Preparation the key for Joseph Epstein Prize winner

Preparation is key. That’s the advice of Nambour General Hospital (NGH) Emergency Department Registrar Dr Adam Douglas, who achieved the top mark across Australia and New Zealand, in the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) Primary Examination Viva, held in March.

As a result, Dr Douglas has been awarded The Joseph Epstein Prize (Primary Examination).

This exam is part of his path to become a Fellow of ACEM (FACEM), a recognised specialist in Emergency Medicine and contribute to the advancement of Emergency Medicine across Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Douglas said it was “fantastic” to hear the news from the College that he had received the highest mark. “It comes down to study and practise,” Dr Douglas said when asked what was the key to success.

The Queenslander prepared for the exam with his girlfriend and fellow ACEM trainee, Dr Meagan Thomson.

“There’s no way I could have done it without her,” he said. “We motivated each other, we locked ourselves away and studied.”

Despite being “nervous” on exam day, Dr Douglas said he was comforted by the fact that he had prepared extensively.

“I was lucky to have such a supportive teaching team at Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) and practised at every opportunity with consultants and other colleagues,” he said. “I received some great feedback, took it on board and vowed to improve each time.”

FACEM Dr Benjamin Close, SCHHS Director of Emergency Medicine, said “Dr Douglas’ achievement is a credit to himself, as well as the training structures and
peer support at NGH. The whole team are proud of his achievement, we are so fortunate to have the cream of the crop here on the Sunshine Coast”.

ENDS

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