



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Public Interest Directorate

September 25, 2008

Lynn Conway
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Emerita
3640 CSE Building
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Dear Professor Conway:

Thank you for your interest in the report of the APA Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender Variance. I am responding on behalf of the President of APA to your inquiry, because I was the staff liaison to the Task Force. We are very pleased with the work of the Task Force, with its final report, and most especially with the Task Force's Resolution on Transgender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression Non-Discrimination, which was adopted unanimously by the APA Council of Representatives as APA policy on August 18, 2008.

We welcome your disagreement with the Task Force Final Report. As you may know, APA Task Force reports synthesize current psychological knowledge in a given area and may offer recommendations for future action. They do not constitute APA policy or commit APA to the activities described therein.

Your disagreement with some of the Task Force's descriptions of the empirical literature does not surprise us. The nature of scientific debate is to put out into the literature one's best effort for all to see and criticize. In reviewing your critique, some members of the Task Force see some merit in your criticism of this particular point in the report. The Task Force tried to convey the fact that gender dysphoria is a spectrum, that the prevalence data that have been reported in the peer reviewed literature largely assess only one pole of that spectrum, and thus we have little evidence to report about the rest of the spectrum. If the Task Force decides to prepare the report for submission to a journal, they will consider how your critique should be taken into account.

Although we welcome your scientific criticism of the report, we greatly regret the tone of your letter. The APA and its task force made sincere efforts to contribute to the well-being of transgender people. To accuse the Task Force of "falsification" seems highly unfair and needlessly inflammatory. It was the Task Force's aim to report the current state of knowledge of prevalence, not to promote some particular perspective on that

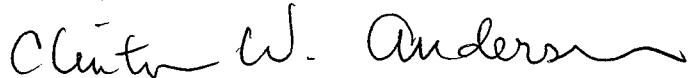
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question. They chose to cite in the body of the report only those studies that had been published in peer-reviewed journals, but decided to note your study in a footnote as a way to acknowledge that a minority opinion exists, even though your paper has not yet been published. The failure to include your study in the References list was purely an oversight that will be corrected.

Sincerely,



Clinton W. Anderson, PhD
Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns Office

cc Alan E. Kazdin, PhD, President
Peter Ornstein, PhD, Chair, Publications and Communications Board
Gilbert H. Newman, PhD, Chair, Board of Educational Affairs
Margaret Schneider, PhD, Chair, Task Force on Gender Identity and Gender

Variance

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