Julie B. Cole, MA, CRA - Director of Research Costing Compliance

Julie Cole is the Director of Research Costing Compliance (RCC) at Duke University. She has served in similar capacities at Wake Forest University, the University of Florida and other higher educational venues. Julie directs Research Costing Compliance in developing and providing dedicated compliance training and in monitoring financial research compliance at Duke University. Her previous appointments have included responsibilities in directing both pre-award and post-award offices and re-engineering research practices and infrastructure to be more effective and compliant. On the national level, Ms. Cole is a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA). She has served as president of the Society of Research Administrators International (SRA), and was honored with the SRA Distinguished Faculty award in 2004. She serves as a member of the national faculty for the NCURA Traveling Workshops series, teaching workshops for research administrators throughout the country, an NCURA board appointee to the national NCURA Peer Review team, and also serves as a member of the national NCURA Professional Development Committee.

Julie has served as team lead for the U.S. Public Health Service in a national project designed to train institutions in appropriate research support and compliance practices. She served for four years as a member of a special NIH Study Section as a specialist in research administration structure/policy. She was a member of the national joint SRA/NCURA committee that developed professional standards for research administration (Body of Knowledge). Her 2010 chapter, Training and Education, appears in the July 2010 edition of Sponsored Research Administration: a Guide to Effective Strategies and Recommended Practices. She is the recipient of the Southern Appalachian Sigma Xi award in recognition of her work in research development in the region and was honored with the only joint NCURA and SRA achievement award for her work in developing a national training curriculum model.

Lara Mekeel, MPP – Assistant Director, Research Training, Research Costing Compliance

Lara Mekeel is the Assistant Director of Research Training for Research Costing Compliance at Duke University. Lara develops and delivers research compliance training at Duke University. Prior to joining RCC in June 2013, she was a Financial Analyst II in the Department of Immunology at Duke University, and has 7 years research administration experience. She has been involved with RCC training for four years. She has volunteered as a trainer with RCC and has taught courses in post-award management and project closeout. She has served as a mentor for two employees participating in RCC certificate programs. Lara has also served on the Research Administrators Symposium Planning committee in 2010 and 2011. Lara was one of the pilot participants for the RCC Advanced Grant Management certificate in 2012.