

19 October 2011

**Private and confidential**

Great Ormond Street  
London WC1N 3JH

Zwischengeschlecht.org  
P.O.B 2122  
CH-8031  
Zurich

Tel: 020 7405 9200

Dear Ms Truffer,

Thank you for your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011, which we received on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) does not perform cosmetic genital surgery on children. The only genital surgery performed would be reconstructive, with the fully informed consent of the families. GOSH act only with consensus of a multidisciplinary team comprising surgeons, endocrinologists, psychologists, gynaecologists, geneticists and other staff.

GOSH are aware of issues you have raised and the personal origins of your concerns. We recognise that **in the past such surgeries were carried out and the difficulties this has caused**. We would like to reassure you that in advanced centres such as our own your concerns have been heard and influence our decision making process.

I thought the following press statement regarding the recent Conference might be helpful.

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust are playing host to an international conference, (ISHID Congress <http://www.ishidcongress2011.org/> )

Among other issues the conference will look at how best to manage DSD (Disorders of Sexual Development) in children. As in many genetic conditions every case is different and sometimes this can involve **extremely difficult decisions by parents about the gender their children are reared in, and in some cases genital surgery.**

Leading centres across the world, including all UK centres, aim to provide parents with the support of full and open discussion of the issues and options, and with a multi-disciplinary team involving endocrinologists, surgeons, psychologists, nurses and other professionals. The conference will continue to move practice forward globally.

**Generally families are happy with the treatments now offered** but are obviously very keen to protect their children from public attention on this sensitive matter. As with any area of medicine with difficult ethical balances to strike on when and when not to offer treatment, this topic brings out a wide spectrum of opinion and we recognise the right of those with different opinions to express them.

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns.

Yours sincerely,  
Jane Coll

**Dr JANE COLLINS**  
Chief Executive

In Partnership with the Institute of Child Health, UCL

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Baroness Blackstone BSc (Soc) PhD

The  
child  
first  
and  
always

