

THE WIESS SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Natural Sciences faculty participate in several Interdisciplinary [institutes and centers](https://naturalsciences.rice.edu/research/labs-centers-and-institutes/) (https://naturalsciences.rice.edu/research/labs-centers-and-institutes/) including the Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Richard E. Smalley Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology, Rice Quantum Institute, the W.M. Keck Center for Interdisciplinary Bioscience Training, Gulf Coast Consortia, and Rice Space Institute. Research partnerships encompass local institutions including Baylor College of Medicine, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, NASA, The University of Texas Health Science Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch, and University of Houston, plus foundations, museums, industries, and other universities and corporations worldwide.

The research of Nobel Laureates Robert Curl and Richard Smalley heralded the new discipline of nanoscience and technology that brings together many fields across science and engineering. In addition to providing the foundation of nano-research, the School also recently recruited three renowned scientists, all members of the National Academy of Sciences. Their research labs in cancer, physics, and chemistry will work in partnership with cancer specialists in the Texas Medical Center to apply new concepts from physics to cancer research and treatment. Members of our faculty have received prestigious awards such as: Packard Fellowships, Beckman Foundation Fellowships, NSF CAREER Awards for junior faculty, Feynman Prizes, Norman Hackerman awards in Chemistry, the Athelstan Spilhaus Award for Enhancement of the Public Understanding of Earth and Space Science, and the Public Welfare Medal from the National Academy of Science.

The School offers numerous research opportunities to its undergraduates, and many publish work in top journals. A small sampling of research being conducted illustrates the broad range of possibilities: exotic plant and animal invasions into Texas ecosystems, evolutionary dynamics of genes and genomes in populations and species, effects of salt chemistry on freezing of saturated Martian soil, neurogenesis in Alzheimer's Disease, and building lasers for cooling atoms to a millionth of a degree above absolute zero, to name a few.

The space that supports Natural Sciences is remarkably diverse in the state-of-the-art equipment provided to the undergraduate and graduate research programs. The School also supports a professional science master's program in several areas.

Departments and Programs

- [Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/earth-environmental-planetary-sciences/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/earth-environmental-planetary-sciences/)
- [Energy Geoscience](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/energy-geoscience/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/energy-geoscience/)
- [Energy Transition and Sustainability](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/engineering/energy-transition-sustainability/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/engineering/energy-transition-sustainability/)
- [Environmental Analysis](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/environmental-analysis/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/environmental-analysis/)
- [Environmental Science](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/environmental-science/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/environmental-science/)
- [Health Sciences](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/health-sciences/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/health-sciences/)
- [Kinesiology](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/kinesiology/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/kinesiology/)
- [Mathematics](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/mathematics/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/mathematics/)
- [Neuroscience](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/neuroscience/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/neuroscience/)
- [Physics and Astronomy](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/physics-astronomy/)
- [Science Teaching](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/science-teaching/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/science-teaching/)
- [Space Studies](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/space-studies/)
- [Sports Medicine and Exercise Physiology](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/sports-medicine-exercise-physiology/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/sports-medicine-exercise-physiology/)
- [Applied Chemical Sciences](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/applied-chemical-sciences/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/applied-chemical-sciences/)
- [Applied Physics](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/interdisciplinary/applied-physics/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/interdisciplinary/applied-physics/)
- [Bioscience and Health Policy](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/bioscience-health-policy/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/bioscience-health-policy/)
- [BioSciences](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/biosciences/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/biosciences/)
- [Chemical Physics](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/chemical-physics/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/chemical-physics/)
- [Chemistry](https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/chemistry/) (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/natural-sciences/chemistry/)