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TAMEST Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science & Technology

Newsletter

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



100+ Attendees

20 Speakers and Panelists

25 Past O'Donnell Awards Recipients

37 TAMEST Members

SUMMIT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS NOW AVAILABLE

We're pleased to share highlights from the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards Summit: Celebrating 20 Years of Impact and Innovation, which took place September 10, 2026, in Austin, Texas at The University of Texas at Austin. Summit photos and videos are now available, along with a special 20th anniversary video commemorating two decades of impact through the O'Donnell Awards. Read More



Registration Is Now Open for the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference: Frontiers of Discovery in Houston

Register today for the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference: Frontiers of Discovery, February 1-3, 2027, at the InterContinental Houston. The conference will explore how new discoveries are reshaping our world, from the nanoscale to deep space. The program will examine how advances in science and technology at every scale are leading society into exciting new frontiers. Register by December 10, 2026, to save 25% with early bird pricing. Read More



2026 Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series Highlights Cancer Research at UT Southwestern Medical Center

As part of the Mary Beth Maddox Award Lecture Series, **2026 recipient Maralice Conacci-Sorrell, Ph.D.,** delivered a lecture on Wednesday, September 16, at UT Southwestern Medical Center to nearly 60 research professionals. Introduced by her nominator, **TAMEST Member Steven Kliewer, Ph.D. (NAS)**, Dr. Conacci-Sorrell shared her research on targeting nutrient dependencies in cancer cells. The lecture was hosted by the Excellence in Immunology Seminar Series in partnership with Simmons Cancer Center. Read More



TAMEST Profile: Charles "Charley" Taylor, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin

TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Medicine Co-Chair Charles "Charley" Taylor, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin, has dedicated more than three decades to engineering computational tools that turn mathematical theory into clinical breakthroughs. TAMEST connected with Dr. Taylor to discuss how computational medicine is reshaping health care, his interdisciplinary vision for the Center for Computational Medicine and what attendees can expect from the TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference in Houston. Read More

Featured Video



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

For two decades, the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Awards have recognized rising star researchers in Texas whose pioneering work addresses real-world challenges and expands the frontiers of medicine, engineering, science and technology innovation. In celebration of this 20-year milestone, our latest video reflects on the vision of Edith and Peter O'Donnell, the transformative discoveries launched by past recipients and the enduring impact the awards have had on fostering research excellence across the state. Watch the video.

TAMEST In The News

KHOU: **Texas Has Its Sights on a Major New Federal Project — and Houston is Part of the Strategy**, *TAMEST Member and TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Technology Co-Chair Robert O. Ambrose, Ph.D. (NAE), Texas A&M University; 2025 TAMEST Research Workshop Speaker Nancy Currie-Gregg, Ph.D., Texas A&M University; and The University of Texas at El Paso President Heather Wilson, Ph.D.*

Dallas Innovates: **Lyda Hill Philanthropies, TAMEST Award $1M More to Six Texas Researchers**, *2025 Kay Bailey Hutchison Distinguished Service Award Recipient Lyda Hill and Lyda Hill Philanthropies and TAMEST (Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology)*

U.S. Department of Energy: **How Twisting Two-Dimensional Materials Led to a New Field of Research**, *TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Speaker, 2024 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences Recipient and TAMEST Member Allan H. MacDonald, Ph.D. (NAS), The University of Texas at Austin*

OncoDaily: **The Future is Near, Can We Finally Stop Cancer Resistance?**, *TAMEST Member and Hill Prize in Commercialization, Innovation and Technology Subcommittee Chair Lynda Chin, M.D. (NAM), Apricity Health*

The Daily Texan: **UT Austin Program Brings Ph.D. Students from Portuguese Universities to Austin**, *TAMEST Member Nicholas A. Peppas, Sc.D. (NAM, NAE), The University of Texas at Austin*

Center Times Plus: **Eric Olson Strikes Inspiring Chords in Musical Keynote at Graduate School Commencement**, *TAMEST Member Eric Olson, Ph.D. (NAM, NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center*

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Member Briefs



Masashi Yanagisawa Receives Lasker Award for Discovery that Transformed Narcolepsy Care

The Lasker Foundation has announced that **TAMEST Member Masashi Yanagisawa, M.D., Ph.D. (NAS), UT Southwestern Medical Center**, is a recipient of the 2026 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for his discovery of orexin, a brain peptide that maintains wakefulness, and demonstration that the absence of its action is responsible for narcolepsy, a profound disorder of sleep. Often called "America's Nobels," the Lasker Awards, established in 1945 by Albert and Mary Woodard Lasker, recognize significant advances in the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, cure and prevention of human disease and are regarded as the country's preeminent biomedical research prize. Read More

Royal Academy of Engineering Welcomes 75 New Fellows

The Royal Academy of Engineering elected 75 leading figures in the field of engineering and technology to its Fellowship, including **TAMEST Board Treasurer Selcuk Guner, Ph.D. (NAE, FREng), Shell; TAMEST Member Ramamoorthy Ramesh, Ph.D. (NAE, NAS, FRS, FREng), Rice University/University of California, Berkeley; and TAMEST Member Moshe Y. Vardi, Ph.D. (NAE, NAS, FRS, FREng), Rice University**. This year's new Fellows, announced in the year of the Academy's 50th anniversary, are making an incredible impact across engineering and technology with innovations in clean energy, AI, medicine and public health. Read More

2026 Pediatric to Adult Cardio AI Conference: Digital Twins

Explore how AI, machine learning, advanced imaging and digital twin technologies are transforming pediatric and adult cardiovascular care. Learn practical strategies for implementation, discover what comes next for cardiac intelligence and connect with pioneering researchers and clinicians, including **TAMEST 2027 Annual Conference Medicine Co-Chair and TAMEST Member Charles "Charley" Taylor, Ph.D. (NAE), The University of Texas at Austin.** Read More

Kaushik Rajashekara Elected as a Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences

TAMEST Member and Hill Prize in Engineering Subcommittee Member Kaushik Rajashekara, Ph.D. (NAE), University of Houston, has been elected as a Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences (EurASc) for his contributions to electrification of transportation and renewable energy. The mission of EurASc is to promote excellence in scientific research and technological innovation, fostering fundamental and interdisciplinary science as the foundation of progress and societal development. Read More

Villanova University Awards Mendel Medal to Renowned Molecular Geneticist Huda Zoghbi

Villanova University has named TAMEST Member and Nobel and Breakthrough Prize Laureates Committee Member Huda Y. Zoghbi, M.D. (NAM, NAS), Baylor College of Medicine, as the 2026 recipient of the Mendel Medal. Dr. Zoghbi's pioneering research has advanced understanding of the genetic causes of neurological disorders, with significant implications for the development of new treatments. She is the 55th recipient of the award, which was first presented by Villanova in 1929 and is given to outstanding contemporary scientists in recognition of their accomplishments. 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

Baylor College of Medicine · Baylor University · Rice University · SMU · Texas A&M University System · Texas A&M Health · Texas Biomedical Research Institute · Texas Tech University · Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center · The University of Texas at Arlington · The University of Texas at Austin · The University of Texas at Dallas · The University of Texas at El Paso · The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio · UT Health Houston · The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center · The University of Texas Medical Branch · The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley · University of Houston · University of North Texas · UNT Health Fort Worth · UT Southwestern Medical Center

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.

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Energy Future Holdings • Edith and Peter O'Donnell • Temple-Inland
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