



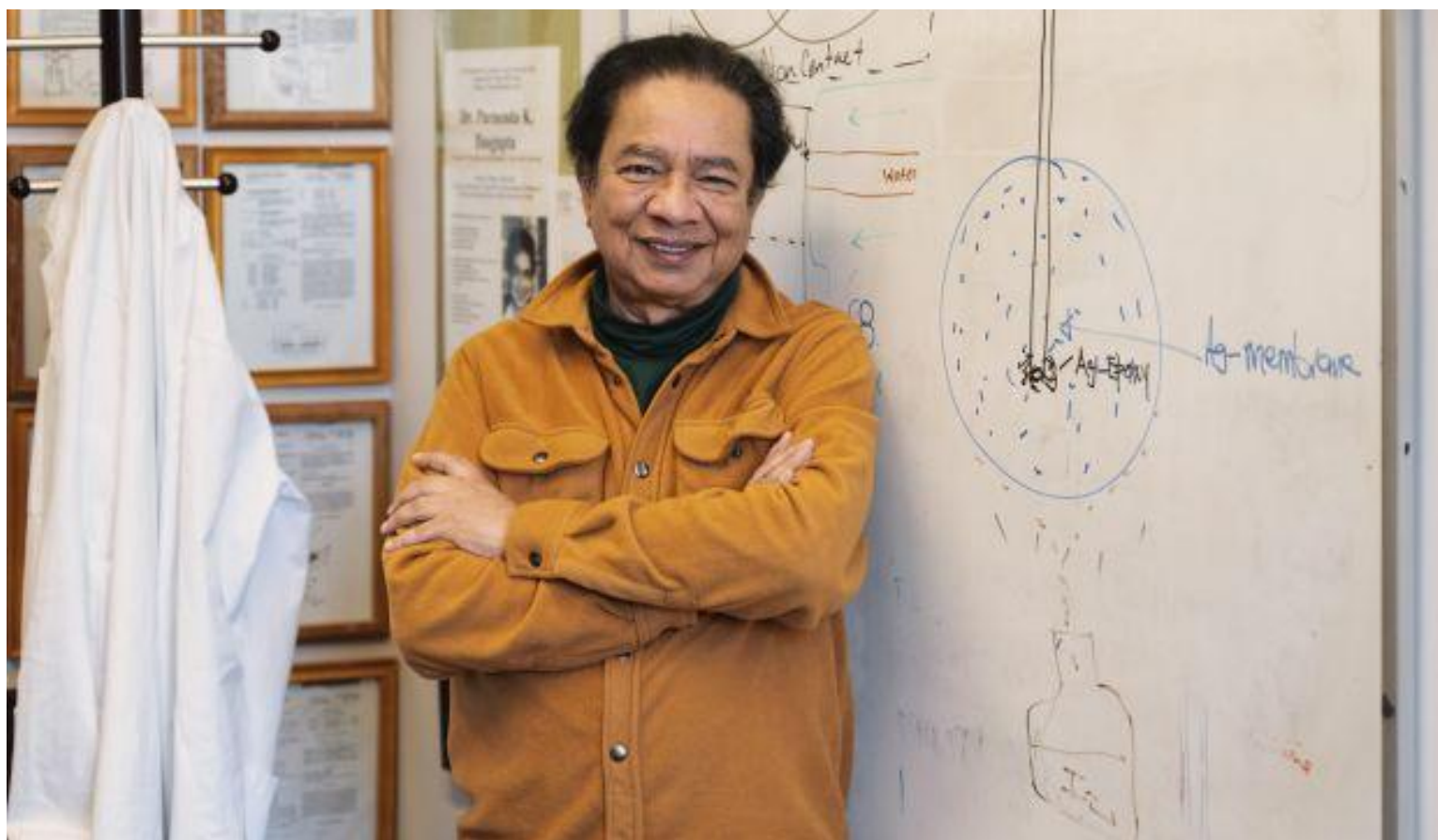
# INQUIRY+

Research Newsletter

APRIL 2025

Welcome to Inquiry+, your go-to monthly newsletter showcasing groundbreaking research from The University of Texas at Arlington. Whether you're on campus or miles away, this newsletter is designed for everyone passionate about innovation and discovery. If a colleague shared this copy with you, don't miss out—[sign up now](#) to stay connected with the latest in research excellence!

## Top News



## UTA patents up 15%, National Academy of Inventors ranks UT System No. 6 on worldwide universities list

[Inventors from The University of Texas at Arlington](#) have once again been a vital part of the University of Texas System's recognition as one of the world's leading innovation centers. According to the National Academy of Inventors, UT System ranks No. 6 on its [Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents List](#) based on 2024 patents. UTA contributed [23 patents](#)—an increase of 15% over [2023](#)—to UT System's total of 234 inventions last year.



## UTA team wins prize for vital U.S. magnet technology

UTA physics Professor J. Ping Liu has won the [2025 Hill Prize in Physical Sciences](#) for pioneering new ways to design magnets that power high-tech devices. Dr. Liu shares the award with principal investigator [James Chelikowsky](#) at UT Austin.



## Study reveals emotion-driven borrowing is deepening debt

“We found that people are taking out these [loans based on emotion](#) and not thinking about the long-term financial impact,” said Sima Jannati, an assistant professor in the Department of Finance and Real Estate and author of the [study](#) on online borrowing.

## ***UTA experts in the news***

### [Additional news coverage](#)

[‘Too important to fail.’ UTA monitors impact of federal orders on research](#) - *KERA News*

[How to top stop human bodies being for research without consent](#) - *The Washington Post*

[UTA student protege works to find safer alternative to acetaminophen](#) - *Smithsonian Magazine*

[Five years after COVID, Texans continue to navigate the toll](#) - *Texas Public Radio*

[UTA research contributes \\$59 million into national economy](#) - *D Magazine*

[What the flowerpot snake can teach us about Down syndrome](#) - *Reptiles Magazine*



picture showing six different pyrolysis oils, each unique in color, clarity, and viscosity due to their unique chemical makeup

## UTA chemists explain how plastic pyrolysis can tackle plastic waste

UTA's [Kevin A. Schug](#) and Alexander Kaplitz wrote a syndicated article in [The Conversation](#) about a new technique called pyrolysis that chemically breaks down plastic waste so that the byproducts can be used as liquid oils, fuel source gases, and soil fertilizer.





## Using virtual reality tools to prevent veteran suicide prevention

Donna Schuman is developing a [virtual reality \(VR\) training simulation to enhance rural health workers' ability to care for veterans experiencing suicidal thoughts](#). Her innovative program focuses on how to talk to veterans about how they store items like firearms to reduce the risk of harm.



## Brain mapping unlocks key Alzheimer's insights

Researchers from UTA and The University of California–San Francisco have [published](#) a [new brain-mapping technique](#) to identify memory-related brain cells vulnerable to protein buildup, a key factor in the development of Alzheimer's disease, an incurable, progressive brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills.



## NASA taps UTA to shape future of autonomous aviation

NASA has awarded a [\\$1 million grant](#) to a team from [The University of Texas at Arlington Research Institute \(UTARI\)](#). "This funding will enable us to push the boundaries of autonomous aviation technology and contribute to the future of safe and reliable air travel," said UTA's Nicolas Gans.





## Biochemist's impact on science and students honored

Kayunta Johnson-Winters has been named a [2025 fellow of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#). The honor recognition recognizes her contributions to biochemistry and molecular biology, as well as her efforts to support junior faculty, women in science, and student mentorship.





## How a tiny snake is changing our view of genetics

By analyzing the flowerpot snake's unique genome, biologist Matthew Fujita is uncovering how the tiny reptile repairs its DNA and prevents harmful mutations. Published in [Science Advances](#), his research provides insights into human trisomy conditions like Down Syndrome.

[Read more UTA news stories.](#)

---

## Coming Up

*These events are open to the public*

**EVERY WEDNESDAY, 9 A.M.**

[1 Million Cups - Program for Entrepreneurs](#)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 7:30 P.M.**

[Ice-T's Story of Resilience and Success](#)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M.**

[UTA Symphony Orchestra Concert](#)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 5 P.M.**

[Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Development's Spring Open House and Book Signing](#)

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 9 A.M.**

[UTA Art Spring Glass Sale and Fundraiser](#)

See more at [events.uta.edu](https://events.uta.edu).

---

Follow us on social



Office of Vice President for  
Research and Innovation

© 2025 The University of Texas at Arlington

View this email [online](#).

The University of Texas at Arlington  
701 S. Nedderman Dr. | Arlington, TX 76019 US

This email was sent to .

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

View our [Privacy Policy](#).

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.