Finding the Right Balance When Giving Bad News: Providing Information, Dealing with Emotions, and Designing an Action Plan

Thursday, October 27, 2016
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Karp Building - 4th floor conference room

Breaking Bad News interactions in medicine are significant and challenging—for patients, family members, physicians and team members. The manner of communication is critical. Dr. Karnieli-Miller will share her work on deepening our understanding of the nature of giving bad news encounters and classifying the different types of interactions within them.

Participants in this seminar will learn about a new classification and understanding of the manner in which giving bad news occurs in practice, three main components of giving bad news, and the justification and need for balancing between providing information, dealing with emotions and discussing the treatment plan.

Enhanced understanding and classification can help medical/healthcare educators teach physicians and other clinicians how to better identify their tendency to concentrate on one focus and to neglect another, to recognize what worked well in their communication with a patient and family, and what they can improve. It can also help tailor interventions to enhance specific skills for each focus of giving bad news.

*The Faculty Fellows Humanism Series is designed to nurture values and to foster humanistic organizational cultures and learning environments. Presented by the Faculty Education Fellowship in Medical Humanism and Professionalism

Please R.S.V.P. to Emma Forman – emma.forman@childrens.harvard.edu or 617-355-5021

Presenter: Orit Karnieli-Miller, PhD

Orit Karnieli-Miller, PhD is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Education at the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. She received a BA, MA, and PhD in Social Work from the University of Haifa in Israel with specialty in communication in healthcare. After a post-doctoral fellowship at the Regenstrief Institute at Indiana University School of Medicine where she focused on professionalism and humanism in healthcare, she returned to Israel to join the Department of Community Mental Health at the University of Haifa, and later joined the Medical School at Tel Aviv University. She has taught many important courses on communication skills for health professionals and on advanced qualitative research methods. Throughout her academic career, Dr. Karnieli-Miller has focused on the complex communication challenges of diagnostic disclosure (“breaking bad news”), multi-participant conversations (patient-physician-companion), shared decision-making in medical practice, and professionalism in medical school training.