

Sharon Sealy

Executive Director and Deputy Operations Manager

Sharon Sealy serves as the Executive Director and Deputy Operations Manager for the Office of Research Administration, reporting to the Senior Vice President for Research at Downstate Health Sciences University. She has 30+ years' experience in every aspect of Research Administration, having worked in both departments and institutional central offices, as well as overall research operations. Sharon's experience includes both pre-and post-award, clinical trials, compliance and audit. In Sharon's current role, she oversees Sponsored Programs Administration, Clinical Trials, Sponsored Programs Finance, HR, Accounts Payable and Procurement as it relates to sponsored awards. She enjoys working in a collaborative and fast-paced environment and has managed large and small operations, focusing on team building and value-added services to researchers and department administration.





Erinn McDowell Clinical Trials Manager

I am the Cancer Center Clinical Trials Manager, which means I oversee the adult clinical research program for cancer patients here at SUNY Upstate. It is my job to ensure that our fabulous coordinators and principal investigators who enroll study subjects have the support they need to get a tough job done. The research we do here is all about finding the best treatment for our cancer patients, and so I try to embody the servant leadership model as much as possible. I ask myself daily, "How can I help my team help our patients?" This mindset has helped me add positions to the department and curtail turnover at a time when many other research entities have struggled with the Great Resignation. When I am not at work, I enjoy traveling, cooking, and trying to pet every dog I pass on the street.

Sheila Routh Sr. Director, Office of Grants Management

For my entire career with the RF for SUNY at the Stony Brook campus I have worked for the VP for Research which included eight different VP's in that position. In my current role as Senior Director of the Office of Grants Management I oversee the daily fiscal activity that support research at SBU. Initially hired as a Billing and Reporting Specialist I was promoted to a supervisory position overseeing a smaller subset of the OGM post award team, responsible for all billing, collection, reporting and audit processes as well as the collection of campus facility and administrative cost. As the need for me to assume a greater share of the overall responsibilities I was ultimately promoted to the role of Director and within five years my title was upgraded to Sr. Director in recognition of my support to the broader research administrative needs within the OVPR and the campus research community. My team provides, guidance for PI's as they utilize sponsored research funding, the fiscal reporting to sponsors, the collection of payments as well as the certification of cost, and any resulting audit inquiries. SBU's last fiscal year recorded over \$200M in research expenditures as well as an additional \$50M in institutional expenditures against funds that support this work. We support the certification of cost to the RF external audit agency and represent the university and the RF for SUNY at all sponsor site visits and desk reviews. In this role, I also support all campus administrative areas that also transact research expenditures and compliance with federal and sponsor regulatory requirements. In my tenure we have been reviewed and audited by the Offices of Inspector General on six separate occasions and in each instance, we have been found to have solid internal controls and processes that met and exceeded the standards that they required. In my role I served as the liaison between the audit teams and the campus, and I am especially proud of these results. I believe it is fair to say that I consistently serve to champion the RF for SUNY Central Office and do not fail to recognize the value of the RFCO corporate function and value. I have come to treasure my RFCO relationships and consider them to be one of my greatest resources.





Jess Berg Director

As the Director of Sponsored Programs, I am responsible for pre and post award grants management including proposal preparation and submission, grants management, accounts receivable, financial reporting, and compliance oversight. I have over 23 years of both pre and post award grants management experience at Buffalo State. I am not a fan of monotonous data entry, so I love working in sponsored programs because every day is different (some days more challenging than others). I received my Certificate of Research Administration in 2004 and boy have things changed.

Keith Kaplan Strategic Projects Special Assistant

I am an operations and project manager, as well as financial professional with over 30 years of experience, about half of that at the RF and SUNY. I have been an operations manager, an interim campus CFO, a financial reporting professional, a strategic project coordinator, and an internal controls coordinator among other roles at the RF and at SUNY. I previously worked in the private sector in publishing as an accounting director, and have also spent a lot of time in my career doing internal and external audits. I am a Certified Public Accountant in the state of NY and have an undergraduate degree in Accounting from NYU, and an MBA plus a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from the University at Albany. I very much enjoy history and politics audiobooks and podcasts. I enjoy being outside either running, hiking, cycling, and walking our two dogs- one of which is a grand-dog on long-term loan. My wife and I try to get away from the NY cold to Florida whenever possible. We have two kids in their twenties both living abroad; one for work and one for grad school. In addition to my long-standing involvement with mentoring, another activity in my career that I am really proud of is the recurring theme of teaching others. I have guest lectured multiple times for RF Learning and Development, U Albany, and, going back a bunch of years, elementary school kids. Three times per year, I do a lecture for the Community Loan Fund for the Capital Region.





Jennifer Rudes Director, Sponsored Programs Pre-Award Services

I am currently the Director for the Office of Sponsored Programs, Pre-Award Services at SUNY Upstate. I have over 20 years of experience in research administration. I am responsible for the direction and management of pre-award grants, agreements, and contract administration. I have a Master of Science degree in Management with an emphasis in research from Emmanuel College. My office works directly with our research faculty & staff. I strive to maintain a positive, non-toxic, supportive work environment within my department. I recognize and appreciate that everyone has a different work style! I enjoy all types of fitness, traveling to new places and coffee. I am an active Mom of 2 boys! Also I have completed a Trifecta in the Spartan race series.

Mark Abbey Associate Director

I'm the Associate Director for Sponsored Programs at the central office. In that role, I work primarily with the 24 comprehensive and technology campuses related to a host of post award sponsored programs topics. One achievement is partnering with campuses to adjust and adapt our effort reporting processes to achieve 90% on-time certification.





Elizabeth Brady Senior Manager, Compensation Administration

I currently serve as the Senior Manager for Classification and Compensation at Stony Brook University. I am also a Lecturer for the School of Professional Development in the Master of Science in Human Resource Management program, where I teach courses on Leadership and Workforce Planning. I am SPHR and SHRM-SCP certified, and my academic credentials also include a Master of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Labor Relations from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT.) I enjoy helping others meet their professional goals. My leadership style centers around encouragement, growth, and acceptance.

Andrew Kenyon Ethics and Compliance Manager

As the Ethics & Compliance Manager at the Research Foundation, I support the RF's Compliance Program in a number of areas including: conflict of interest management, learning and development, and policy administration. I've been a Research Foundation employee for more than 16 years – first with SUNY Press, and now with the Central Office – and I am grateful for all of the opportunities and support I've enjoyed here. I found this Mentoring program to be tremendously valuable as a protégé, and I am excited to participate again this year as a mentor.





Lori Marjowski Sponsored Award Analyst

I am a Sponsored award Analyst at the Stony Brook Campus. I have been with the Research Foundation for 22 years. I am responsible for the day to day transactions on grants and processing payroll, travel and financial reporting. I work hand in hand with the departments and PI to ensure all is processed timely and correctly and that all terms and conditions are being adhered to. I worked in my current position twice over the 22 years. I started in the post award area at SBU in 2000 as a Financial specialist and left in 2005 to take care of my son who is now going to be 20 years old and is the joy of my life. I stayed with the research Foundation working at CPMP as a collection's specialist during evening hours part time. In 2016 I returned back to The Office of Grants Management as my current position. I work with a wonderful group of coworkers I was a Protégé in this program back in 2019 and found it very rewarding. I am married for 30 years to my husband Kryz who also works on the SBU Campus for over 20 years. I have a spoiled Rottweiler and love spending time with family and friends going to concerts, hockey games and Bull Riding. I am someone who is always looking to learn something new and I am always looking for new ways to grow professionally.

Doreen Hammer Nicholas Assistant Director OGM

Currently I am the Assistant Director in the Office of Grants Management. I oversee Financial and Postaward activity on RF Sponsored Awards. I am a firm believer in leading by example. I enjoy working side by side with my staff. We (all departments) have a part in making sure that a research project has a successful outcome. We are working for the same goal. We are a team.





Jaya Chavali Director of Enterprise Application Services

In my current position as the Director of Enterprise Application Services at SUNY RF Central Office, I oversee all aspects of the enterprise applications and provide leadership to cross functional teams inclusive of development, business analysis, data warehouse, QA/QC. etc. Prior to SUNY RF, I worked as the Director of PeopleSoft Center of Excellence at NYS Information Technology Services. Specialized in leadership, strategy, customer engagement, vendor management, budget/resource management, information technology, business process re-engineering, procurement, data governance, project management, etc. I believe in strong collaboration and partnership with the stakeholders to achieve success. I am passionate about mentoring and developing teams, cultivating an environment of trust, encouraging open communication, and assisting teams in overcoming obstacles.

Claudia Garibello-Jordan

Assistant Director of Accounting and Finance

I am the Assistant Director of Accounting. I lead internal and external audits and make sure the financials are in a good position. I love gardening and the outdoors. One of my biggest professional achievements was finishing school while I was raising my family. I decided to go back to school.





Conor Flynn Director of Health Sciences Research Administration

Conor Flynn is the Director of Health Sciences Research Administration for the Jacobs School of Medicine at SUNY Buffalo.

Before being named Director of HSRA in December, 2022, Conor managed Federal research subcontracts at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Prior to joining MSKCC, Conor managed industry clinical research agreements with the UB Clinical Research Office where he successfully negotiated several SUNY-wide Master Clinical Trial Agreements.

Previous to his work at UB, Conor was an Intellectual Property Licensing Executive with Xerox in Rochester, NY.

Conor lives in Orchard Park, NY, with his wife, Ann Dillon, and their two dogs. He also serves as an elected official on the Orchard Park Town Board.

Conor, a licensed attorney, earned his JD from UB School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Cell and Developmental Biology from the University of Rochester.