

Newsletter



2027 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship

Last Chance to Nominate

Nomination period ends April 30, 2026



Nominations are due next week for the **2027 Mary Beth Maddox Award and Lectureship**, honoring Texas-based early career women scientists advancing innovative cancer research. The recipient will be recognized at the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference in Houston, receive a \$5,000 honorarium and present their work across the state through lectures at TAMEST member institutions with NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) Designated Cancer Centers. The award covers the recipient's travel and lodging for the lectures and includes organized visits and networking at the NCI Cancer Centers. Nominations are due on **Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 6 p.m. CT**, and multiple nominations per institution are welcome. [Read More](#)

2027 Hill Prize Information Sessions



Video and Slides Available

2027 Hill Prizes Information Sessions Video and Slides Now Available

TAMEST hosted two information sessions recently on the **2027 Hill Prizes**, which open May 1 to June 1, 2026. Funded by Lyda Hill Philanthropies, the Hill Prizes will award \$500,000 in non-dilutive funding across seven categories to advance high-impact research in Texas. The sessions covered eligibility, evaluation criteria and the application process, featuring Hill Prizes Committee Chair David E. Daniel, Ph.D. (NAE), UT Dallas, and Hill Prize in Commercialization, Innovation and Technology Subcommittee Chair Lynda Chin, M.D. (NAM), Apricity Health. [Read More](#)



TAMEST Profile: TAMEST Member Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE), Rice University

TAMEST Member Antonios G. Mikos, Ph.D. (NAM, NAE) of Rice University has spent his career advancing the frontiers of regenerative medicine by applying engineering principles to some of medicine's most complex challenges. In 2007, Dr. Mikos received the **Edith and Peter O'Donnell Award in Engineering** from TAMEST. Since then, he has been elected to both the National Academy of Medicine and National Academy of Engineering, demonstrating the profound interdisciplinary impact of his work. As TAMEST celebrates the 20th anniversary of the O'Donnell Awards in 2026, Dr. Mikos reflected on how the recognition influenced his career. [Read More](#)

Featured Photo

TAMEST Spring Newsletter



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 2026 TAMEST Print Newsletter](#) to learn more about the latest TAMEST events, programs and highlights.

TAMEST In The News

Houston Public Media: The Future of Cancer Research May Lie in Tricking the Immune System, UT Researchers Say, *TAMEST Member Jonathan L. Sessler, Ph.D. (NAS), The University of Texas at Austin*

Bioengineer: First-in-Class Radio-Theranostic Developed Using Novel Antibody from UT MD Anderson, *TAMEST Board Member David R. Pivnick-Worms, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center*

KCEN News: Former Astronaut and Texas A&M University Professor Explains Artemis II Mission, *TAMEST Member Bonnie J. Dunbar, Ph.D. (NAE), Texas A&M University*

The Transmitter: Exon-Skipping Approach Boosts Levels of Key Rett Syndrome Protein, *TAMEST Member and Nobel and Breakthrough Prize Laureates Committee Member Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D. (NAM, NAS), Baylor College of Medicine*

Energy Digital: Top 10: Women in Energy in the United States, *TAMEST Member Vicki A. Holub (NAE), Occidental Petroleum Corporation*

France 24: 'Space Accessibility Has to be Expanded': Former Astronaut Mae Jemison Speaks to FRANCE 24, *TAMEST Member Mae C. Jemison, M.D. (NAM), The Jemison Group*

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Member Briefs

Michael and Susan Dell Surpass \$1 Billion in Giving to The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation announced that Michael and Susan Dell have become UT Austin's first-ever billion-dollar supporters. In honor of Michael and Susan Dell's new investment and their lifetime of generosity, the University is establishing the **UT Dell Campus for Advanced Research and the UT Dell Medical Center** to advance human health. The UT Dell Medical Center is poised to become a leading destination for care and research – leveraging UT Austin's research breadth, Austin's technology ecosystem and Texas' thriving economy. [Read More](#)

Moshe Vardi Named 2026 NAAI Academy Award Laureate

TAMEST Member Moshe Y. Vardi, Ph.D. (NAE, NAS, FRS), Rice University, has been named a 2026 NAAI Academy Award Laureate by the National Academy of Artificial Intelligence (NAAI). The award is the Academy's highest honor and recognizes scientists whose research has fundamentally advanced the scientific foundations of artificial intelligence. Dr. Vardi received the award for seminal contributions to logic-based artificial intelligence and formal reasoning in intelligent systems. [Read More](#)

Helen H. Hobbs Honored for Innovation in Cardiovascular Science

TAMEST Member and Nobel and Breakthrough Prize Laureates Committee Member Helen H. Hobbs, M.D. (NAM, NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center, has been named the recipient of the 2026 Valentin Fuster Award for Innovation in Science by the American College of Cardiology (ACC). This honor reflects her contributions to cardiovascular science and her role in advancing research that has directly improved patient care. [Read More](#)

University of Texas Faculty Charles Taylor Named Member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities

TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Medicine Co-Chair Charles "Charley" Taylor, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin, has been elected as a Corresponding Member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious scientific societies. He is among 13 scholars elected this year and the only American among the newly elected members. [Read More](#)

Experimental Hookworm Vaccine Shows Promising Protection in Phase 2 Human Trial

Researchers at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences in partnership with researchers at Baylor College of Medicine, including TAMEST Member and 2025 Hill Prize in Public Health Recipient Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), report encouraging results from a phase 2 clinical trial evaluating a candidate vaccine to prevent hookworm infection - one of the world's most common parasitic diseases. The findings, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases, show that a formulation of the investigational vaccine significantly reduced the intensity of infection in healthy adult volunteers exposed to the parasite under carefully controlled conditions. [Read More](#)

Harris County Names Ship Channel Bridge for Rice Mathematician Richard Tapia

Harris County has officially named one of the region's most prominent infrastructure projects after a Rice University scholar and TAMEST member whose career has shaped generations of scientists, mathematicians and engineers. In a unanimous vote the Harris County Commissioners Court, county leaders approved naming the Sam Houston Tollway Ship Channel Bridge in honor of TAMEST Member Richard A. Tapia, Ph.D. (NAE), Rice University. Both the existing bridge crossing the Houston Ship Channel and the new span currently under construction will carry Dr. Tapia's name. [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 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

