A recent analysis by the Center for Medicines Research found that the failure rate for drugs in Phase II and III clinical trials has been rising and that the success rate for drugs in Phase II is dismally low. These failures are further accentuated by the finding that more than 50% of academia-published results are not reproducible and often fail in clinical drug development.

Conversely, treatment for disease such as for neurological disorders and cancer has not changed for decades, and the demand for newer technologies, targets, and drugs is greater than ever.

To solve these problems, academia-industry relationships have emerged as a “rescuer-in-chief,” and institutions like ICTAS and the newly formed center at the National Institutes of Health—the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)—are perfectly poised to make a difference and to shift the current paradigm to newer models where research and discovery become a joint effort between laboratory investigations and market demands.

Dr. Shah's seminar will provide a comparative analysis of the current practices of academia and of the differing roles that industry plays. In addition, the seminar will offer suggestions for recasting this relationship to reduce attrition rates in technology development. The seminar will also highlight the fundamental elements of an academia-industry relationship that are unique yet complement each other.

Dr. Salim Shah serves as the Chief Scientist at the Office of Enterprise Development and works directly with the executive vice-president and the executive dean for health sciences and with the chief operating officer for the Georgetown University Medical Center. In his administrative role, Dr. Shah oversees inter-institutional relationships that include among others Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, George Mason University, and Virginia Tech collaborations. He is also involved in international efforts, specifically with India and China.

Dr. Shah manages a laboratory for translational medicine in cancer and has the distinction of showing for the first time the interaction of the vitamin A and D pathways in regulating β-catenin signalling. Dr. Shah’s research efforts have shown that partial vitamin D antagonists could act as specific anti-cancer agents in cells that express activated β-catenin.

Dr. Shah has served as the CEO and Managing Director of APJ Laboratory Limited, a cGMP pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in India, and has extensive experience partnering with the pharmaceutical industry.

Dr. Shah is a member of the Virginia, Washington, D.C., and United States patent bars and has worked for Judge Pauline Newman at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and for Judge Daniel Davidson at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Shah earned his Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, and his J.D. from George Mason University Law School, Virginia.