Dr. Rola El-Serag named director of Center for Health and Biosciences
The Baker Institute welcomes Dr. Rola El-Serag, the L.E. and Virginia Simmons Senior Fellow in Health Policy and the director of the Center for Health and Biosciences.

El-Serag joined the institute on Oct. 18 from the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she was the medical director of the Women Veterans Health Program. She is also an associate professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

“The substantive management and leadership skills Dr. El-Serag brings as a physician, program developer, researcher and educator will propel the CHB to new levels,” said Director Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian. Read more here.

Recognition
Project led by Center for Energy Studies named a Climate Challenge Cup finalist

The Texas Carbon Market, an innovative carbon storage project led by the Center for Energy Studies, is a finalist in the first international Climate Challenge Cup competition. The CES proposal, developed with United Kingdom partners Future Foods Solutions and Yorkshire Water, would help reduce local and regional carbon emissions with a goal of net zero. The cup winners will be announced Nov. 10 at COP26, the United Nations 2021 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. Read more about the project here.

National award recognizes Lane’s commitment to science advocacy

Congratulations to senior science and technology fellow Neal F. Lane, who will receive a Research!America Advocacy Award honoring his distinguished leadership and sustained commitment to public advocacy for research. The Herbert Pardes Family Award for National Leadership in Advocacy for Research is one of five 2022 Research!America awards recognizing commitment to sustaining the nation’s leadership in medical and health research. Read more about the awards here.

“For a petro-state like the UAE, one has to wonder: Can they really eliminate or offset all their emissions by 2050? [Their intent] to reach net zero is one to praise — and verify.”

Jim Krane, Ph.D., Wallace S. Wilson Fellow for Energy Studies, writing in the Baker Institute Blog via Forbes

Latest research
A dangerous decade of Chinese power is here. Despite China’s growth over recent decades, structural instability will soon weaken the superpower, contend fellow Gabriel B. Collins and co-author Andrew S. Erickson in *Foreign Policy* — meaning that as China’s power peaks over the next decade, President Xi will take the opportunity to make bold moves, with efforts focused on claiming Taiwan.

What’s in store for the French presidential election in 2022? With center-right President Emmanuel Macron facing off against extreme-right Marine Le Pen, what’s in store the French presidential election next April? In a new brief, Baker Institute faculty scholar Julie Fette and William Tsai, Rice ’24, examine the polls, political platforms and possibilities. Read the brief [here](#).

The Nobel science prizes: the good, bad and ugly. While the Nobel Prizes do much to improve public understanding of science, there have long been calls for modest reforms, write the *Science and Technology Policy Program’s* Kirstin R.W. Matthews, Kenneth M. Evans, Daniel Moralí and Flora Naylor. Read more on the proposed changes [here](#).
Upcoming events

**Webinar — Innovation and the Workforce of the Future.** Antonio Neri, CEO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, discusses the decentralization of the science and technology sectors and its impact on the workforce of the future. Baker Institute Director Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian will deliver welcome remarks and Rice University President David Leebron will moderate the discussion, which is part of the Science and Technology Policy Program’s Civic Scientist Lecture Series. **Oct. 20 | Noon CDT**

**Webinar — Certified Natural Gas: The Future of LNG?** LNG exporters in particular are facing pressure to demonstrate their LNG has been produced with lower methane and CO2 emissions. Panelists examine the trend and whether it could lead to a two-tier market for natural gas and LNG. **Oct. 22 | 11:00 a.m. CDT**

**Roundtable Dialogue: Embarking on a Retrospective View of Urban Revitalization in Houston’s Second and Third Wards.** At this member-exclusive event, McNair Center scholar Alisha Small discusses planned research to assess the impact of 20 years of urban revitalization on entrepreneurs and small businesses in Houston’s Second and Third wards. Lunch, for those attending in person, will be served at 11:30 a.m. The program can also be viewed virtually — visit the event page for details. Consider joining our Roundtable to enjoy this and other member events! **Oct. 26 | 11:30 a.m. CDT**

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Become a member of the Baker Institute Roundtable and Roundtable Young Professionals. Contact our development office for more information on how you can join the conversation on the relevant issues and ideas that shape our world, or text BAKER to 243725 to donate today!