TAMEST
Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter

Four Texans Elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2025

Mariano Garcia-Blanco, M.D., Ph.D. (NAS)
UTMB Health Autoimmunity BioSolutions University of Virginia

Margaret Anne Goodell, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS)
Baylor College of Medicine
O'Donnell Awards Committee Chair Former O'Donnell Award Recipient Past TAMEST Protégé

Lydia E. Kavraki, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE, NAS)
Rice University
TAMEST's First Triple Academy Election Hill Prizes Committee Member Past TAMEST Protégé

James W. Pennebaker, Ph.D. (NAS)
The University of Texas at Austin

TAMEST congratulates two new members and two current members on their election to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Notable among the new elections to the NAS is **Lydia E. Kavraki, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE, NAS)**, of Rice University. With her election to the NAS, she becomes the first TAMEST member to be elected to all three National Academies, a remarkable distinction only 27 other individuals worldwide hold. As part of the NAS's distinction only 27 other individuals worldwide hold. **Margaret Anne Goodell, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS)**, Baylor College of Medicine, Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Committee Chair, who is herself a past recipient of an O'Donnell Award, was also elected to her second academy. TAMEST will celebrate these elections and welcome other new members at the opening reception of the TAMEST 2026 Annual Conference on February 2, 2026, in San Antonio, Texas. Read More

HILL PRIZES
Only Four Days Left to Apply

Only Four Days Left to Apply for the 2026 Hill Prizes

Don't miss the opportunity to apply for the 2026 Hill Prizes. The deadline to apply is Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 6 p.m. CT. The Hill Prizes, funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, recognize and advance top Texas innovators and researchers whose work could have significant impact on science and society. Each prize recipient's institution or organization will receive $500,000 in direct funding from Lyda Hill Philanthropies to accelerate their work. Recipients will be recognized in the categories of medicine, public health, engineering, biological sciences, physical sciences and technology. Read More

TAMEST Member Profile: Mark Papermaster (NAE), AMD

TAMEST Member Mark Papermaster (NAE) is a visionary technology leader whose four-decade career has helped shape the evolution of modern computing. At AMD, he has been at the helm of the company's technological transformation, leading the development of its award-winning "Zen" CPU architecture and advancing the capabilities of GPUs and AI-driven computing systems. TAMEST connected with Mr. Papermaster to discuss his role in guiding the future of technology at AMD, the importance of mentorship and what being a member of TAMEST means to him. Read More

Featured Photo

2025 Mary Beth Maddox Award Recipient Lecture at UTSW

TAMEST 2025 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship Recipient Gerta Hoxhaj, Ph.D., Children's Medical Center Research Institute at UT Southwestern Medical Center (CRI), presented her research on Wednesday, May 7, at UT Southwestern Medical Center as part of the Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series. This lecture was hosted by the Excellence in Immunology Seminar Series at UT Southwestern (in partnership with Simmons Cancer Center). It was attended by 80 experts in the field of cancer research. As part of the Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series, Dr. Hoxhaj will next present her research on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, as part of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's John H. Blaffer Lecture Series and on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at Baylor College of Medicine's Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center. Learn more about Dr. Hoxhaj and her research.

TAMEST In The News

UH Newsroom: TAMEST Names UH Professor as President for the First Time, *TAMEST Board President Ganesh C. Thakur, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston*

Houston Public Media: Rice University Announces Strategic Plan to Expand Student Population by Nearly 30 Percent, *Rice University President and TAMEST Member Reginald DesRoches, Ph.D. (NAE)*

Nature: Whole-Genome Sequencing Susses Out Rare Diseases, *TAMEST Past President Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine*

National Technology: Intel and Shell Launch First Certified Cooling Solution for Data Centers, *TAMEST Board Treasurer Selda Gunsel, Ph.D. (NAE), Shell*

SciTechDaily: AI Unlocks Long-Standing Biomedical Mystery Behind Alzheimer's, *TAMEST Member Peter G. Wolynes, Ph.D. (NAS, FRS), Rice University*
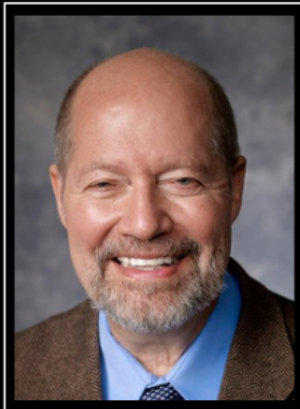
Science Blog: Alzheimer's May Be a Whole-Body Disease, Not Just a Brain Disorder, *TAMEST Member Hugo J. Bellen, D.V.M., Ph.D. (NAS), Baylor College of Medicine*

UT News: The Future of Technology is Being Built in Texas, *2010 O'Donnell Award in Technology Innovation Recipient S.V. Sreenivasan, Ph.D., The University of Texas at Austin*

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Member Briefs

In Memoriam:

Ray H. Baughman, Ph.D. (NAE)
1943 – 2025
The University of Texas at Dallas
TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology)

TAMEST mourns the loss of beloved TAMEST Member Ray H. Baughman, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Baughman was a pioneering scientist in the field of nanotechnology and a treasured member of the TAMEST community. Dr. Baughman's legacy of mentorship, collaboration and boundless generosity touched all who had the privilege of working with him. Read More

UT Southwestern Biochemist Elected to United Kingdom's Royal Society

TAMEST Member Zhijian "James" Chen, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS, FRS), UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, the United Kingdom's national academy of sciences and the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. One of the world's leading experts on innate immunity, Dr. Chen has been recognized with numerous honors for his research, including the 2024 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award and the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences. He was also the recipient of the 2007 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Science from TAMEST. Read More

University of Houston Lands $2.8M Grant to Power Next-Gen Military Drones

A major grant will position the University of Houston at the forefront of redefining how military drones operate. The grant, totaling $2.8 million, will fund a new induction machine-based electrical power generation system designed to replace the older, less efficient synchronous generator systems currently used in Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The goal is to create a power source that is lighter, more efficient and more cost-effective. The project is led by TAMEST Member and Hill Prizes Committee Member Kaushik Rajashekara, Ph.D. (NAE), who serves as PI, and TAMEST Member Hao Huang, Ph.D. (NAE), co-PI. Read More

Kenneth Hargreaves Named Dean of UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry

2025 Hill Prize in Medicine Recipient Kenneth M. Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., a nationally recognized leader in dental research and education, has been named Dean of the UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry. A member of the UT Health San Antonio faculty since 1997, Dr. Hargreaves brings to the role a career defined by scientific innovation, academic mentorship and visionary leadership. He will serve a three-year term as dean. Read More

Karen Lozano Elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

TAMEST Member Karen Lozano, Ph.D. (NAE), Rice University, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the oldest and most prestigious learned societies in the nation. Dr. Lozano is among nearly 250 new members elected in 2025, joining a historic community that includes leaders in academia, business, government and the arts. Read More

Engineers of Impact: Frances Ligler

A pioneer in the field of optical biosensors, TAMEST Member and Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Committee Member Frances S. Ligler, D.Sc., D.Phil. (NAE), Texas A&M University, has made positive impacts on her field and the scholars she mentors. Dr. Ligler's biosensors have a wide range of applications, from diagnostics for human and animal health to military operations to environmental and food safety. Read More

UTSW Joins with Other Scientists Nationwide to Celebrate Molecular Biology's 30th Anniversary

More than 800 scientists gathered for a symposium marking the 30th anniversary of UT Southwestern Medical Center's Department of Molecular Biology. Attendees included UTSW faculty, students, staff, alumni and guests from other institutions. The event celebrated the Department's Founder and Chair, TAMEST Member Eric Olson, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), and its remarkable group of scientists. Read More

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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 335 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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