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Presentation Date:	Wednesday, 9 May 2018 9:30 PM - 10:30 PM & 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Venue	SMX CONVENTION CENTER, MANILA, Function Rooms 1 & 2
Presentation Title:	HIV/AIDS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN THE REGION - IMPLICATIONS TO THE DENTAL PROFESSION
ABSTRACT	<p>HIV continues to afflict 35 million people worldwide. In the Asia-Pacific Region, control has been mixed, with some success in countries like Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand; but with rising cases in Indonesia and the Philippines. The Philippines in particular has the fastest growing epidemic in Asia, and this seems to be due to a shift in HIV subtype. With the successful rollout of life-saving antiretrovirals, the potential to not only control but reverse the epidemic is a distinct possibility. However, this will require strong case-finding and linkage to treatment. Due to severe immunosuppression and high rates of smoking, persons living with HIV (PLHIV) are at high risk for dental disease. This presents a challenge to dentists in terms of adequate infection control to prevent transmission and proper treatment since patients may need longer courses of antibiotics and may be more likely to relapse. Dentist should also recognize common presenting oral infections in PLHIV order to advice early HIV testing. Finally, a PLHIV dentist can continue to practice dentistry safely as long as he/she is virally suppressed on antiretrovirals.</p>