Dear ISPN Colleagues,

We are pleased to share this informative column on the opioid crisis. Written by two of our ISPN members, Julie Denton and Sandra Wood, part one of the three-part series describes the historical background of opiates and practical suggestions for assessing patients for addiction. The second column will be published in early spring and focus on the effects of addiction on the patient, family, and community. The final column, which will be published in late spring, will concentrate on what needs to be done to address the crisis, including what the APN can do.

These columns are coming to you in addition to our Connections Newsletter published three times per year. We hope you find this series focused on the opioid crisis educational and helpful!

Best regards,
The Editorial Board of Connections
Angela McNelis, Catherine Kane, Peggy Dulaney, Julie Sharrock

Examination of the Opioid Crisis, Part I