

Newsletter

Registration Now Open

Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Summit: Celebrating 20 Years of Impact and Innovation

September 10, 2026 | Austin, Texas

[TAMEST.org/odonnell-awards-summit](https://tamest.org/odonnell-awards-summit)

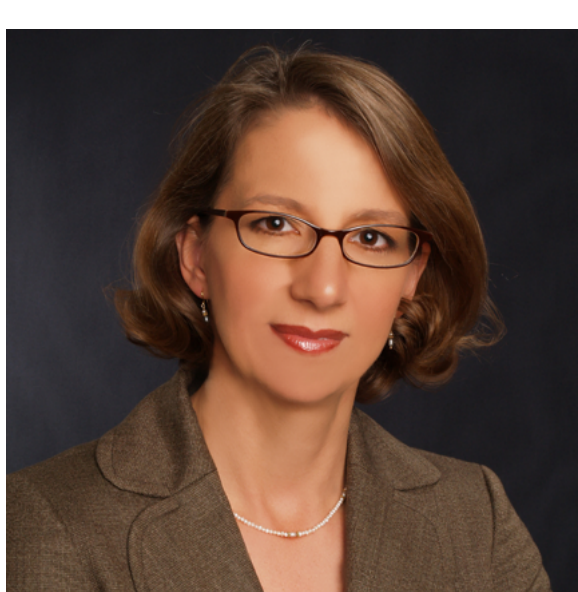
Registration is now open for the **Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Summit: Celebrating 20 Years of Impact and Innovation**, taking place **Thursday, September 10, 2026**, in Austin, Texas. This milestone one-day summit will highlight the remarkable achievements and discoveries of past O'Donnell Awards recipients and celebrate the awards significant and lasting influence on the Texas research community. It will be held at the Crum Auditorium in Robert B. Rowling Hall at The University of Texas at Austin.

"For 20 years, the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards have not only honored individual brilliance from up-and-coming research talent in Texas but have also fundamentally strengthened the culture of discovery across our state," said TAMEST Board President **Ganesh Thakur, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston**. "This summit isn't just a retrospective of our rich history; it is an active engine for the collaborations that will define the next generation of Texas scientists and researchers." [Learn More](#)



TAMEST is Hiring: Help Us Grow Our Team

TAMEST is expanding its team in Austin, Texas. We are currently seeking an exceptional early-career individual passionate about advancing innovation, research and scientific excellence in Texas for our **Program Manager** position. This key role will play a vital part in managing our programs and shaping future initiatives at TAMEST. We would appreciate your help spreading the word about this opportunity to your networks. Learn more about [the position here](#).



TAMEST Profile: TAMEST Member Rebecca Richards-Kortum, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE, NAS), Rice University

TAMEST Member **Rebecca Richards-Kortum, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE, NAS)** of Rice University has dedicated her career to the intersection of engineering, medicine and global health, driven by the conviction that everyone should have access to quality health care, regardless of where they live. TAMEST connected with Dr. Richards-Kortum to learn more about her journey in global health engineering, her deep commitment to mentoring the next generation of innovators and her vision for advancing health equity in Texas and around the world. [Read More](#)

Featured Photo

SAVE THE DATE

TAMEST 2027 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FRONTIERS OF DISCOVERY: EXPLORING FROM THE QUANTUM TO THE COSMOS

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS:

Honorary Chair: Cheryl Lyn Walker, Ph.D. (NAM) Baylor College of Medicine	Medicine: Charles "Charley" Taylor, Ph.D. (NAE) The University of Texas at Austin	Technology: Robert O. Ambrose, Ph.D. (NAE) Texas A&M University	Engineering: Nisomi J. Halas, Ph.D., D.Sc. (NAE, NAS) Rice University	Science: Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM) UT Southwestern Medical Center
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February 1-3, 2027 | InterContinental Houston | Houston, Texas

[Save the Date](#)

Save the date for the **TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference: Frontiers of Discovery**, taking place February 1-3, 2027, at the InterContinental Houston in Houston, Texas. The conference will explore how new discoveries from the nanoscale to deep space are reshaping our world and pushing the boundaries of what's possible. Speakers and sessions will address science and technology at every scale, including precision medicine, neural engineering, targeted disease therapeutics, deep space exploration, robotics and more. Registration opens September 2026. [Learn More](#)

TAMEST In The News

Forbes: The Career Skills AI Can't Replace, According To AMD CEO Lisa Su, *TAMEST Member Lisa T. Su, Ph.D. (NAE), AMD*

Nature: ToxiTaRGET: A Multi-Omics Database for Toxicant-Responsive Molecular Targets, *TAMEST Board Vice President Cheryl Lyn Walker, Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine*

Bioengineer: How Atlantic Herring Rewired Their Reproductive Strategy to Thrive in Changing Oceans, *TAMEST Member Leif Andersson, Ph.D. (NAS), Texas A&M University*

ISSUES: When Sixth Graders Study Neuroscience, *Baylor College of Medicine*

Biz Journals (Subscription Required): Texas Biomed Launches \$83M Center to Triple Its Biosafety Research Capacity, *Texas Biomedical Research Institute President Larry Schlesinger, M.D.*

Newswise: CPRIT Awards More Than \$6M to UTHealth Houston Researchers, *Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and UTHealth Houston*

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Member Briefs

ALLAN MACDONALD WINS KAVLI PRIZE IN NANOSCIENCE

Congratulations to TAMEST Member and 2024 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences Recipient **Allan H. MacDonald, Ph.D. (NAS)**, The University of Texas at Austin, for receiving the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience for his foundational work that established the field of twistronics.

TAMEST Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Allan MacDonald Wins Kavli Prize in Nanoscience

For the first time since the prestigious Kavli Prize was awarded in 2008 by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, a Texas-based researcher has received the honor in the nanoscience category. **TAMEST Member and 2024 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences Recipient Allan H. MacDonald, Ph.D. (NAS)**, The University of Texas at Austin, along with two other scientists, was recognized for foundational work that established the field of twistronics. This field is based on the idea that stacking two or more atomically thin layers of a material, such as graphene, on top of each other with a specific angular twist can unlock extraordinary new properties without changing the materials' composition. The Kavli Prize honors scientists for breakthroughs in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience - transforming our understanding of the big, the small and the complex. [Read More](#)

Martin G. Pomper Honored with 2026 Bayh-Dole American Innovator Award

Four members of the National Academy of Inventors, including **TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Science Co-Chair Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)**, UT Southwestern Medical Center, have been recognized with the 2026 American Innovator Award from the Bayh-Dole Coalition. The award honors innovators whose federally funded research has led to technologies and discoveries with significant societal and economic impact. Dr. Pomper was recognized for co-developing an FDA-approved imaging agent that significantly improved prostate cancer detection. [Read More](#)

Kaushik Rajashekara Elected into the Canadian Academy of Engineering

TAMEST Member and Hill Prize in Engineering Subcommittee Member Kaushik Rajashekara, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston, is one of only six International Fellows elected into the Canadian Academy of Engineering (CAE) in 2026. The CAE is Canada's national institution through which individuals who have made outstanding contributions to engineering in Canada provide strategic advice on matters of critical importance to Canada and to Canadians. [Read More](#)

Maralice Conacci-Sorrell and Team Aim to Help People with Cancer Live Longer, Better Lives

Every year, roughly 2 million people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer. For **TAMEST 2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship Recipient Maralice Conacci-Sorrell, Ph.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center**, the number is not just a statistic; it's personal. After both her mother and daughter faced cancer diagnoses, Dr. Sorrell dedicated her career to understanding the root causes of the disease. Her research has revealed how cancer cells harness nutrients to fuel their growth and led to targeted approaches for disrupting the process in difficult-to-treat cancers. [Read More](#)

The Texas A&M University System: Building to Lead in Space

The Texas A&M University System is quickly building one of the most expansive university-led space enterprises in the United States, which will be led by **2025 TAMEST Research Workshop Speaker Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D.**, alongside **TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Technology Co-Chair Robert O. Ambrose, Ph.D. (NAE)**. The Texas A&M University Space Institute will be the centerpiece of the Texas A&M System's growing space enterprise. Set to open in fall 2026, the first-of-its-kind research facility is rooted in collaboration, discovery and training, bringing government entities and private-sector partners together under one roof to perform space-related research side by side. [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 350 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