Public Health and Epidemiology at a Glance
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This book has arisen from our experience of developing a new undergraduate medical course for the Peninsula Medical School. In the early days, we were conscious of staying just one step ahead of the students in terms of planning the next stage of the curriculum. Now that the course is well-established, we are inevitably reflecting on where and how in the curriculum public health and epidemiology are best delivered. The GMC guidance in *Tomorrow’s Doctors* stresses the fundamental importance of public health as a core element of medical training; consequently our considered view is that learning about public health principles and practice should be fully integrated into all aspects of clinical learning.

Another important principle is that students should learn from people working in service public health, just as they learn from active clinicians in other fields. We have tried to ensure that this book covers public health topics, and particularly epidemiology, in such a way that the practical applications of theory and principles to public health service work can be seen. We would recommend that students whose interest is sparked by this book should actively seek out public health professionals (who can be found in many different places, not just the health service) to find out about their everyday work.

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About the authors

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Margaret Somerville is Director of Public Health and Health Policy for NHS Highland, a post she took up in 2010. Previously, she was Director of Public Health Learning at the Peninsula Medical School, where she developed the public health aspects of the integrated undergraduate medical curriculum from the outset of the course in 2002.

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Rob Anderson

Rob Anderson is Associate Professor of Health Economics and Evaluation within the Peninsula Medical School, at the University of Exeter. With others, he has developed and taught the health economics and related components of the undergraduate medical curriculum at the medical school since 2005. His research involves the evaluation and economic evaluation of health technologies and public health policies and programmes to inform national policy.
Introduction to public health

(a) An illustration of the ‘downstream’ approach of health care services in rescuing people who have fallen into the river, instead of moving ‘upstream’ to find out why people have fallen in

(b) The UK Faculty of Public Health’s domains of public health