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UT among group of schools aiming to make Texas tops in nanotechnology

The University has teamed up with three other Texas institutions to create an organization to make the state a forerunner in nanotechnology education, research and development.

The organization, the Strategic Partnership for Research in Nanotechnology, which was founded in April, is composed of officials from the University, UT-Dallas, UT-Arlington and Rice University.

"Nanotechnology is one of the cutting-edge research areas of science and technology in the 21st century, with profound implications in intellectual and economic landscapes for the United States," said William Shute, vice chancellor for federal relations for the UT System, in a statement. "These four outstanding universities have widely recognized nanotechnology talents and, therefore, are in the best position to promote Texas' interest in what almost surely will become a competition for leadership in the next scientific revolution."

Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating materials on a scale smaller than the wavelength of light to build microscopic devices.

Juan Sanchez, UT vice president for research, will be the first chair of the organization's executive committee. Paul Barbara, director of the UT center for nano- and molecular science and technology, and Ananth Dodabalapur, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, are the other UT representatives on the executive committee.

Officials expect to hold the first nanotechnology workshop this fall.

*Compiled by Shannon Richardson,
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