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TAMEST Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter

2026 Hill Prizes
Information Session

Video and Slides Now Available
Applications Open May 1st - May 31st

TAMEST held an Information Session for the 2026 Hill Prizes on Tuesday, April 15, to provide an overview of the prizes, application process and selection criteria. Slides and a video of the session are now available, and applications will be accepted from May 1 – 31, 2025. The Hill Prizes, funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, propel high-risk, high-reward ideas and innovations that demonstrate significant potential for real-world impact and can lead to new, paradigm-shifting paths in research. Read More

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EDITH AND PETER O'DONNELL AWARDS

5 Days Left to Nominate

O'Donnell Awards Nomination Period Closes April 30

Don't miss the opportunity to nominate a rising star researcher for the 2026 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards **before April 30th at 6 p.m. CT**. The 2026 Awards will mark 20 years since the awards were first given. The awards recognize rising star 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. Read More

TAMEST Member Profile: Joan Frances Brennecke, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin

TAMEST Member and 2025 Hill Prize in Engineering Recipient Joan Frances Brennecke, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin, is a leading figure in chemical engineering. She is known for her groundbreaking work developing environmentally friendly solvents and processes.TAMEST connected with Dr. Brennecke about her commitment to research and education, her time volunteering for TAMEST and her dedication to mentoring the next generation of engineers. Read More

Featured Photo

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TAMEST NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PRINT NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference a Success

TAMEST 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRANSFORMATIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS

February 4–6, 2025 | Irving, Texas | #TAMEST2025

The **TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference: Transformational Breakthroughs** took place February 4–6, 2025, at the Westin Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas.

The conference had high registration and record-breaking sponsorship levels including presenting sponsors Breyer Capital and Lyda Hill Philanthropies. It explored some of the most disruptive breakthroughs in science and technology set to change our way of life in the coming years.

Speakers examined game-changing advancements in materials science and nanotechnology, space exploration, regeneration and synthetic biology, energy transition and more.

CONFERENCE STATISTICS

35	SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS
33	SPONSORS
63	TAMEST PROTÉGÉS NOMINATED
43	POSTER CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS
388	REGISTRANTS

VIEW PHOTOS AND SLIDES: TAMEST.org/2025

In Case You Missed It:

Once a year TAMEST produces a print newsletter highlighting its accomplishments of the past year.

View Here

View the digital version of the Spring 2025 TAMEST Print Newsletter to learn more about the latest TAMEST events, programs and highlights.

TAMEST In The News

Journal of Petroleum Technology: **Ganesh Thakur Named President of Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology**, *TAMEST Board President Ganesh C. Thakur, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston*

Innovation Map: **Houston Space Org to Launch Experiments Aboard First Mission into Polar Orbit**, *TAMEST Member Richard A. Gibbs, Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine*

Texas A&M Stories: **Texas A&M Researcher William Murphy Named 2025 SEC Professor of the Year**, *TAMEST Member William J. Murphy, Ph.D. (NAS), Texas A&M University*

SciTechDaily: **$8.4 Billion: Enormous Cache of Rare Earth Elements Discovered in America**, *TAMEST Member Bridget R. Scanlon, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin*

CBS: **Astronaut Mae Jemison on Making History in Space and Inspiring Change on Earth**, *TAMEST Member Mae C. Jemison, M.D. (NAM), The Jemison Group*

Newswise: **Mosquito Saliva and Malaria, Brain Tumors and More**, *TAMEST Member Joseph Takahashi, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center*

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Member Briefs

AAAS Welcomes 471 Scientists and Engineers as Honorary Fellows

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), one of the world's largest general scientific societies and publisher of the Science family of journals, announced the 2024 class of AAAS Fellows, a distinguished lifetime honor within the scientific community. This latest class is comprised of 471 scientists, engineers and innovators, including **TAMEST Member Reginald DesRoches, Ph.D. (NAE), Rice University, TAMEST 2025 O'Donnell Award in Medicine Recipient Lauren Averett Byers, M.D., The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and 2016 TAMEST Protégé Angel A. Martí, Ph.D., Rice University.** Read More

Neonatal Diabetes Model Provides Insights on How Condition Develops

A preclinical model developed by **TAMEST Board Member Kim Orth, Ph.D. (NAS) and TAMEST 2024 Protégé Amanda Casey, Ph.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center**, recapitulates a rare infant-onset form of diabetes. The model suggests that the condition stems from gradual damage to the pancreas through misregulation of a molecular pathway called the unfolded protein response (UPR). The findings, published in Molecular Metabolism, could one day lead to new ways to treat more common subsets of diabetes, including Types 1 and 2, which affect hundreds of millions worldwide. Read More

Baylor Genetics Marks 10th Anniversary: A Look Back at a Decade of Innovation in Genetic Testing

Baylor Genetics, the clinical diagnostic laboratory joint venture between **Baylor College of Medicine** and H.U. Group Holdings, marked its 10-year anniversary this year. The company offers a full spectrum of genetic tests and lab services spanning a wide variety of healthcare specialties, including neonatal and pediatric critical care, rare diseases, reproductive health, hereditary cancer and metabolic conditions. **TAMEST Past President Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)**, led its creation efforts on behalf of Baylor College of Medicine. Read More

Research Identifies Key Antibodies for Development of Broadly Protective Norovirus Vaccine

Scientists, including **TAMEST Member George Georgiou, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), The University of Texas at Austin**, in collaboration with researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the National Institutes of Health, have discovered a strategy to fight back against norovirus, a leading cause of gastroenteritis worldwide. Their new study, published in Science Translational Medicine, identifies powerful antibodies capable of neutralizing a wide range of norovirus strains. Read More

Rice Engineering and Computing Marks 50 Years of Discovery, Design and Impact

Rice University's George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing celebrated half a century since its official inception with two days of events that gathered together nearly 400 people, including staff, faculty, students, alumni and friends of the school. "This moment gives us an opportunity to reflect on where we started, how far we have come and the extraordinary impact this school has made over the past five decades," said **Rice University President and TAMEST Member Reginald DesRoches, Ph.D. (NAE)**. 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

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