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## Fwd: Reporting a concern

2 messages

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----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Mon, May 6, 2019 at 11:57 PM

Subject: Reporting a concern

To: <[GranteeHarassment@od.nih.gov](mailto:GranteeHarassment@od.nih.gov)>

I'm writing this email to report a concern about an individual who maintains a position of leadership within the NIH. I was advised that this would be the most appropriate mechanism to report this concern.

My concern is regarding Dr. Axel Grothey who currently serves as the co-chair for the Gastrointestinal Steering Committee within the National Cancer Institute. I was among multiple individuals who were victims of sexual harassment from Dr. Grothey while he was employed at my institution. This began when I was a trainee and continued for over a decade. As a result of his harassment, I lost mentorship, career advancement opportunities, and I faced a hostile work environment on a daily basis.

During the years in which the harassment occurred, I was too embarrassed, ashamed, and frightened to come forward to my employer. I feared more consequences that would further limit my career possibilities, since Dr. Grothey is a very influential figure in the field of GI oncology. However, not coming forward is also my greatest regret. He went on to sexually harass more individuals, some of whom are supporting me in writing this letter and who may wish to share their own experiences with you at the appropriate time. Although I often feared for myself and at times still do, I wish I could have come forward sooner as this may have prevented others from being harmed by Dr. Grothey and going through similar experiences. In early 2018, some of these individuals also came forward during an investigation that was conducted at my institution, which ultimately led to his resignation. The Minnesota Board of Medical Practice has also conducted their own investigation on this matter and the case is currently under review.

I am writing now with the intention of preventing other people from becoming victims of sexual harassment by Dr. Grothey. Given his longtime pattern of behavior to sexual harassment, I am very concerned that as long as Dr. Grothey remains in a position of leadership, the opportunity to harass another individual could easily happen again.

I ask that my confidentiality be respected as Dr. Grothey has retaliated against a victim of his harassment in the past, which unfortunately led to very negative consequences for that individual. I would be willing to speak with anyone from your institution on this matter.