



**TAMEST** *The Academy of Medicine,  
Engineering & Science of Texas*

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## Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards 2021

**Technology Innovation  
NOMINATION GUIDE**

## History of the Technology Innovation Award



The O'Donnell Awards in Medicine, Engineering and Science were established in 2006 to recognize rising Texas researchers who are addressing the essential role that science and technology play in society, and whose work meets the highest standards of exemplary professional performance, creativity and resourcefulness.

The Technology Innovation Award was added in 2008 and is specifically designed to recognize individuals from non-academic institutions who have made either a major innovative technological discovery or whose career achievements have resulted in major discoveries that have the potential for making a significant impact on society. Above all, the nominee (or at least the driving force of a team nomination) should be deemed to eventually become a viable candidate for election to one of the National Academies.

Award recipients will be honored at the TAMEST 2021 Annual Conference in January, where they will present their research to attendees and also receive a \$25,000 honorarium and medal. Next year's conference will be held January 12-14, 2021, at The Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas.



## What We Mean by “Technology Innovation”

As a basis for the Technology Innovation Award, the meaning of technology is taken to be (1) the systematic identification, assimilation, adaptation, integration and application of a combination of existing technical know-how and/or newly proven scientific advances that are (2) incorporated into a formal undertaking that produces commercial products, engineering methodologies and/or technical services having significant societal benefits. The word innovation in this context is meant to convey that the nominee has made an extraordinary degree of advancement in the concept, design, fabrication, manufacturability, acceptability, usefulness and/or availability of such products, methodologies or services.

## Call for Nominations for the 2021 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards

TAMEST is now accepting nominations for the 2021 O'Donnell Awards in four categories:

**TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION**  
**MEDICINE • ENGINEERING • SCIENCE**  
*(please refer to the Medicine, Engineering and Science Award Nomination Guide)*

## General Eligibility Guidelines

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The intent of the Technology Innovation Award is to recognize individuals from non-academic institutions who have made significant new developments that have the potential for making a positive impact on society. An individual can be nominated for a single technological innovation or for accomplishments that have led to significant new technological innovations. The individual nominated may have functioned as either the driving force or creator of the technological innovation or they may have led the team which created the technological innovation.

Nominees who have made such a major technological innovation while employed in a non-academic environment but who may now hold an academic appointment will not be excluded.

Candidates having made scientific discoveries, inventions or advancements that have not also accomplished a successful application stage, regardless of their potential as the basis for subsequent practical applications, will not be eligible for this award.

## Specific Eligibility Requirements

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- Nominees must have been continually employed in the state of Texas for the past two years.
- Nominees must be within 25 years from their first full-time industry affiliated position at the end of the year in which the nomination is made.
- TAMEST members are not eligible.

## Nomination Guidelines

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### Nomination Categories

Nominators may only designate one category on the nomination form (technology innovation). The O'Donnell Awards Selection Committee reserves the right to move a nominee into a different category if they feel the nomination is more suitable for that category.

### Re-nomination of Candidates from Previous Years

Recent past nominees may be re-nominated if all eligibility requirements are met.

### Nominator Requirements

Qualified nominators include TAMEST members, industry executives, administrators, managers and supervisors, university presidents, chancellors, provosts, deans and vice presidents for research.

## Selection Process

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A committee of TAMEST members will evaluate nominations and recommend the award recipients to a committee of Texas Nobel Laureates. TAMEST's Board of Directors provides final approval of award recipients.

## Content Guidelines

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Instructions for preparing nominations are meant to serve as guidelines. TAMEST encourages nominators to be innovative in presenting candidate accomplishments. The committee is looking for substantiation of achievements as well as significance of nominee accomplishments. The application and letters of support must be received by April 30, 2020.

# Nomination Information Requirements

The information provided in the nomination materials is crucial to the evaluation of the nominee's achievements. The following components are required to complete the nomination package:

**1. A statement from the nominator (approximately 250 words) defining:**

- the particular technological innovation or notable accomplishment(s);
- description of successful application of the specific technological innovation or explanation of how the body of work has led to successful applications; and
- the impact or potential impact supported by relevant metrics.

**2. Biographical sketch (compiled in one PDF) of the nominee to include:**

- a comprehensive résumé.
- if nominated as creator or driving force of the innovation cited, a synopsis of the nominee's discoveries, research contributions and technology developments, if applicable.
- if nominated for leading a team accomplishment, a synopsis of the material contributions made and how they enabled extraordinary advancement of the innovation cited; and
- a summary of education, employment, honors and accomplishments including recognition or awards received from the nominee's employer.

**3. A list of the most important research publications, industrial reports, patents and/or descriptions of contributions to company innovations as attested by company executives.**

**4. Three letters of support** from institutions, organizations or authoritative individuals other than the nominee's current organization. Each letter of support should be no longer than two pages and clearly affirm the significance of the innovation cited, its applications and impact on society.

The supporting letters should be emailed independently and directly to TAMEST at [tamest@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:tamest@austin.utexas.edu). Contact information for the letters of support should be included in the application form.

## Deadline for Submission of Nomination Materials

All nomination materials, including letters of support, must be received in electronic format by April 30, 2020.

FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TAMEST OFFICE:

- Email: [tamest@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:tamest@austin.utexas.edu)
- Phone: (512) 471-3823