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TAMEST Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter

We're pleased to share highlights of the TAMEST 2026 Annual Conference: Pioneering Climate Innovations, which took place February 2-4, 2026, at the Rimpton Santo Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. This year marked a new milestone for TAMEST, as the conference sold out and drew record attendance from the Texas research community. Conference photos are now available. Read More

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TAMEST Welcomes Ten Texans Elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE)

TAMEST welcomes nine new members and congratulates one current member on their election to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in 2026. Of the 10 new NAE members from Texas, one is a current TAMEST member and Hill Prize recipient, and one is a past TAMEST protégé. Their election brings the current TAMEST membership to 373. TAMEST will welcome these and other new members at the opening reception of the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference: Frontiers of Discovery on February 1, 2027, in Houston, Texas. Read More

TAMEST Profile: Protégé Poster Challenge Grand Prize Winner Alexander Tatara, M.D., Ph.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center

The Grand Prize Winner of the TAMEST Protégé Poster Challenge, Alexander Tatara, M.D., Ph.D. of UT Southwestern Medical Center, is part of a new generation of physician-scientists innovating bold ideas into real-world medical advances. TAMEST connected with Dr. Tatara to learn more about the inspiration behind his research, the challenges and opportunities of translational science, and what this recognition from TAMEST means for his work moving forward. Read More

Nominations Open for the 2027 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards

Nominations are open for the 2027 Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards through March 30, 2026. As we celebrate the program's 20th year, we honor two decades of extraordinary Texas based innovation and look ahead to the discoveries yet to come. Since 2006, 19 O'Donnell Award recipients have been elected to a National Academy, with six elected to multiple academies. Don't miss this chance to recognize a rising star Texas researcher or team whose work highlights the essential role of science and technology in society and help carry this legacy forward. Read More

Featured Photo

Add to Calendar

Save the date for the **Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Summit: Celebrating 20 years of Impact and Innovation** on **Thursday, September 10, 2026**, in Austin, Texas. To celebrate the milestone anniversary of the O'Donnell Awards, TAMEST will host a special one-day summit highlighting the groundbreaking research and discoveries of past award recipients and celebrate the broader impact of the awards on Texas research and innovation. Read More

TAMEST In The News

First Word Pharma: **Study Identifies Why Some Breast Cancers Evade Treatment**, *TAMEST Member Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D. (NAM), UT Southwestern Medical Center*

Science Blog: **The Double Mutation That Unlocks Parkinson's Disease**, *TAMEST Member Hugo J. Bellen, D.V.M., Ph.D. (NAS), Baylor College of Medicine*

Phys.org: **Protein 'Dark Energy' Provides Insight into Form vs. Function in Structure**, *TAMEST Member Peter G. Wolynes, Ph.D. (NAS, FRS), Rice University*

Environment Energy Leader: **Quantum Tech Moves from Theory to Industrial Backbone**, *TAMEST Member Marlan O. Scully, Ph.D. (NAS), Texas A&M University*

Phys.org: **Data-Driven 3D Chromosome Model Reveals Structural and Dynamic Features of DNA**, *TAMEST Member Jose Onuchic, Ph.D. (NAS), Rice University*

National Today: **Study: Psychosocial Factors Linked to Diet Quality in Rural Areas**, *TAMEST Member Rebecca Seguin-Fowler, Ph.D. (NAM), Texas A&M University*

D Magazine: **The Future is Here: UT Southwestern Wins $25M Federal Award to 3D-Print Human Organs**, *TAMEST 2026 Protégé Muhammad Rizwan, Ph.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center*

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Member Briefs

TAMEST is honored to now have two members serving on each council of the National Academies. The National Academy of Engineering Council includes **TAMEST Members Roderic I. Pettigrew, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), Texas A&M University and Houston Methodist** and **José G. Santiesteban, Ph.D. (NAE), ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company**. The National Academy of Medicine Council includes **TAMEST Member Mae C. Jemison, M.D. (NAM), The Jemison Group** and **TAMEST Board Past President Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine**. Beginning July 1, **TAMEST Member and 2026 Hill Prize in Engineering Recipient Naomi J. Halas, Ph.D., D.Sc. (NAE, NAS), Rice University**, will join **TAMEST Board Secretary Kim Orth, Ph.D. (NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center**, on the National Academy of Sciences Council.

Southwest Research Institute Appoints Stephen A. Fuselier Vice President of Space Science Division

TAMEST Board Member Stephen A. Fuselier, Ph.D. (NAS), has been appointed as Vice President of the Space Science Division of **Southwest Research Institute (SwRI)**. A distinguished heliophysicist with more than 40 years of experience, Dr. Fuselier most recently Co-Chaired the National Academies of Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey, helping shape NASA's scientific priorities for the coming decade. He has held key leadership roles on major NASA missions, including IMAP, IBEX, TRACERS and MMS, advancing research on the Sun, solar wind and the heliosphere. Read More

$14.1 Million Approved by Texas Space Commission for SEARF Grant Award

The Texas Space Commission (TSC) board of directors voted to conditionally approve a grant application totaling $14,154,767 for a proposed project led by **Rice University**. The project would create a Center for Space Technologies within the Rice Space Institute (RSI) targeting the following key areas: research and development (R&D); technology transfer and innovation; state-wide partnerships; workforce development training; as well as space-focused education programs. Read More

UT Southwestern Biochemist Zhijian 'James' Chen to Receive 2026 Japan Prize

TAMEST Member Zhijian "James" Chen, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS, FRS), UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been awarded the 2026 Japan Prize in Life Sciences - one of the highest international honors for science and technology. He is one of the world's top researchers on how the body's immune system protects against threats such as bacteria and viruses. Read More

Rice Lab to Help Develop Bioprinted Kidneys as Part of ARPA-H PRINT Program Award

TAMEST Member Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), Rice University, is part of a team of researchers led by the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine awarded up to $24.8 million over five years to help address the nation's growing organ donor shortage by bioprinting on-demand kidney tissues. Read More

The Giant Fire Tornado That Could Save Our Oceans

In a first-of-its-kind, large-scale experiment, researchers led by **TAMEST Member Elaine S. Oran, Ph.D. (NAE, FREng)** and Qingsheng Wang, Ph.D., **Texas A&M University**, have developed a cleaner, faster solution to cleaning oil spills: massive fire whirls, or tornado-like flames that spin upward instead of spreading outward. The spinning vortex acts like a natural turbocharger, sucking in oxygen and creating a flame that burns hotter, faster and far more efficiently than fire pools. The fire whirl produced 40 percent less soot and consumed up to 95 percent of the fuel, leaving far fewer harmful particles and toxic residues behind. 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 360 members, eight Nobel Laureates and 23 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 325 TAMEST members have been inducted into the National Academies or relocated to Texas.

TAMEST 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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