Vic knowledge

EDGE.

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When breaking bad news to patients, experienced doctors tend to use the following techniques: they ask for consent, saying something like "Would you like me to give you the results of the tests now?"; they alternate between direct terms, such as "cancer," and indirect terms, such as "serious condition"; they use understatements, like "not great" instead of "bad"; they express their sympathy, by saying "I'm afraid" or "unfortunately" while wincing; and they don't link the condition directly to the patient, so they'll say, "the cancer in the liver" instead of "the cancer in your liver."

Researchers working on the study with Del Vento were UVic psychologist emeritus Dr. Janet Bavelas, Dr. Peter Kirk (Island Medical Program/VIHA); Dr. Grant MacLean (BC Cancer Agency), and research assistants Sara Healing and Brian Gregson.

The study team is part of the Victoria Palliative Research Network and is funded by a \$1.3-million grant to VIHA and UVic from the New Emerging Team program of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

The success rate for UVic graduate students in attracting research funding is consistently well above the national average. In 2005-06, UVic graduate students attracted \$3.24 million in research grants from the three federal granting councils.

by Jessica Gillies

