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TAMEST Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter



WINSTEAD
ATTORNEYS

RECIPIENT OF THE
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TAMEST announced that **the late Pete Winstead** and **Winstead PC** law firm have been selected as recipients of the **2027 Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award**. The award recognizes their extraordinary leadership, service and enduring contributions to research, discovery and innovation in Texas. Pete Winstead, a founding shareholder of Winstead PC Law Firm, served for decades as TAMEST's trusted advisor and pro bono attorney until his passing in August 2024. A vital early champion of TAMEST, Mr. Winstead played a pivotal role in shaping the organization during its formative years. Read More

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TAMEST Welcomes Four Texans Elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

TAMEST congratulates four Texans elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) in 2026. "I am thrilled to welcome these outstanding health and medicine leaders into the National Academy of Medicine," said **NAM President and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Speaker Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D. (NAM)**, in an announcement. "Their extraordinary talent and commitment to advancing evidence-based guidance and solutions for our country's greatest health care challenges will strengthen our efforts to improve health for all." Read More



TAMEST Joins State Science Leaders for Inaugural NAAS Leadership Summit

TAMEST Executive Director Terrence Henry joined nearly 40 state science leaders representing 26 state academies in Chicago for the inaugural National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS) Leadership Summit. Held July 24-25, 2026, the two-day summit brought together executive leaders from state academies of science and research across the country to exchange operational strategies, address shared challenges and build stronger inter-academy partnerships. Read More



TAMEST Profile: Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), UT Southwestern Medical Center

For more than three decades, **TAMEST Member Martin G. Pomper, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM)**, has been at the forefront of turning laboratory discoveries into tools that change how physicians see and treat disease. Dr. Pomper serves as Science Co-Chair of the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference: Frontiers of Discovery, taking place February 1-3, 2027, in Houston. TAMEST connected with Dr. Pomper to talk about his career, his award-winning research and what he's most looking forward to at next year's conference. Read More

Featured Photo



2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series Highlights Cancer Research at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

As part of the Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series, 2026 recipient **Maralice Conacci-Sorrell, Ph.D., of UT Southwestern Medical Center**, spoke to about 50 attendees on Tuesday, October 6, at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (UT MD Anderson). Introduced by **Mary Beth Maddox Award Committee Member Helen Piwnica-Worms, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), UT MD Anderson,** Dr. Conacci-Sorrell presented "Identifying and Targeting Nutrient Dependencies in Cancer Cells." Her lecture explored cancer cells' reliance on specific nutrients to fuel tumor growth and how researchers can target those vulnerabilities. The lecture was hosted through the John H. Blaffer Lecture Series at UT MD Anderson. During her visit, Dr. Conacci-Sorrell also met with faculty in the Department of Genetics, joined trainees for a networking hour and discussed her work with colleagues across campus. Read More

TAMEST In The News

AMD: AMD CEO Lisa Su Receives National Medal of Science, *TAMEST Member Lisa T. Su, Ph.D. (NAE), AMD*

Bioengineer: Dense Polymer Membranes Hide Interconnected Nanopore Networks, Scientists Find, *TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Speaker Menachem Elimelech, Ph.D. (NAE), Rice University*

Earth: Why Is Autism More Common in Boys? A Single DNA Letter Offers a Clue, *TAMEST Member and Nobel and Breakthrough Prize Laureates Committee Member Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D. (NAM, NAS), Baylor College of Medicine*

Center Times Plus: Taking a Closer Look at Biomolecular Condensates, *TAMEST Member Michael K. Rosen, Ph.D. (NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center*

The Daily Texan: The University of Texas at Austin Hosts National Engineering Symposium, *TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2024 Annual Conference Co-Chair Karen E. Willcox, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin*

Texas A&M Stories: DNA's 'Molecular Sunscreen' Offers Clues to Life's Origins, *TAMEST Member Peter M. Rentzepis, Ph.D. (NAS), Texas A&M University*

CW33: Lyda Hill Receives 2026 Pride of Texas Award at State Fair of Texas, *2025 Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award Recipient Lyda Hill and Lyda Hill Philanthropies*

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Member Briefs

Chronic Disease Affects All of Us. Science Is Rising to the Challenge

Chronic disease is among the greatest health challenges of our time. On October 19, the **National Academy of Medicine's Annual Meeting Scientific Symposium**, "Harnessing Science, Prevention and Innovation in Chronic Disease," brought together experts across science, medicine, public health, policy and other fields to discuss why these diseases develop and how they can be better managed or prevented altogether. In this interview, Symposium Chair and **TAMEST Past President Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D. (NAM), Baylor College of Medicine**, explains why the time is right for a new approach to chronic disease. Read More

National Academy of Engineering Annual Meeting Celebrates 250 Years of Engineering Innovation

For 250 years, engineering has helped shape the United States, from the infrastructure that connects communities to technologies that transform how people live and work. The **National Academy of Engineering** highlighted this history at its 2026 Annual Meeting, held October 4-5 in Washington, D.C. The meeting centered on the theme "Engineering America: Building on 250 Years of Impact" and convened engineering leaders to reflect on engineering's contributions to the nation, explore the innovations shaping its future and celebrate the induction of 158 new members. **TAMEST Member and O'Donnell Awards Committee Chair Frances S. Ligler, D.Sc., D.Phil. (NAE), Texas A&M University**, served on the meeting's planning committee. **TAMEST Members Bonnie J. Dunbar, Ph.D. (NAE) and Thomas J. Overbye, Ph.D. (NAE), Texas A&M University**, served as section chairs. Read More

Rice University Convenes Statewide Scientific Leadership to Build Momentum at the Inaugural Texas Materials Consortium

Rice University's Department of Materials Science and NanoEngineering convened academic leaders, department chairs and researchers from across the state for the inaugural Texas Materials Consortium. The landmark gathering, inspired by successful collaborative models like **TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology)**, establishes a unified statewide strategy to drive advanced research, leverage state-of-the-art infrastructure and secure large-scale collaborative funding across Texas institutions. "Texas has extraordinary strength in materials science and engineering, but we have not previously had a statewide forum dedicated to bringing that collective expertise together," said **TAMEST Member Karen Lozano, Ph.D. (NAE), Rice University.** Read More

Hagler Institute Names 10 Fellows and 1 Distinguished Lecturer to 2026-27 Class

The Hagler Institute for Advanced Study at Texas A&M University has selected 11 accomplished scholars for its 2026-27 class, which will consist of 10 Fellows and one Distinguished Lecturer. All Hagler Fellows and Distinguished Lecturers are recognized for outstanding achievements in their fields and are members of the National Academies or hold recognitions of equal stature. "We welcome this 15th class of 11 stellar scholars. They represent the highest level of excellence," said **TAMEST Member John L. Junkins, Ph.D. (NAE), Founding Director of the Hagler Institute at Texas A&M University**. Read More

UT San Antonio School of Dentistry Co-Leads NIH-Funded Center That May Provide an Alternative to Root Canal Procedures

The National Dental Practice Training Center, funded with nearly $2 million from the NIH, is exploring an alternative to root canals: a pulpotomy, which removes only inflamed tissue and could be done more often in general dental practices. "As an endodontist, I know how much it means to a patient to stop the pain and keep their natural tooth," said **TAMEST 2025 Hill Prize in Medicine Recipient Kenneth M. Hargreaves, D.D.S., Ph.D., UT San Antonio**. "This alternative approach may help general dentists and endodontists offer it safely to the right patients." 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 365 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
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