

*“This day is a special day. For me personally, and more importantly for the Division of Psychiatry. The planning for this symposium began in 2004, starting as a suggestion that there should be a research update in 2005. I began to think about the form this should take and decided that issues around research methodology, higher degree supervision and examining were generally well covered in courses already offered within the Faculty of Health Sciences. It then struck me that it might be more interesting to assemble a group of eminent academics (both local and international), to address individually tailored questions raised by issues in research that affect not only psychiatry, but in fact most disciplines and faculties. Hence the theme: “Issues in research, lessons for South Africa.” It was an opportunity to explore and debate in a more inclusive way, thus exposing the division to those outside of psychiatry and allowing the division exposure to a cross section of thought. As psychiatrists, we are increasingly aware of the need to forge links beyond our own discipline and as South African psychiatrists, beyond our own borders. I was fortunate in being able to secure the speakers you will be hearing today. Each one is recognized in their own right and eminently qualified to provide us with a more nuanced understanding of the subject matter to be presented. To all of you from within the division, welcome. To all of our colleagues from the Department of Neurosciences, welcome. To all those from other divisions and Departments in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and faculties on main campus, a special welcome. We hope you will enjoy, as well as benefit from this day. I would like to give a very special thanks to Alta Valsamis for all of her organizational endeavours, to Prof. Vorster for her support, to the pharmaceutical industry for seeing the value in this day and to all of our speakers and participants.”*

**Christopher P. Szabo**

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