

Newsletter

TAMEST ★ 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TRANSFORMATIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS



388 Registrants **35** Speakers **33** Sponsoring Organizations **63** Protégés Nominated **14** Prize and Award Recipients

CONFERENCE SLIDES AND PHOTOS AVAILABLE

THANK YOU TO THE PRESENTING SPONSORS: **breyercapital** **LYDA HILL PHILANTHROPIES**

Thank you to all who joined us at the **TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference: Transformational Breakthroughs**, February 4-6, 2025, at the Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas. **Speaker slides** and **photos** are now available from the conference sessions. **Video** from the 2025 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Ceremony is also available.

We're pleased to share some highlights of the meeting with you. [Read More](#)



TAMEST Congratulates 14 Texans Elected to The National Academy of Engineering

TAMEST welcomes 11 new members and congratulates three current members on their election to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2025. Of the 14 new NAE members from Texas, three are current members, four are past TAMEST Protégés, two have served as TAMEST conference co-chairs and two are past speakers at the TAMEST annual conference. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions afforded to an engineer. [Read More](#)



TAMEST Profile: Protégé Poster Challenge Grand Prize Winner Teja Guda, Ph.D., The University of Texas at San Antonio

Earlier this month, **Teja Guda, Ph.D., The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)**, won the Grand Prize at the TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference Poster Challenge. Dr. Guda was one of 43 TAMEST Protégés to participate in the annual TAMEST Protégé Poster Challenge, presented by Shell, and was one of four contest finalists invited to present their poster on stage at the conference. Dr. Guda's research focuses on developing regenerative strategies and engineering tools for tissue engineering, specifically for musculoskeletal tissue substitutes. [Read More](#)

Featured Photo

2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards



Help celebrate 20 years of recognizing rising stars in Texas:
Nominations Now Open Through April 30
tamest.org/odonnell-awards

[Nominate Today](#)

Nominations are open for the **2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards** through April 30, 2025. The 2026 Awards will mark 20 years since the awards were first given. It will be a milestone year to recognize and celebrate the transformative impacts O'Donnell Awards recipients have had on science and society. To learn more about the nomination and selection process for the O'Donnell Awards, [join our information session](#) on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. CT on Zoom. The session will be hosted by Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Committee Chair Margaret A. Goodell, Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions during the session. [Register Here.](#)

TAMEST In The News

Texas Tribune: Texas Now Has More Top-Tier Research Universities Than Any Other State, Report Finds, *Baylor College of Medicine, Southern Methodist University, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and UT Southwestern Medical Center*

Space News: Texas Awards Grants to Five Space Companies, *The Texas Space Commission*

Innovation Map: Houston Nobel Prize Nominee Earns Latest Award for Public Health Research, *2025 Hill Prize in Public Health Recipient and TAMEST Member Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine*

Preston Hollow Advocate: Nicole Small to be Awarded Virginia Chandler Dykes Leadership Award, *Nicole Small, CEO, Lyda Hill Philanthropies*

San Antonio Report: UTSA President Taylor Eighthly Named Acting Head of UT Health San Antonio, *Chancellor of The University of Texas System James B. Milliken, President of the University of Texas at San Antonio Taylor Eighthly, Ph.D., TAMEST Member Francisco G. Cigarroa, M.D. (NAM), UT Health San Antonio*

HHMI: HHMI Names the 2024 Hanna Gray Fellows, *TAMEST Member Anil K. Sood, M.D. (NAM), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

Dallas Innovates: UT Arlington and Texas A&M to Launch Biomanufacturing Hub at Dallas Pegasus Park, *The University of Texas at Arlington*

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Member Briefs

In Memoriam:



Karl J. Springer (NAE)
 1935 – 2025

Southwest Research Institute

TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology)

TAMEST mourns the loss of beloved TAMEST Member Karl J. Springer (NAE), Southwest Research Institute. Mr. Springer had a remarkable career in air pollution research, focusing on measuring and controlling pollutants such as smoke and odor from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles. We will not forget Mr. Springer's pioneering efforts to pave the way to a more sustainable future and his continued dedication to mentoring students. [Read More](#)

State Cancer Agency Awards \$68 Million in Research Grants to Texas Institutions

The governing body of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) has approved 53 grants totaling more than \$67 million to state research institutions to advance the state's fight against cancer. The grants provide funding for a wide array of cancer projects, including CPRIT Scholar recruitment awards, funding for collaborative core facilities and support for cancer clinical trials. Included among the grantees are TAMEST Member **Maura L. Gillison, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), MD Anderson Cancer Center** for her work on neoadjuvant combination anti-PD-L1 and anti-TIGIT immune checkpoint blockade in oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma and **TAMEST 2024 O'Donnell Award in Medicine Recipient Benjamin Deneen, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine** for his work decoding how neuronal activity remodels the epigenome in ependymoma. [Read More](#)

Four Longhorns Recognized with UT's Presidential Citation Award

Four members of The University of Texas at Austin community including Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, TAMEST Honorary Chair, Former United States Senator, Former United States Ambassador to NATO and Sam Susser, Chairman and CEO of Susser Bank who also serves as President of Susser Holdings II, L.P., have been recognized with the Presidential Citation Award – the highest honor bestowed by UT – for their dedication and support of the University. [Read More](#)

Naomi Halas Awarded Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry

TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference Speaker **Naomi J. Halas, Ph.D., D.Sc. (NAE, NAS), Rice University**, is the recipient of the 2025 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Chemistry, awarded "for the creation and development of nanoshells – metal-coated nanoscale particles that can capture light energy – for use in many biomedical and chemical applications." [Read More](#)

Semiconductor Innovator Named National Academy of Inventors Fellow

During his career at Texas Instruments (TI), 2012 O'Donnell Award in Technology Innovation Recipient **Ted S. Moise, Ph.D.** and his team pioneered the development of a memory technology that made it possible for electronic devices to store data 100 times faster while using less power than conventional approaches. Dr. Moise, who now directs the North Texas Semiconductor Institute (NTXSI) at The University of Texas at Dallas, has been honored for his groundbreaking work at TI by being named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). [Read More](#)

UT Chemical Engineers Win Hill Prizes for Research with Real-World Impact

Two chemical engineers from The University of Texas at Austin have received Hill Prizes and seed funding of \$500,000 for their high-risk, high-reward research ideas that have significant potential for real-world results. Both faculty members are within the McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering at the Cockrell School of Engineering. TAMEST Members **Joan Brennecke, Ph.D. (NAE)** and **Benny Freeman, Ph.D. (NAE)** won the Hill Prize in Engineering for work on a membrane important to certain liquid fuels. Professor **James Chelikowsky, Ph.D.** was awarded the Hill Prize in Physical Sciences for his ongoing research in batteries. [Read More](#)

One Giant Step for Aggie Space Research

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has approved Texas A&M University to enter into a contract with Aegis Aerospace for the Texas A&M/Aegis Aerospace Multi-Use Space Platform Integrating Research & Innovative Technology (TAMU-SPIRIT) facility, an external research facility on the International Space Station (ISS) that will exclusively house experiments from Texas A&M researchers. [Read More](#)

AI and Big Tech to Take Center Stage at Global Health Symposium

Texas Biomedical Research Institute, one of the world's foremost independent biomedical research institutions dedicated to eradicating infection and improving health, will host its fourth Global Health Symposium in San Antonio, Texas, from March 27-28, 2025. [Read More](#)

[Read More](#)

About TAMEST

TAMEST was co-founded in 2004 by the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison and Nobel Laureates Michael S. Brown, M.D., and Richard E. Smalley, Ph.D. With more than 355 members, eight Nobel Laureates and 24 member institutions, TAMEST is composed of the Texas-based members of the three National Academies (National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Sciences) and other honorific organizations. We bring together the state's brightest minds in medicine, engineering, science and technology to foster collaboration, and to advance research, innovation and business in Texas.

TAMEST's unique interdisciplinary model has become an effective recruitment tool for top research and development centers across Texas. Since our founding, more than 300 TAMEST members have been inducted into the National Academies or relocated to Texas.

TAMEST's 24 Member Institutions



TAMEST recognizes members of the Founders of the Endowment and the Legacy Circle, whose extraordinary commitment ensures sustainable funds to continue the mission of promoting excellence in science and technology.

Founders of the Endowment

Anadarko Foundation • AT&T • BNSF Foundation • ConocoPhillips Energy Future Holdings • Edith and Peter O'Donnell • Temple-Inland The USAA Foundation

Legacy Circle

The Eugene McDermott Foundation