

Newsletter



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

Welcomes New Member Institutions

TAMEST is excited to announce the addition of two new member institutions: Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) and Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed). Both are private research institutes located in San Antonio, Texas. TAMEST member institutions are vital partners in fulfilling TAMEST's mission. Their support enables TAMEST to cultivate and support the next generation of researchers and innovators, increase cooperation across disciplines and address issues critical to the state. [Read More](#)



O'Donnell Awards Information Session Slides and Video Now Available

[Video](#) and [slides](#) from the 2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Information Session are now available to learn more about the nomination and selection process for the awards. 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. Nominations are currently open for the [2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards](#) through April 30th. [Read More](#)



TAMEST Profile: Liz Holliday Lerner, TAMEST Director of Communications

Liz Holliday Lerner has been the **Director of Communications at TAMEST** since 2019. Raised in San Antonio and surrounded by a family immersed in science and research, Liz developed a deep appreciation for science communications from an early age. TAMEST connected with Liz to learn more about her work, passions and how she uses strategic communications, marketing and storytelling to fulfill TAMEST's mission. [Read More](#)

Featured Photo



HILL PRIZES

Hill Prizes Information Session

Accelerating high-risk, high-reward research ideas

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. CT

[Register Today](#)

Join TAMEST for an [information session](#) on the [Hill Prizes](#) on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 11 a.m.–12 p.m. CT via Zoom to learn more about the prizes, application process and selection criteria. **Hill Prizes Committee Chair David E. Daniel, Ph.D. (NAE)** will host the session and participants will be able to ask questions. **Applications for the 2026 Hill Prizes open May 1 and close May 31, 2025.**

TAMEST In The News

Innovation Map: Four Houston Innovators Join Prestigious Group of Inventors as Senior Members, *TAMEST Member Birol Dindoruk, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston*

Forbes: How to Solve the Energy Sector's Growing Skills Shortage, *TAMEST Member Brian A. Korgel, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin*

The Daily Texan: UT Researchers Discover Communication Between Growth, Immunity Pathways in Plants, *TAMEST Member Keiko Torii, Ph.D. (NAS), The University of Texas at Austin*

Houston Chronicle (Subscription Required): How a Proposed \$3B Fund Could Transform Dementia Research in Texas, *The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio*

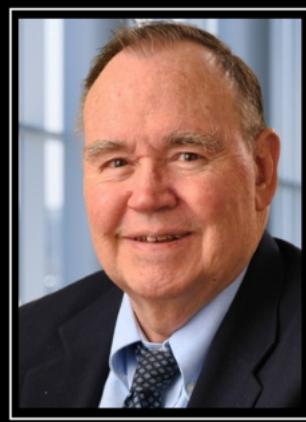
San Antonio Report: Governor Abbott Wants a San Antonio Cyber Command. UTSA has a Plan to Make That Happen, *The University of Texas at San Antonio*

University Star: Texas State Pushes for R1 Status by 2027, *Texas State University Vice President for Research Shreekanth Mandayam, Ph.D.*

[Read More](#)

Member Briefs

In Memoriam:



Scott M. Grundy, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)
1933 – 2025

UT Southwestern Medical Center
TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology)

TAMEST mourns the loss of beloved TAMEST Member **Scott M. Grundy, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)**, UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Grundy was a brilliant visionary in cardiovascular prevention and a true trailblazer in every sense. We honor and cherish his expert leadership and guidance of TAMEST as a former member of our Board of Directors and Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Committee, as well as his dedication to fostering the next generation of leaders in science and medicine. [Read More](#)

UTA Team Wins Prize for Vital United States Magnet Technology

J. Ping Liu, Ph.D., The University of Texas at Arlington, is the Co-PI for the **2025 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences** for pioneering new ways to design magnets that power high-tech devices, along with PI **James Chelikowsky, Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin**. Awarded by TAMEST and Lyda Hill Philanthropies, the prize recognizes groundbreaking innovations with the potential for real-world impact. The UTA-UT Austin team will use AI, quantum simulations and experimental techniques to develop magnets that eliminate the need for rare-earth elements. With the prize, the researchers will explore alternatives with comparable magnetic properties, aiming to enhance U.S. energy security and accelerate the transition toward more sustainable energy solutions. [Read More](#)

Two Engineering Faculty Honored as University Distinguished Professors

In recognition of groundbreaking contributions to their disciplines, **TAMEST Members Ali Erdemir, Ph.D. (NAE) and Elaine S. Oran, Ph.D. (NAE, FREng)**, Texas A&M University, have been named University Distinguished Professors, among only eight faculty from Texas A&M honored with this prestigious title. The designation of University Distinguished Professor is reserved for individuals who stand at the forefront of their respective disciplines, having demonstrated exceptional expertise, made at least one transformational contribution, or provided an intellectually substantial "leap forward" in their discipline. [Read More](#)

UTSA and UT Health San Antonio Leadership Provides Divisional Updates Ahead of Integration

President of The University of Texas at San Antonio and Acting President of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Taylor Eighthy, Ph.D., recently shared information regarding the university's new executive cabinet – a leadership team that unites leaders from both The University of Texas at San Antonio and UT Health San Antonio in anticipation of our forthcoming integration. [Read More](#)

Rice's Sylvia Dee Battling Climate-Driven Diseases Through Texas Virosphere Project

Sylvia Dee, Ph.D., Rice University, has joined forces with **2025 Hill Prize in Public Health Recipient and TAMEST Member Peter J. Hotiez, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)**, Baylor College of Medicine, and a team of scientists at Baylor College of Medicine on a groundbreaking initiative called the Texas Virosphere Project. This ambitious undertaking seeks to predict and prevent climate-driven infectious disease outbreaks in Texas and the Gulf Coast. By integrating climate science, metagenomics and machine learning, the research team aims to identify high-risk areas before they become epicenters of public health crises. [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