

The Cancer Letter's questions to Axel Grothey

The logo for The Cancer Letter, consisting of the letters 'TCL' in a bold, white, stylized font on a red background.

THE CANCER LETTER

1. Is there anything you want me to understand about the Minnesota reprimand?
2. What were the circumstances of your departure from Mayo?
3. Have you ever been in a sexual relationship with someone you mentored?
4. Have you ever been in a sexual relationship with someone who reported to you?
5. How many sexual relationships did you initiate with your mentees and colleagues?
6. Do you consider such sexual relationships to have been consensual in nature?
7. If you considered them to have been consensual, did you consider your position as a mentor or senior colleague, and how that may have been inappropriate—because of a power disparity, and how a sexual relationship would introduce a workplace conflict of interest for the women you were involved with?
8. Have you ever acted in a way that could be considered retaliatory toward mentees or colleagues?
9. Your twitter bio states: “Passionate about justice & tolerance, teaching & educating oncologists, caring for cancer patients, learning from mistakes.” What do you mean by that?
10. Does this accurately describe the circumstances of your departure from Mayo? “The employer concluded that Respondent violated multiple policies and impacted the employment of the colleagues. Respondent resigned his employment after an employment committee recommended that he be terminated.”
11. Do you consider the investigation by Mayo to be fair? Do you think the investigation by the Minnesota medical board was fair?
12. Are you aware that you responded “NO” to this question on Aug. 15, 2018?
 - Have you ever had staff privileges at any hospital or health care facility that were ever revoked, suspended, curtailed, restricted, limited, otherwise disciplined, or voluntarily surrendered under threat of restriction or disciplinary action?
13. Are you aware that you responded “NO” to these questions on Sept. 11, 2018?
 - Within the previous ten (10) years, have you ever had your hospital privileges revoked or involuntarily restricted for reasons related to competence or character by the hospital's governing body?
 - Within the previous ten (10) years, have you ever been asked to or allowed to resign from or had any medical staff privileges restricted or not renewed by any hospital in lieu of or in settlement of a pending disciplinary action related to competence or character?
14. Are you aware that you responded “NO” to these questions again on Oct. 8, 2018?
 - Within the previous ten (10) years, have you ever had your hospital privileges revoked or involuntarily restricted for reasons related to competence or character by the hospital's governing body?
 - Within the previous ten (10) years, have you ever been asked to or allowed to resign from or had any medical staff privileges restricted or not renewed by any hospital in lieu of or in settlement of a pending disciplinary action related to competence or character?
15. Why did you respond “NO” to these questions when the answer seems to be “YES,” based on your resignation from Mayo?
16. Would you have answered those questions differently today?
17. Aside from West Cancer Center, where do you hold hospital privileges?
18. Are you currently in a relationship with anyone you mentor? Have you been in a relationship with anyone you mentor since you moved to Tennessee?
19. Several individuals we have spoken with object to you being on the NCTN GI Steering Committee. Do you believe it's appropriate for you to remain on the committee, especially as co-chair?
20. Regarding the Teacher of the Year awards from Mayo, how many of these did you win? Five or seven?
21. The 2014 Teacher of the Year award for Medical Oncology appears to have been given to Robert R. McWilliams. Did you win a different 2014 Teacher of the Year award?
22. The Tennessee reprimand says you took a three-day professional development course, “Maintaining Proper Boundaries,” over Zoom. The course is offered by the Center of Professional Health at Vanderbilt University Center. What did you learn in the course?