TAMEST
Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter

NEW PRIZE CATEGORY

2026 Hill Prize
in
Artificial Intelligence

Apply Now Through September 2, 2025

Learn More: tamest.org/hill-prizes

TAMEST is pleased to announce the addition of a new Hill Prize in Artificial Intelligence. Applications are now open for the new category, which will recognize high-risk, high-reward ideas and innovations in artificial intelligence with great potential for impact. It is open to researchers and teams at academic and medical institutions and/or in the private sector and in government.

"Artificial Intelligence is quickly becoming a driving force in the research enterprise because we've reached a tipping point in capabilities. These advances are very real and are likely to accelerate," said 2026 Hill Prizes Committee Chair David E. Daniel, Ph.D. (NAE), President Emeritus of The University of Texas at Dallas. "This is a technology that powers all the other technologies that TAMEST represents. We are at a threshold moment, and thanks to the vision and support of Lyda Hill, TAMEST will be able to recognize and advance the most promising ideas and innovations in AI in Texas." Read More

2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship

Nominations Open August 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship Nominations Open August 1

Nominations for the 2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship will open August 1 through Tuesday, September 30, 2025. The award recognizes women scientists in Texas bringing new ideas and innovations to the fight against cancer. "Through this award, we have the opportunity to elevate groundbreaking discoveries in cancer research and ensure these voices are heard across Texas and beyond," said Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship Committee Chair Helen Heslop, M.D., D.Sc. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine. Read More

TAMEST Member Profile: Lynda Chin, M.D. (NAM), Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Apricity Health

TAMEST Member Lynda Chin, M.D. (NAM) is a pioneering cancer genomic scientist, visionary entrepreneur and dedicated healthcare innovator whose career bridges medicine, technology and big data. TAMEST connected with Dr. Chin to learn more about her career, service to TAMEST as the Hill Prize in Technology Subcommittee Chair and how she builds vibrant ecosystems where diverse ideas and bold innovations thrive. Read More

Featured Photo

Save the Date

TAMEST 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PIONEERING CLIMATE INNOVATIONS

Conference Co-Chairs:

Engineering:	Science:	Medicine:	Technology:	Honorary Chair:
Michael Webber, Ph.D.	Jean Patterson, Ph.D.	David Gimeno Ruiz de Porras, Ph.D.	Robert Kester, Ph.D.	Ganesh C. Thakur, Ph.D. (NAE)
The University of Texas at Austin	Texas Biomedical Research Institute	UT Health San Antonio	Veriten	University of Houston

February 2–4, 2026 | Kimpton Santo Hotel | San Antonio, Texas

Save the date for the TAMEST 2026 Annual Conference: Pioneering Climate Innovations, February 2-4, 2026, at the Kimpton Santo Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The 2026 meeting will showcase creative interventions and innovations in sustainability, energy security and climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation across a wide range of disciplines. Speakers and sessions will explore real-world, scalable climate solutions and collaborative problem-solving for sustainability in medicine, engineering, science and technology. Don't miss this opportunity to take an in-depth look at how science and innovation can help navigate the challenges of our changing world. Registration opens on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

TAMEST In The News

GEN: Integrative Exome Sequencing and Machine Learning Identify New Genes Contributing to Systemic Sclerosis Risk, *TAMEST Past President Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine*

Center Times Plus: Science in 60+: Glow Getters, *TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2025 Annual Conference Co-Chair Samuel Achilefu, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), UT Southwestern Medical Center*

The Robot Report: Celebrating 200 Podcast Episodes; Robotics Evolve in Space Exploration, *TAMEST Member Robert O. Ambrose, Ph.D. (NAE), Texas A&M University*

Business Wire: Accelsius Joins ARPA-E COOLERCHIPS Project to Advance Hybrid Cooling Technologies for the Data Center of the Future, *TAMEST Member Dereje Agonafer, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Arlington*

Dallas Innovates: Three Healthcare Founders Win Pitch, Advance to Ignite Health's National Accelerator, *2025 Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award Recipient Lyda Hill Philanthropies*

Vital Record: Texas A&M Health Awarded $11.7 Million in CPRIT Funding to Advance Cancer Research and Prevention, *Texas A&M University Health Science Center*

Read More

Member Briefs

Texas Engineer Nicholas A. Peppas Awarded Northwestern's Kabiller Prize

TAMEST Member Nicholas A. Peppas, Sc.D. (NAM, NAE), The University of Texas at Austin, has won the Kabiller Prize in Nanoscience and Nanomedicine from Northwestern University's International Institute for Nanotechnology (IIN). The $250,000 Kabiller Prize is the largest monetary award in the field and part of the 2025 international Kabiller awards. The biennial awards recognize three top scholars - one pioneer and two rising stars - at the cross-section of nanoscience, technology, biology and medicine. Read More

Rice University's Antonios Mikos Elected to the European Academy of Sciences

TAMEST Member Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), Rice University, has been elected to the European Academy of Sciences (EURASC), an international body that recognizes excellence in scientific research and technological innovation. A global leader in biomaterials and tissue engineering, Dr. Mikos is widely known for his groundbreaking work in regenerative medicine, controlled drug delivery, gene therapy and disease modeling. He will be formally inducted at the EURASC Annual Symposium and Ceremony on December 17-18 at CERN in Geneva. Read More

Gene Editing Treats Smooth Muscle Disease in Preclinical Model

Using gene editing in a preclinical model, researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center, including TAMEST Member Eric N. Olson, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), blocked the symptoms of the rare multisystem smooth muscle dysfunction syndrome (MSMDS) before they developed. Their findings, published in Circulation, could eventually lead to gene therapies for this and other genetic diseases affecting smooth muscle cells. Read More

Rice University's OpenStax Partners with Microsoft for AI-Enhanced Learning

OpenStax, founded and directed by TAMEST Member Richard Baraniuk, Ph.D. (NAE), at Rice University, has partnered with Microsoft to integrate its trusted content into Microsoft's latest learning innovation. Available on Microsoft Copilot+ PCs, Microsoft Learning Zone aims to provide educators and students with responsible AI technology and peer-reviewed educational content to support learning. The integration with OpenStax content means educators can safely rely on OpenStax's digital library of 80 openly licensed titles to create effective and engaging learning experiences, without needing to source and vet content independently. Read More

University of Houston Scientists Recharge Battery Potential

For decades, scientists have struggled to understand what, exactly, is happening inside a solid-state battery in real time, which has made extending its life difficult. Now, a University of Houston research team, including TAMEST 2025 O'Donnell Award in Engineering Recipient Yan Yao, Ph.D., in collaboration with researchers from Brown University, are working around that problem. They are using operando scanning electron microscopy, a powerful high-resolution imaging technique. Read More

Rice University's Cancer Bioengineering Collaborative Kicks Off Seminar Series with Nobel Laureate James Allison

The Cancer Bioengineering Collaborative, an initiative of Rice University and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, launched its inaugural seminar with an invited talk from TAMEST Member and Nobel Laureate James P. Allison, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Established in 2024, the Cancer Bioengineering Collaborative aims to bridge the worlds of engineering and oncology in pursuit of next-generation tools for diagnosing, monitoring and treating cancer. 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. 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