28 October 2015

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service interns in good hands

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service’s Director of Emergency Medicine, Dr Michael Natale, has been awarded Queensland 2015 CPMEC Clinical Educator of the Year.

Dr Natale was selected as the Queensland winner from amongst 18 other high calibre nominees.

Dr Natale was nominated for the prestigious award by the 2015 intern group who attend his weekly Department of Emergency Medicine education sessions at both Nambour General Hospital and Caloundra Emergency Department.

Interns say the Director of Emergency Medicine challenges and motivates junior doctors to expand their limits and engage in case based discussions, simulation and reflective practice. His eagerness to teach, even in busy situations, helps to cultivate an environment that encourages learning and questions from everyone.

Dr Natale frequently comes into the hospital on his days off to provide assistance and education to interns and house officers, contributing well above and beyond his job requirements. The Director of Emergency Medicine says receiving the award was a very humbling experience.

“I think it’s really important to make sure our interns are well taken care of as they are the future of medicine. I know when I was an intern and people took an interest in my learning it changed the way I viewed medicine,” Dr Natale said.

“I’m passionate about Emergency Medicine because I feel it can make a real difference to patients and their families, so it’s good to inspire interns while still allowing them a level of autonomy with their learning.

Throughout his career, Dr Natale has made a significant contribution to the education and training of junior doctors. He developed a modular case-based education program for interns and residents in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Canberra Hospital and is currently working on a similar project within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

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