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Annelou de Vries was born on October 4th, 1967 in Leiden, the Netherlands. She graduated from high school (Stedelijk Gymnasium Leiden) in 1986. She then did volunteer work abroad in France, Switzerland and Israel. She started her medical studies at the VU University Medical Center (VUmc) in Amsterdam in 1987 and received her MD in 1996. During those years, she was in Zimbabwe for a research project on family planning. She subsequently spent six months doing an elective in child and adolescent psychiatry, specifically Tourette syndrome, at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven, USA. In 1997 she started her residency in child and adolescent psychiatry at Meerkanten GGZ in Lelystad and Ermelo. From 1998 until 2001, she worked as a resident in adult psychiatry at the University Medical Center in Utrecht (UMCU). She finished her psychiatry training with a residency in Emergency Psychiatry in 2001 in Amsterdam. Thereafter she worked for six months as a fellow in pediatric neurology at Erasmus Medical Center – Sophia in Rotterdam. In 2003, she completed her training as a child and adolescent psychiatrist at De Bascule (Academic Center for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) in Amsterdam. Since then, she has been working at the VUmc in Amsterdam as a child and adolescent psychiatrist. The scope of her work is consultative-liaison psychiatry in the pediatric department, focusing on sick children with mental health problems. She participates in teaching and training of medical students, interns, and residents in pediatrics and psychiatry. An important and special part of her work has been dedicated to gender dysphoric children and adolescents. In 2009 she spent three months at the Gender Identity Service of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. In 2006 she received a personal grant from the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) for a study titled *Psychopathology in Adolescent Applicants for Sex-reassignment; Characteristics and Treatment Evaluation* which resulted in this dissertation.