The Sara Keane Award

Irish Dental Hygienist's Association

Sara Keane played a significant role in advocating for changes for dental hygienists in the 1970s. The campaign for recognition was led by Sara from 1974. She initiated the IDHA and later served as the President of the Association.

To recognise Sara Keane's work and support, the 'Sara Keane Award' will be established to perpetuate and honour her name.

This is the only award your peers will nominate and agree upon. It reflects true dedication, professionalism, and determination for the greater good of all professions.

A lapel pin bearing the words 'Sara Keane' and a certificate commemorating the date of the presentation are used to present the award.

Candidates are not required to be dental hygienists, but they must have demonstrated exceptional dedication and loyalty to the dental hygiene industry and IDHA.

Nominations must clearly demonstrate how the candidate has fulfilled at least two of the three criteria:

- Continual support for our profession
- Consistent support to IDHA
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to serving others, for example through community volunteering and supporting local initiatives

Self-nominations will not be considered.

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Selection of Candidate

Nominations will be considered by the Sara Keane Award Committee.

This Nominations Committee is responsible for selecting eligible candidates and choosing the awardee. The Committee is composed of three members, the President of IDHA, The Immediate President Elect of IDHA and a former recipient of the Sara Keane Award who is elected by the IDHA committee. If one of the panel has nominated a possible candidate*, then the IDHA committee have to a right to replace the panel with:

- another member of IDHA Committee or
- another past President of IDHA or
- another previous recipient of the Award.

**having nominated a candidate would constitute a conflict of interest therefore the position on the Nominations Committee must be relinquished.*

Suitable Nominators – Who can nominate?

All IDHA members can either nominate or second a nomination.

To nominate an IDHA member, it is necessary for a FULL member of the IDHA to second the nomination.

Consent of the candidate is not necessary, and it is not necessary for the candidate to sign the submission form. The submission form should be signed by the two nominators and must be accompanied by a joint testimonial or two individual ones from the nominators.

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Submission Documentation

The Sara Keane Committee has not introduced a detailed submission form to allow for the various ways in which a candidate's qualities can be conveyed. The nomination need not be lengthy, but should include:

- The candidate's name, address, and contact number.
- An explanation of why the candidate is considered worthy of the Award by both the proposer and seconder.
- The name, title, academic or professional affiliation of the **proposer**, their contact details, IDHA number (if applicable), and length of time the candidate has known them.
- The name, title, academic or professional affiliation of the **seconder**, their contact details, IDHA number (if applicable), and length of time the candidate has known them.
- Include a brief CV of the candidate and a demonstration of how they fulfil the criteria in the submission.

Submission Date

Nominations will be requested annually. If none of the submissions are found to meet the exacting standards to receive this prestigious award, then the Sara Keane Award Committee can recommend that IDHA Committee postpone the award until the following year.

The submissions for consideration by the Awards Committee must be emailed or posted to IDHA between March and the end of August in order for the prize to be awarded that November.

The nomination papers must be sent to:
Email: secretary@idha.ie

to be received **no later than 31 August each year**

If the nomination has not been seconded, it will not be considered.

Nominations sent after the deadline will not be accepted, but they can be submitted again the following year.