about the enthusiasm and character I know he will bring to this prestigious leadership role."

The ACC is a 39,000-member nonprofit medical society comprised of physicians, surgeons, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists and practice managers from around the world. It bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet its stringent qualifications. The College is a leader in the formulation of health policy, standards and guidelines, and is a staunch supporter of cardiovascular research. The ACC provides professional education and operates national registries for the measurement and improvement of quality care.

"Dr. Shelton provides excellent leadership at Prairie Cardiovascular and we are proud he has been elected to such a prestigious position in the ACC," said Jim Zito, chief executive officer of Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois.

Bob Ritz, President and CEO of St. John's Hospital, an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, said, "Dr. Shelton is one of many Prairie Heart cardiovascular physicians whose skill and dedication to patient care have made St. John's a national leader in cardiac care. It is an honor for St. John's Hospital to congratulate Dr. Shelton on this accomplishment."

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About Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital: Prairie Heart Institute is a national leader in cardiovascular care. St. John's was named one of the nation's 50 Top hospitals for cardiovascular care by Thomson Reuters for 2012. HealthGrades designated St. John's as a recipient of the America's 100 Best Hospitals for Overall Cardiac Services and Cardiac Surgery for 2012. PHI at St. John's Hospital was also named one of the nation's Top 50 hospitals for coronary bypass surgery in 2010. This recognition was based on data submitted by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.