This book describes the evolution of epidemiology, its methods, concepts and application over the last 100 years. Current and future epidemiologists will find this book a useful and insightful record of the events that have shaped this discipline.

This book marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA). It is a unique compendium by the world’s leading epidemiologists of how the field has developed, and how it can be (and has been) applied to the control of common conditions and threats to public health.

Five distinct sections guide the reader through the wealth of material: the first part gives an historical account of the concepts and ideas, and current importance of epidemiology to global health issues and to organisations such as the WHO; the second illustrates the advances and contributions to epidemiologic knowledge and the control of disease in specific areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, non-biologic disorders such as war and disasters, and new infectious diseases; the third outlines the use of epidemiology in areas such as public health, health services, occupational and environmental medicine, social epidemiology and nutrition; the fourth discusses methodological developments such as statistics, information sources, investigation of disease outbreaks and clinical epidemiology; and the fifth and final section looks at how the subject has developed internationally, with perspectives on regions such as the Americas, Poland, Spain, Eastern Mediterranean, New Zealand, China, Thailand and Japan. This remarkable insight into how epidemiology has developed is essential reading for both existing and aspiring epidemiologists.