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Lou Sullivan
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Dear Lou,

Of course you have my permission to send the material I wrote to Rupert Raj. I wouldn't have put my signature to it unless I intended you to use it in whatever way might help you. Since you want it reviewed in his publication, I suggest you might want to use this new piece I wrote today. I put it in a book review format. The other was really just to give you some statements you might want to quote. I really do feel female to male transsexuals have received short shrift when it comes to reliable information, and I'm just glad you had the determination to put the book together.

I think my impression of the lack of knowledge is very much verified just on the basis of what is happening to you. Your observation that surgeons will routinely provide male to female surgery to gay or lesbian transsexuals is totally correct, and what you have run across demonstrates to me the complete lack of understanding of transsexualism by surgeons who perform these procedures. I found Biber to be one of the most sexist individuals I have ever met, and he has no conception of what transsexuality is all about (that is not for publication!). Although I am glad he is there and doing surgery, he still views it as a sexual condition instead of a gender matter. I find this to be true of some therapists as well. Although they will not admit it, I'm aware of what their real feelings are.

What you have run afoul of is blatant homophobia, discrimination, ignorance, and prejudice. I wish I had some surgical contacts I could help you with, but I just don't. Perhaps Jude could be of some help. Maybe Joanna Clark could be of some help by putting some pressure on some of those surgeons. It might be worth a call to her to see.

I would not be surprised if Leob turned you down, just on the basis of knowing who his associates are. When I first started my project and went to see Paul about it, he told me that if I applied then to them, they would probably turn me down. I was several years post-op at the time, and have never had a problem passing. It's something I havent even thought about in six or seven years. He said that all they were interested in was turning out young, beautiful women with perfect bodies.

Perhaps if some of those asshole surgeons were to come down off their high and mighty thrones of knowledge and read my book, they might actually learn something about transsexualism. They all consider themselves "experts", however, so that is not likely to happen.

I feel for you and what you are going through. I don't have any good ideas right now but, perhaps, something will come to me. If it does I'll let you know.

with warm regards,
Kim